

Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

I Like Burnt Toast

One evening my mother made dinner after a hard day's work. She put a plate of eggs, salad and burnt toast in front of my father.



I immediately noticed the burnt toast and I was waiting to see if he was going to complain about it. But my father started to eat them, smiling and asked me how I spent my day at school.

My mom apologized to my dad for the burnt toast. I will never forget his response to her: "Honey, I love burnt toast!"

Later when I went to bed and my dad came over to kiss me goodnight, I asked him if he really liked the burnt toast?

He hugged me and said, "Your mother has had a difficult day and she is really tired. She went out of her way to prepare this meal for us, why blame her and hurt her. Burnt toast never hurt anyone; but words can be very painful!"

We have to know how to appreciate what others do for us, even if it's not perfect, because it's the intention to do well that counts, and no one is perfect.

The Special Face Club

Today is a day I'll not soon forget. As I was combining today, I had a minor repair to make, so I stopped at the edge of the field near the road. I saw a vehicle go by a couple times slowly and then pull over and stop. I looked over and happened to catch 3 little sets of eyes looking out the windows.

I went over and they rolled down the window and I asked if they needed anything. The lady explained their grandchildren were visiting from Florida and had never seen "farmer stuff" up close. There were 2 boys and a little girl. I assumed they were between the ages of 6 and 9. The two boys were all giddy but the little girl, while sweet and excited was pretty quiet.

I also happened to notice that she kept turning away from me and there was a scar or a birthmark or something on her face. I carefully tried to avoid staring at her.

The grandmother and her husband thanked me for stopping and saying hi and said they would get going because they knew farmers were busy this time of the year. I said be careful and have a good trip.

It was then that one of the boys said "Are you going to be going soon, cuz we want to see what that machine does!"

The grandmother quickly quieted them, but I said "Would it be okay if I took them for a ride?"

She then said "No, we're sure you're way too busy for that."

I said "No, I'm by myself. I've got time."

So she asked the boys if they wanted to go and of course they did but the little girl stayed back.

I asked her if she wanted to go and she said "No, thank you."

So the boys and I went and got in the combine and we made one



(Continued on page 2)



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Climbing the Mountain



If the mountain seems too big today
Then climb a hill instead.

If the morning brings you sadness
It's ok to stay in bed.

If the day ahead weighs heavy
And your plans feel like a curse,
There's no shame in rearranging,
Don't make yourself feel worse.

If a shower stings like needles
And a bath feels like you'll drown;
If you haven't washed your hair for
days, don't throw away your
crown.

A day is not a lifetime,
A rest is not defeat;
Don't think of it as failure,
Just a quiet, kind retreat.

It's ok to take a moment
From an anxious, fractured mind;
The world will not stop turning
While you get realigned.

The mountain will still be there
When you want to try again;
You can climb it in your own time,
Just love yourself 'til then.

The Special Face Club *(Continued from page 1)*

round and came back. While in the combine I asked "Why didn't your sister want to come?" They just said she's shy.



Then, out of curiosity, I asked them about her face. And they told me it was a birthmark and that she gets picked on about it a lot.

After their ride I walked them back over to their grandparents' car and I said to the little girl, "How come you didn't want to go for a ride?"

She said, "Well, the boys always say that that kind of stuff is just for boys not for girls."

I laughed and said, "You know, there are girl farmers AND I even had a young girl in that cab just yesterday. Would you like a ride?"

She looked at her Grandma and she said go ahead if you want.

I then asked the grandmother if she had a smartphone and knew how to video.

She laughed and said, "I have grandchildren, of course I know how to video."

So I told her to have her phone ready and when you see me turn on the yellow flashing lights video the combine.

The little girl and I got in the cab and I turned the machine around and went back into the field at the end of it and came back.

Then I said to her, "Here, you can turn the steering wheel."

She looked at me like I was crazy, but I finally convinced her and I told her, "Not everybody gets to drive my combine. But people who are part of the Special Face Club definitely get to, but it's a secret, so you can't tell anyone."

