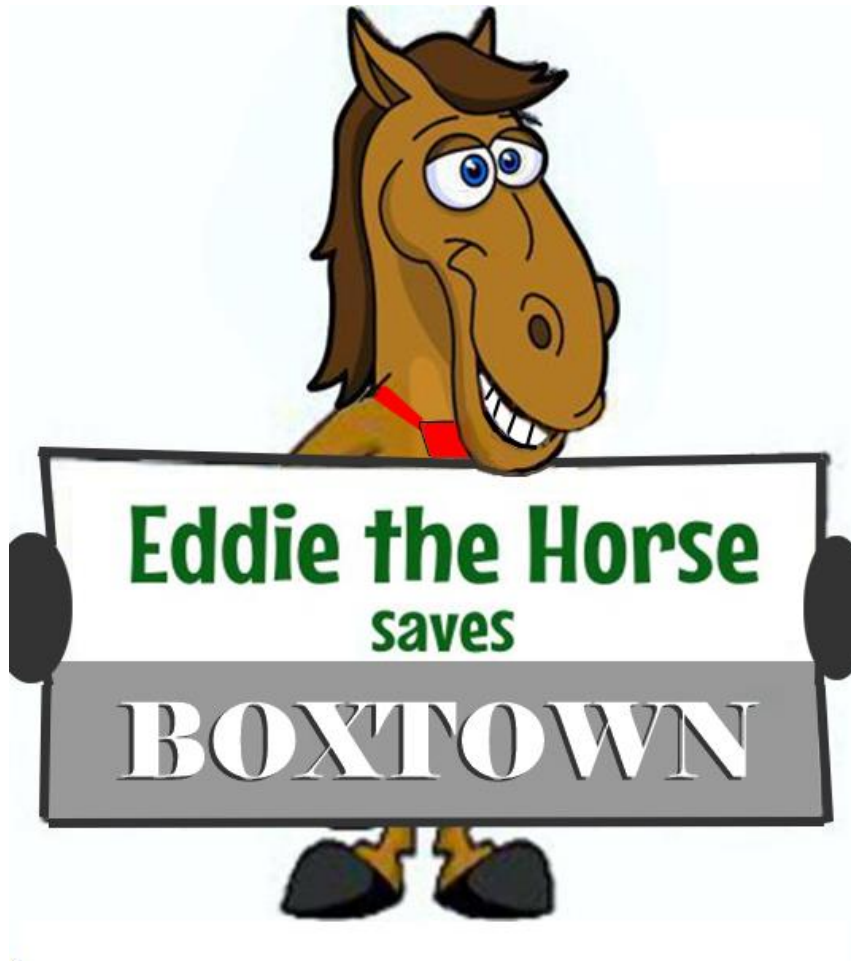


# Annual Cousin Christmas Story

By Uncle Ed (AKA Leila's Grandpa)  
Christmas 2023





**Eddie the Horse**  
saves

**BOXTOWN**

**Last year was a great vacation to Zoo Boogaloo, of course.**

**The cousins thought “Let’s go back again and visit Eddie the Horse.”**



**Leila told the others, “Eddie was so much fun.”**

**“But, I’d rather see a big show and Boxtown has the one.”**

**Boxtown is a place where the older cousins once lent a hand,  
And joined up with Axel to form the all star cousin band.**

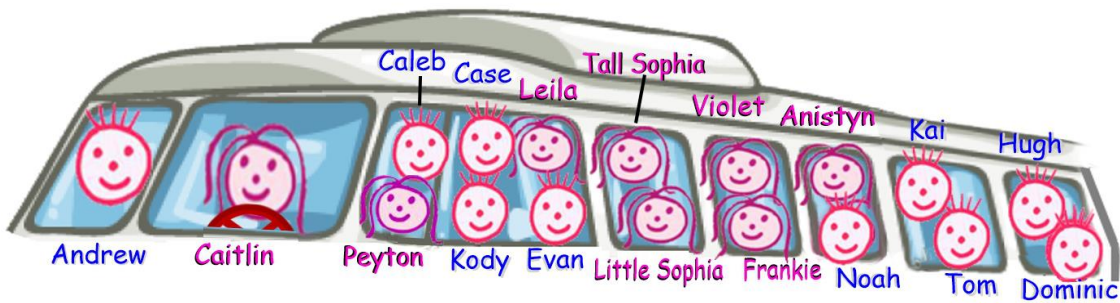


The Sophias agreed, “We should climb in our bus.”

