



All Pianos Have Keys & Other Stories

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Chapter 3: Typing for Bill Crane

Regardless of the hat I wear at the time, I have always enjoyed and profited from visiting schools. So much so that each year I make the time to make a swing around the city and state, capitalizing on the countless “Mae West” invitations which I receive to visit the schools, “Why don’t you come up and see me some time?”

During my tenure at St. Mary’s University, I served as a professor and chairperson in the education department, but it was in my role as director of student teaching that I spent the most time in the schools. I consistently invited staff from the various teaching fields to accompany me as I visited the student teachers. My invitations produced mixed results from the various faculty members, but there was one professor of government, Dr. Bill Crane, that never passed up an invitation to visit some of his students doing student teaching in the schools.

Visiting schools with Bill was an experience. His sense of humor, his inexhaustible repertoire of jokes and stories, his interest in everything guaranteed an enjoyable morning or afternoon.

One time we were visiting in a high school, and he made several recommendations to the cooperating and student teachers of source material on a specific social studies unit. As he left the classroom, he promised that he would write out a bibliography before leaving the school.

During the rest of the afternoon Bill made notes on a piece of paper as he remembered the various materials he was recommending. As we terminated our visit, he stopped by the high school office hoping he could find someone to type up the bibliography so that he could leave it for the teachers.

As we walked into the office, we noticed that the secretary was not at her desk. Instead, there was a high school student, obviously a student helper or aide, sitting in front of the typewriter at the secretarial desk.

“Do you work here?” asked Bill.

“Yes sir,” responded the student.

“Do you know how to type?” Bill asked, holding the list of materials in front of him.

The student took his time thinking over Bill’s question. Looking kind of perplexed, he finally responded, “I don’t know. I’ve never tried it.”