The smile on her face made this tired ol' grumpy man's heart soft and there must have been some dust in the cab because my allergies started acting up just a little bit. So I let her "steer" and turned on the yellow lights on the way back so her Grandma could video tape her "driving by."

(Continued on page 7)

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What to Change as We Grow Older

I asked a friend who has passed 70 and is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself? He sent me the following:



- After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself, too.
- I have realized that I am not "Atlas." The world does not rest on my shoulders.
- I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.
- I stopped telling my older friends that they've already told that story many times. The story helps them walk down memory lane and relive their past.
- I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
- I give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."
- I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
- I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
- I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.
- I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.

God's Getting Better



A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his.

After a little while of thinking she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

He looked at her and said, "Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago."

She paused for a few seconds and then asked, "Granpa, did God make me, too?"

"Yes, indeed, pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

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I can't believe the word
GULLIBLE
looks like an alligator
when you turn it upside down.

Starry Eyed

A Michigan woman and her family were vacationing in a small New England town where the actor Paul Newman and his family often visited.

One Sunday morning, the woman got up early to take a long walk. After a brisk five-mile hike, she decided to treat herself to a double-dip chocolate ice cream cone.

She hopped in the car, drove to the center of the village and went straight to the combination bakery/ice cream parlor.

There was only one other patron in the store: Paul Newman, sitting at the counter having a doughnut and coffee.

The woman's heart skipped a beat as her eyes made contact with those famous baby-blue eyes. The actor nodded graciously and the star struck woman smiled demurely.

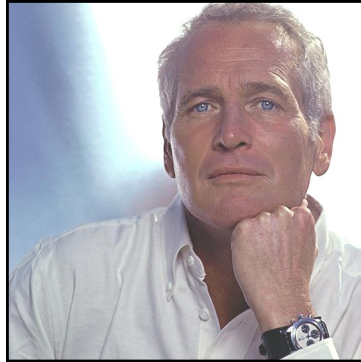
"Pull yourself together!" She chides herself. "You're a happily married woman with three children, you're forty-five years old, not a teenager!"

The clerk filled her order and she took the double-dip chocolate ice cream cone in one hand and her change in the other. Then she went out the door, avoiding even a glance in Paul Newman's direction.

When she reached her car, she realized that she had a handful of change but her other hand was empty. Where's my ice cream cone? Did I leave it in the store?

Back into the shop she went, expecting to see the cone still in the clerk's hand or in a holder on the counter or something! No ice cream cone was in sight.

With that, she happened to look over at Paul Newman. His face broke into his familiar, warm, friendly grin and he said to the woman, "You put it in your purse."



Light-headed

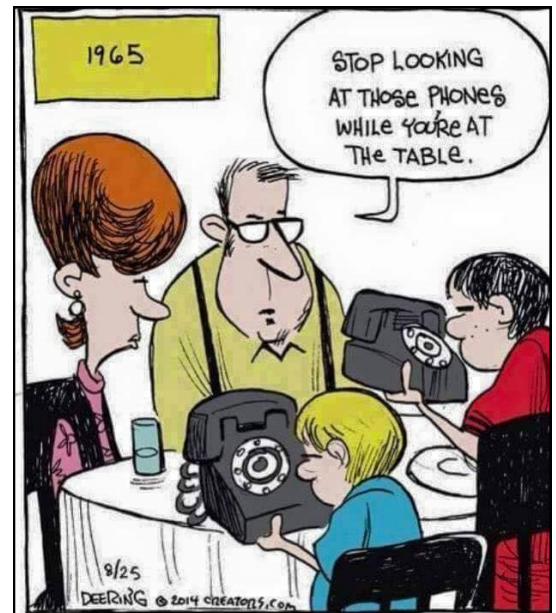
A little boy came home at lunch time and told his mother his stomach hurt and he might be getting sick.

His mother said, "You're not getting sick. Your stomach is just empty and you need to put something in it!" She made him lunch and he was fine after eating.

A little while later his daddy came home from work and the mom asked how his day went.

