

Crossing Bridges

By Hap Hansen

All of us have crossed many bridges in our lifetime. We crossed the bridges of grade school, high school and some of us, college. We crossed the bridges of marriage, children, grandchildren and some of us, great grandchildren. I have seven grandchildren, but no great grandchildren. While I would embrace them whole-heartedly, I have told all the grandkids that I am in no great hurry to become a great grandfather. I will only be age 82 this month, why should I be in any hurry? Almost all of us have crossed the bridges of retirement and growing older.

Here are some good things about crossing those bridges:

- If you want to, you can eat dinner at four p.m.
- Your investment in health insurance is beginning to pay off. Kidnapers are not very interested in you.
- If you never smoked, you can start now and it will not have time to hurt you.
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable level.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You don't need to buy the roof shingles with a 30-year guarantee.
- There's no need to spend money for a psychic to see your future. There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
- Buying cheap tires and not rotating them makes perfect economic sense.
- You may never have to vacuum under the bed again.
- Taking the shortest magazine subscription makes economic sense.
- You don't have to bother planting perennials.
- In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
- You're delighted if people say you look half your age, when you know darned well that they are lying.
- When you use the last bit of ketchup in the refrigerator, even though the expiration date was January, 2000.
- Finally, you know you have crossed the final bridge, when you never buy green bananas.