

Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

Ten PM at SaveMart

I'm a cashier at SaveMart. Night shift. I've scanned dog food, birthday cakes, and emergency diapers at 2 am for eleven years. I thought I'd seen everything.

Last Thursday, around 10 pm, an elderly man came through my line. Maybe mid-seventies. Flannel shirt tucked in, glasses held together with tape. His cart had exactly seven items: One can of soup. One banana. One small bag of rice. One box of tea. One potato. One carton of eggs. One roll of toilet paper.



"Did you find everything okay tonight?" I asked, the script automatic.

"Oh yes," he said, his hands shaking as he pulled out a small coin purse. "This should last me the week."

Something in my chest tightened. A week. Seven items for seven days.

I scanned each one slowly. The total came to \$11.43.

He counted out coins. Mostly pennies and nickels. When he got to \$10.89, his coin purse was empty.

"I'm... I'm short," he whispered, his voice breaking. "Which one should I put back?" He reached for the eggs.

Before I could think, I heard myself say, "Sir, you're actually our 10,000th customer this month. You just won our... customer appreciation discount. Your total is \$10.89." (There's no such thing. I'd be paying the \$0.54 difference from my own pocket.)

His eyes filled with tears. "Really?"

"Really."

As I bagged his seven items—gently, like they were made of glass—he said, "My Martha died four months ago. Fifty-two years together. I'm still learning how to... how to be just one person instead of two."

My throat closed up.

"The grocery list was always her job," he continued, gripping his bag. "I don't know what I'm doing. I just know soup on Monday, eggs on Tuesday..."

(Continued on page 2)

Carrying Your Own Weight

The young man at the construction site liked to brag that he could outdo anyone in a feat of strength.

He especially liked to make fun of one of the older workmen.

One day the old guy had had enough of the young man's taunting. "Why don't you put your money where your mouth is?" he said. "I'll bet you a week's wages that I can haul something in a wheelbarrow over to that outbuilding that you won't be able to wheel back."

"You're on, old man," the young man bragged. "Let's see what you got."



The old man reached out and grabbed the wheelbarrow by the handles.

Then, nodding to the cocky young man, he said, "All right. Get in."



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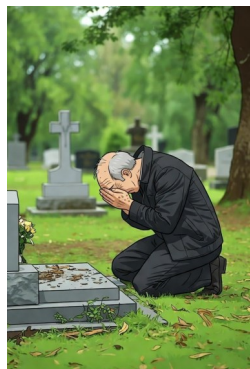
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He Died Too Soon

A man placed some flowers on the grave of his dearly departed mother and started back to his car. His attention was suddenly diverted to another man kneeling at a grave.

The man was crying with profound intensity and kept repeating, “Why did you have to die? Why did you have to die?”



The first man approached him and said, “Sir, I don’t want to intrude on your private grief, but I’ve never seen so much pain. May I ask for whom you are mourning so deeply? A parent? A child?”

The man took a moment to collect himself, the replied, “My wife’s first husband.”

(10 pm at Save Mart—Continued from Page 1)

Behind him, the line was six people deep. I waited for the impatient sighs. Instead, the woman directly behind him, maybe forty, stepped forward. “Sir? I’m putting your groceries on my card. All of them. And—,” she grabbed a rotisserie chicken from the hot case beside us, “—please take this too. For tomorrow.”

The man behind her added a gallon of milk to the counter. “From me.” Then a college kid added bread. “Me too.” Then apples. Then cheese. Then a package of cookies. “My grandmother loved these,” someone said softly.

I had to stop scanning. My hands were shaking too hard. Within three minutes, there were forty-seven items on my counter. Steaks. Fresh vegetables. Coffee. Butter. An apple pie. Someone added paper towels and laundry soap.

The elderly man just stood there, tears running down his face. “Martha would have loved you all,” he finally whispered. We bagged everything—it took six bags—and the woman who’d started it all handed me her card. “I’ve got it.”


“We’ll split it,” three other voices said at once. When the man left, pushing a cart full of food instead of carrying one small bag, everyone watched through the window as he loaded his trunk. He stood there in the parking lot for a full minute, just staring at his car.

Then he looked back at us and pressed his hand to his heart. Six strangers in a grocery line pressed their hands back. I’m not supposed to cry at work. I wiped my face with my vest. The woman who’d started it all turned to me. “What was his name?” I looked at the receipt. “Henry. Henry Patterson.” She took a picture of the name with her phone. “I’m coming back next Thursday. Same time. In case he’s here.”

“Me too,” said someone else. “Me three.” I’m working next Thursday. So are they. Seven of us now have it marked on our calendars.

We don’t know if Henry will come back. But if he does, he won’t shop alone. Because Martha’s not the only one who can make a grocery list. We can too.

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My pastor friend put sanitary hot air hand dryers in the rest rooms at his church and after two weeks took them out.

I asked him why and he confessed that they worked fine but when he went in there he saw a sign that read, “For a sample of this week’s sermon, push the button.”

UPS OOPS



After every flight, UPS pilots fill out a form, called a “gripe sheet,” which tells mechanics about problems with the aircraft. The mechanics correct the problems, document their repairs on the form, and then pilots review the gripe sheets before the next flight. Never let it be said that ground crews lack a sense of humor.

Here are some actual complaints submitted by UPS pilots and the solutions recorded by maintenance engineers.

PILOT: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
MAINTENANCE: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

PILOT: Something loose in cockpit
MAINTENANCE: Something tightened in cockpit

PILOT: Dead bugs on windshield.
MAINTENANCE: Live bugs on back-order.