“And roll on to Boxtown with no muss and no fuss.”

Little Sofia and Tall Sofia went before the rest of the hoard.

And then sixteen other cousins, each one climbed aboard.



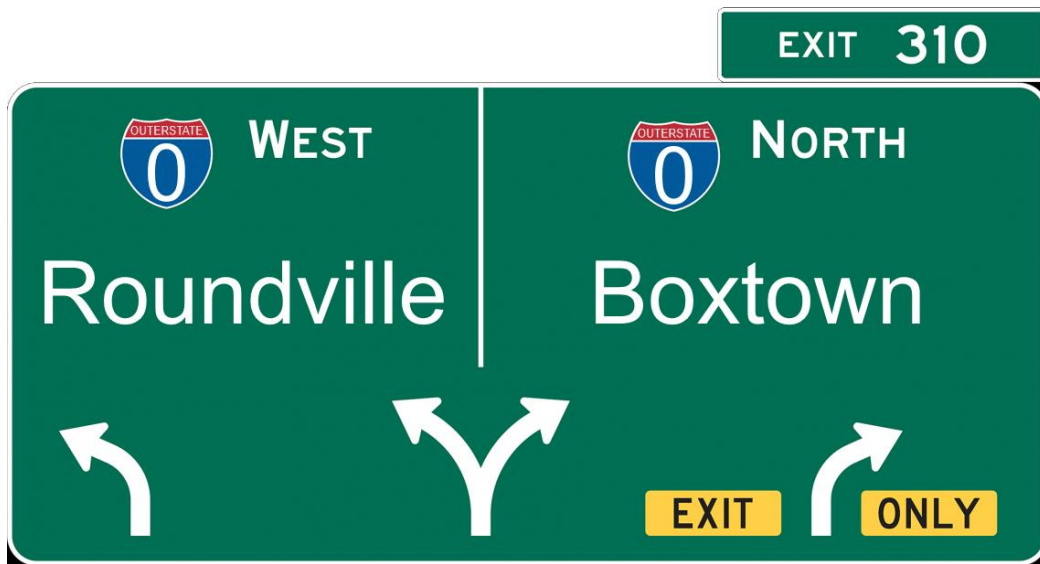
**As soon as they each had a seat, Noah sang out a sound,  
Soon the wheels on the Cousin bus would go round & round,**



