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### Dialect Stories of William Bickel, 1877-1879

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The following occurrences I heard when  
a boy 6 to 8 years old--1877 to 1879.

4-79

William(Bill) Bickel lived a short distance from my father's farm and told some tall stories, none that would harm anybody, mostly of himself. He and his wife frequently visited us and the stories which follow I heard him relate while on a visit to us. His driving horse was small, being in size between a pony and a regular sized horse, but Mr. Bickel simply called him his pony. His buggy, or carriage had high wheels, a tall dasher, three posts on each side with a flat leather top over the posts and curtains on the sides, back and front rolled up to the roof, fastened with straps. This style of venickle was called a "rockaway".

He related that one day he drove to town and previously it rained making the dirt roadbed rather soft and while in town it rained hard. He waited until it had stopped raining, however it got late and night came, and still cloudy made the vision rather bad. While driving home he thought it went rather slow and said, "Ich hab da pony net seene kenne, noo havich mich mool uff gescheldt un ivve da dasher naus gegukdt un hab ferhaftdich nix tseene fun pony, un es buggi is yuschdt langsam gange. Endlich hav ich em pony sei oore kseene, tsimlich glei da kup, un ivverdem da bukkl un noo da gans pony. Des reggerre hut da weeg soo sumpich gemachd as da pony gans im drek waar, un es waar aw in di buggi baddi kumme wan die redder net soo hoch gevest waarde." "Mei pony hut mich seileeve net schdekke lusse."

One time Mr. Bickel and his wife went visitng and drove down a light, but long grade. There were gutters (abweiser) made across the road to drain the water on the other side? His pony went in a slow trot. Listen what happened--"Da pony is bissl schdarik da barrik nunner gange un wie es da abweiser gedruffe hut, huts mich un di alt hefdich nuf vedder da tab kschnisse, un bis ich gewist hab wuu ich waar, hav ich uvve uf da alte kukdt." "Kum alter," says his wife.

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The persons I named in the foregoing stories passed away 30 to 50 years ago and some still earlier and very few close relations are to be found.

*H. Payne Gruber*