

# Chatterbox

February 2024 Issue

**SOUP TA  
NUTS**

**CROSS COUNTRY  
SKIING**



**Biscuits**

**The Inheritance**

**Advice from a  
90-Year-Old**

**Begin Every With A Smile**



# The Chatterbox

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## Letter From The Editor:

Hi Everyone. I sure will be happy when Old Man Winter leaves. It has been quite a winter! For those who are sick and tired of it and perhaps a wee bit snappy, I hope some of the articles here will brighten your day. Happy Valentine's Day and may the love flow from your heart. Liz Underhill



## **The Biscuits**

When I was a kid, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work. On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage, and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school.

I don't remember what I told him that night; but I do remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Honey, I love burned biscuits."

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned. He wrapped me in his arms and said, "Your momma put in a long hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides...a burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things...and imperfect people. I'm not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like everyone else. What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults and choosing to celebrate each others' differences is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship.

So...please pass me a biscuit. And yes, the burned one will do just fine!

Life is too short to wake up with regrets. Love the people who treat you right and forget the ones who don't.

ENJOY LIFE NOW - IT HAS AN EXPIRATION DATE!



## ***Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:***

*I started out with nothing, and I  
still have most of it.*

*My wild oats have turned into  
prunes and all-bran.*

*I finally got my head together,  
and now my body is falling  
apart.*

*Funny, I don't remember being  
absent-minded.*

*If all is not lost, where is it?*

*Some days, you're the dog;  
some days you're the hydrant.*

*I wish the buck stopped here; I  
sure could use a few.*

## Weighting On You!



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You?

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A Scotsman named David Hutton invented a tiny mill for twisting twine. How powerful was its motor? Exactly one mouse-power. He planned to enlarge this model to a full-scale product using 10,000 mice, but died before he could do so.



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Now That I'm Older I've Dis-  
covered:

*Kids in the back seat  
cause accidents.  
Accidents in the back  
seat cause kids.*

## Be Careful What You Wish For!

A woman received a call that her daughter was sick. She stopped by the pharmacy to get medication, got back to her car and found that she had locked her keys inside. The woman found an old rusty coat hanger left on the ground. She looked at it and said "I don't know how to use this."

She bowed her head and asked God to send her HELP. Within 5 minutes a beat-up old motorcycle pulled up. A bearded man who was wearing an old biker skull rag got off of his cycle and asked if he could

help.

She said: "Yes, my daughter is sick. I've locked my keys in my car. I must get home. Please, can you use this hanger to unlock my car?"

He said "Sure." He walked over to the car, and in less than a minute the car was open.

She hugged the man and through tears said "Thank You SO Much! You are a very nice man."

The man replied, "Lady, I am NOT a nice man. I just got out of PRISON yesterday. I was in prison for car theft."

The woman hugged the man again sobbing, "Oh, thank you God. You even sent me a Professional!"



## Happy Valentine's Day



## "Soup ta Nuts"

### Cross Country Skiing

Hi Folks Oh yes, Clem decided to get my blood going and to take me out cross-country skiing. He's the athletic one of the family and he does all this stuff to keep himself in shape. He bought me a pair of skis years ago, but somehow I just never got out. He said we would go out on this "little" trail not too far from the house.

I tried to get into my ski suit, but somehow with not using it, it had shrunk. You know the saying "if you don't use it, you lose it". Now isn't that the truth. Well I had to go bare-buttied into the ski pants just to get the zipper to come up half way. The jacket was so small, it held me like that old girdle of mine that split with the job it had to do and shot its way into the chandelier. But I am a trooper. Trouble was I couldn't bend to put my skis on so Clem had to put on my boots and skis. There I stood in all my finery grasping those poles like a drowning person hanging on to a life jacket for dear life.

Now Clem was going to give me instructions and told me to follow them and I would have no difficulty. Off we went, or should I say he went. I stood there, every fiber of my body frozen to the spot. I actually had to move? Glide he said, glide.

"How the heck can I glide, you fool, I can't move my poles!" I screamed. Even the escaping air was making drop-lets on my lips from the cold. I just knew my lips would be chapped and then would peel off and I'd have to have those foolish injections to make my lips look sensuous once again. How the heck was I ever gonna pucker again.

"Klara, just move your feet one ahead of the other and glide, watch me" Clem shouted.

I watched and I realized you moved your hands and feet like you were a four-legged animal. Looked easy enough. Away I went. Well I at least moved. My arms and hands were aching from white-knuckling the poles.

"Just relax," Clem shouted. "Watch

me, nice and easy, nice and easy."

Gliding? A baby had more grace learning to crawl. I just knew when I got off of these things it would be pay-back time. Well to be truthful as the miles wore on, I did get to glide a few times and on one of my glides I fell and almost when down a steep hill. The only thing that stopped me was that I had fallen and landed with a huge tree between my legs and the darn skis were standing straight up like a small tree.

