

On My Way to Being Happy

By Mike Harris

Life is a journey. For some it is longer than for others. We all start the same way, and as we proceed, some of it is preordained. But most of the journey is a result of the path we are put on, and after a bit the choices we make.

I have in the past told about some of my peers, they have been a quite varied lot. They have run the gamut from misfit to millionaire, from scholar to ignoramus. In the course of their journey and the choices made there were moments for each of highs and lows. Me, I already told you my main goal was to be happy, and you know that I have achieved that goal in spades. But where have I been while staying happy?

I have been a farm boy, a city boy, a working man in a factory, a farmer, a soldier, a married man, a father, and through it all a teacher with two college graduates of my own and mentor of two others, and now a grandfather, and money manager, and still on my journey.

The places I have been in the country of my birth! I feel I have seen most of it on my way to being happy. Just to touch on highlights ... the wonders of New York City, Washington, D.C., the cities of retirement in Florida, the excitement of New Orleans and Las Vegas. The sporting events, rodeo in Calgary, Canada. The thrill of scenic sites of Bryce, Zion, Yosemite, and Grand Canyon National Parks. White water rafting, bears standing in a river catching and eating salmon, paying no attention to humans watching from not too far away in Alaska.

A year in Europe visiting the storied sites and museums – London, Shakespeare country, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Lourdes Museum of Art in Paris, the Riviera of the Mediterranean, Venice, Rome, The Sistine Chapel.

It has been an exciting and wonderful journey. Now I should amend the title to "The Places I Have Been," or "Been There and Done That."

At this time, from constraints of physical impediments, I am making the best of my situation. I have become more sedentary and, like most old men, am given to yarning, and have found the porch and rocking chair in Windsor Gardens Writers Group. You are a wonderful bunch of people! Thanks for listening.