

Bucket List

12-16-2013 by Harry Zirkelbach

On the early 20th Century America in the mind magic carpet of youth, travel and adventure was unlimited. Everywhere in the world was a daily possibility. Enhanced by silent movies, then talkies, the National Geographic magazine, the ten cent adventure publications featuring Tarzan, Flash Gordon, WW I Flying Aces. Boys found these enticements everywhere, free in the barber's waiting room.



In an era where few parents had ventured outside their state, there was no factual reinforcement of these travels and adventures at the dinner table. Youth might be accused of day-dreaming when failing to respond to a parental request to "Pass the bread" at dinner, when in a living 1934 dream he and Admiral Byrd fly to the South Pole with Paul Siple, a fellow Boy Scout from his home in Erie, Pa; or, simply sailing with



Drake's Golden Hind on a 1579/80; and as a hand in this dream voyage captures loaded with jewels, 90 silver.; share joy with baubles in the salt air, then riches. ...Yet, return to table the bread, momentarily join world.



journey round the world in Drake's marauding crew, the Spanish Cacafuego pounds of gold, 26 ton of shipmates, tossing coin and bury himself in these same at unimaginable speed, pass the family in their real

Interruptions never lessen the inherent spirit of adventure for a young mind. Reality is good, finite. Dreams, not even limited by the speed of sound, light or time, fertilize the imagination, especially for the young not yet taught limits by hard facts.

So it came to be that by puberty most who ever lived have ventured to every hallowed ground in and outside their imagined world. And daily, still sit at table with family for a nourishing meal, in the very home and city where born.

And never have make a Bucket List of fantasy places to visit.



No relative of our family had been conscripted for WW I to bring home tales of wonder and horror from those relatively small battlefields where millions wore uniforms that never protected them harm or worse. It was rare to be in any gathering where the conversation drifted toward the ugliness of stalemated war.

Great change began when Franklin Roosevelt denounced the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor before Congress December 8, 1941. The children of the 1920s were primed for genuine adventure, travel, new friends. With these differences.

In the adventure of the fantasy world you are immortal,
Time and speed controllable.

Fifteen million Americans returning for service in WW II, found themselves and their world greatly changed. Yet, most settled into the same earlier routine. Most no thought of a Bucket List.

Late in Jimmy Carter's Presidency, WW II veterans began retiring, started a Bucket List. Donned casual clothing, took off, knocking off one destiny after another. They seldom travelled alone. Every journey a lure for another. Even casual acquaintances listened, followed.

In each of the first twenty years of retirement
Barbara and Harry Zirkelbach knocked destinations
off their unique Bucket List.

These adventurous creations are remembered, told elsewhere.