"Terrible," said the daddy, "My head hurts and I think I might be getting sick."

The little boy responded, "You're not getting sick. Your head's just empty. You need to put something in it!"



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How to Wash a Cat

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may have to stand on the lid.
4. At this point, the cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises coming from the toilet—the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This activates the “Power Wash” and “Rinse” cycles.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand well back behind the toilet as far as you can and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the toilet and the cat will be sparkling clean.
10. Repeat as needed.

Sincerely,
- the Dog.



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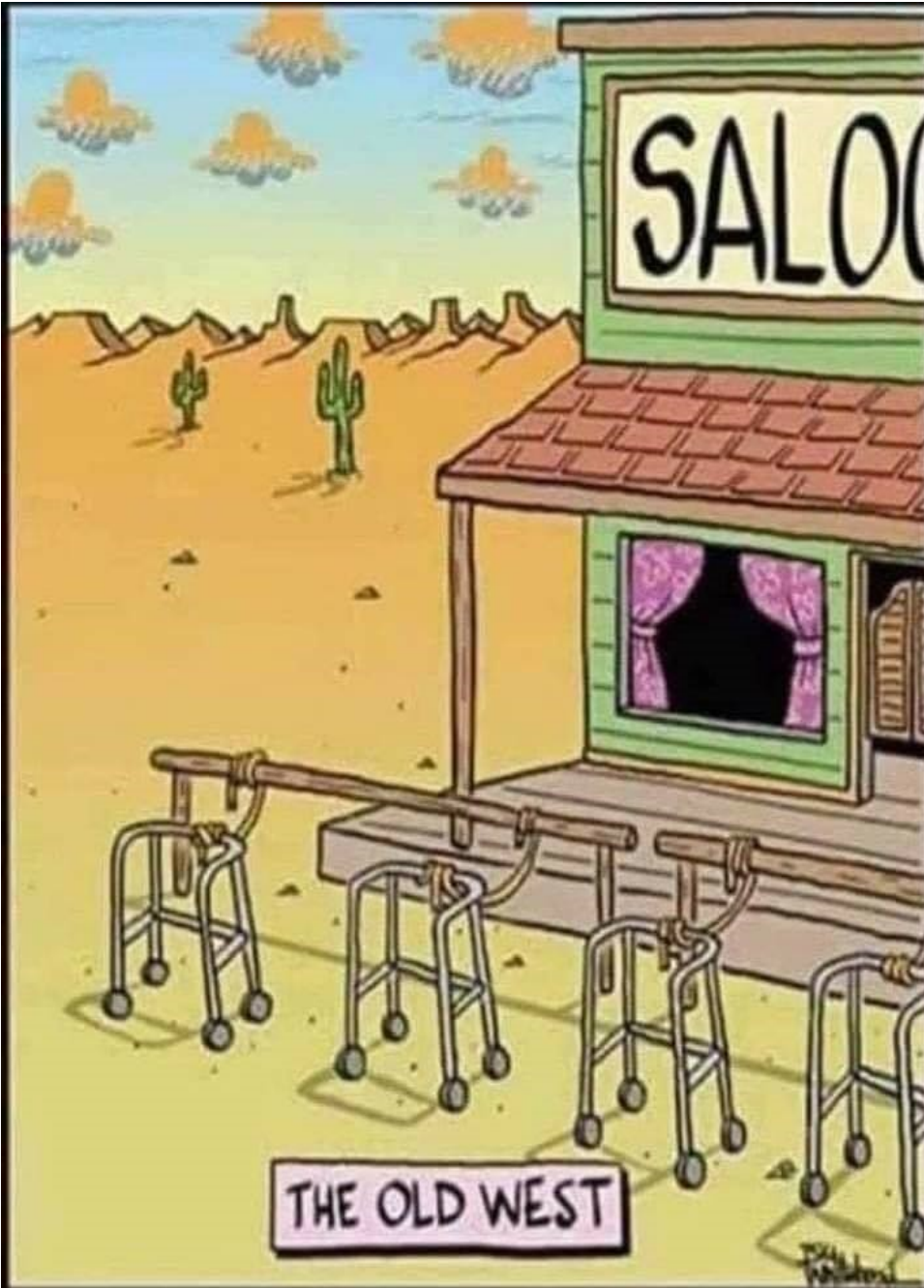
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Observation Deck

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, "An ambulance."

