

THE

STORY

OF

HERMAN

GERM

**CHRISTMAS 1989 BY UNCLE ED**

## **THE DISCOVERY**

**The cousins were all in Uncle Ed's room.**

**All that is except Cherie, Lori, Scott, Tim and Kelly. They spent most of their time these days at the Cousins Old Folks Home.**

**Kris, freshly scrubbed in his neatly pressed digs with all kinds of stars and bars, was guarding the door. This was a serious situation.**

**Kevin, Mandy, Erin, Jewell, Stephanie, Charlie, Kristy, Kimberly, Ryan, Joe, Teresa and Matt were staring at a very sick Uncle Ed. Jacquelyn was nearby too, googling and slobbering.**

**You see it was just one week before Christmas and as yet there was no Christmas story. Everyone was worried.**

**Everyone, except Jacquelyn. You see Jacquelyn hadn't been around too long and had never heard a Cousin Christmas story before. She had alot to learn about Christmas.**

**The silence was broken when Kevin spoke up.**

**"Maybe we should ask one of the other Uncles or aunts to write the story this year."**

**Stephanie thought that might be a great idea, but she said,**

**"We only have one week. Who could get it done?"**

**"I want Uncle Ed to do it." said Matthew.**

**Mandy added, "He's only heard a few Cousin Christmas Stories. This might be the first one he can understand."**

**Suddenly, Ryan, a smart kid with a keen eye, saw something on Uncle Ed's nose.**

**"What's that on Uncle Ed's nose?" He asked.**

**Jewell said she couldn't see anything.**

**Kristy thought she could see it though.**

**"What is that on Uncle Ed's nose?" She asked.**

**Charlie wasn't sure if he saw anything or not.**

**"Joe, go get your Master Detective Kit." He said.**

**"Yeah," said Joe "We'll use the magnifying glass."**

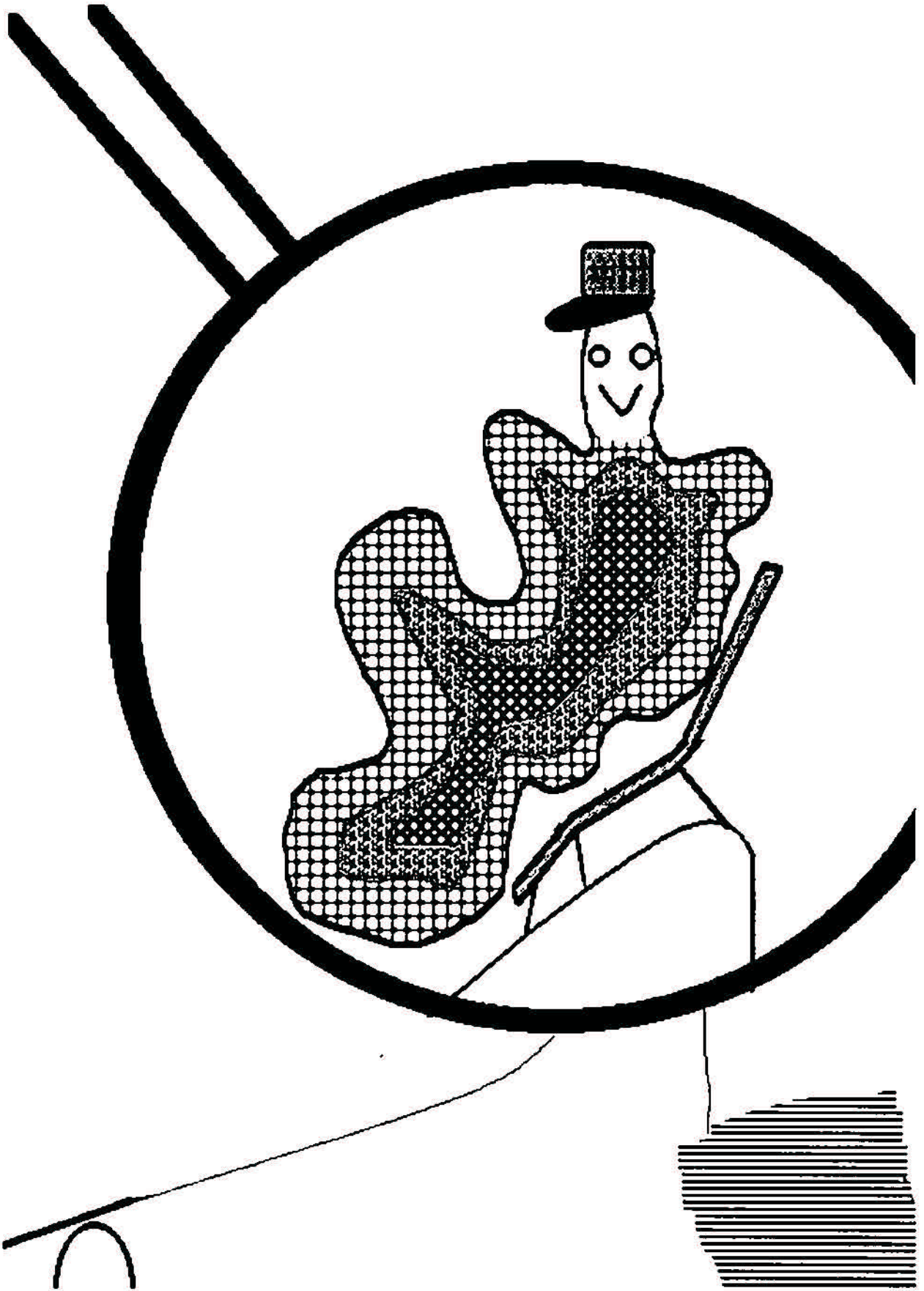
**As Joe went off, all the other cousins looked carefully at the nose.**

