

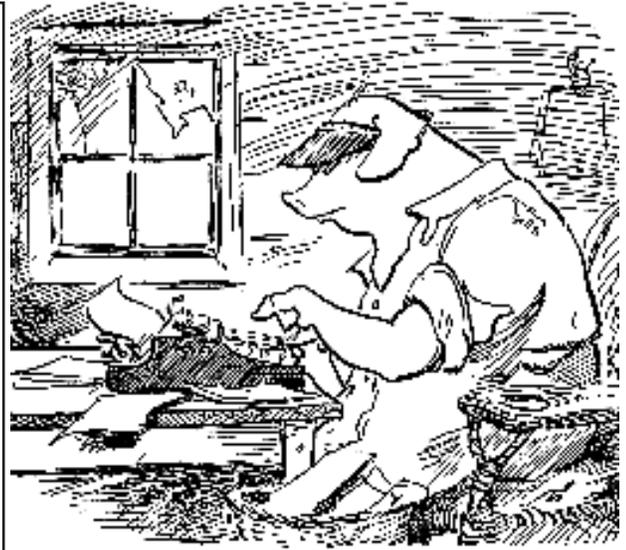
THE BEAN HOME NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to the memory of our friend, Walter R. Brooks

Vol. 23, No. 4

Summer 2016

From the Mailbag	2
Prez's Exhortation	3
From the Editor	4
<i>Don Quixote</i> and Freddy, by Henry S. Cohn	5
Announcement and Offer from Overlook Press	7
Freddy Has a New Website!	8
Poetry Corner, by Richard Leo Jackson	10



Welcome to the 21st Century! (see page 8)

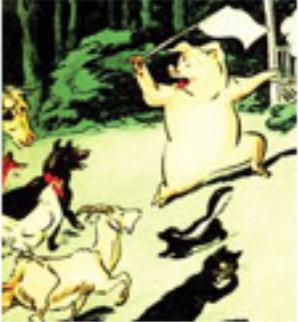
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "www.freddythepig.org". The page title is "Friends of Freddy" with the subtitle "Home of the First Animal Republic". A search bar is visible in the top right. A navigation menu includes "Friends of Freddy", "Join the Club!", "2016 Convention", and "News & More". The main content area features a heading "2016 Friends of Freddy Convention" and a sub-heading "Celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Freddy and the Ignomus!*". To the left of the text is a small illustration of a pig and several dogs. The text describes the convention details, including the date (October 14-16, 2016), location (Winter Clove Inn), and registration information. A "Details" section lists the schedule for October 15, Saturday, starting with breakfast at 8-9 a.m. and a welcome address by Connie Arnold at 9:30 a.m.

Friends of Freddy
Home of the First Animal Republic

Friends of Freddy Join the Club! 2016 Convention News & More

2016 Friends of Freddy Convention

Celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Freddy and the Ignomus!*



There will be a play, talks, sing-alongs and much fun!

The convention will be held October 14-16, 2016 at the Winter Clove Inn near Round Top, NY. Call 518/622-3267 for a reservation. (You may also wish to stay over Sunday night for optional activities on Monday.)

Anyone is welcome to give a presentation. If interested, please contact convention chair Connie Arnold at connie_arnold@hotmail.com. Registration is free for Friends of Freddy members, \$25 to nonmembers. However, registration includes a two-year US membership in the Friends of Freddy, a \$25 value.

Details

October 14, Friday, 6 pm: The Friends of Freddy begins to celebrate 30 years of biannual conventions! Our first was held in 1986, and this is our sweet 16th 🍌 On this auspicious and sentimental occasion, we'll start off sharing some of Mrs. Bean's home cooking. (She's catering at the Winter Clove Inn these days.) Following the fine food, we'll introduce ourselves and share some memories. It could be 'how you met Freddy,' or 'Freddy convention memories that you treasure,' or 'how you got re-introduced to Freddy as an adult,' or 'your kids/grandkids and the Freddy books,' or just about anything you choose.