I could hardly see a thing through the icicles that had developed on my eyelashes from crying from the pain. Why folks, it was so darn cold I realized that I had lost my teeth when I let out a scream when I fell. Why it was so cold they were chattering where they had landed in the snow!

I couldn't see Clem but out of nowhere he seemed to appear.

"Oh darlin, you okay?"

I saw the smirk on his face...he'd pay for that too, but right now I just wanted to get up and get home.

"You told me we were just going for a small jaunt to get me used to skiing," I blubbered. "Instead you lied and we've gone for miles! I'm never going to trust you again!"

"But Klara, my love, you've only skied for the size of a city block."

"Block schmock. Get me out of these contraptions and I want to go home."

Off came the skis and I crawled to the nearest tree and hoisted myself up. I didn't want any help from him. Who the heck would know what would happen.

When we got back to the truck Clem said "Oh sweetness, are you sore?"

"Nope, just a wee bit in my arms and legs."

"Well I didn't want to tell you that you will be really sore in the days to come from using unused muscles." he said so sweetly.

Hey pay-back is the pits, eh? The next morning Clem asked me how I was. I was fine, but folks he couldn't move. He was sore from "instructions" so he said.

He couldn't move for three days while I "glided" out shopping and bought my favourite perfume, a new ski suit and skis. Ready for round two. Klara

## Did You Know?

It takes our brains 80 milliseconds to process information. That means we are all living ever so slightly in the past.

Putting dry tea bags in smelly shoes will absorb the odor.

The combined weight of all ants on Earth is about the same as the combined weight of all humans.

Insect wings have tiny pillars that kill bacteria by physically tearing it to shreds.

Every human is born with the ability to wiggle their ears. If you don't discover it early, the muscle atrophies.

The surface area of Russia is slightly larger than dwarf-planet Pluto.

A can of Diet Coke floats in water, but a can of regular Coke sinks.

The sound of every shrimp snapping their claws at once would reach 246 decibels, potentially making shrimp the loudest animal in the ocean.

One hundred and ten people once tied for second prize in the Powerball lottery after playing the same lucky numbers from a fortune cookie.

Collectively, humans have spent almost 13,261 years watching the 'Gangnam Style' video.

Alexander the Great conquered half the known world by age twenty-two

There are 18.6 million vacant houses in the United States. That's enough for every homeless person in America to have six.

Because it takes so long for their light to reach earth, many of the stars you see at night are long gone.

The entire current population of Earth could fit inside Texas, and it would still be less crowded than New York City.

## Weighting On You!

### What's Eating You?

### Working From The Inside Out

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**Written by Regina Brett,  
90 years old, of the Plain  
Dealer, Cleveland, Ohio.**

"To celebrate growing older, I once wrote the 42 lessons life taught me. It is the most requested column I've ever written. My odometer rolled over to 90 in August, so here is the column once more:

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short – enjoy it..
4. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. Save for retirement starting with your first pay check.
9. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
10. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
11. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
12. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
13. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it...
- 14 Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
15. Get rid of anything that isn't useful. Clutter weighs you down in many ways.
16. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
17. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
18. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
19. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
20. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
21. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple. ❤️
22. The most important sex organ is the brain.
23. No one is in charge of your happi-

ness but you.

24. Frame every so-called disaster with these words 'In five years, will this matter?'
25. Always choose life.
26. Forgive but don't forget.
27. What other people think of you is none of your business.
28. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
29. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
30. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does..
31. Believe in miracles.
32. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
33. Growing old beats the alternative – dying young.
34. Your children get only one childhood.
35. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
36. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere. (I love this one)
37. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
38. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have not what you need.
39. The best is yet to come...
40. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
41. Yield.
42. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

***Things I'm Super Good At.***

1. Forgetting someone's name 10 seconds after they tell me.
2. Buying produce and throwing it out two weeks later.
3. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
4. Making plans. And then immediately regretting making plans.
5. Leaving laundry in the dryer until it wrinkles. Then turning on the dryer to de-wrinkle. Then forgetting it again.
6. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".

*Author Unknown*

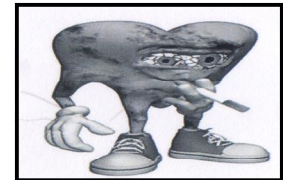
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## The Inheritance



Morris Schwartz is on his deathbed, knows the end is near, is with his nurse, his wife, his daughter and 2 sons. "So", he says to them: "Bernie, I want you to take the Beverly Hills houses.

Sybil, take the apartments over in Los Angeles Plaza. Hy-mie, I want you to take the offices over in City Center." Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings downtown."

