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Short Short story

The Last Pauper

Passed down, as best I can tell it, the story goes that one of the school younguns at the same old school here in Sowell got the facts mixed up on a story for one of them books the school puts out about old-timers in the county knowed to have done something first, or something last, or something worth recording, which nobody can't get ^{the straight of} ~~straightened out~~ after fifty years or so goes by, and by than it don't matter to a bunch of younguns but does to a lot of old folks who set great store in their good name and don't take kindly to somebody putting down in writing what ain't the fact but what makes a right good story, and it didn't make Ray Lewis Evans want no less to beat Bubba Carter's backend for getting the facts mixed up and telling ^{how} ~~that~~ Ray Lewis's own mama - who everybody knows was a fine upstanding woman in Duran County - ^{was} ~~weren't~~ put away by the county, ^{instead of her own} ~~but was put away by her own~~ loving family and ~~she~~ somehow ended up - God knows how - ^{being remembered as} ~~being accused of being~~ the last pauper.

They'd have to write them another book.

The Last Payser

Pressed down, ~~handed down~~, as best I can tell it, the story goes that one of the school youngsters at the same old school ~~here~~ in Sowell got the facts mixed up ~~for~~ a story for ~~the~~ one of them books the school puts out about ~~old timers~~ ^{old timers} people in the county, ^{for one of the ~~first~~ families,} known to have done something ^{just} for ~~been~~ something, ^{last, or} something, ^{with recording,} which nobody can't get straightened out after 5⁰ years or so goes by and by then it ^{doesn't} ~~matter~~ ^{to a bunch of youngsters} but does ^{to a lot of decent old folks} ~~to a lot of~~ people who set great store in ^{their} good ~~name~~ and don't take kindly to somebody putting down in writing what ain't the fact but what makes a right good ~~the~~ story, and it didn't make Ray Lewis want no less to beat Bubba Carter's backend for getting the facts mixed up & telling that Ray Lewis's own maama - who everybody knowed was a fine upsturdy woman in Duran Co - everen't put away by the county, but ~~was~~ put away by her own loving ~~kind~~ family and somehow ended up, God know how ~~it~~ being accused of being the last payser. They'd have to write ~~the~~ ^{them} another book.

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Cause here's how it went, according to Ray Lewis, who everybody knows
 would come a sight closer to telling the truth than Bubba Carter, who
 might've ~~been good at politicking but had a big mouth and never~~ never
 might've ~~been good at politicking but was never~~ never
 nothing but a lot of hot air, and who had the gall ^{to say his shit & then} swear he
 ain't never told that young'un that Miss Amaretta was the
 last pauper, had in fact told ~~that~~ ~~that~~ exactly how him &
 Ray Lewis & the rest 'em then was standin' around in the courtyard
 that summer mornin' when Miss Amaretta come runnin' up out
 of breath and ~~that~~ hollered ~~that~~ that Old man Keel was
 found dead at the mattress factory - which weren't no factory
 but a ~~house~~ ~~house~~ down old home on the river where he
 made a right fine cotton mattress & sold what weren't
 stole by that thieving Clute Luten, who put a new mattress
 on every bed in his home, ^{the night,} when he broke in one night
 & rolled 'em up, one by one, carry 'em off home when
 he got drunk, which was often - by old lady Brunell,
 happenin' by with her drone of old dogs, ^{peepin' thru the}
 window & peepin' over to Miss Amaretta to tell her
 the bad news, which of course she run straight way
 to tell who ever ~~came to first,~~ ^{at which time} Bubba sets right in to
 makin' arrangements for the county to put Old man Keel
 away since he didn't have no kin; cause that's how
 Bubba made his reputation as "the undertaker" that's
 what ~~they~~ called him - cause he was always the one
 lookin' to the county to put out for every ~~drifter~~ loafer
 come up & set up housekeepin' ^{the night} to sell us something
 that most of the time we didn't have no use for, no how,
 but like Miss Amaretta said, ^{Old man Keel} he done a service for our
 community and we best as well see to puttin' him

notes - The Last Paper

passed down story printed in school ~~historical~~ register

"I have to write them another book"

Fernan ^{Ray Beers Evans} - Herbert ^{Bulba ~~Chiles~~} - Chinkipin - dispute over facts -

matter of point of view - mattress factory - old woman
with a drove of dogs looks thru window & finds old
man dead & tells Miss Amaretta who tells a group

of men - how the rumor got started -
Fernan makes ~~funeral~~ arrangements for