October 15, SATURDAY

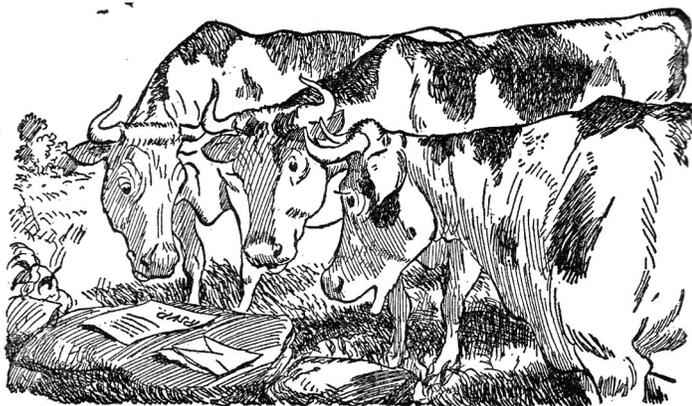
8-9 a.m. Breakfast at Winter Clove Inn

9:30 am FOF President Connie Arnold welcomes attendees to the 16th biannual convention of the Friends of Freddy (30th anniversary)

9:45 am Michael Cart, TALKING ANIMALS (Other than Freddy)

Coffee/refreshments

10:30 In honor of Mrs. Wiggins and her amazing common sense, so needed in US politics in this election year, a talk on THE WISDOM OF MRS. WIGGINS



Most Influential Book

We have about 40 [staff members] here. Recently someone asked the staff to nominate their most influential book. When I nominated *Freddy the Politician* - I have always been involved in Canadian politics - there were a lot of puzzled looks from the younger staff. Keep up the good work.

Steve Thomas
(via email from Toronto, ON, Canada)

From the Mailbag

I loved the Freddy books I read as a young girl.

But, as a youthful “senior,” I love them even more. Listening to the books available on CDs is an absolute joy! They make me “lol” quite a bit. The humor, satire, illustrations, and warmth of these books (even the wily villains), is so wonderful!

I realize that I am compelled to read the whole series - whichever books I can't get at the library will have to be purchased.

Love the hardbacks with cloth binding. They feel wonderful.

Well, enough gushing. Don't want to wear out my welcome before I've made “formal” comments.

Here's a question: With all the amazing digital animation techniques available today - I'm thinking of the sweet film *Babe* - will Freddy ever be captured on film?

Cheers!

Dianna Diatz
(via email)

If one of the Freddy books could be done as well as *Babe* or *Stuart Little*, it would be great. But *Mr. Popper's Penguins* was disappointing to me - again one of my favorite childhood books! It is still beautifully written and illustrated - and funny! Freddy needs someone who will produce a film that won't be smart alecky or snarky just to show off. It would need a lot of love to truly capture the spirit of these books.

Recently I reread *The Clockwork Twin*, which I didn't remember reading as a kid. It is hard to stop reading one of his books when you get started. I am interested in learning more about automatons and robots, so that book seemed perfect to reread. I am thinking of the picture of the skunks lining up to deter the “aunt and uncle” who came to claim their “nephew.” So clever and funny! What I love about Brooks' writing is the unpretentiousness about it, the humor that works with the stories in a natural way, not just for the sake of a “joke,” but for the story line.

Don't know if you've read Dick King-Smith's books, *Babe* and others, but he is delightful too. He was a “failed farmer,” for 20 years before he became a successful children's author, most noted for *Babe*. There are different illustrators for his books, but they, too, make one “LOL!”

Warmest regards,

Dianna Diatz
(via email)

Freddy and *The Waltons*

I don't know if anyone has ever brought this up. Maybe it's been discussed at length in your online forum, but I couldn't see anything anywhere else online. So I thought I'd mention it to you.

The other day, I was reading *Freddy and the Ignormus* to my kids, and my daughter pointed out how similar the ducks, Alice and Emma, sounded to the Baldwin sisters on *The Waltons*. I think I had already begun to notice that, because I found that I was sort of making their voices and phrasing sound similar. Except that I really didn't have to try hard to do that, because it was really written that way.

In fact, it's not just phrasing. It's not just the way they speak to each other (e.g., calling each other “Sister”). It's even that Alice and Emma keep referring to their (now legendary) Uncle Wesley, in a way that's very similar to how the Baldwin sisters speak about their father. Of course, Alice and Emma don't have a still and aren't making “the recipe.” But nevertheless....

