Grannie's Sayings

Grannie -- Winifred L. Holly Tilley, born in 1890 to Newman Holly and Annie Guernsey -- had a saying for every occasion. These are all common and well-used sayings. Her sayings became second nature to her children and grandchildren. We use them automatically, and only notice them when someone from another background remarks on them. These sayings weren't original with Grannie, but she used them to the hilt, and they are a part of Grannie in us.



Six of one, half a dozen of the other.
If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.
The news is all battle, murder and sudden death.
A little water never hurt.

You have to eat a peck of dirt before you die.

If there wasn't time to do a super cleaning job, Mother would say, "Just spread up the middle." If your haircut wasn't to your liking, or something about your dress bothered you or..., Mother would say, "It would never be noticed on a trotting horse."

Well, well, well a deep subject.

There are many fish in the sea, many fish in the sea.

You can be sure of death and taxes.

People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.

Give it a lick and a promise.

It's a great life if you don't weaken.

When you found yourself in the rain without an umbrella, she said, "Just run between the drops."

It's an ill wind......that blows no good.

"O wad some power the giftie gie us, to see oursels as ithers see us." (Robert Burns)

Where there's a will, there's a way.

Get thee behind me, Satan.

Well, well, how many wells to make a river?

There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip.

"A little of both and thank ye kindly." (Peoria, A Bird's Christmas Carol)

Strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.

Which came first, the chicken or the egg.

Sleep tight, don't let the bugs bite!

Going all around Robin Hood's barn.

It's nip and tuck.

It will be ready in two shakes of a lamb's tail.

Shutting the barn door after the horse has gone.

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

He's his own worst enemy.

You can't squeeze blood out of a stone.

Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me.

A watched pot never boils.

Half a loaf is better than none.

Haven't seen hide nor hair of him.

Don't cut off your nose to spite your face.

For those complaining of bad advice: And if he told you to jump over a cliff, would you do it?

That's just run of the mill.

It will be done faster than you can say Jack Robinson.

That's a horse of another color.

Time heals all wounds.

"Sister Anne, Sister Anne, do you see anybody coming?" "None but the dust of the sheep on the highway." (Bluebeard)