The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

Have you ever noticed: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are XL.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he knows when he's really in trouble.

Did you ever notice that when you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs?"

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and a lot of the roads were not paved.

You know you are getting old when everything either dries up, sags or leaks.

Ah! Being young is beautiful but being old is comfortable.

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

- MAYA ANGELOU

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Thanksgiving Gifts

A humble lady was about to celebrate her 90th birthday just before Thanksgiving. Her three sons realized this might be her last year, so each decided to get something special for her.

The first bought her a mansion to replace her old house.

The second bought her a limousine and driver to help her get around.

The third, being the smartest, trained a parrot to read for her, as her eyesight had deteriorated.

Their mother wrote a letter to each of them.

To the first she wrote: "To my oldest son, I thank you kindly for the mansion. However, I have no use for it as I only really need a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen, so I donated the estate to the orphanage so that they would have more rooms."

To the second she wrote: "My son, thank you so much for the limousine and chauffeur. But I have no need for a car at all because the only place I ever go is the church, which is right next door. I gave it to the church, so that they can carpool churchgoers from far away."

And finally to the third she wrote: "My youngest son, your gift was the best and most practical present I got today. The turkey was delicious!"

The Special Face Club *(Continued from Page 2)*

We got out of the combine and she still had a huge smile on her face and ran over to her grandma and was a little chatterbox. "Did you see me, did you see me, I got to drive, I got to drive!"



Her brothers were obviously a little miffed and asked her why she got to drive. I was afraid she was going to tell them why.

But she just looked at them both matter-of-factly and said, "Because girls CAN farm."

My allergies started acting up a little bit again as she came back running over to me and gave me a huge hug and told me thank you. The grandfather came over and patted me on the shoulder, shook my hand and said "I don't know what you said to her, but that's the biggest smile we've seen on her this whole vacation!"

The boys shook my hand and thanked me and they all got back into the car and drove away, leaving me to my thoughts.

All three of their faces were on my mind the rest of the day but mostly hers, not because of her birthmark, because of her genuine smile in the confidence that she showed when she got to get out of that combine and "brag" a little to the boys.

My gramps told me long ago to always be patient with children and people you come in contact with. I remember the countless times that he would let me "drive" the tractor and the exhilaration and happiness that I felt during that time. I swore that I was going to make other people feel that way when I got older. I've definitely failed at that numerous times, but I'm trying.

I'm kind of thinking maybe that's what I did today or maybe that little girl made me feel like that little boy with his Gramps all those years ago.

Today was a good day... and one I shall not soon forget.

Credit: Jeff Ditzenberger

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Senior Observations

1. It's okay to talk to yourself. Sometimes you need expert advice.
2. "In Style" are clothes that still fit.
3. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
4. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
5. "On time" is whenever you get there.
6. Even duct tape can't fix stupid—but it sure can muffle the sound.
7. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the drier for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
8. Lately, have you noticed that people your age are so much older than you?
9. Growing old should have taken longer.
10. You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will!

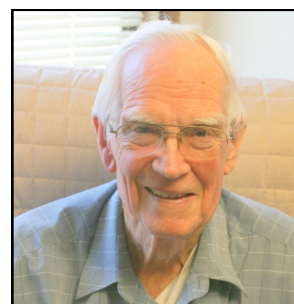
Milestones



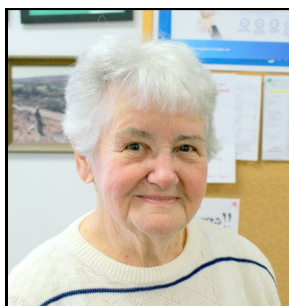
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A true friend keeps an arm around your shoulder and a hand over your mouth



I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you are just too tired to bounce it.