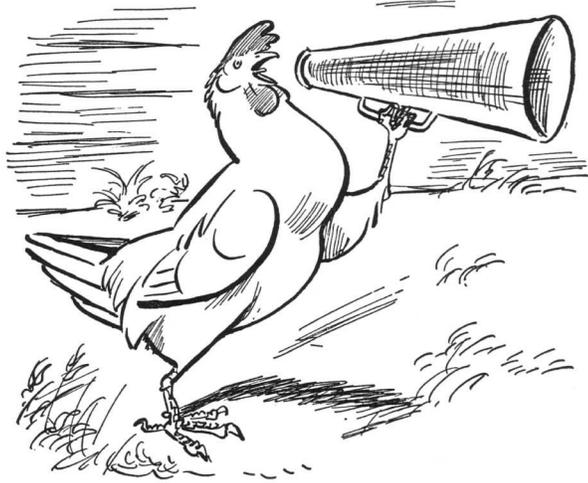
Earl Hamner, Jr., who wrote the novels that spawned *The Waltons* and who created that TV show could easily have read some of the Freddy books as he grew up. He was born in 1923, so he would have been 4 when the first Freddy book was published and 7 when the second one came out. *Freddy and the Ignormus*, mind you, was published in 1941, when Hamner was 18, so he may not have read that one, but still he could have read the first six or so when he was growing up (and may have read more later to his kids).

There may be no way to prove a connection and it may just be a coincidence, but I wonder....

John Barach
(via email from Lake Charles, LA) 🐥



Prez's Exhortation



NEVER FEAR - THE FOF CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE!

It's time for all pig fans
To make your plans
For our biggest convention yet
Because all of us will bet
You'll have the time of your life
Maybe even play a fife!

When FOFers gather at the Winter Clove Inn
From October 14-16 we'll make a din
Of happy sounds, including clucks, moos and squeals
That surely appeals
To everyone with a love of The Pig
And all characters in Bean-land, small or big

Stay at the Winter Clove Inn or drop by for the day
Settle yourself in a chair and shout 'hooray'
We'll do the rest, and there'll be
Much fun for all ages, as you will see!

But hurry up now to let us know
If you can go
Call the Winter Clove Inn to reserve your room
Maybe you'll be next door to Mr. Boom!

There'll be speakers galore, and music and plays
A packed weekend that will leave you in a daze
But pack your loose pants because
Never a better cookie was
Served anywhere than the FOF convention
Shipped directly from Mrs. Bean's kitchen

This convention is truly special to those who love Freddy
It's been 30 years since our first meeting - so get yourselves ready
To celebrate 30 years with those who believe, as you do
That a Friend of Freddy will be yours, too!

See you soon... Perhaps we'll meet during the Harvest Moon!

Connie Arnold, Prez and Piggette Laureate 🐷



The *Bean Home Newsletter* is published quarterly by the Friends of Freddy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the writings of Walter R. Brooks and his literary alter ego, Freddy the Pig. Print memberships are \$25 for two years or \$45 for four. Electronic memberships are \$9.50 for two years or \$18 for four. (US funds only, please.) Overseas members please add \$12 additional for airmail delivery. Please make your check or money order payable to Friends of Freddy and send it to the official address given below.

Address changes may be sent to either the email or postal FoF address.

Newsletter submissions should be sent to Michael Cart at the address below.

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From the Editor



In the good old summertime, the good old song has it, in the good old summertime. Ha! If you ask me, there's nothing good about it. At least not here in Indiana where, for the last two weeks, the temperature has consistently been in the nineties and the humidity even higher. It's like living in a steam bath. I feel like Freddy in the opening pages of *Freddy and Mr. Camphor*: "I don't know why I perspire so these hot days," Freddy complains, fanning himself with a copy of *The Bean Home News*. "I expect it's because it's hot," his cousin Weedly sagely observes. "Of course it's because it's hot," Freddy er, *hotly* replies. "Don't be silly." "It's because you're too fat," Jinx chimes in. "Golly," he continues, "it makes me hot just to look at you, pig, sitting there grunting and mopping your face . . ."

This, of course, is easy for Jinx to say, because, as Walter points out a few pages later, cats like hot weather. But not poor Freddy, who not only has to put up with the heat but also with Jinx's base canard. He shakes it off, however, and before you can say "pig of action," Freddy has secured a job as caretaker of the wealthy Mr. Camphor's palatial lakeside estate where he gets to live in a nifty houseboat on the cooler precincts of that same lake. Naturally, adventures ensue involving the ubiquitous rats and the evil man with the black mustache who – along with his dirty-faced son – threatened the animals on their vacation trip to Florida. For the record we learn their names in this excellent volume: Zebedee Winch and his son Horace. Of course, thanks to them Freddy's good name and reputation are once again put in jeopardy but the pig triumphs in the end.