**Kris looked too. "You kids are crazy." He said.**

**Joe brought in the magnifying glass and looked at his Dad's nose.**

**There it was. As big as life. Perched on the nose like a bum on the beach. It was a germ.**





## THE INVESTIGATION

**Erin had a startled look on her face. The others wondered what was wrong.**

**"I think I hear something coming from Uncle Ed's nose." She said.**

**"It's breathing" Kris chimed in from his guardpost.**

**"It is not." Erin replied. "I think its coming from the thing."**

**Kimberly asked, "What is that thing on Uncle Ed's nose?"**

**Teresa said, "Jewell, go get your Mr. Microphone!"**

**Jewell went out of the room to get it while the others stared at the thing on Uncle Ed's nose.**

**When she returned she placed the microphone right next to Uncle Ed's nose but so that the mike wouldn't pick up any breathing. And then because of the miracles of modern technology, you heard, for the first time in history, a germ talk.**

**"I am Herman Germ."**

**Charlie and Teresa all laughed.**

**Ryan told them, "Be quiet guys and listen. I think he's trying to tell us something.**

**"I am Herman Germ."**

**Matthew was a little confused.**

**"What's that sound Mimi?" That's Matthew's name for his sister.**

**Mandy pointed to Uncle Ed's nose.**

**"There's a little man or something right there."**

**"I am Herman Germ."**

**The germ was pretty sure of his name, that much everyone knew by now. However, not one of the cousins had ever heard a germ talk before.**

**Herman continued, "We germs have taken over your Uncle Ed. We won't let him go until after Christmas."**

**Joe asked, "Why did you do this to my dad?"**

**"It's very simple," the germ said, "We germs hate three things more than anything in the world. First, we hate chicken soup. Second, we hate medicine. Third, we hate rhymes of all kinds, especially rhymes in Uncle Ed's Cousin Christmas Stories!"**

**Stephanie wondered aloud, "I didn't even know germs could hear much less that they hated rhymes."**

**Kimberly chimed in, "It really is true. You learn something new everyday."**

**The germ interrupted the girls and demanded.**

**"Silence. We are very irritated. For years just when we were starting to multiply and get people sick. This guy writes all these stupid rhymes and its all over. Last year the stupid Pete story rhymed so much it drove us germs right out of Canton."**

