



The Chatterbox

Making memories as we turn life's corners

BY BETTY KAISER
For the Sentinel

There are certain defining moments in life when you know that you have "turned a corner." When you're young, those corners are usually exciting. They are monumental moments that happily change you forever: Becoming a teenager. Graduations. Celebrating your 21st birthday. Falling in love. Getting married. Starting a family. Discovering a career path that makes the difference between subsisting and thriving.

As we get a little older and retirement nears, the corners get a little sharper. For those of us who loved parenting, the empty nest experience is a bit of a jolt. We have questions. What happened to my fit body? What's with all this gray hair that makes us look like Q-tips? Why am I so tired at the end of the day? And what in the world is happening to this current generation?

Retirement age is a different story. IRAs and 401Ks were not common until the 1990s. That was too late for many of us to accumulate sizeable chunks of money. So I think that most of us wondered how we would ever afford to retire. We thought we going to have to work until we died! Nevertheless, one day we turned a corner and realized that we just couldn't cut the nine-to-five job any more. So we figured out how to make the finances work.

But after retirement there are more corners to turn. I learned that from our neighbors, Sallie and Jim. They were already "elderly" (at least 70 years old!) when they moved into our California neighborhood, but boy, were they active. They mowed lawns, painted the house, planted a garden, drove to Texas to visit family and volunteered at church.

As the years went by they slowed down and we started helping them keep things together. Jim would regularly knock the lamppost down as he backed out of the driveway. He often showed up on our doorstep, head bleeding, after he fell off a ladder. Sallie's driving became so erratic that one day a school bus driver stopped her, got her name and license and reported her to the DMV. Both of them had their driver's licenses taken away and never drove again.

One day I stopped to see Sallie after work. She and Jim were now well into

their eighties. As I walked in the house, she burst into tears, threw her apron over her head and said, "Betty, I've turned another corner." Cleaning and cooking their meals had become too difficult for her. Then both of us cried.

Ever the problem solvers, Chuck and I put our heads together and decided that we could bring in meals three times a week from Kaiser's Country Diner's daily specials. Our neighbors weren't big eaters (two dinners was enough for two nights) and they went out for Sunday supper. One problem solved. (Later, when we moved, I signed them up for Meals on Wheels.)

It's amazing how these past memories come back since Chuck and I have aged and started turning unwanted corners. When we were 50 years old we gutted our house and rebuilt it ourselves. In our sixties, we were still working jobs, planting gardens and ceaselessly manicuring our six acres. Now in our seventies, we have turned some major health issue corners and have slowed down considerably. To keep up the property we hire help, but other corners are not that simple.

I was born with a passion for travel. Our family's yearly travels began at Catalina Island and expanded from there to primitive/RV camping in state and national parks across the U.S.A. Along the way we flew around the world and checked off places we had dreamed of visiting. I thought we would always be able to go and do. Wrong!

At this age and stage of life we have turned a sad travel corner—flight fatigue. A flight across the United States is still doable—barely. It all depends on connections, but if it takes all day...we don't go. Any place "across the pond" or beyond is now definitely off the want-to-go list. We were always going to go back to Johannesburg, South Africa, but a nearly 22-hour flight would do us both in.

Our current travel destinations are a little closer to home. They are what I call "do-over's." They are places that we've been and want to see again. Having "been-there-and-done-that," we are comfortable returning. Once there, our anxiety level drops. We know where there are places to stay, good places to eat and things to do. Time slows down, we don't have to rush around and we can explore nooks and crannies that we didn't see before.



We just returned from one of those slow-go places at the foot of Mt. Hood outside Sandy, Ore. I would guesstimate that we have stayed there in our RV at least a dozen times in the last decade. Every time we go we find something new to do. We have ridden our bikes to garage sales, eaten at the Tollgate Café, talked to the locals, ridden the ski lift, shopped till we dropped and stopped by the Guide Dogs for the Blind on the way home.

For us, no trip is complete without getting out into the woods. The Wildwood Cascade Streamwatch Trails are nearby. It's a fabulous place to get out in nature and not break your neck! In addition to the sound of the rushing river that leads to outlooks, there are paved paths down to the river and slightly steeper gravel paths for the more adventurous. Everywhere you look, the scenery is fabulous. There are fish for underwater viewing and crafted benches that are works of art along the way. Signs make sure you don't get lost. We love it!