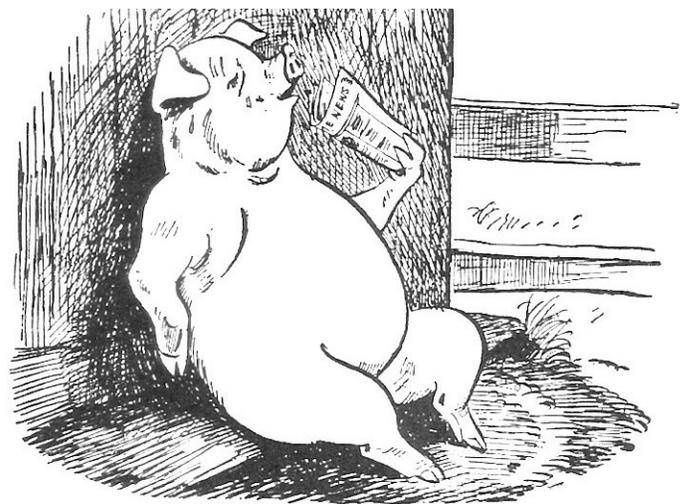
Published in 1944, *Camphor* is inarguably one of Walter's better efforts. In fact I rank it sixth among the twenty-six books in terms of literary quality. (The five preceding it are, in order of excellence: *Detective*, *Wiggins for President*, *Florida*, *Camping*, and *Clockwork Twin*. This, of course, is my opinion. You will have your own.) One of its many delights is the introduction of Mr. Camphor and his butler extraordinaire, the sometimes starchy Bannister, who captivate us with their ongoing banter about proverbs: "Money is the root of all evil," the magnate pronounces, "I don't agree with you, sir," Bannister dares to disagree. "Eh, you don't?" Mr. Camphor says, continuing, "Dear me, that's two proverbs in one day that we have disagreed on." (The first was "There's no fool like an old fool.") "I don't think you believe it either, sir," Bannister observes. "If you did, you'd give all your money away, wouldn't you sir?" "Ha, by George, I believe

you're right," Mr. Camphor exclaims. "Wouldn't want to keep the root of all evil in my pocket, would I?"

Speaking of opinions: in mine, Walter really hit his stride in the 1940s. By this time Freddy was inarguably established as the pig nonpareil whom we all know and love. His animal friends, especially Jinx and Mrs. Wiggins have emerged as fully developed, multidimensional characters. Plots – like that of *Camphor* – are fluid and compelling and villains are, well, villainous, especially the rats who, as you'll remember, are now living in the attic of the Camphor mansion. There they have busied themselves by chewing the faces off the portraits of Mr. Camphor's ancestors. Freddy will save the day and his, as it were, bacon by painting new faces on them, for Freddy has emerged in this volume as an artist, an accomplishment to add to his resume along with detective, politician, banker, newspaper editor, and balloonist. Many other roles would, of course, come later. At any rate it's Walter's droll conceit that all of the faces Freddy paints are those of Mr. Camphor, which delights the man. Nevertheless he solicits a second opinion: "What do you think, Bannister?" "Well, sir," says the butler, "anybody would know whose ancestors they are. Quite a remarkable resemblance to you in all of them, if I may say so, sir." "If you may say so! If you may say so! Ha, you'd better not say anything else!" Mr. C. exclaims. "Why confound it, Bannister, they're the *image* of me. They don't merely look like my ancestors: they *are* my ancestors. They must be." At any rate, Mr. Camphor then makes a startling confession: "You know," he tells a bemused Freddy, "they're just a lot of old portraits I bought because I thought it would be fun to name them and hang them up as my ancestors. But now – well, I'd be fooling people if I said they weren't my ancestors now. Why, look at the Reverend Wilberforce. Ha! Isn't that me to the life?" "He was quite pink with pleasure." As, of course, is the reader.

