

Early on, Tony reveals to Alice an exciting and bold idea he and a school pal once had for developing solar energy. Unfortunately, as the pair of young inventors grew up, life took over with other expectations and responsibilities — in Tony's case, a future behind a desk as a banking executive. A dream bites the dust.

As for Alice, well, Tony can't get over her crazy family, a blend of related people (plus a couple stray folks they've taken in) all living under the same roof — dancing, making candy, writing plays, building firecrackers and collecting stamps. Basically, they're doing what they want to do and getting by just fine, thanks to "the same one who takes care of the lilies of the field," according to Grandpa Vanderhof.

Tony says, "In their own way they've found what everybody's looking for," adding (maybe as a personal excuse?), "but that takes courage. Everybody's afraid to live."

Alice replies with her grandfather's stance that "most people nowadays are run by fear. ... They're scared to save money and scared to spend it." She says her grandpa is mostly critical of those who "scare you to death so they can sell you something you don't need."

We learn Grandpa Vanderhof was not always such a freespinner. A successful businessman himself once, he suddenly realized while riding up the office elevator one day that he wasn't having any fun. So he walked out, leaving his fat paycheck and promising future behind. Just like that.

As a result, Alice says, he taught the rest of the family to not be afraid — and to have fun.

Meanwhile, Tony's father is trying to hammer out a massive monopoly while dealing with fellow execs, lawyers and real estate agents — and trying to ignore ulcers. He doesn't seem to be having any fun. At least not until his efforts land him squarely on — you guessed it — Grandpa Vanderhof's doorstep.

The depth — and fun — packed into this movie runs the spectrum: a "Home Sweet Home" sign always falling down, a discussion of "isms," harmonica music and a hilarious courtroom scene (after everyone from both sides spends time packed in a jail cell). My personal favorite is when an IRS agent shows up trying to collect back taxes from Grandpa Vanderhof. (Spoiler alert: He's not successful.)

Hands down, the best part of this flick is the characters themselves, played by some of Hollywood's greats, including Eddie "Rochester" Anderson and Ann Miller, who portrays, of all things, a wanna-be dancer.

Barrymore and Stewart later starred in another Capra classic — "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946). And take note of "Jimmy" — a raven who appears in both movies, plus dozens of others, including the "The Wizard of Oz" (1939). He's the one landing on the scarecrow's shoulder.

The bottom line: You really and truly can't take it with you. And since that's true, why not spend your life having more fun?

WHO WAS FRANK CAPRA?

Frank Capra was born in Bisacquino, Sicily, on May 18, 1897, and immigrated to the United States when he was five. He earned an engineering degree at the California Institute of Technology in 1918 (then known as Throop College of Technology) and then began a

long and successful film career.

Capra's films brought him two Oscars for Best Picture and three for Best Director: "It Happened One Night" (1934), "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town" (1936), and "You Can't Take It With You" (1938). He also directed such landmark movies as "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" (1939), "Meet John Doe" (1941), and the ever-popular "It's a

Wonderful Life" (1946).

He retired from filmmaking in 1966, after which he published his autobiography, "The Name Above the Title," in 1971.

He retired from filmmaking in 1966 and was honored with a life achievement award from the American Film Institute in 1982.

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- October 21st Purple Thursday wear purple in solidarity.

Follow on Social Media for updates: @unioncountysfs

A sure sign that fall is here is the Anthony Lakes Ski Patrol Ski Swap.
This year's swap is planned for November 20, 2021 at the Rivera Activity Center, located at Second and Y Ave., La Grande.

SKI SWAP
NOV. 20 2021
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This is a great place to get deals on both new and used equipment. The sale will be from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Equipment check-in is from 9 am to noon. Equipment pickup and payout is from 4-5 pm. This sale is one of the Ski Patrol's biggest fundraisers of the year. For additional information call Zak at 208-596-2807.