

Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

What's the Price of a Desk?

In the fall of 2005, Martha Cothren, a history teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room, they discovered that there were no desks.

“Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?”

She replied, “You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.”

They thought, “Well, maybe it's our grades.”

“No,” she said.

“Maybe it's our behavior.”

She told them, “No, it's not even your behavior.”

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television



news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom, Ms. Cothren said, “Throughout

the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.”

(Continued on page 2)

Traffic Light

I was driving through an intersection in our city when I saw the flash of a traffic camera above the signal.



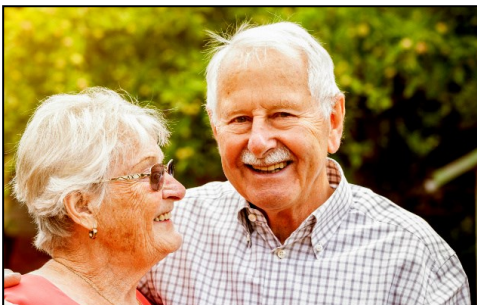
I had just read how they had installed those new-fangled cameras to catch speeders, but I knew I wasn't speeding.

Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same light, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed.

I began to think this was quite funny, so I tried again, driving even slower. Sure enough, the camera flashed as I went through the intersection.

By the time I went through a fourth and fifth time, I was barely moving through the intersection, but with the same result.

Two weeks later I got five tickets in the mail for driving without using my seat belt.



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Quick Thinking

The old farmer had a large pond in the middle of his orchard well-hidden from view. Most people wouldn't even know it was there.

One evening, the old guy decided to go down to the pond and check the water level, since he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit.



As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing. As he came closer, he realized it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. As he approached, he made the women aware of his presence.

As soon as they heard him coming, they all went to the deep end and sank up to their necks. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave."

The old man frowned, "I did not come down here to watch you young ladies." Holding the bucket up in the air, he said, "I'm just here to feed the alligator."

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(What's the Price of a Desk—Continued from page 1)

At this point, Ms. Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall.

By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.



Martha said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have.

"Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

This is a true story. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.




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A Special Generation

They call us the “ELDERLY.”

We were born in the 30s-40s-50s, grew up and went to school in the 40s-50s-60s, dated and got married in the 50s-60s-70s, and raised our kids in the 70s-80s-90s.

We ventured cautiously into the 2000s, got wiser in the 2010s, survived a world-wide pandemic in 2020, and now we are going firmly through and beyond.



It turns out we've lived through NINE different decades...TWO different centuries...and TWO different millennia.

We have gone from telephones with an operator to video calls to anywhere in the world. We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and Facebook.

We went from live games on the radio, to black and white TV, to color TV and then to 3D HD TV.

We rented tapes at the video store and now we watch movies on demand in our homes.

We got to know the first computers with punch cards, then floppy disks, to portable laptops, and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smartphones.

We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, and gasoline cars and now we drive hybrids or electric cars.

We dodged meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and COVID-19.

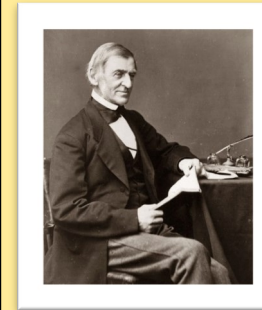
Yes, we've been through a lot but what a GREAT LIFE we've had!

They could describe us as “EXENNIALS” - people who had an analog childhood and a digital adulthood. We've kind of “seen-it-all!”

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life. It is our generation that has literally adapted to CHANGE.

A big round of applause to all the members of a very SPECIAL GENERATION.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON



He said,
“Write it on
your heart
that every
day is the
best day in
the year.

“He is rich who owns the day,
and no one owns the day who
allows it to be invaded with fret
and anxiety.

“Finish every day and be done
with it. You have done what
you could.

“Some blunders and
absurdities, no doubt crept in.
Forget them as soon as you can,
tomorrow is a new day; begin it
well and serenely, with too high
a spirit to be encumbered with
your old nonsense.

“This new day is too dear, with
its hopes and invitations, to
waste a moment on the
yesterdays.”



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Advice for All Ages

1. Return money that you have borrowed even before the person that borrowed you remembers or asks for it. It shows your integrity and character.

2. Never order the expensive dish on the menu when someone is giving you a lunch/dinner.

3. Always open the door for the person coming behind you. It doesn't matter if it is a guy or a girl, senior or junior. You don't grow small by treating someone well in public.

4. Respect different shades of opinions. Remember what's 6 to you will appear 9 to someone facing you. Besides, a second opinion is good for an alternative.

5. Never interrupt people talking. Allow them to pour it out. As they say, hear them all and filter them all.

6. If you tease someone, and they don't seem to enjoy it, stop it and never do it again. It encourages one to do more and it shows how appreciative you're.