Mr. Camphor and Bannister will return in the pages of *Freddy Goes Camping*. It turns out that both are excellent outdoorsmen, as was Walter, who delighted in the outdoors. *Camping* also introduces two other memorable characters: Mr. Camphor's aunts, Elmira and Minerva, who raised him, for he was an orphan. Walter, who was orphaned when both of his parents died before he was fifteen, was also partly raised by his own aunts Rhoda and Lucy. No wonder he has Mr. Camphor say -- to Freddy's observation "I didn't know you had an aunt" -- "Goodness, everybody has aunts. I've got two; I've made quite a study of aunts. There's two kinds: there's the regular kind, and then there's the other kind. Mine are the other kind . . ." Walter would doubtless say the same!

As for me, I'll only say enjoy the rest of your summer. ☺



Don Quixote and Freddy

by Henry S. Cohn, Past President

I've been reading about the convention being planned for October, but sadly I will be unable to attend this year. See you in 2018! In the meanwhile, I haven't forgotten Freddy. I have been re-reading one of my favorite books, *Don Quixote*, that Michael Cart writes was one of Walter R. Brooks favorites.

Don Quixote certainly influenced Brooks' animal stories. Doesn't this description of Rocinante, Don Quixote's horse, remind us of Hank: "He then went to see his nag, which was all skin and bones, and although he had more cracks in his hooves than there were *cuartos* in a *real* and more blemishes than Gonella's horse, it seemed to him that neither Alexander's Bucephalus nor the Cid's Babieca could compare with him." By the way, the best translation that I could find is in the Signet Classics by Tom Lathrop of the University of Delaware. The translation was recently issued to observe the 400-year celebration of the publication of *Don Quixote*.

Cervantes' book is noted for his interplay between Rocinante and Sancho Panza's donkey, Dapple. They have many adventures together and separately, as do the animals in the Freddy Series. Rocinante breaks away from the tree to which he is tied to have an amorous interlude with another horse. Dapple is captured by a galley slave that Don Quixote has freed, but he is rescued a few chapters later. Don Quixote himself has several incidents with animals. He thinks that a drove of sheep is a battalion of soldiers. He puts his head into a lion's cage and escapes injury, almost scaring Sancho to death.

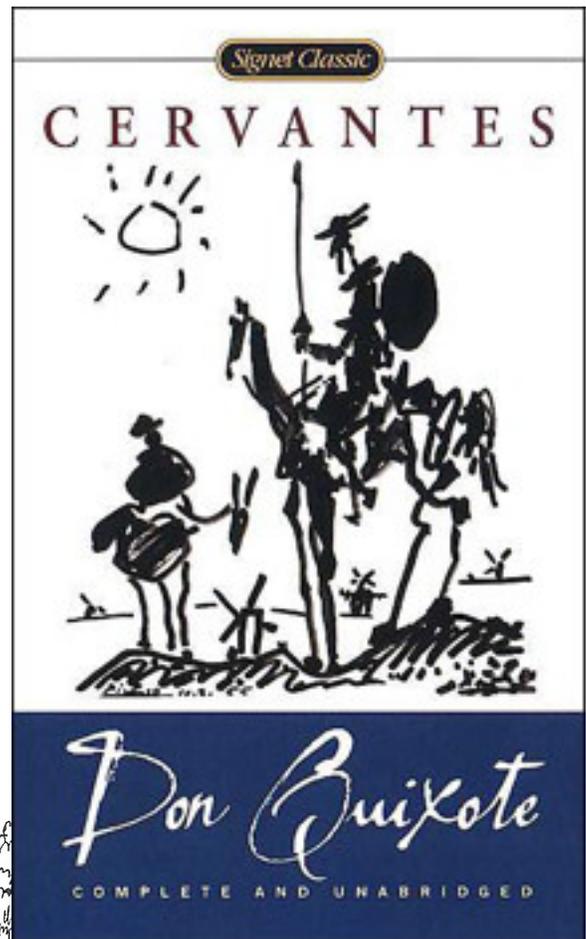
Cervantes had a love of trials and legal goings on, as did Brooks. One of my favorite stories takes place when Sancho is given a chance to "rule" over an island and hears cases as a judge. A creditor accuses an old man who walks with a cane of failing to pay back a loan of ten *escudos* in gold. The old man agrees to take an oath that he had repaid the debt, but that the creditor has forgotten this. He asks the creditor to hold the cane while he takes the oath. The creditor accepts the oath of the old man and starts to leave. At this point Sancho calls the parties back and takes the cane and hands it to the creditor. The creditor can't believe that Sancho is giving the cane to him.

