

Critical Condition

for Gene England at Utah Valley Hospital, 2001

R. A. Christmas

When I heard about Gene's surgery, I
thought, "Even with half a brain he'd still
be ten times smarter than me!"

Of course the church is probably
praying the doctor got a few things. . .
(O.K., just leave us *him*).

Gene has so many friends that for years
I opted for something I thought more
special—"significant acquaintance"

(I was neither)—but even if we were
more competitive (that's a laugh) than
close, we had some times—

like the blessing he gave me
after a rough night (mine)
on the wrong side of Salt Lake

and our flying fishing trip
to McMichael's cabin on Henry's Fork
when I about rolled his SUV.

That's about it—and maybe it'll have
to do—Gene's in critical condition,
and so are we without him.