

FAWM 2024 – Sherwood Anderson’s “The Egg”

9 **EAT HERE**

Pickleville
the jolly innkeeper effect
People, he said, liked to look at strange and wonderful things.
In the long nights
 when there was little to do
 father had time to think.
 That was his undoing.
 a passion in the breasts of the younger people

EAT HERE!

Here in Pickleville!

**If you wanna find a jolly innkeeper
here in Pickleville you will!**

**No matter what life in rural Ohio brings,
People like to look at strange and wonderful things.
Just north of town where the train bell rings:
EAT HERE in Pickleville!**

**Did I say that, after we left the chicken farm behind, we embarked in the restaurant business?
By the train station, where the cider mill and the pickle factory used to be...
It was mother’s idea. She said travelling men would be always waiting around on trains.
Father kept the restaurant open late, often alone, thinking. That was his undoing.
Father built a shelf for vegetables. And got a showcase full of cigars.
He painted the sign that said EAT HERE! A command that was so seldom obeyed.**

And he brought something from the chicken farm...

Surprising things sometimes come out of eggs.

Grotesques are born out of eggs as out of people.

A chicken is, you see, born that has four legs, two pairs of wings, or two heads.

The things do not live.

But father preserved them in alcohol, each in its own glass bottle.

And all during our days as keepers of the restaurant,

the grotesques in their little glass bottles sat on a shelf back of the counter.

Mother sometimes protested but father was a rock on the subject of his treasure.

EAT HERE!

Here in Pickleville!

**If you wanna find a jolly innkeeper
here in Pickleville you will!**

**No matter what life in Bidwell brings,
People like to see strange and wonderful things.**

**The passion in the breasts of young people sings:
EAT HERE in Pickleville!**

EAT HERE in Pickleville!

P – I – C – K – L – E

V – I – L – L – E

EAT HERE in Pickleville!