"Is this staff worth ten *escudos* in gold?" "Yes, it is," says Sancho, and he "had the cane broken open in front of everyone. It was done, and in its center they found ten *escudos* in gold. Everyone marveled, and they held their new governor for a new Solomon. They asked him how he'd figured out that the *escudos* were in the cane, and he responded that when he saw the old man hand his cane to his adversary while he was swearing, and then swore that he'd given them back really and truly, then when he finished swearing he took back the cane, it occurred to him that the money that was being asked for was inside."

Also a highlight of the book are the proverbs of Don Quixote and Sancho. Here are three of my favorites:

- Don't mention rope in the house of a man recently hanged;
- You don't have to yell "here boy, here boy," to an old dog at supper time;
- If the rock strikes the pitcher or the pitcher strikes the rock, it is bad luck for the pitcher.

No wonder Don Quixote was one of Brooks' favorites! 🐾



"Man overboard," shouted Freddy.

WIGGINS



IN '16

Overlook Press proudly presents *Freddy the Politician: The Election Edition.*

This hardcover edition will have beautiful new endpapers and an incredible introduction from Nicholas Kristof, columnist for *The New York Times*. Publication date is currently set for September 25.

Friends of Freddy members can order copies at \$14.00 each - 40% off retail of \$23.95 - plus free US shipping, though election month of November. To do so, either:

- email sales@overlookny.com and put WIGGINS FOR PRESIDENT in the subject line. Include your phone number, and Overlook Press will contact you to take credit card information

- send a check along with the shipping address to Sales at The Overlook Press, 141 Wooster Street 4B New York, NY 10012 and write WIGGINS FOR PRESIDENT on the memo line.



FREDDY

the Politician

by WALTER R. BROOKS

Illustrated by KURT WIESE



OVERLOOK

Freddy Has a New Website!

The Friends of Freddy joined the World Wide Web way back in August of 1996 thanks to the efforts of Janice and David Hodges: Internet guru David set up the site, and Janice designed and populated the initial version. However, while the content expanded considerably over time, the overall design remained mired in 1996. I (Kevin) had always hoped to do a full redesign of the site using modern design and technology, but with my other responsibilities - Freddyish and otherwise - I never got around to it. Fortunately, last year Alice Tracy decided to take on the challenge, and we were pleased to premiere the new, improved website in July of this year, not quite 20 years on from the original premiere. I got together with Alice, long-term member of the Friends of Freddy, to learn more about it.

Kevin: Alice, can you tell us what's new about the website?

The website has a new design with lots of color illustrations from the book covers. So it has a brighter, crisper design overall. It's hosted on a free WordPress platform which means it is a template with a professionally designed format. I like seeing all of the animals in color!

There are four main sections: Friends of Freddy; Join the Club!; 2016 Convention; and News & More. The section labels are at the top of every image. If you run your mouse over the label, you will see a drop down menu for what is included in that section. Right now the only section that has additional material is the Friends of Freddy. There you can read Michael Cart's synopsis of all 26 Freddy books; his biographical sketch of Walter R. Brooks, and a brief poetry sample. Join the Club! is where you can pay your membership in a new, streamlined process. It's so easy I would love to see everyone reading this check it out and renew for another two years! It's only \$25 and

you get so much enjoyment out of the club. Even more importantly, your membership helps keep Freddy alive for the next generation. (Did you know I used to be the membership director?)

This is the first time we are able to have people register for the Convention online. On the 2016 Convention page you can also see a preview of the agenda. Finally, News & More offers the latest information on what the club and the now various (!) publishers of the Freddy books are doing. You can also find there a bibliography of all the *Bean Home Newsletters*.

Kevin: Wow! It sounds like it is packed with information. Besides the color illustrations, what really rocks your boat about the new website?

The greatest advantage to the new website is how easy it is to update. Because it's built on a WordPress platform, you don't need any special coding skills to create it. You only need to know how to type.

Kevin: So Freddy could have his own website?

Yes, he could! If Freddy were living in the 21st century, I'm certain he would have been an early adopter. In fact, Freddy was my inspiration. Like Freddy, I think it is important to always be learning a new skill. This year that new skill for me was building a website. It was great fun and I want to thank the club for letting me take this job on! I hope everyone enjoys the new site: www.freddythepig.org. ☺

Friends of Freddy
Home of the First Animal Republic

Search

Friends of Freddy | Join the Club! | 2016 Convention | News & More

Friends of Freddy
Members receive newsletter and free admission to the convention!