The nurse is just blown away by all this, and as Morris slips away, she says, "Mrs. Schwartz, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property."

Sarah replies, "What Property?...The schmuck has a paper route!"

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He's not perfect. You aren't either,  
and the two of you will never be  
perfect. But if he can make you laugh  
at least once, causes you to think  
twice, and if he admits to being  
human and making mistakes, hold on  
to him and give him the most you  
can. He isn't going to quote poetry,  
he's not thinking about you every  
moment, but he will give you a part  
of him that he knows you could  
break. Don't hurt him, don't change  
him, and don't expect for more than  
he can give. Don't analyze. Smile  
when he makes you happy, yell when  
he makes you mad, and miss him when  
he's not there. Love hard when there  
is love to be had. Because perfect  
guys don't exist. But there's always  
one guy that is perfect for you.

- Bob Marley

## Signs

Using a hotel air conditioner: Japan:  
Cools and heats: If you want Condition  
of warm air In your room, please con-  
trol yourself.

## Signs

Hotel elevator, Paris: Please leave your  
values at the front desk.

## Signs

Hotel, Yugoslavia: The flattening of  
underwear with pleasure is the job of  
the chambermaid.

## How Old Is Gramma?



One evening a grandson was talking to his grandmother about current events. The grandson asked his grandmother what she thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandmother replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before: There was no television, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There were no: credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not yet invented: pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers -- the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

Your Grandfather and I got married first, and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir." And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, "Sir."

We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends--not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CD's, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to Big Bands on our radios. And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam.

Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5&10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents.

Ice cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcar, and a Pepsi were all 5 cents. And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your 5 cents on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Ford Coupe for \$600, but who could afford one?

Too bad, because petrol was 4 cents a litre in my day:

"grass" was mowed,  
"coke" was a cold drink,  
"pot" was something your mother cooked in and  
"rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby.

"Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office,

"chip" meant a piece of wood,  
"hardware" was found in a hardware store and.

"software" wasn't even a word.

And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap.

How old do you think I am? I bet you have this old lady in mind. You are in for a shock!


Read on to see--pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

Are you ready????? This woman would be only 61 years old. Born in 1952. GIVES YOU SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. SHARE THIS WITH THE OLD ONES. THE YOUNG ONES WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT.


## Advice from a Senior


I asked a friend who has crossed 70 & is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself? He sent me the following:

1. After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children and my friends, I have now started loving myself.
2. I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.
3. I have stopped bargaining with vegetable & fruit vendors. A few pennies more is not going to break me, but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.
4. I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much harder for a living than I am.
5. I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane & relive their past.
6. I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.
7. I give compliments freely & generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."
8. I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.
9. I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.
10. I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat & neither am I in any race.



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## Could This Be True? "Believe It Or Not"

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes or shark attacks. (So, watch your Ass)

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching television.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are fifty (50) years of age or older.

The first product to have a bar code was Wrigley's gum.

The King of Hearts is the only king WITHOUT A MOUSTACHE.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one (1) olive from each salad served in first-class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise. Since Venus is normally associated with women, what does this tell you? Women are going in the 'right' direction?

Apples, not caffeine, are more efficient at waking you up in the morning.

Most dust particles in your house are made from DEAD SKIN !

The first owner of the Marlboro Company died of lung cancer. So did the first 'Marlboro Man'.

Walt Disney was afraid OF MICE!

PEARLS DISSOLVE IN VINEGAR!

The three most valuable brand names on earth: Marlboro, Coca Cola, and Budweiser, in that order.

It is possible to lead a cow upstairs...but, not downstairs.

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

Dentists have recommended that a toothbrush be kept at least six (6) feet away from a toilet to avoid airborne particles resulting from the flush. (I keep my toothbrush in the living room now!)

And the best for last...Turtles can breathe through their butts. (I know some people like that, don't YOU?)

So.....Remember, knowledge is everything, so pass it on... and go move your toothbrush!



## We Were All

### Home-Schooled

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside.

I just finished cleaning."

2. My mother taught me

RELIGION.

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

3. My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL.

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

4. My father taught me LOGIC.

"Because I said so, that's why."

5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.

"If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

6. My mother taught me

FORESIGHT.

"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

7. My father taught me IRONY.

"Keep crying and I'll give you something to cry about."

8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.

"Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

9. My mother taught me about CON-TORTIONISM.

"Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.

"You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.

"This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."

12. My mother taught me about HY-POCRISY.

"If I told you once, I've told you a million times: Don't exaggerate!"

13. My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.

"Stop acting like your father!"

15. My mother taught me about ENVY.

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.

"Just wait until we get home."

17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.

"You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"

18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

19. My mother taught me ESP.

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

20. My father taught me

HUMOUR.

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."