

FIRSTS

By Mike Harris

This week's subject is "FIRSTS" with an "S" on the end. We here are all seniors, over fifty five and on and on. We all share similar firsts, first steps, first baby teeth, first permanent teeth, and most of us first false teeth. Then there are first accomplishments, first real friendship, first romance, perhaps first rejection, first job, many first birthdays.

So what is so unusual about firsts? Well that is just it, everyone accumulates "FIRSTS." Firsts do not necessarily refer to records in sports, or achievements in science or medicine. They are the results of ongoing daily living for most people, and have relevance to each and every person that exists. It matters not that every person goes through the same process of living the same first experiences.

I would venture that each and every one of us has experienced a rejection at least once, and has won an award at least once, and perhaps even gotten married at least once, and for sure is going to die at least once, just as we were born once.

For each of us some firsts are very personal and memorable. My first paying job at age five which taught me responsibility and the use of money has been a hallmark of my character that lasted ninety two years and counting.

A friend's born talent, the ability to design and build complicated machinery in his head without blue prints dictated the path of his entire life. The gift given to another person close to me "everything he saw done he could replicate after seeing it done just once." Yes they had faults, but their lives enriched the lives of those around them, all without formal training in their fields.

The art of parenting, and believe me, some parents developed raising their children to an art! Most of the progress made in this world is made as a result of an un-natural quirk of character, fire, the light bulb, the sail, the wind mill, and the many versions of applied power to improve our daily lives.

Surely the club, the bow and arrow, and so many firsts all of the past as well those firsts on the horizon just waiting to burst into our daily lives. Then of course there is the final inevitable last first which almost all of us work hard at postponing. Man is the gifted creature, the only one with the unique brain able to grasp a concept and implement it to make it work for all of us, thanks to the unique brain.