

10/30/07

**“Things We Learn”**

by  
Tom Holbrook

Welcome back Dick and Sue... I overlooked you previously and am deeply regretful... mea culpa... mea culpa! We are glad you're back in the neighborhood so we can take your money in golf and enjoy your cooking at our bridge gatherings. Hope you had a great summer at your lake home in Maine/New Hampshire... somewhere up north.

Got an e-mail from another individual who said he reads the electronic version of this column each week and I didn't even know we had an electronic version... anyway he will be retiring full-time very soon and moving permanently to his home in Winifred Village. Can't wait to meet you Carl and, I am sure, your lovely wife Peggy. Maybe I can take some of your money on the golf course as well.

There are some who are now reading this who are laughing so hard they're crying... because they've watched me play golf and know it just ain't goin' to happen... me taking your money that is. My golf game is so erratic... by December of last year I had my handicap down to 26.5 which by my standards was on its way. By June of this year it had climbed back to 28.6 and after a disastrous trip to Myrtle Beach for golf it has now reached its all time high of 29.5. Something's wrong here don't you think. Anybody need a good “D” or “E” player for tournament... I hire out?

This past weekend I attended a Barbershop Chorus competition in Jacksonville and I learned two things that really stayed with me as I left to come home. It's funny sometimes just what strikes your fancy and you carry around with you... sometimes not even knowing its still inside hovering around waiting to come out at the strangest time. One of the MCs during the competition was a man of many talents... one of which was singing and accompanying himself on a homemade Ham-Can Ukulele. The songs he sang were homemade like his instrument, and although I don't remember all the verses to this one song I do remember the chorus... because we sang it over and over again.

I know it's impossible for me to let you hear the melody through the medium of the written word, that's okay... you can make up your own melody and it would sound just as good. The lyrics of his tune are thus:

*“Ohhh... whatcha gonna do with a case like that... whatcha gonna do but sit on your hat... or your toothbrush, or your grandmother, or anything else that's helpless?”*

Doesn't that just grab you and turn you around? Just think of the mind that wrote these inspiring lyrics and how he probably changed many lives with them this weekend. I know he

changed mine. It was from this man that I learned an important nugget of wisdom which I will pass on to you at the end of the article.

Some who read this article, and who say they never miss reading it, have also said my column is so much like the once successful now retired “Jerry Seinfeld Show” which kept its audience in stitches each week, and still does in re-runs. I asked why they would say that and each person answered with almost the exact same words, “I just don’t know how you can write so many words on absolutely nothing... week after week after week.” Of course, I took that as a compliment and told them it was my intent in this column to write about those things about which the average person rarely thinks about... much less talks about. In fact, a lot of the material in my column is about some things you never think about and, probably, could have cared less about... until you saw it in my column. Then it became important to you.

Like, for instance, do you know my record for solving the Hocus-Focus cartoon in the Daily Sun each weekday is 4 seconds? 4 seconds is amazingly fast if you know anything about Hocus-Focus. (That’s the little cartoon where you have to find 6 differences in the pictures.) Think about it... divide 4 by 6 and that’s less than a second per difference. Judy says I get too excited about it but for those of us who strive to keep our minds alive and sharp, we know it’s very important to participate in that kind of exercise.

Well, got to go... all too soon, but let me tell you the other item I learned and brought home from Jacksonville with me... read it and apply it to your life.

I learned a person should never take a sleeping pill and a laxative at the same time.  
Have a great week.

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