



Jeanne Robertson

How many times have we heard it? "Things are not always what they seem." How many times do we practice what that saying advises? Well, probably not often enough.

In previous stories in SE Gazette, I've mentioned Patrick Henry, a young professional speaker who lives near me in Alamance County. I'm in my mid-seventies (no way!) and Patrick's in his forties, but we're buddies. (When you're in your mid-seventies, the forties are "young.") Husband Left Brain and I live near Elon, NC and so do Patrick and his family. When you live in a smaller community as opposed to places like Dallas and Atlanta, and you're in a slightly unusual profession such as professional speaking, it's nice to have someone nearby who does what you do.

Patrick and I get together often, work on stories and catch up on speaking news. Taking my eye into consideration, he tries to make sure I know the newest and latest in the technological side of speaking. He also comes over when I can't get my printer to work or Left Brain and I can't get the television on which is often. (I long for the day when I just turned a knob and voila. The TV came on. But, I digress.)

Patrick called not long ago and asked if I would be interested in splitting expenses on green screen equipment. I had no idea what he was talking about. I'd never heard of a green screen or its equipment. Maybe it was something to put around green plants to keep away "creasters" as Ernest T. Bass says. That seemed reasonable to me if I were guessing, but I was wrong. Patrick went on to explain it was used to make videos that might help both of us get booked and in my case, sell theater tickets. If you're as confused as I was, think about that big map of the United States and Canada that "appears" to be on the wall behind weather people on TV. As I understand it, that big map is not behind them at all. Another case of things not always being as they seem. The weather people are in front of a green screen. The gurus can put any picture behind them that they want to. That's why the weather person is always looking to the side when giving the report rather than at the screen. It's more complicated than I'm telling here. Basically though, what I've written here is all you need to know to understand what happened one

day in our house.

My questions to Patrick were, "What's the green screen going to cost?" and "Is it something we really need?" We decided that no, we didn't have to have a green screen setup but it might lead to business. For each of my theater shows, he would help me cut a short video clip where I would sit in front of the big green screen and say, for example, "Hey, I'm Jeanne Robertson and I'll be at the Ryman Auditorium in downtown Nashville on such and such date for an evening of laughter for the whole family." I would send these shorts clips to each theater and they could forward them to their patrons or a local TV station if they wanted to. It would help sell tickets and build excitement about a show. After we paid for the equipment, it wouldn't cost anything. If one of us has a convention speech, we'd film something such as: "Hey, I'm Patrick Henry and I'll be at your convention in Denver at the such and such hotel. I'm actually writing a song just for your event." Then he might sing a funny line or two about their group or the location. Patrick's theory on all this was that whatever it cost us, it would help the meeting planners and theaters and in the long run, help us. It sounded good to me. I bought in.

We purchased everything we needed and split the cost. Patrick was going to set everything up in his house and take it down after each use. That plan didn't work from the get go. It took about thirty minutes to put up the green screen, lights and camera and another thirty to take it all down. Patrick and his wife Lesley have three children. Expensive camera equipment, screens and cameras can't be left up with three young people and their friends coming through the house.

In a matter of days, Patrick called me and said, "Change of plans. We need to put the green screen equipment at your house and leave it up." My house? Where in my house? "You've got that guest room upstairs that's rarely used. How about putting it there?" It worked for me. We set up a Green Screen Room at my house. Hold that thought.

Jane Tucker is another person I've written about several times in SE Gazette. She's in the fashion world and comes down from New York City every so often to go through my closet and Tuckerize my wardrobe. She has come here about every six months for

twenty years so she's stayed with me at least forty times. She came recently and we were eager to get to work on the clothes. I gave her a cup of tea and she left to put her suitcase in the guest room upstairs while I made myself a cup of coffee. Minutes later, she slowly walked back in the kitchen and said, nonchalantly, "Jeanne, I think this time I'll stay in a hotel."

I was stunned. A hotel? She had always stayed with me. Then it hit me. "Did you see another bat in the house?"

"No, I didn't see a bat," she said. "I - I just think a hotel would be better for me this time." That made no sense. "Jane, what's going on?"

Jane hemmed and hawed a few seconds and then put her tea down with authority on the counter and stood a little taller. "Okay, Jeanne. You want to tell me what all the lights and cameras are doing around the bed in that guest room?"

I had to think a few seconds and then it dawned on me what she was thinking. Unfortunately, I didn't help the situation when I said, "Jane, you know that young man I've told you about who's a speaker and lives here? Patrick Henry? We're making little videos together and shipping them to people around the country."

Jane turned around and headed back upstairs. "I don't want any more details. I'll get my suitcase." Another good example, folks. Things are definitely not always as they seem. Don't jump to conclusions. But when you do, figure it out and keep laughing!

"Rocking Chair Tour"

Show Details & Tickets:

www.JeanneRobertson.com

2018 & 2019



**Even after a
broken femur
Jeanne rocks on!!**

You
Tube

**52+ MILLION
Views**

Jeanne Robertson