7. Praise publicly. Criticize privately.

8. If a colleague tells you they have a doctors' appointment, don't ask what it's for, just say "I hope you're okay." Don't put them in the uncomfortable position of having to tell you their personal illness. If they want you to know, they'll do so without your inquisitiveness.

9. Treat the cleaner with the same respect as the CEO. Nobody is impressed at how rude you can treat someone below you but people will notice if you treat them with respect.

10. Mind your business unless anything involves you directly - just stay out of it.



It's a Miracle!

So I just got home and my dog is lying on the back deck covered in dirt with a dead rabbit in her mouth. The rabbit's not bloody, just dirty. Now, my neighbor's kids raise these blue-ribbon-winning rabbits. I instantly knew it was one of theirs.

So I took the rabbit away from my dog, I rushed inside, washed all the dirt off it before my neighbors could come home.

It was stiff but I heard some animals play dead when they are afraid, I couldn't remember which animals because I was so nervous.

I took it, sneaked in the neighbor's back yard and placed it back in one of the cages. Then I hustled back home.



Not 30 minutes later I hear my neighbors' kids screaming. So I go out and ask them "What's wrong?"

And they tell me their rabbit died three days ago and they buried it, but now it's back in the cage.

I went to the ear doctor the other day.
He said I'm going deaf.
It was really hard to hear.

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For Good Measure

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese Soup = Won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = Knotfurlong
7. 365.25 days of drinking low-calorie beer = 1 Lite year
8. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
9. Half a large intestine = 1 semicolon
10. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahurtz
11. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
12. Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
13. 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
14. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
15. 1000 cc's of wet socks = 1 literhosen
16. 8 nickels = 2 paradigms

Oddities of the English Language

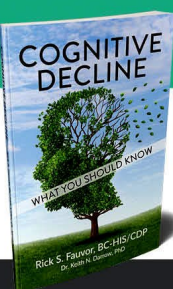
- The two longest words containing only one of the six vowels (including Y) are the 15-letter "defenseless" and "respectless."
- "Forty" is the only number which has its letters in alphabetical order. "One" is the only number with its letters in reverse alphabetical order.
- "Bookkeeper" is the only word that has three consecutive doubled letters.
- Modern English does not have three common words ending in "-gry." "Angry" and "Hungry" are the only ones.
- "Ough" can be pronounced in eight different ways. The following sentence contains them all: "A rough-coated, dough-faced ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough, coughing and hiccoughing thoughtfully."



This guy goes to a lumberyard and asks for some 2x4s.

"How long do you want them?" asks the clerk.

"For a long time," he replies. "We're building a house."



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Signs of the Times

A sign at an eye clinic:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

A sign on a plumber's truck:

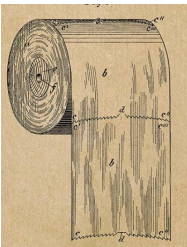
"We repair what your husband fixed!"

A sign in a restaurant window:

"Don't just stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

A sign in front of a funeral home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait."



MARKETING GENIUS:

Joseph Gayetty, the man who introduced packaged toilet paper to the U.S., had his name printed on every sheet.

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WHEN EACH MOMENT COUNTS

Competing Claims

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year outside of Buffalo, New York scientists found traces of copper cable dating back 120 years. They came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.



Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a West Virginia archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet somewhere just outside Wheeling. Shortly after, a story in the local newspaper read, "West Virginia archaeologists, reporting a finding of 200-year-old copper cable, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, a local newspaper in Ohio reported the following: "After digging down about 30 feet deep in his pasture, Pete Riley, an agricultural engineer and a self-taught archaeologist reported that he found absolutely nothing. Riley has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Ohio had already gone wireless."

Tale of Two Mirrors

I'm very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist in me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?



(Now read it backwards)

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Not the E-version

An Indian poet and scholar once asked an English poet of great renown, “As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single ‘E’?”

The genius replied back, writing this:

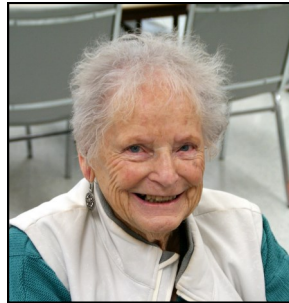
“I doubt I can. It’s a major part of many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It’s as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap.

“And anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It’s not worth it.”

Milestones



Merrill Marshall
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Betty Hagler
Nov 7, 1938—85 years
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Shirley Neville
Nov 16, 1938—85 years
Wilder



Sherran Davis
Nov 10, 1943 —80 years
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Patricia Burden
Nov 20, 1948—75 years
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Patti Vickery
Nov 6, 1953—70 years
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Sheila Seeman
Nov 29, 1953 —70 years
Parma Senior Center



Al & Lalla Isi
Nov 9, 1958—65 years
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Donald & Caren Walter
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