**All the cousins on the bus went up and then went down.  
The wipers went swish-swish-swish, all through the town.**

**Caitlin was the driver and soon they were on their way.**

**All the cousins near and far to Boxtown on that day.**



**The cousins smiled & laughed, they even blew some bubbles.**



**They didn't know that in Boxtown, the city had its troubles.**

**Let's start at the start in the city that is named after boxes.**

**Everyone there had a sickness, worse than the chicken poxes!**



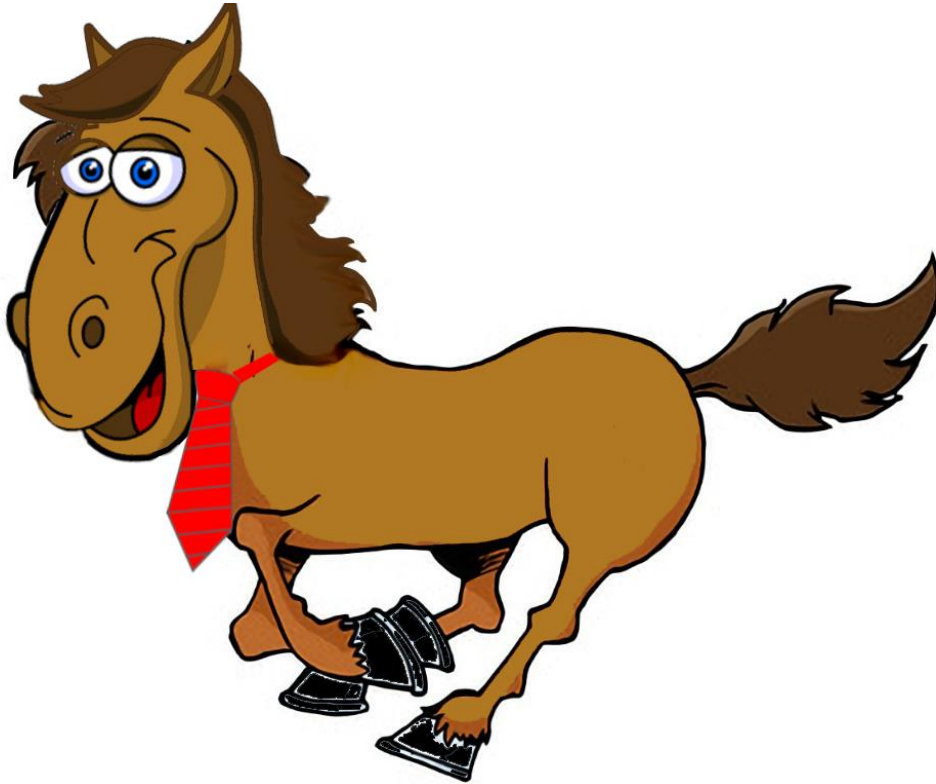


**Even Axel, the biggest star of Boxtown's biggest show.**



**Couldn't sing, not a note, couldn't dance, Oh no-no-no.**

**At that moment Eddie the Horse was trotting through the city.**



**Eddie the Horse saw it was bad and said, "Oh, what a pity!"**

**“The cousins are coming. I can practically see them.”**

**“They’ll want the whole city to come out and greet them.”**



**Eddie said, “I’ll help do the jobs that the sick people would.”**

**“And make sure the cousins have the fun that they should.”**

**So, when the cousins arrived at the Hotel Von Smuggage**



**They were greeted by a Bellhop to help with their luggage.**



**Caitlin noticed something different, not as it was planned.**

**“The bellhop has four hoofs but doesn’t have any hands!”**

**Andrew added, “He’s looks funny with a head just like a horse.”**

**Caleb shouted, “It must be Eddie, Eddie the Horse, of course.”**

**Some of the others thought it was weird, something fugly.**

**Case and Kai both decided it was just someone ugly.**



**“It doesn’t matter. Who cares?” Frankie then said.**

**“Just lead me to my room. Just find me a bed.”**

**Later that night there was smoke rising to the ceiling.**

**Alarms started sounding, it was a really scary feeling.**



**Peyton & Violet led the way, saying, “Everyone follow along.”**

**“What happened?” Anistyn asked. “Is there fire? What is wrong?”**

**Well, Dominic and Hugh couldn't get their TV to work.  
So, they fiddled inside it with a twist and a twerk.  
They wiggled the wires and caused sparks in the air.  
There wasn't really a fire, just smoke everywhere.**





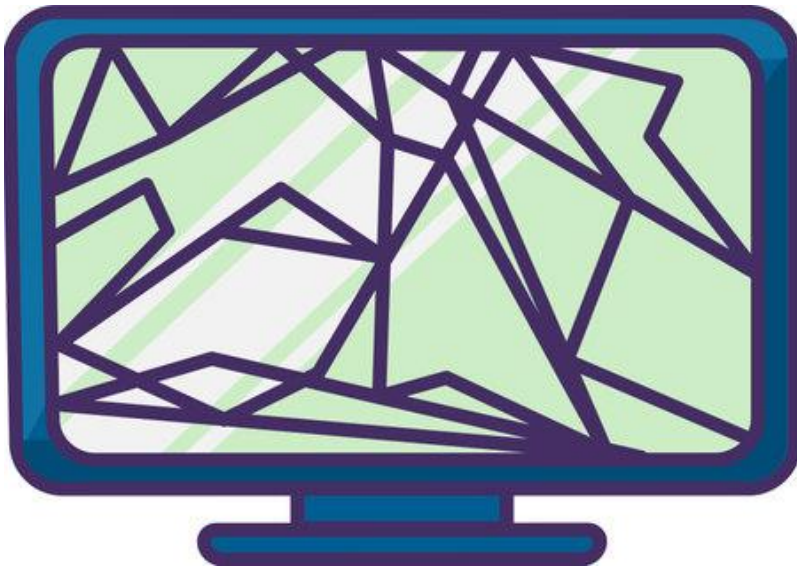
**Then Denise the Firefighter showed up at the scene.  
And helped them get out safely, each one, all eighteen.**