**Jewell exclaimed.**

**"No wonder I had a healthy January."**



**"Not this year, honey." Said Herman, "We've hatched a plan and I have lots of help. We are going to keep Uncle Ed so sick, there will be no story and no rhymes."**

**Then Herman laughed. It was a mean laugh.**

**Kevin looked at the others and said, "I think he means it."**

**Erin shrugged her shoulders saying, "What can we do now?"**

**Kris suggested a call to the old folks home but there was no answer.**

**"Don't you know they take a nap everyday at this time?" Kristy said.**

**She was right. At that very moment, when an important Christmas tradition was about to end, Scott and Tim, Cherie and Lori, and even the youngest oldster, Kelly were fast asleep.**

**Jewell came up with idea. "Let's give my dad another dose of medicine. After all they said they hate medicine, too."**

**But when she and Mandy looked at the bottle of Germ Killer 1000, they saw that it wasn't time for Uncle Ed's next dose.**

**Herman saw what they were up to and yelled.**

**"Don't even try it. I have so many friends here that there isn't a medicine in the world that can beat us all. Inside this old broken down body there's Bronco Itis, Lulu Enza, the walking Pnuemonia and the Boogie Woogie Flu and millions of others. So give up. This is going to be a miserable Christmas."**

## THE SOLUTION

*Just then they all heard it. It was Matthew with Jacquelyn.*

**"Patty Cake, Patty Cake. Baker's Man. Bake me a cake as fast as you can."**

**Herman Germ heard it too.**

**"Who is rhyming? Stop it now."**

**Jewell and Joe, Stephanie and Kris, Ryan and Jacquelyn, Charlie and Teresa, Mandy and Matt, Kimberly and Kristy all spoke at once.**

**"That's it.....rhymes."**

**"I'll go get my dad's story book from all the Christmases." Jewell said.**

**"Great" said Ryan, "We'll keep helping Matthew teach Jacquelyn Patty Cakes."**

**When Jewell returned, the cousins took turns reading parts of the many Christmas stories, especially the ones that rhymed.**

**"There once was a girl by the name of Lori, and this is her wonderful whimsical story."**

**"And Cherie like Sally so much she told her, I'd like to be a bowling pin when I get older."**

**"In Boxtown, you see, if you want to see your brother, the only way is one foot and then the other."**

**And they kept reading.**



**"It was a camping trip, my friends, you see, sixteen pals of mine and me!"**

**"You know who was driving? It all seemed so real and yet there was Skipper with paws on the wheel!"**

**"It's not growing bigger, we really don't mind. If we could all grow some younger, that's the answer to find."**

**The germ seemed to be getting smaller and you could hardly hear him.**

**"One man was strange, the other was stranger. One stayed the same and one was a changer."**

**"I appreciate your wisdom, though...and since he cannot talk, so tell me if he has too legs, why can't the fellow walk?"**

**They looked at the nose and no germ could be seen.**

**The cousins cheered wildly, they felt terrifically keen.**

**Then Uncle Ed he awoke and he began speaking.**

**"Will someone get me tissue. My nose is still leaking."**

**"I had a strange dream, bout a germ who could talk."**

**"A germ who could hear, a germ who walk."**

**"But I'm feeling much better, almost like brand new."**

**"That medicine's great, it's a cure for the flu."**

**And the cousins all smiled. And for the others Kris said.**

**"Just lay here and relax. Just rest here in bed."**

**"Oh, I should start thinking of good Christmas tale."**

**"I can't miss this year I never have failed."**

**But whether he knew it or not. They'd all lived the story.**

**Beating Herm Germ was a story of glory.**

**Jacquelyn, the youngest cousin, had arrived just in time.**

**To live a Christmas adventure and learn a few rhymes.**

**THE END.**