

## Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

### M - O - T - H - E - R

"M" is for the Million things she gave me -  
 "O" means Only that she's growing old -  
 "T" is for the Tears she shed to save me -  
 "H" is for her Heart of gold -



"E" is for her Eyes with love-light shining in them -

"R" means Right, and right she'll always be,  
 Put them all together, they spell "MOTHER"  
 a word that means the world to me.

### Is It Really True, Mother?



This story begins when I was a child: I was born poor. Often we hadn't enough to eat. Whenever we had some food, Mother often gave me her portion of rice. While she was transferring her rice into my bowl, she would say "Eat this rice, son! I'm not hungry."

As I grew, Mother would fish in a nearby river during her spare time. She hoped that the fish she caught

would give me a little bit more nutrition. Once she had caught just two fish, she would make fish soup. While I was eating the soup, mother would sit beside me and eat what was left on the bone of the fish. My heart was touched when I saw it. Once I tried to give the other fish to her, but she refused it and said, "Eat this fish, son! I don't really like fish."

Then, in order to fund my education, Mother went to a match factory to bring home some used matchboxes which she filled with fresh matchsticks. This helped her get some money to cover our needs. One wintry night I awoke to find Mother filling the matchboxes by candlelight. So I said, "Mother, go to sleep; it's late, you can finish tomorrow morning." Mother smiled and said, "Go to sleep, son! I'm not tired."

When I had to sit for my final examination, Mother accompanied me. Mother waited for me for hours in the heat of the sun. When the bell rang, I ran to meet her. Mother embraced me and poured me a cup of strong tea that she had brought in a thermos. Seeing Mother covered with perspiration, I at once gave her my glass and asked her to drink too. Mother said, "Drink, son! I'm not thirsty!"

*(Continued on page 2)*



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## DEADLY TERMS USED BY A WOMAN



### 1 - FINE

This is the word women use to end an argument when she knows she is right and you need to clam up.

### 2 - NOTHING

Means "Something" and you need to be worried.

### 3 - GO AHEAD

This is a dare, not permission. Don't do it!

### 4 - WHATEVER

A women's way of saying "you are in a heap of trouble."

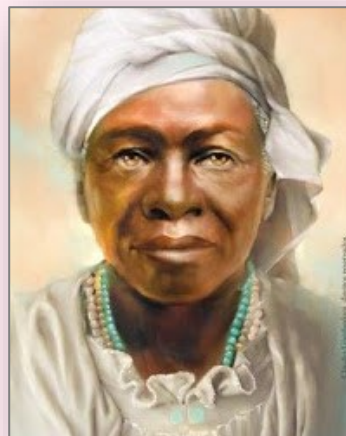
### 5 - IT'S OK

She is thinking long and hard on how and when you will pay for your mistake.

### Is It Really True, Mother? (Continued from page 1)

After Father's death, Mother had to play the role of a single parent. She held on to her former job; she had to support the family alone now. Our family's life was more complicated. We suffered from near starvation.

Seeing our family's condition worsening, my kind uncle who lived near my house came to help us solve our problems big and small. Our other neighbors saw that we were poverty stricken so they often advised my mother to marry again. But Mother refused to remarry saying, "I don't need love!"



After I had finished my studies and gotten a job, it was time for my Mother to retire but she continued going to the market every morning just to sell a few vegetables. I kept sending her money, but she was steadfast and even sent the money back to me. She said, "I have enough money!"

I continued my part-time studies for my master's degree. Funded by the American corporation for which I worked, I succeeded in my studies.

With a big jump in my salary, I decided to bring Mother to enjoy life in America, but Mother didn't want to bother her son. She said to me, "I wouldn't be happy with high living!"

Now in her old age, Mother was attacked by cancer and had to be hospitalized. Now living far across the ocean, I went home to visit Mother who was bedridden after an operation. Mother tried to smile. I was heartbroken because she was so thin and feeble, but Mother said, "Don't cry, son! I'm not in pain!"

Telling me this, she died. And so what she said was finally true - she really was no longer in pain. I remembered the strong tea she gave me on that hot day long ago. That tea was not nearly as strong as my Mother's love.



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A toddler was giving her Daddy a tea party while Mom went shopping. The little gal brought him a little cup of "tea," which was just water of course.

After several cups of tea, her Mom came home. Dad made her wait in the living room to watch his little princess bring him a cup of tea, because it was, as he said, "Just the cutest thing."