**Evan cried out, “I was scared and so worried.”**

**Tom told him, “We’re fine. We got out, we all scurried.”**

**“And there was no danger, just TV type rubble.”**



**Evan said, “Will Dominic and Hugh get in trouble?”**



**Then the police chief arrived and told the cousins "Take care."**

**"We don't want anyone hurt, so please be aware."**

**"Don't fiddle or faddle or wiggle or jerk."**

**"If you're trying to get something that's broken to work."**

**Peyton told the others “Let’s get a really good rest.”**

**“Tomorrow’s the big show, the best of the best.”**

**Then of all of the cousins shared one to another. “Of course.”**

**“The Police Chief and Denise were all Eddie the Horse!”**



**Evan wondered, “Is this the Zoo Boogaloo all over again?”**

**Andrew said, “Let’s see what happens tomorrow and then.”**

**“We’ll ask around to others in town we might see.”**

**“Unless everyone’s Eddie except you and me!”**

**So, each cousin went to bed and dreamed all their dreams.**

**And it was Eddie the Horse in each dream, so it seemed.**



**And when they awoke they each said, “OH MY!!!!”**

**Six feet of snow had come down from the sky.**

**It covered the trees, it covered busses and cars.**

**It was so white everywhere, so near and so fars.**



**Kai and Tom were quite angry, mad as can be.**

**“It will ruin the show!” Said Case and Kody.**

**“Look.” Caleb exclaimed. “Someone’s shoveling snow.”**

**“Eddie the Horse?” Leila said. “Could it be? I don’t know.”**



**Then Case, Noah, and Kody with balls of snow fought.**



**But Violet, Frankie and Peyton had a much better thought.**

**“We should each get a sled and ride down the hill.”**

**“It would be so much fun, it would be quite a thrill.”**



**Tall Sophia told everyone, "Renting a sled takes a ticket."**

**"You can get one from the girl behind the white pickets."**



**“Wait.” Said Anistyn. “Wasn’t Eddie just working the plow?”**

**“Now, he’s taking our tickets?” Caleb asked. “How?”**

**Little Sophia just smiled and climbed on her sled.**

**Down the hill she went quickly, laughter filling her head.**



**Frankie said, “Just forget it. Let’s just have fun for awhile.”**  
**So, they just slid, slipped, and sledged each one with a smile.**  
**They were worn out from the cold from winter’s brisk air,**  
**Then they were greeted by someone, who said he was the mayor.**



**He told the cousins they were honored as guests of Boxtown  
The most favored friends from the whole world around.  
He announced. “All Boxtown’s people are home still so sick.”  
“I am here, in their place to give you the keys to the city!”**



**“They don’t open anything, just a whole day of fun.  
A day you’ll remember when the others are done.”**

**He went behind a big wall but continued to speak.**

**“Now you will meet the town mascot with a big beak.”**

**“The mighty town buzzard the friend to us all.”**

**And out comes a buzzard to sing out her call.**

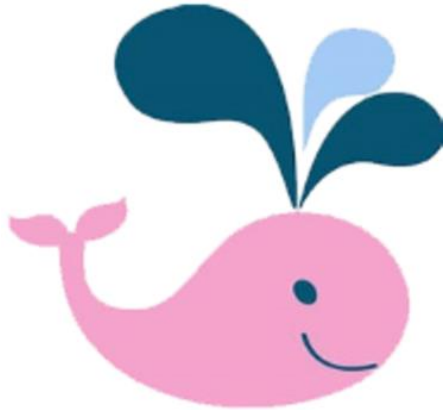


**At first the cousins were happy, to the town they had the keys!  
With the snow all clearing up, here comes a new warming breeze.  
Then Violet remembered, "If everyone's sick, Axel must be sick too."  
"So, there won't be a band, no dance, no music, it's true."**



**If the cousins were emojis, they'd be that sad, sad face 😞 .  
Thinking of all of the stuff they'll miss, visiting this place.**

**Hugh likes to dance to Baby Beluga**



**While Noah likes the Baby Shark.**

**Violet wants to sing All Too Well to everyone in the Concert Park.**



**Kody likes to dance while Kai does his wiggle while he crawls.**

**And both would be unhappy if there's no music at the music hall.**



**Tall Sophia likes blackbear, thinkin' bout that Do Re Mi.**

**Anistyn loves to Let it Go since today it was so snowy.**





**Dominic likes Moana's "Where are you?"**



**He hoped Axel would give it a try.**

**And Evan likes a Friend in Me.**

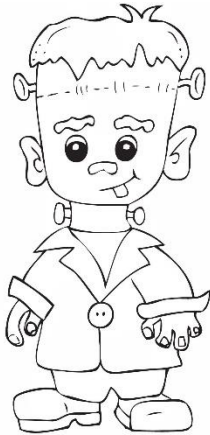


**Frankie wants the Sparks that Fly.**

**Sophia likes something Mickey Mousy.**



**Tom loves his Frankenstein!**



**Andrew likes Don't Stop Me Now, for Caitlin, "All *Zac Brown* is fine."**

Leila likes the song her Grandpa sings about the Coconuts.



