

Changing of the Guard....6-15-20....Hap Hansen

I have forgotten exactly how the old saying went; something like, 'Girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice', 'Boys are made of snails and pails and puppy dog's tails'. Boy, howdy, do times ever change. Most boys and girls don't fit that old, trite description anymore, if they ever did, especially when they arrive at the realization that they are now competing against each other on sometimes equal terms. A changing of the guard? Some of us, mostly male chauvinists, after reaching the age of grandparenthood, haven't quite accepted the the modern female agenda. Some still want to open doors for the distaff side, pull out chairs, and pay the luncheon bill. It is difficult for some folks to change their guard, particularly when they grew up with the fact that the males provided the income, while females took care of the home and family. Most of us, however, have slowly, but steadily, changed our guard and come to realize and accept the notion of female equality. It was sure tough not to. Our wives were able to use, subtly and deftly, their wiles and reasoning to get us to change. Our daughters bullied us, with sweetness and guile, into acceptance of change. For me, the moment of final change to full acceptance of feminine equality came when, many years ago, one of my granddaughters rushed into my arms with hugs and kisses and said, "Guess what, Grampa, I'm the new Editor of the fifth grade newspaper and I'm trying out for the boy's basketball team!" Did I want her to become part of the boy's basketball team and show them that she could compete on even terms? Doggoned right I did! Did I want her to become the best editor the fifth grade newspaper ever had? Absolutely! Those few of us who are still reluctant to accept females as equals should consider ourselves fortunate if we advanced in our careers without having to compete with women. I, for one, would have great difficulty competing one-on-one in business with the ideas and competence of my daughter and daughters-in-law. Now long retired, I'm glad I won't have to compete with the emerging confidence and latent ability of my granddaughters. It's happening. Women everywhere, in all professions and jobs, are competing effectively with their male counterparts. Is it becoming a woman's world? No! It is becoming a world of equalization, of competence, of understanding. A changing of the guard. And that's the way it should be.

ps. In October, I will become a Great Grandfather!!!