Mom waited, and sure enough, she came down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy. Mom watched him drink it up, and then said, "You know the only place she can reach the water is in the toilet!"



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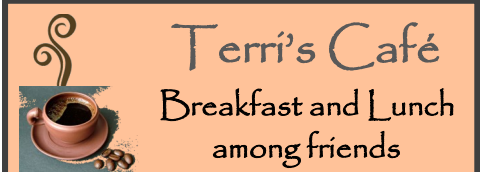
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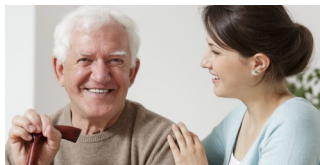


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## Making a Memory Bank Deposit

The petite 92-year-old, well-poised and proud lady, is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coiffed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind and wheel-chair bound. Her husband of 70 years recently passed away, making the move into an assisted living community necessary.

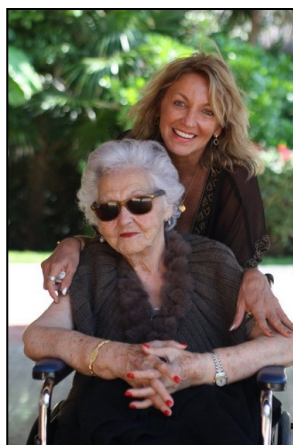
After waiting patiently in the lobby of her new community, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As her escort maneuvered her wheelchair to the elevator, she provided a visual description of her new room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"But Mrs. Ames, you haven't seen the room yet .... just wait."

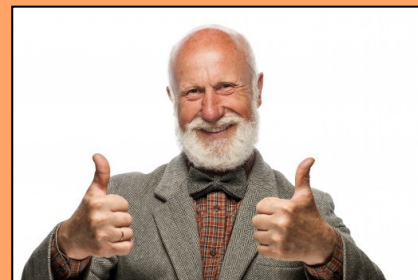
"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged, it's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up.

"I have a choice; I can spend the day in bed going over the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life."

She went on to explain, "Old age is like a bank account, you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thank you for your part in filling my Memory bank. I am still depositing."



Remember the five simple rules to be happy:



Free your heart from hatred - love more.

1. Free your mind from worries - live simply.
2. Expect less - give more.
3. Forget the past - enjoy the moment.
4. Eat more cake.



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## The Most Important People Quiz

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read this straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name five people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last five Super Bowl MVPs.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies. Awards tarnish ...

Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.



Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a teacher who aided your journey through school.
2. Name two friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name three people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of someone who has made you feel appreciated.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.

Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money ... or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.



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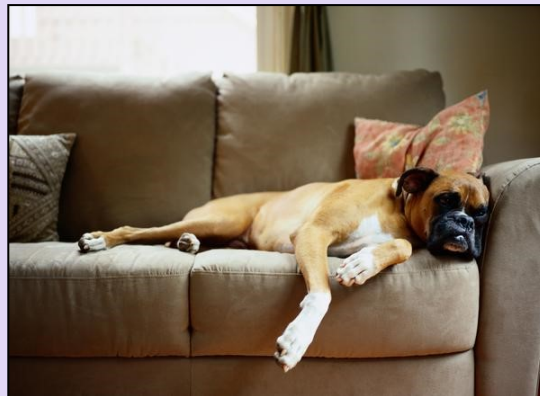


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## Plumb Tuckered and Dog-Tired

An old tired-looking dog wandered into my neighbor's yard. He examined the dog's collar and felt his well-fed belly and knew the dog had a home.

The dog followed him into the house, went down the hall, jumped on the couch, got comfortable and fell asleep. The man thought it was rather odd, but let him sleep.



After about an hour the dog woke up, walked to the door and my neighbor let him out. The dog wagged his tail and left.

The next day the dog came back and scratched at the door. My friend opened the door, the dog came in, went down the hall, jumped on the couch, got comfortable and fell asleep again. The man let him sleep.

After about an hour the dog woke up, walked to the door and the guy let him out. The dog wagged his tail and left.

This went on for days. My neighbor grew really curious, so he pinned a note on the dog's collar: "Your dog has been taking a nap at my house every day."

The next day the dog arrived with another note pinned to his collar: "He lives in a home with four children -- he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

## Advice for a Young Farm Girl

Please hear me girl. The world has enough women who know how to look pretty. It needs women who know how to do hard holy things.



Like pound steel posts. Saddle ponies at 5 a.m. Exploring the most beautiful county. Knowing deep down it could only be the work of God.