Case and Caleb love *Our Last Night*. No ifs, or ands or buts.



**And just as their weary worry starts to grow and grow and grow.  
Little Sophia sees the others sad, and wonders, “Will there be a show?”  
And then the cousins hear the violin, the horns and cymbals clapping.  
Yes, it’s Eddie the one-horse band with a drum a tap a tapping.**



**They follow Eddie to the concert park,  
And the town's bells started their ringing.**



**With Eddie playing the music, the cousins join in singing.  
They hummed, they twisted, clapped and each one sang out loud.  
They created a really, big, big show and they were very proud.**

**They snacked on some popcorn**



**and drank the big Blippie.**



**A special orange soda with a straw that you could sippie.**

**They each tried to dance, and each crooned a nice tuneful.**

**They sang What Does the Fox Say and had ice cream, a big spoonful.**



**Then they saw their new friend driving up in a big trash truck.  
The cousins knew he'd need some help, with the town so out of luck.**



**They helped him pick up all the trash and recycle stuff, too.  
And sweep up the aisles so it was clean through and through.**



**He got out of the truck and picked up his guitar.**

**To sing one more song, for those near and those far.**

**He turned up the volume and did something unexpected.**

**“This last number is for everyone in the town all infected.”**



**Ending their performance with the favorite song in his head.**

**The theme song from the TV show, you guessed it, Mister Ed.**

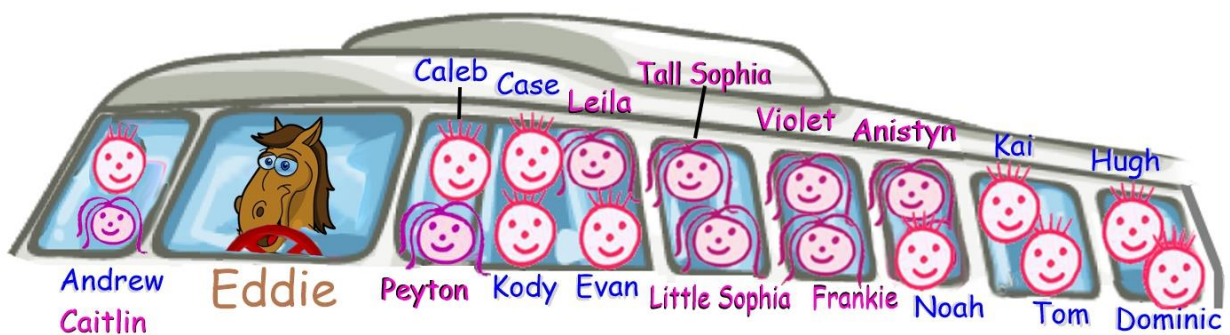
A HORSE IS A HORSE OF COURSE, OF COURSE.  
AND NO ONE CAN TALK TO A HORSE OF COURSE.  
THAT IS OF COURSE UNLESS THE HORSE IS THE FAMOUS MISTER ED!

GO RIGHT TO THE SOURCE AND ASK THE HORSE.  
HE'LL GIVE YOU THE ANSWER THAT YOU'LL ENDORSE.  
HE'S ALWAYS ON A STEADY COURSE. TALK TO MISTER ED!

PEOPLE YAKKITY-YAK A STREAK AND WASTE YOUR TIME OF DAY,  
MISTER ED WILL NEVER SPEAK UNLESS HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY!  
A HORSE IS A HORSE OF COURSE OF COURSE AND  
THIS ONE'LL TALK 'TIL HIS VOICE IS HOARSE.

YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A TALKING HORSE?  
WELL, LISTEN TO THIS... "I AM MISTER ED!"

The next morning the cousins were set to depart,  
Each to their own home so that Christmas could start.  
They agreed, this trip was filled with so many great times.  
But they had to get going, they'd almost run out of rhymes!  
And so, they started on home with no muss or no fuss,



**'Cause Eddie the Horse was driving the bus!?!'**

# The End