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“Those West Virginia Dogs”

by
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Our visit to WV last month was refreshing for us being able to see the Spring green of the new foliage coming out all over and seeing all the family and friends. We stopped in Greensboro, NC on the way up to visit my youngest son and hold our latest grandchild, our 14th, who we hadn't seen up close and personal. He was born March 14th and, naturally, is the cutest baby around. We were able to visit all the kids and grandkids on my side of the aisle and spend 3 days with each, in Roanoke, VA and Lewisburg, WV, before attending our 49th high school reunion in Charleston, WV. Since Jude and I got together at our 45th reunion, and married soon thereafter, the reunions have had a special meaning for us. Besides, we wanted everyone to know we were still together after 4 years. A great time was had by all and everyone's planning for our 50th H.S. reunion next year.

I know a lot of you guys out there have never gone back to any of your reunions and I'm sure your reasons are valid, at least in your mind, but you've got to understand that there's a great many of your fellow classmates who really do care about where you are and how you're doing. I know I was excited when we got to see guys and gals coming back for their very first reunion since graduation. It truly felt good to reminisce with them about all the shenanigans that went on back then and what's happened in between. Our reunions include every graduation year at our high school and honoring the one celebrating its 50th. Since everybody always has friends on either side of their own class one gets to see new old friend every year. Our class of '58 had 208 in the class.

I'm sure you remember reading your local paper about those attending their 50th H.S. reunion and thinking, “Gosh, those guys are ancient!” Boy, has my attitude changed on that. Of course, Judy and I still look at some of the graduates from our class and wonder aloud, “What are we doing here with all those old people?”

One thing I want to pass on to you, which just came to me this morning, which will maybe help you if what prompted the thought happens to you. When we visited all those people prior to the reunion we naturally took pictures galore. Unfortunately, after switching memory cards in the camera before going to the reunion I lost the one with over 200 pictures on it. It is highly probable we'll never get to re-live those great memories by viewing the pictures taken because even if someone finds the card there is nothing on it that identifies its owner. My thought... from now on every new card I put into the camera will begin with a picture of a paper stating, “If you find this picture card please call (and include our phone number).” You might want to do the same.

One of the best stops we made while in the Mountain State was to eat at “Hillbilly Hot Dogs”... an eatery that truly transcends the adjective unique. Space does not allow a full description

or listing of its menu but I must mention a few of their specialty offerings. They had, of course, the Hillbilly Hot Dog, which is a deep fried weenie with their homemade chili sauce, mustard and onions, followed by: the Snuffy dog; Hound Dog; Buckeye Dog (just in case someone from across the Ohio river drops by,) Steak Dog; Pizza Dog; the Egg Dog (Deep fried weenie with ketchup, nacho cheese, scrambled egg, Jalapeno peppers, Salsa and Tabasco Sauce; and, lastly, the famous Chuck's Junk Yard Dog, consisting of a deep fried weenie, spicy chili sauce, mustard, onions, ketchup, mayo, relish, slaw, kraut, nacho cheese, jalapenos and BBQ. Whooooee! If you should stop by their establishment on the Ohio River Road between Pt. Pleasant and Barboursville, WV, or their new downtown Huntington, WV location, ask them about their 15", 1 lb beef weenie, and their 5 lb hamburger. Man, do they know what a man likes to eat? I told you it was beyond unique. Git`er done!

See you next week.

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