Turning the corners of aging is not always fun. But "do-overs" are bright spots in the making memories process. Is there some place right here in Oregon that you're longing to go? You can do it! Find a way to make it happen!

Betty Kaiser's Chatterbox is about people, places, family, and other matters of the heart. Contact her at 942-1317 or via e-mail — bhatty@bettykaiser.com

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OFFBEAT

Continued from page 4A

the store. Brown found himself standing face-to-face with the man who, posing as a trusted family friend, had been secretly molesting his daughter for the previous two years — and he was holding a loaded shotgun.

The shotgun was loaded with bird shot. But from 10 feet away, it scarcely mattered. The news accounts don't say if Brown stayed long enough to help clean up the mess he left on the floor and walls of Nichols' store — just that he quietly went home to be with his daughters and to wait for the sheriff to come arrest him.

Several weeks later, the grand jury met and — to the surprise of absolutely nobody

— decided not to indict him. And afterward, not even the Portland Morning Oregonian — which by that time was on a virtual crusade against The Unwritten Law — vouchsafed a single word in disapproval.

That wouldn't be the case with another high-profile Unwritten Law case, though, which was coming a few months later in Portland. It would be another case of a jilted husband gunning for his rival, and it would fairly definitely put the would-be honor killers of Oregon on notice that they could no longer expect The Unwritten Law to protect them. We'll be finishing up this series of columns on the Unwritten Law with that story, next week.

(Sources: Portland Morning Oregonian archives: Mar. 18 and May 4, 1908; Jan. 30, Mar. 10, 15, 16 and 18, 1909)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

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Worship Directory

WORSHIP WITH US

6th & Gibbs Church of Christ
195 N. 6th St. • 541-942-3822
Pastor: Aaron Earlywine
Youth & Families Pastor: Seth Bailey
Services: 9am and 10:30am
Christian Education
Nursery for pre-k - 3rd Grade
www.6thandgibbs.com

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Calvary Chapel Cottage Grove
1447 Hwy 99 (Village Plaza)
541-942-6842
Pastor: Jeff Smith
Two Services on Sun: 9am & 10:45am
Wednesday Service 6:45 pm
Child Care 10:45am Service Only
Youth Group Bible Study:
Wed. 6:45 pm & Sat. 6 pm
www.cgcalvary.org

Center for Spiritual Living Cottage Grove
700 Gibbs Ave (Community Center)
Rev. Bobby Lee
Meets Sunday 3:00 p.m.
Info: 541-767-0182 (Mrs. "T")

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 8:30am, 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
Youth Group Mondays 6:30pm
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd. • 541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Isaac Hovet
www.cg4.tv
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Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711
Pastor: Bob Friend
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9am - Classic in the Chapel
10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

First Baptist Church
301 S 6th St 541-942-8242
Pastor: Steve Johnson
Sunday School: 9:30am
Worship: 11:00am
Come Worship with us

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St • 541-942-4479
Pastor: Rev. Bruce Cameron
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
www.cgpresbynews.com

Grove Community Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd.
Cottage Grove, OR 97424
541-942-0123
Pastor: Bryan Parsons
Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Nursery: Infant - Pre-K
Kid's Church: K to 5th grade

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd. • 541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
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Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
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Church 10:30 am
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Youth 180 Mondays 5:30-8pm
Children's Breakout Class: Wed. 6:30pm

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave * 541-767-0447
Preachers: Tony Martin & Robert Evans
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravvecoc.com

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
103 S. 5th Street • 541-942-4999
Pastor: Herb Carson
Sunday Service: 10:00am
Sunday Bible Study: 6:00pm
We sing the old time hymns.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi
Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420 / 541-942-4712
Pastor: Roy L. Antunez, S.J.
Euch. Liturgies; Sat. 5:30pm
Sun. 10:30am
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell:
552 Holbrook Lane • 541-895-8686
Sunday: 8:30am

St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
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Seventh-day Adventist Church
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541-942-5213
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Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40 am
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur
5:00pm TLC Groups
trinitylutherancottagegrove.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington • 541-942-3033
Pastor: Lura Kidner-Miesen
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Adult Sunday School: 9:30am
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Message: 11:00am
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