Freddy the Pig Book Series
First published by Alfred A. Knopf between 1927 and 1958, the 26 Freddy books, written by Walter R. Brooks and illustrated by Kurt Wiese, are humorous

Thanks to the Internet Archive, informally known as *The Wayback Machine*, I was able to retrieve a copy of our home page from way back in 2002. You might note that, until Alice's refresh, the current version did not look all that much different from this one.

Freddy the Pig's



Home Pen...uh, Page!

Brought to you by the [Friends of Freddy](#)

<h1>75 YEARS</h1>  <h2>FREDDY THE PIG</h2> <p>1927-2002</p>		
<h3>Help us celebrate Freddy's 75th Anniversary!</h3> <p><small>NEW</small> 75th anniversary t-shirts now for sale! <small>NEW</small></p>		
<p>March 9, 2002 Washington, DC See a report and photos from this historic occasion!</p>	<p>May 18-19, 2002 Hunterdon County, NJ A Kurt Wiese Weekend Photos and Coverage!</p>	<p>October 25-28, 2002 Windham, NY Photos from our biennial convention</p>



[Pictures of Freddy and His Pals](#) [Freddy's Disguises](#) [The Poems of Freddy the Pig](#) [From the Bean Home Newsletter](#)

News

[Recent news](#) (from the latest *Bean Home Newsletter*)

[Get the latest info on the reprints](#)

[The Bean Home Newsletter index](#)

[What's been changed on this site](#) (last updated November 9, 2002)

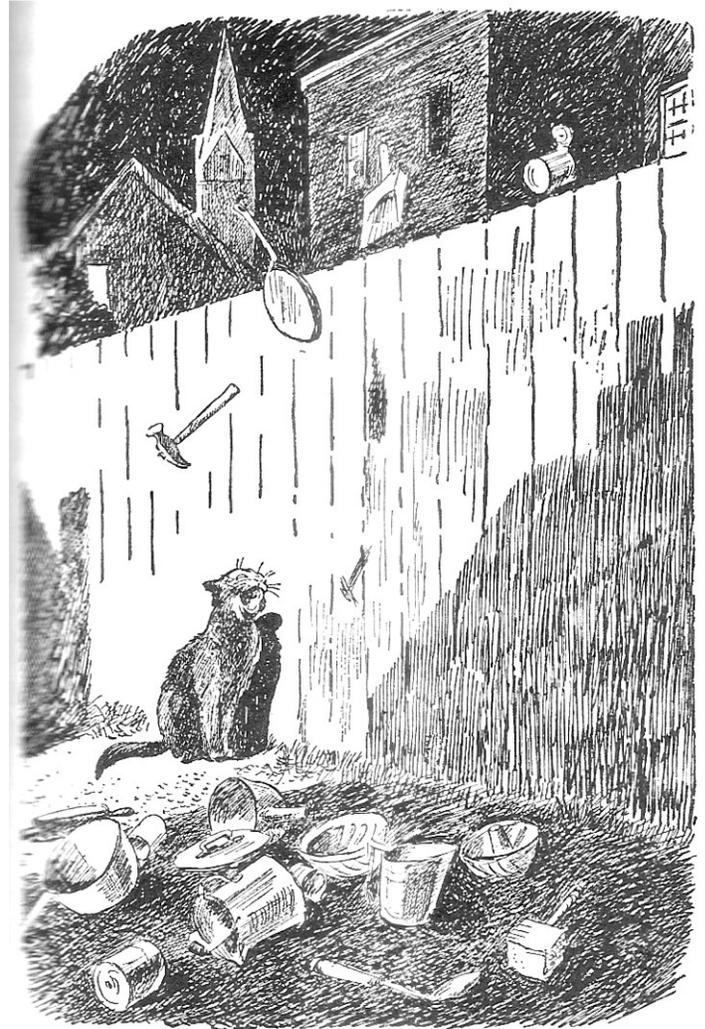
Poetry Corner



Richard Leo Jackson has for the past several years graced the Friends of Freddy's Facebook page with his original, Freddy-inspired poems. Below are some of his best and most relevant efforts, all of which he would like to note are dedicated to "Frederick Bean, Esq."

