



Front Porch Music

Ron Isbell
Publisher

An Old Codger's Advice to Graduates

As the years pile up and I begin my seventh decade on this earth, I find myself with this huge mound of advice that no one seems interested in.

Of course, I tend to try to share it with my children, and what twenty-something wants to listen to his/her parents?

But I somehow feel my life will have had more purpose if I can share some of that wisdom with those who have just completed their education and are now starting to learn. In short, Class of 2010, school's over. Learning starts now.

Please take a little advice from someone with a lot of great memories from things done right and some regrets for things not done at all. You'll notice I didn't say "things done wrong". This is life...we all make mistakes. They are simply that: mistakes--neither right or wrong. I have no regrets for mistakes. And that, graduates, is my first admonition.

Here's my list, as of June 8, 2010. It's sort of my version of a commencement address. It's in no particular order, as is life. It is also far from complete.

I hope all of you have given some thought to this same thing before it's too late to do anything about it. I'd like it if you'd share your list with the rest of us.

- Eat less. Taste more.
- Climb more mountains.
- Drive a red sports car.
- Appreciate kudzu.
- Start a fire in someone's soul.
- Learn how to choose a good melon.
- Change your own flat tire.
- Create something. Anything.
- Learn a foreign language.
- Sail a boat.
- Take pictures. Lots of them.
- Dance.
- Watch a sunset. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.....
- Taste raindrops.
- Eat a brussels sprout. One is enough.
- Vote.
- Go fishing without bait.
- Spend more time. Less money.
- Get lost.
- Sleep in a tent.
- Write a poem.
- Hold a newborn child.
- Cry, but just a little.
- See a Broadway play,

even if it's off-Broadway. Smell a mum. Everybody smells roses.

Learn to play golf. Then actually play only if you enjoy it.

Swim in an ocean and walk in a desert in the same year.

Make friends everywhere you go.

Go everywhere with friends.

Don't work at a job you don't like. Work hard at a job you do.

Love your parents for who they are. Appreciate them for who you are.

Hear music when there isn't any.

Love someone more than yourself.

Know the virtue of being alone. Never know the pain of being lonely.

Know the difference.

Appreciate art for what it is. Don't try to make it something else.

Start saving for retirement before you get your first job. Just like your funeral, it's inevitable.

Avoid the seven deadly sins. They're aptly named.

Paddle in a lake.

Make a friend in someone of a different culture.

Read Huck Finn.

Spend a St. Patrick's Day evening in a real Irish pub.

Be a part of a revolution, but do it peacefully.

Find a way for others to be right when they disagree with you.

Learn the difference between flowers and weeds before you tend a garden.

Milk a cow.

Visit New York City. Like brussels sprouts, once is probably enough.

Read enough to have a favorite author.

Make a list like this, then share it.

Evening Taize, prayer service

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 600 Crescent Circle, will be holding a Taize/Prayer Service for all members and the community each Wednesday evening beginning June 9th and continuing throughout the summer. Prayer requests will be collected and read during a simple service of Taize' songs, scripture, silence and prayer. The public is welcome. Wednesdays June 9-August 18, 6:45-7 p.m.

LOOKING BACK



PHOTO IDENTIFIED - KATHRYN LONG BOLIN, as a young designer at Sadie Cotton Mills, is pictured at her desk. Bolin's sister, Carolyn Webb, called The Herald to identify the picture in "Looking Back" in last week's Herald. The late Mrs. Bolin's sister, Louise Maples and her husband, Ernest, also live in Kings Mountain. Bolin was also a designer at the old Margrace Mill and for Collins & Aikman and painted the beautiful "Battle of Kings Mountain" wall painting in the lobby of Kings Mountain City Hall.

Community Briefs

'What did our ancestors wear?' on display now at KM museum

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum recently announced the opening of its newest exhibit - "What Did Our Ancestors Wear?" - which will run through August 21, 2010. Many examples of clothing, accessories, undergarments from the 18th to mid 20th century will be on display.

The exhibit also features a "dress-up corner" where children can try on reproduction clothing and have their picture taken.

The Kings Mountain Historical Museum is located in the Old Post Office at 100 E. Mountain St., Kings Mountain, NC 28086. It is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10-4 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 704-739-1019 or visit www.kingsmountainmuseum.org online.

Summer camp at CC Arts Council

The Cleveland County Arts Council is planning the following summer art camps and activities through August. For more information or to register, visit www.ccartscouncil.org or call 704-484-2787.

June 14-18: "Catch A Dream!" and "Pineapple Under the Sea?"

June 21-25: "The Princess and the Frog" and "Imagine..."

July 5-9: "Get Chiseling!" and "Through the Looking Glass" and "Magical Mural Art"

July 12-16: "Toy Story 3-D" and "It's Show Time"

July 19-23: "Nurturing Arts Extravaganza" and "It's Show Time" and "Put on a Happy Face!"

July 26-30: "Home - it's where the art is"

Aug. 2-6: "Donning Cloaks & Waving Wands" and "Art and its many uses"

Aug. 9-13: "Alice in Wonderland" and "Fun with Clay"

SASI Children's Art Workshop

The Southern Arts Society, Inc. would like to announce the dates for its annual "Children's Art Workshop."

The week-long workshop will be held Aug. 9-13 at the Depot, (Kings Mountain Art Center), 301 N. Piedmont Ave. The fee is \$25 per child for the week and a snack will be included each day. Hours will be 9-11:30 a.m. The workshop is open to all children from first-through sixth grade. An Art Show reception will follow the workshop on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 1-2:30 p.m. Class size

is limited. For more information or to sign up, call 704-739-5585.

Non-profit grants available

The Cleveland County Community Foundation is currently accepting applications from nonprofit organizations for its 2010 Grant Program. Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded. However, grant awards may vary depending on the scope and type of project.

Due to the current economic situation and the needs

of Cleveland County, investment priority will be given to projects or programs addressing basic needs in the following areas: food, clothing, shelter and utilities. Applicants must be nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations serving Cleveland County children.

Grant applications and a full description of criteria can be found at www.cleveland-county-cf.org. Applications must be received by July 6, 2010. For more information contact Foundation Grants specialist Karen Coppadge at 704-973-4559 or kcoppadge@fftc.org.

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