PILOT: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
MAINTENANCE: Evidence removed.

PILOT: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
MAINTENANCE: That’s what friction locks are for.

PILOT: Number 3 engine missing.
MAINTENANCE: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

PILOT: Aircraft handles funny.
MAINTENANCE: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

PILOT: Target radar hums.
MAINTENANCE: Reprogrammed target radar with lyrics.

PILOT: Mouse in cockpit.
MAINTENANCE: Cat installed.

“I’m writing a book about all the things I should be doing in my life.

It’s an oughtobiography.”

* * *

“I misplaced my new dictionary’

Now I’m at a loss for words.”

* * *

- ◆ English words like month, orange, silver and purple have no perfect rhymes.
- ◆ Dreamt is the only English word ending with –mt.
- ◆ The word girl originally referred to a young person.
- ◆ The word facetious contains all the vowels in alphabetical order.
- ◆ Bookkeeper contains three consecutive double letters.
- ◆ The sentence “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” uses every English alphabet letter.



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Tale of Two Evenings



Wife 1: I had a fine evening, how was yours?

Wife 2: It was a disaster. My husband came home, ate his dinner in three minutes and fell asleep in two minutes. How was yours?

Wife 1: Oh mine was amazing ! My husband came home and took me out for a romantic dinner. After dinner we walked for an hour. When we came home he lit the candles around the house. It was like a fairy tale !

At the same time, their husbands are talking at work:

Husband 1: How was your evening?

Husband 2: Great. I came home, dinner was on the table, I ate and fell asleep. What about you?

Husband 1: It was horrible. I came home, there's no dinner - they cut the electricity because I forgot to pay the bill. So I took her out for dinner, which was so expensive that I didn't have money left for a cab. So we walked home, which took an hour and when we got home I remembered there was no electricity, so I had to light candles all over the house!

Differences Between the Sexes – The Unfiltered Edition

NICKNAMES

If Laura, Kate, and Sarah go to lunch, they call each other Laura, Kate, and Sarah. If Mike, Dave, and John go to lunch, they call each other Fat Boy, Lizard Breath, and Turkey Neck.

EATING OUT

The guys split a \$32.50 bill by each throwing in \$20. Nobody has change and nobody wants to admit they do. The waitress just got a \$27 tip.

The ladies whip out three calculators, check the menu twice, and somehow still end up \$1.37 short.

MONEY

A man will pay \$2 for a \$1 item he needs.

A woman will pay \$1 for a \$2 item she doesn't need, but hey—it's on sale.

BATHROOMS

He has six things: toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream, soap, towel. Done.

She has 337 items, half of which look like they came from a chemistry lab.

ARGUMENTS

A woman always has the last word.

Anything he says after that is the start of a brand-new argument.

MARRIAGE

She marries him thinking he'll change. He doesn't.

He marries her thinking she won't change. She does.

DRESSING UP

She dresses up to water plants, take out the trash, or read a book.

He dresses up for weddings... and funerals. That's it.

NATURAL LOOKS

He wakes up looking exactly the same.

She wakes up looking like she fought raccoons in her sleep.

KIDS

She knows every detail: friends, fears, favorite foods, dentist schedule, crushes.

He is vaguely aware that there are some short people living in the house.

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Hot Shot Lawyer

Jason grew up in a small town, then moved away to attend college and law school. He decided to come back to the small town because he could be a big fish in a small pond. He really wanted to impress everyone.

He opened his new law office, but had no clients the first morning. Looking out the window, he saw a man coming up the sidewalk toward his door. He decided he wanted to make a big impression on the new client when he arrived.

As the man came through the door, Jason picked up the phone on his desk. He motioned the man in and began talking on the phone.

“No! Absolutely not. You tell those clowns in New York that I won’t settle for less than one million.”

“Yes, the appeals court has agreed to hear that case next week. I’ll be handling the primary argument, and the other members of my team will provide support.”

This went on for about 5 minutes. All the while the man sat patiently as Jason rattled on.

Finally, Joe put down the phone and turned to the man.

“I’m sorry for the delay, but as you can see, I’m very busy. What can I do for you?”

The man replied, “I’m from the phone company. I just came to hook up your phone.”



Did You Know?

♦ Some ants take slaves from other colonies.

♦ Dolphins give each other names.



♦ Parrots can understand the concept of zero.

♦ Elephants mourn their dead.

♦ Sea otters hold hands while sleeping.

♦ Penguins give their partner a pebble as a gift.

♦ Gorillas can catch human colds.

♦ A group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance."

♦ Butterflies can taste their feet.

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His 6th grade teacher:

"Bobby, no one is going to pay you to look out the window all day."

Bob, age 42, pilot:

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A five-year-old looking at the stars: "If heaven is that pretty on the bottom, think how pretty it is on top!"

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Would You Look at Her!



The man sitting next to me on the bus pulled a photo out of his wallet and showed it to me.

"This is my wife. Isn't she a beauty?" he asked.

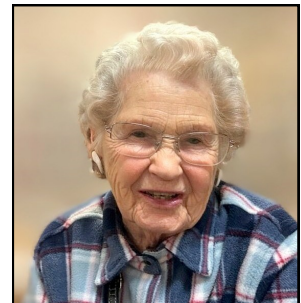
"If you think she's beautiful," I responded, "you should see my sister!"

"Why?" he asked. "Is she a stunner, too?"

"No," I answered. "she's an optometrist."



Colleen Weiss
Apr 20, 1930—96 years
Ontario



Gloria Michaels
Mar 30, 1931—95 years
Weiser



Ellen Harder
Mar 14, 1932—94 years
Nyssa

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