

Tidbits From a Troubled Mind

by
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Isn't this time of year a great time to be alive... especially in Florida and The Villages? It's great to see Florida's first corn crop coming into the stores and I'm doing my part to bring as much of it home as possible. In fact I'm heading for WV for a couple of weeks and taking several dozen ears with me for friends and family. They won't get any home grown corn until July/August time frame and I know they'll be glad to wrap their teeth around an ear of this delicious, juicy, white and bi-color corn.

I came to the conclusion the other day that I'm a born leader... I'm like E.F. Hutton, but in just a different mode. When they speak, people listen, or so their commercial used to say, whereas when I show up at certain places others are quick to follow my lead and show up just minutes behind. Example... I'm going through the grocery store doing my routine shopping and hear the corn stand calling my name saying, "Tom... come pick up a few ears." I look over at the stand and see nobody around so I decide it would be a perfect opportunity to shuck a few ears without having a bunch of picky people crowding around grabbing bags, mixing the yellow in with the white, pushing my buggy out of the way and putting the shucking receptacle wwwwaaaayyy over there where I can't reach it. But you know what happens as soon as I walk up to the stand? You're right... here comes the crowd.

The same is true at the movies and area restaurants... as soon as I decide to go to a particular movie or favorite restaurant and begin my walk to the door or ticket booth which are currently void of people... here they come, appearing out of nowhere, rushing ahead of me to get in line before me. I know you think I'm making this up but it's true. I suffer the same fate in department stores when I gather my purchases up and head for an empty, remote cash register to pay when from all over the store... here they come. I've mentioned to Judy that establishments should pay me a fee just to show up... it guarantees a large crowd will be there... "Send him and they will come."

We're heading back to WV this week to attend another reunion... the same one where our eyes met across a crowded room three years ago, and ended up married six months later. I must point out it is our high school reunion and not a family reunion. My son suggested I not forget to say that because with all the bad press WV has gotten in the past about inter-marrying, people might get the wrong idea about us. (West Virginians really aren't that bad folks... it's those Ohio and Kentucky folk who give us a bad name by spreading rumors to divert attention from themselves.)

Anyhow, we're looking forward to seeing a lot of family and friends in the couple of weeks we'll be there.

Our Winifred neighborhood had a Couples Best Ball Scramble on Sunday and we had a great time. Once each month different couples will put it together and then host a get together afterwards at their home to congratulate each other on all the great shots made. Sixteen of us enjoyed all the food and libation that flowed freely and although there was not enough time to get all the up to date gossip covered, our ladies gave it a good go. I always carry a small note pad and pen to jot down anything interesting that might be said. For instance, someone made the comment it gets so quiet at times you can hear the buffalo in the field at night while sitting on their lanai. When asked what a buffalo sounds like, this all wise person said, "Just like a cow, but with a darker moooo." It's getting tough to get the people to open up anymore because they know they just might see their names bandied about in print. Like Karen, who is a semi-beginning golfer and was playing several foursomes behind me but we still heard her scream so loud that it carried over the entire course and we knew she must have done something out of the ordinary. We found out later that she shot a birdie all by herself... the drive and the putt... leading her team to victory on that hole.

All of us got to meet Kristin and Josh, from Scottsdale, AZ, who were guests at the party while in town visiting Kristen's mom and dad, Bob and Sally. Kristen is expecting her first child in several months and glowed radiantly. Josh is a Sheriff's Deputy in Scottsdale and investigates suspicious fires for the Department. When the fire engine sirens sounded Sunday Josh had to follow them to see what kind of fire they were going to and brought us the latest scoop on the fire that destroyed a home that adjoined the Village of Tall Trees. Kristen said she had tried to coax her parents to move to the Sun City retirement home in Scottsdale but after she checked it out she said it couldn't come close to comparing with The Villages so said they should stay here. We wish the two of them the best and hope they return soon.

Here's a thought to leave you with... it's purported that the new Barnes and Noble Book Store opening soon in Sumter Landing will have a Starbucks Coffee shop in their bookstore, even though there is already one just around the corner near Johnny Rockets. Someone asked why they would do that and I suggested that Barnes and Noble would be serving a more intelligent coffee... to meet the needs of their more erudite customers. Scoff not.

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