Work with your hands: sewing, stitching, soldering, comforting, loving.

Warm newborn baby calves up in your newly remodeled house. Pray to God to help you feed and take care of those cows in this muddy snowy mess. Watch those sweet new critters play as they enjoy the joy of life.

Pour your heart and soul into your passion, your family, your livelihood. Pray over your family and loved ones. Pray for those who don't deserve your forgiveness. Love the unlovable.

Open your bible after a long day to find the perfect verse. Be stubborn about your goals. Be eager to learn from others. Speak kindness to a stranger. To that young kid who may be looking up to you.

Be soft with your hands and words, yet strong in your morals. Do all the hard, holy things you have been called to do.



**Good moms  
let you lick the beaters.  
Great moms  
turn them off first.**



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## “OLD” IS WHEN

**“Old is When”** ... Your sweetie says, “Let’s go upstairs and make whoopee,” and you answer, “Honey, I can’t do both!”

**“Old is When”** ...Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes — and you’re barefoot.

**“Old is When”** ...Your sweetie talks sexy to you and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

**“Old is When”** ...You don’t care if your spouse goes shopping as long as you don’t have to go along.

**“Old is When”** ...You are cautioned to slow down—by the doctor instead of by the police.

**“Old is When”** ... “Getting lucky” means you find your car in the parking lot.

**“Old is When”** ... An “all-nighter” means not getting up to go to the bathroom.

## Three Mothers Who Prevailed

### A STAND-UP WOMAN

*by Robin Hynes, Slingerland, New York*

My mom had a great sense of humor and a knack for making everything fun. One thing that resonated with me, even as a small child, was how much she seemed to enjoy her own company and found ways to entertain herself. As a kid, I remember her giggling while paying bills. What was so funny about bill paying? She would put humorous notes in the reference section of the check: For the electric bill, she might put “You light up my life,” and for the mortgage she’d write “Four shingles closer to owning it all.”

### PAY IT FORWARD

*by Teresa Martin, North Aurora, Illinois*

You reap what you sow: In her old country, my mom saw a very poor blind woman with her young daughter. She felt sorry for them and loaned them all her savings. Although Mom was worried sick about it, they miraculously returned every cent. Two decades later, when Mom left her Communist country and came to America as a refugee, the Catholic Church gave her money to feed her many children. She returned them every single cent, and her children continued to pay back through worldwide charities. Mom is now 90 years old and has a richly blessed life.

### MEMORIES IN VERSE

*by Pat Witty, Fairmont, Minnesota*

The day I was dreading had arrived—it was inevitable. I had seen it coming but had chosen to ignore it for as long as possible. My very capable, intelligent mom had started forgetting to pay her bills, and it was time to take over her finances. As I looked through her wallet, I made a remarkable discovery. Tucked away in a tiny compartment were four Mother’s Day poems I’d written for her in the 1960s. She had saved and cherished those simple gifts for 50 years. What a happy surprise.

## Mother

[muhth-er] -noun

1. One person who does the work of twenty. For free.

(See also: ‘masochist’, ‘loony’, ‘saint’.)

## Irish Blessing

“May flowers always line your path and sunshine light your day.  
May songbirds serenade your every step along the way.  
May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that’s always blue.  
And may happiness fill your heart each day your whole life through.”



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**Tributes to Mom**



Sweater, n.: garment worn by a child when its mother is feeling chilly.

*~Ambrose Bierce*

If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?

*~Milton Berle*

I love my mother as the trees love water and sunshine - she helps me grow, prosper, and reach great heights.

*~Terri Guillemets*

Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,  
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,  
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,  
But only one mother the wide world over.

*~George Cooper*

A mom forgives us all our faults, not to mention one or two we don't even have.

*~Robert Brault*

**Milestones**



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Olivine Kendall  
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Richard "Dave" Cohen  
April 20, 1924—95 years  
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Carmen Wolfkiel  
May 3, 1928—91 years  
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Clara English  
May 10, 1934—85 years  
Meridian/Boise



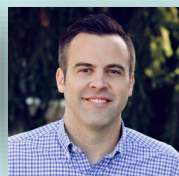
Rae Thomason  
May 20, 1939—80 years  
Boise Senior Center



Marge Johnson  
May 27, 1944—75 years  
Eagle Senior Center



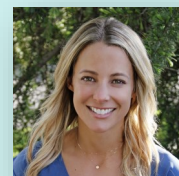
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