

Andy Griffith "What It Was, Was Football"

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What It Was, Was Football

It was back last October, I believe it was. We was a-
goin'™ t' hold

a tent service in this college town.

And we got thar about dinnertime on Saturday And
different ones

of us thought we ought to get us a mouthful to eat
before

that we set up the tent.

And so, we got down off of the truck and followed this
little bunch of

people through this small little bitty patch of woods.

And we come up on a big sign, says "Get
somethin'™ to eat here!"

And I went up and got me two hot dogs and a big
Orange drink.

And before I could take ary mouthful of that food this
whole raft of

people come up around me

and got me to where I couldn'™ t eat nothin'™ up
like"

and I dropped my big Orange drink. I did!

Well friends, they commenced to move and they
wasn'™ t so much

I could do except to move with 'em.

Well, we commenced to go through all kinds of doors
and gates

and I don'™ t know what all, and I looked up over one
of 'em

and it says "North Gate", and we kept on a-
goin'™ through there,

and pretty soon we come up on a young boy.

And he says "Ticket, please!" And I says
"Friend, I don'™ t have a ticket.

I don'™ t even know where it is that I'™ m a-
goin'™ ."

Well he says "Come out as quick as you can."

And I says "I'll do 'er" I'll turn around
the first chance I get."

Well, we kept on a-movin'™ through there and pretty
soon everyone

got where it was that they was a'™ goin'™ because

they parted
and I could see pretty good. I could!
And what I seen was this whole raft a people a-
settin' on these
two banks and a-lookin' at one another across this
purty little
green cow pasture! Well, they was! And somebody had
took
and drawed white lines all over it and drove posts in it
and
I don't know what all! And I looked down there and I
seen
five or six convicts a-runnin' up and down and a-
blowin' whistles!
They was!
And then I looked down there and I seen these pretty
girls
a-wearin' these little bitty short dresses and a-
dancin' around,
an' so I set down and thought I'd see what it
was that was
a-gonna happen. I did!
And about the time I got set down good, I looked down
there
and I seen thirty or forty men come a-runnin' out of
one end
of a great big outhouse down there! They did!
An' everybody where I was a-settin' got up and
hollered!
And about that time thirty or forty come a-runnin' out of
the
other end of that outhouse and the other bank full'
THEY got up and hollered!
An' I asked this feller that was a-settin' beside
me, I says
'Friend, what is it that they're a-hollerin' for?'
Well he whopped me on the back and he says
'Buddy, have a drink!'
Well, I says 'I believe I will have another big
Orange.'
An' I got it and set back down.
An' when I got back down there again, I seen that
them men
had got in two little bitty bunches down there.
They had' real close together--and they voted! They
did!
They voted and elected one man apiece.
And them two men come out in the middle of that cow
pasture
and shook hands like they hadn't seen one another

in a long time.
And then a convict come over to where they was a-
standin' an' he
took out a quarter and they commenced to odd-man
right there!
They did!
Well, after a while I seen what it was that they was a-
odd-mannin' for.
It was that both bunches-full of them men wanted this
funny-lookin'
little punkin to play with! They did, and I know friends
that they
couldn't-a eat it 'cause they kicked it the whole
evenin'
and it never busted!
But anyhow what I was a-tellin' was that both
bunches-full wanted
that thang and one bunch got it an' it made the
other bunch
just as mad as they could be and friends I seen that
evenin'
the awfulest fight that I ever seen in my life!
I did! They would run at one another and kick one
another
and throw one another down and stomp on one another
and grind their feet in one another and I don't know
what all!
And just as fast as one would get hurt they'd tote
him off
and run another'n on!
Well, they done that as long as I set there but pretty
soon
this boy that had said "Ticket please!" he
come up to me and
he says "Friend, you're gonna have to leave
because it is that
you don't have a ticket." And I says "Well,
alright!" an' I got up
an' left. An' I don't know, friends, until this
day what it was that they
was a-doin' down there, but I have studied about it,
and I think it's
some kindly of a contest where they see which bunch-
full of them
men can take that punkin an' run from one end of
that cow pasture
to the other'n without either gettin' knocked
down"
'er steppin' in somethin' !

