

Daddy's Right Thumb...

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Sitting with Daddy late one night
I happened to notice the light was right
and asked my Daddy if I might...

take a picture of his hands

He said "sure son" as he held 'em out
I grabbed my camera 'cause there's no doubt
A farmer's hands are what life's about...

especially my Daddy's hands

I needed that picture so I could show
my kids some things they need to know
'bout life on the farm... and how things go
when things don't turn out like you planned
and fate puts a problem in your hand
that may take years... to understand

You see Daddy's right thumb was short and bent
from that old hay baling accident
the day his glove and hand both went
...where hands aren't meant to go

And if greedy fate had grabbed his arm
and pulled him in to do more harm
I reckon we'd have lost the farm
...but that baler let him go!

He thought it'd only 'broke the skin'
but... pulling off his glove was when
He saw what was left where his thumb had been

And I don't think you can explain
why right at first you don't feel pain...
as you contemplate what does not remain

My Grandpa, (who had never driven fast),
put Daddy in the Dodge and gave'er the gas
...they say it was the day he learned how to pass!
...trying to save my Daddy's thumb

But in nineteen hundred and forty nine
procedures like that were not refined
(and there were little parts they couldn't find...)
...trying to save my Daddy's thumb

So Daddy told the Doctor "Just snip 'er off..."
but that wise old Doctor merely scoffed,
He said: "What's left, we'll not snip off..."

'cause everything that you pick up
from a sack of seed to your coffee cup
will find four fingers not enough..."

"No, we'll not do anything that dumb
it's mostly gone but there's still some
and I think there's enough to make a thumb"

"The hardest part is keeping it on..."
he said as he stitched the flesh to bone,
then wished Daddy luck as he sent him home
...wasn't losing a thumb that made Daddy groan...
it was that awful thought: **"Will I lose my loan?"**

but our 'little finger' is underrated...
Daddy's curled in strong.. and compensated
...till at last came a day no man hesitated
...To shake my Daddy's hand

and as you may know where I come from
when a farmer deals with anyone
the way you know the deal is done
...is the famer shakes your hand

and shaking hands, (according to some),
cannot be done without a thumb...
my Daddy's was short... but he had one
...and in the process taught his son:

When things happen in life you don't understand
and fate puts a problem in your hand...
when you're tempted to say: "I don't think I can..."
Son... what you'll have to do... is **adjust your plan!**
If you adjust it enough... you'll find you can.