

Utah State University

DigitalCommons@USU

USU Student Folklore Fieldwork

Student Folklore Fieldwork

Winter 11-2-2018

Up To Something Fishy

Rayna Ledyard

raynamahnken@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/student_folklore_all

Recommended Citation

Ledyard, Rayna, "Up To Something Fishy" (2018). *USU Student Folklore Fieldwork*. Paper 522.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/student_folklore_all/522

This G6: Pranks is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Folklore Fieldwork at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in USU Student Folklore Fieldwork by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.



Dawnetta Mahnken

Logan, Utah

12/2/18

Up To Something Fishy

Genre: Prank

Informant: Dawnetta Mahnken is my mother. She is 42 years old, and has a wicked sense of humor when given the opportunity to show it. She loves to unexpectedly tease her children, joke around, play with us, and have fun, even though she usually is the one who does a lot of the household chores and encourages her children to do the same (under threat of suspended activities, of course). She is a very organized person who loves to read (or listen to audio books), garden, and help her family. She is a wonderful mother, despite having a very hard childhood- I won't go into detail. Suffice it to say that I am amazed and grateful that she turned into the person she is today. Before she was a mother and had her own family, she had many more opportunities to enact pranks and jokes, and often took advantage of these with gusto.

Context: I was visiting my parents' home for Sunday dinner, and after the meal I was chatting with my mom on a comfy couch. We were relaxed and full, enjoying each other's company. As she asked me about recent life, I shared some stress about the collection project and other finals coming up, telling her that I was planning on just collecting some pranks to get the last few bits of folklore I needed. (This was a set-up: my mother was the one I had been planning on asking in the first place.) She told me that she had some pranks, allowed me to pull out my phone to record, then eagerly shared some of her favorite pranks she has pulled.

Text: So, um... some of our college pranks that we used to do. One that wasn't quite so nice, um.... and that, uh, I think that we still liked the guys that lived in this apartment? But maybe they ticked us off or something. But we... *[pause]* we opened up a can of tuna fish, and we found some place in their apartment, I think we ended up taking off an air vent and putting it on the inside the air vent and then screwing it back on. And then like, we'd still like, you know go through the rest of the week and still be chatting with them and they'd be like, "Man, so-and-so really needs to clean his room!" and like we'd just kind of smile, and- *[pauses, laughing.]* And by the end of the week they were just like, "We think a MOUSE died in the WALL!" *[Another*

laughing pause.] And it was like, SO bad, I can't even remember what we did to like... make it better... But I think we finally confessed to them and told them where it was.

Texture: My mother CLEARLY enjoyed sharing her prank stories with me. She got into the story-telling groove very quickly, and was laughing almost the entire time as she remembered the fun that she had living through these elaborate jokes. If she wasn't laughing, she was grinning, and at one point she wiped tears from her face from laughing so hard. She used emphatic arm movements while telling the stories, and her eyes were bright. She emphasised words for dramatic effect, making loud sound effects when needed, and overall seemed excited to share these stories with me.

Rayna Ledyard
Utah State University
Folklore 2210
Dr. Lynne McNeill
Fall 2018