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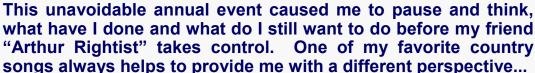
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One week after major heart surgery, surrounded by his friends, I watched Art Dalone celebrate his 88th birthday. Happy, smiling and full of energy, I was amazed at his tenacity to enjoy life to its fullest.

Presidents Message



"I ain't as good as I once was, but I'm as good once as I ever was! My body tells me I can't, but my pride tells me I can." If we are willing, we can benefit from the knowledge and experience of others. Not long ago, Mary and I were on a motorcycle trip through the mountains of West Virginia. Tired and hungry from driving all day, we pulled into the gravel parking lot of a combination gas station, post office and country restaurant. With its weathered rough sawn wood exterior, the building looked as if it could have been around during the Civil war. Dismounting from our modern-day horse, and more than a little stiff, it seemed as if we creaked as much as the porch steps.

"Is the restaurant still open?", I asked. Through a smile missing a few teeth came the reply, "Only if yer hungry." With a groan we plopped down beside the only other couple in the three-table restaurant. Once we ordered, our conversation turned to, "Hon, do you think we're getting too old for this riding all day?" For the next few minutes we bitched about our sore buns and aching backs.

Sitting at the table beside us, leaning on a well-worn red and white checker table cloth, an older couple listened intently to our venting. We had exhausted our ailment discussion and were quietly waiting for our food. The old man, who looked as if he might have been here when the building was erected, leaned over and with his soft southern drawl said, "Young man, don't talk about the way you are, talk about the way you want to be. Then the rest of your life will be the best of your life."

Just then, our cornbread, grits and chicken fried steak, drowning in gravy arrived. I wanted to strike up a conversation with this wise old man, but he was slowly getting up to leave. All I was able to say was, "Thank you sir, I'll surely give that some thought."

We sat quietly, digesting both our delicious meal and the magnitude and simplicity of his insightful words. After two pieces of warm blackberry pie, (Mary had her own), we then realized how late it was. Thanking the waitress/cook/ owner for a fabulous meal, we gladly paid the bill and with helmets in hand, we rushed out onto the porch. I walked over to an older gentleman, slowly rocking back and forth and staring off into the mountains. With an excited voice I asked him, "Sir, can you tell me what time it is?" He stopped rocking, took a long draw on his pipe, slowly blew the smoke in perfect circles and said "I reckon it's Tuesday."

I sincerely believe that Attitude is what makes the difference. I now can clearly see that attitude is what makes Art Dalone the happy, vibrant person he is.

Craig Henry



Rappy St. Patrick's Dar



One of the many qualities our club is known for is "friendship." One week after major surgery and still in rehab, friends of Art Dalone made sure he had a festive birthday party!





After many hours of hard work, a few curse words, and more money than Lucy probably knows about, Joe Nix can proudly stand beside a really cool ride.

What a perfect day for Dave Schumacher's church's "Family Fun" day. It was inspiring to see polite, young kids having a good time.

After years of searching, Jan & Dean Bauman finally found their "Dream Car" and It was right here in Punta Gorda! Now if it only came with instructions.

HEY, if your kissin'...I'm IRISH!!



When it comes to Dream Cars, John & Mary Jane Koropoules waited over two years for the delivery of this fantastic '56 Chevy. Hey John, the motor is at the other end!





Biggest turn out yet for Sonshine Church! The weather was great,\and we helped raise some money for their Youth program. Ron Muschong and Sally check the award board to see if he won any free gas for his land yacht.





Well, after 7 years of waiting, I was finally able to sneak into the Sun Newspaper show! A tour through the gigantic printing press area was both fascinating and scary....scary that Roy Mohr was at the controls! Dennis Ott won a trophy for oldest car there. But for some reason it wasn't handed to him?



An Irish Blessing row May your troubles be less and your blessings be more And nothing but happiness come through your door



- Irish Prayer -

May those who love us love us And those who don't love us may God turn their hearts And if he doesn't turn their hearts may he turn their ankles So we will know them by their limping





Once again this year, our Valentine's Day at Visani Comedy Club event was a big hit! Over 100 members attended, enjoyed dinner, friendly conversation and some light hearted comedy! You don't want to miss it next year!





Another Year older and you look young as ever!

Alcohol is a great preservative!



On the 3 large screen TV's, almost 50 members spent the afternoon cheering on their favorite driver. Everyone really appreciated the sumptuous variety of foods!

Thanks to all who made this memorable event possible. Even after 5 hours, people were heard saying, "Can we do this again next week"?







Thanks to Al Saucier and his "Pick a Winner" pool, everyone had an enthusiastic time....it would appear the secret to women enjoying this event was \$\$\$!





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May the wind at your back not be the result of the corned beef and cabbage you had for lunch!

Hobilga



Happy St. Patrick's Day

