

Takeaway - Extra 2021



“Stop the Train!”

by Larry Nobles

I drove by my childhood birthplace last week and took a picture.

It’s the house Mom and Dad bought in 1953, a starter home with two beds and one bath for five of us. It was our 1000 square foot mansion. When I drove by, I could see ‘56’ Plymouth sitting in the driveway, me walking around the yard in my diaper, using my roller

skates, the ‘tie-your-shoe’ training I got from my neighbor, Dobbie, under the far-right window, and oh so much more. The neighborhood was wall- to-wall kids on Halloween. Great stories and memories.

Had someone been in the front yard, I would have stopped and hinted/hoped the conversation would lead them to invite me in after 60 years. I’m positive the wood and bricks are so old that they have shrunk the size of those rooms. It’s likely only 700 square feet now! If I were to see inside now, I’m sure it would bring up more memories, but that would also change them in my mind. I don’t want them changed!!!

I enjoyed a wonderful childhood, great (*but not perfect*) parents, siblings, friends, neighbors, adventures galore. I cherish those memories right where they are ... in the past where I can visit them anytime I want. And that happens often when my grandkids remind me of a story from my childhood. I tell them and they almost always say, “*You already told us that Papaw!*” Ha. I want to relate these stories to teach them a truth they’ll maybe need as they grow up (there is method in my madness). Maybe one of those memories will move them to avoid a pothole in life, or better yet, motivate them to strive for a similar one in their childhood that they can tell their grands.

I heard a new song (*for me*) recently called **Stop This Train** from John Mayer. The timely message in it is this: we CAN’T STOP THIS TRAIN called TIME and go home again. It won’t stop no matter what we do. All we have are our memories of what was. That means we need to live lives determined to use our time wisely. And that doesn’t mean always “going for the gusto.” You and I were created for an eternal purpose. What is it? 1st Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” I believe the only thing that is eternal is our relationship with God in heaven with Christ. I want to do that so that others will also love Jesus and want to glorify Him. We can’t do that by holding on to the train hoping it’ll stop. We glorify God by loving Him, sharing the good news, and living for Him traveling on time train. ALLLL Aboarrd !!

Here’s a link to John Mayer’s song: tinyurl.com/cp75f229. You’ll love it.