The Old Duck Pond

Down by the Old Duck Pond
of which I am very fond,
A sunny day you will see
Alice and Emma floating daintily.
Uncle Wesley taking a snooze,
The Webbs on a floating leaf taking a cruise.
Freddy and Georgie splashing around
Jinx dry and safe back on the ground.
Ah memories,
like a spring breeze
of the Old Duck Pond.



Jinx's Midnight Serenade

He sits upon your backyard fence
and lets loose with a yowl,
he's got a piercing tenor screech
that makes your dogs all growl.
He puts his heart and soul into
each mournful tune he croons.
No matter what you throw at him
he'll sing another tune.
His voice sounds just like finger nails clawed
down a blackboard in the school room.
It sets your nerves to jangling
with its Banshee howl of gloom.
But you can end his concert
just as everybody knows,
and show him what you think of it
by turning on the hose.

The Ballad of the Blue Grass Pig

Freddy:

Oh I'll sing you a song of a clever young pig
who grew up on a humble farm.

He writes poetry, sings, and can dance a jig,
and is blessed with a quick wit and charm.

Though not at liberty to tell you his name
for he's humble to a fault you know.

you can hear him sing blue grass most any night
as he strums on his favorite banjo.

Oh I hear other singers on records all day
but none with his talent or flair.

So that folks come to hear him from miles away.....

.....And all say he's sure full of hot air. *

* That last line was sung by Jinx of course



Why Can't Rocks Be Apples?

Why can't rocks be apples?

Why can't pebbles be grapes?

If sticks were fresh bananas
they'd feed some hungry apes.

Why can't mud be chocolate
or cardboard pizza pie?

If autumn leaves were potato chips,
I'd be a happy guy.

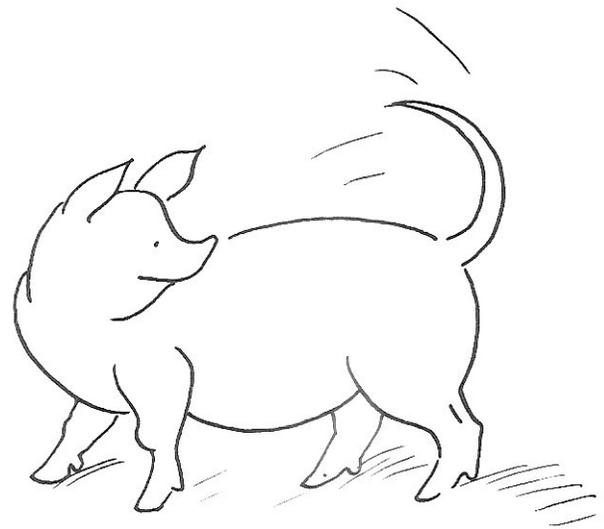
If rivers flowed with soda pop,
and jelly beans rained from the sky,
I'd eat until I couldn't move
and drink the rivers dry.

Ode to My Sweet Tooth

Vegetables, fruit, fish and meat,
all are healthy foods to eat,
but chocolate bars to tell the truth
appeal much more to my sweet tooth.

An apple keeps the doctor away,
and carbs give energy to run and play,
but I'll take ice cream any old day,
or perhaps a Baby Ruth.

Broccoli and greens offer much it seems
Eat too many sweets and you'll burst your seams.
But I could type out reams and reams
Praising sugar the fountain of youth.



Ode to the Pig's Tail

A king's head has a golden crown,
A ship boasts of its sails,
Fine ladies have their sparkling jewels
and animals their tails.

The horse's tail he proudly flaunts,
As he trots through the world
but the pig is proud to be adorned
with his end piece neatly curled.

So let the cow swat flies all day
and let the cat's tail twitch,

Let Bowser wag his tail with glee,
as he plays run and fetch.

Let peacocks strut their colored plumes
and monkeys swing on through trees,

I care not a fig
for the noble pig

has the tail all the world envies.



**The Friends of Freddy
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Join us at the Sweet 16 PigFest October 14-16!



We'll be raising the flag high at our upcoming Freddy convention at the historic Winter Clove Inn in Round Top, New York. Call the Winter Clove at 518-622-3267 to make your reservation (and be sure to mention the Friends of Freddy in order to get the convention discount). Plus please rush to www.friendsoffreddy.org to register for the convention now, so we know you're coming! (Or write/call/email Connie Arnold; addresses page 3.)