

Patrick Haggerty (PH): I'm riding to school with my oldest brother, and on the way to school, I'm putting glitter all over my face. And my brother said, "What in the hell are you doing?" And I said, "I'm putting on my costume." And he said, "Well, I wouldn't be caught dead wearing that." So he dropped me off at the school, and he called my dad up, and he said, "Dad, I think you better get up there. This is not going to look good." So my dad drove up to the high school. And he had his farmer jeans on and they had cow crap on them, and he had his clodhopper boots on. And when I saw him coming, I ducked around the hall and hid from him. And it wasn't because of what I was wearing, it was because of what he was wearing. So, the assembly goes well, and I climb in the car and I'm riding home with my father. My father says to me, "I was walking down the hall this morning, and I saw a kid that looked a lot like you ducking around the hall to avoid his dad. But I know it wasn't you, cause you would never do that to your dad." And I squirmed in my seat, and I finally busted out and I said, "Well dad, did you have to wear your cow-crap jeans to my assembly?"

Robin Bolland (RB): (laughs)

PH: And he said, "Look, everybody knows I'm a dairy farmer. This is who I am." And he looked me square in the eye. And then he said, "Now, how bout you? When you're a full-grown man, who are you gonna go out with at night?" And I said, "I don't know." And he said, "I think you do know. And it's not gonna be that McGloughlin girl that's been making goo-goo eyes at you, but you won't even pick up the damn telephone. Now, I'm gonna tell you something today, and you might not know what to think of it now, but you're gonna remember when you're an adult. Don't sneak. Because if you sneak, like you did today, it means you think you're doing the wrong thing. And if you run around spending your whole life thinking that you're doing the wrong thing, then you'll ruin your immortal soul." And out of all the things a father in 1959 could have told his gay son, my father tells me to be proud of myself and not sneak. My reaction at the time was to get out in the hay field and pretend like I was as much of a man as I could be. And I remember flipping 50-pound bales three feet up into the air going, "I'm not a queer. What's he talking about?"

RB: (laughs)

PH: But he knew where I was headed. And he, he knew that making me feel bad about it in any way was the wrong thing to do. I had the patron saint of dads for sissies, and no, I didn't know at the time, but I know it now.

<https://storycorps.org/animation/the-saint-of-dry-creek/>

Part One

In your own words, summarise the story for your partner. You can make notes here.

Part Two

Ask your partner the following questions.

Why was Bryan's dad worried that the other kids might 'catch gay'?

Why do you think some of Bryan's brother and sisters were kicked out or ran away from home?

What does Bryan mean when he says Mike tried to 'hook him up'?

Why do you think Mike calls Bryan 'a good man'?