

Old King ^{Congdon} Bosworth was celebrating his 78th birthday, and people from all over were down to see him. By the time the day was over, Old King would have received visitors from all fifty states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, sixteen Latin American countries, six NATO countries, four SEATO countries and three ~~xxxx~~ behind the Iron Curtain, but then these don't really count assuch because following the pilgrimage, the seven representatives of the three IC countries had defected to the West.

Unfortunately, there was no way of telling/^{exactly}how many people came because no one kept score; not even Old King's maiden cousin, Elvinore, who had been in charge of guest books at so many weddings that ~~xxxxxxx~~ one would think that it would have been a natural reflex for her to preside over a guest book at this affair. Truth to tell, she secretly could not see what made Old King greatx and was completely stunned by the number of pilgrims. In any case, the facilities of the little hamlet of Gullied Meadowx were taxed beyond all belief.*

"What are all the people doing here?" Old King demanded of his plump grandniece.

"They are all here because you are a great writer."

"Grate rider!" he cackled, "Of course I'm a grate rider. That's why I'm at home on the range." Whereupon, he burst onto song:

O give me a bone
And with spices alone
I'll brew the best
Soup that you've drunk

"Crazy as a coot," Old King's daddy said, "If he wasn't so rich, I'd turn him out of the house if it wasn't his house.* And them news fellers from all over making such a ~~xxx~~ to-do over his 78th birthday. Hell, I was 97 last March, and the ohly news feller that came was from over in Capitol City. And that snippy photograph

* Years later so many people would have

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feller telling me he wouldn't take ~~his~~ my picture 'less I changen
my clothes! Hell, I ~~xxxx~~ didn't want my picture tooken anyway.*

Got enough letters from cranks wanting to know how to live ^{lwy} as it
was. Jus keep beathin' is what I tell 'em."