

“A Senior Perspective”

by

Tom Holbrook

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Good mornin' all you guys and gals out there in paradise. It's going to be another wonderful day here in the Villages and I'm glad you're going to be part of it. Judy and I are currently in Bonita Springs, FL with friends Steve and Soo, from WV, absorbing all the sun and taking in the fun places located in this place. Last time here we visited the Ford/Edison Museum in Ft. Myers and some of the great restaurants in Naples. Next to our hometown here in the Villages it's one of the nicest places to visit in Florida.

Got a letter from my cousin Mortimer the other day and I thought I would share it with you today. Mort's place on the family tree is somewhere near the root system but we keep hoping he'll join us on the middle branches one day. He and his wife Tildy, short for Matilda, live so far up one of the hollers at home they can only get TV by tying an antenna wire to a large tree at the top of the mountain. That's in danger now that those who own the mountain have installed several 400' tall windmills to get wind power.

Here's his letter:

Dear Cuzzin Tom,

Thot I'd drop you a note and let you know how we all are doin' since it's been a month o' Sundays since we seen you and your missus. Wanted you to know that wood brige that crosses the crick has been shored up with some logs I cut and should be able to hold up for awhile les we get another big flood and wash it away agin. Should be able to cross the crick now without gettin yore feet wet or draggin the bottom off your car. I figgered that's why you ain't been to see us for a spell.

Our youngest dotter Lucy just turned 14 and we surprised her by telling her she was old enough now to smoke at the dinner table in front of her kids. You shudda seen her... you'd a thot she had won a new mule or somethin she was so churned up. She got reel excited to when the school bored told her that the 8th grade class was goin to have a dance and was providin day care for those girls who wanted to bring there kids with 'em. I was happy for her but her momma, Tildy, was a little put out cuz they never had anything like that when she was growin up.

By the way, guess you mighta herd bout cuzzin Henrys house a blowin up. Darn fool was smokin in the bathroom agin. I tried to tell him how dangerus that was be he never listend to anybody. Blowed that house cleen off its wheels. Didn't get their food stuffs tho cuz there icebox was out on the portch. Never touched it.

Some really good news to report to you. Tildy only needs one more hole punched in her card and she'll be elgibul for a freeby at Tony's Tatto Parlur down at the head of the holler. You know how patriotik she is, well she cant figger out if she wants another flag or maybe an eagle on her chest. She said Tony could make it look like the eagles wings was aflappin when she was arunnin. I told her the eagle would be a big hit with everyone down at the Moose Hall.

You member our youngest boy Dilford... he's 18 now and wants to marry his girlfriend Tessie. She's 18 to. Well we took em down to the courthouse for there liseness they was told they couldn't get one cuz they didn't care how much they loved each other it was aginst the law to marry yer cuzzin. I never knowed that was a law, did you? Bout broke Dilfords heart.

Well, got to git goin but Tildy wanted me to pass on a fashun tip to yer missus if you would. With summer comin on Tildy's hair stilest down at the Hair Hut Saloon told her she should get a difrunt hair stile cuz when it gets hot her hair is likely to get clipped off by the ceiling fan or rapped up in the fly paper if she keeps wearin it like she does. Tell Judy bout that will ya I'm sure she'd preeshate a tip like that?

Ya'll come to see us now 'n don't be a stangur. And remember cuzzin Tom what I always told you... Don't swet the petty things and don't pet the swetty things. That's a joke you know.

Yer favrit cuzzin, Mortimer

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