

## A SHORT VISIT

*By Mike Harris*

I'm sure that a definition of short is of primary importance in attacking this weeks topic. In our family short is defined by the saying "three days and fish." One does not keep fish beyond three days, the rest is obvious . With the above in mind as a limit our family almost always never stayed more than three days without moving to a hotel, campground, or sublet. That way we would spend summers visiting family for weeks at a time without wearing out our welcome. It also helped us not to meddle in their personal family affairs. It was not easy to keep my mouth shut when they did things their way.

For sixteen years we visited Denver and never stayed more than three days with family. Everything one does has consequences. Because of this rule, if you will, I never got to bond with my grandchildren, I was also labeled a tough old egg. I guess I deserved the appellation. When my youngest grandchild was four and she did not find her second grandpa as amenable as the one who resided in Denver it set the pattern for later years. Incidentally I only have two grandchildren, a girl and a boy. I will only say that they are great kids and I am real proud of the way my daughter-in-law and my son accomplished the job of parenting. Both children have left the nest and are doing, by my standards, exceptionally well. The girl graduated college and entered the real world when jobs were scarce, with courage that I did not know she had. She went to a foreign country for her first job. Since then each succeeding position has been up and away. The young man, in my evaluation has had an easier road, mainly because he was always an A+ student.

As we sow so do we reap. My wife and I were pretty good at parenting. My son and daughter-in-law also did a good job of parenting. Now we will see if they learned anything about how to handle the golden years. My wife and I sure set a good example. Will they have learned anything from us? Who knows? Only time will tell.