

## Roads I Have Learned To Take

*By Hap Hansen*

Like most folks, I have learned many things over the years about people and human nature. Most of us are kind and decent and we should ignore those few who are not. In a few months, I will be 85 years old. Here are a few of the roads I have learned to take over the years.

I've learned ... that we can do something in an instant that will give us heartache for life; that it's taken me a long time to become the person I want to be and I'm still not there; that we should always leave loved ones with loving words, it may be the last time we see them; and that we can keep on going long after we can't.

I've learned ... that we are responsible for what we do, no matter how we feel; that either we control our attitude, or it controls us; that regardless how hot and steamy a relationship is at first, the passion sometimes fades and there had better be something else to take its place; that heroes are the people who do what has to be done, when it needs to be done, regardless of the consequences.

I've learned ... that sometimes the people we expect to kick us when we're down will be the ones to help us get back up; that sometimes when I'm angry, I have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give me the right to be cruel; that maturity has more to do with what types of experiences we've had and what we've learned from them and less to do with how many birthdays we've celebrated.

I've learned ... that our family won't always be there for us. It may seem funny, but people we aren't related to can also take care of us and love us and teach us to trust people again; that no matter how good a friend is, they're going to hurt us every once in a while and we must forgive them for that; sometimes we have to learn to forgive ourselves; that no matter how much our heart is broken, the world will not stop for our grief.

I've learned ... that our background and circumstances may have influenced who we are, but we are responsible for who we've become; that we don't have to change friends if we understand that friends change; that we shouldn't be too eager to find out a secret, it could change our life forever; that two people can look at the exact same thing and see something totally different, especially in politics; that even when we think we have no more to give when a friend cries out to us, we will find the strength to help; that credentials on the wall do not make us a decent human being and that people we care about most in life are taken from us too soon.

Most of all, I have learned that yesterday is gone, tomorrow may never come, today could be all we have. Make the most of it.