

Ever' Day Things

by Tom McBeth



What the heck is going on?

I'm beginnin' to wonder what the heck is goin' on. Things are goin' '90 for nuthin', and it ain't gettin' any better.

Six to seven months ago, the outfit I worked for said they were going to sell the stuff I sold. I thought I didn't have to worry, 'cause in the last four years I more than doubled the amount of stuff I was sellin'. I'd put some programs together to train all the dealer, co-op, feed-sales reps and other associated folks, and it was goin' pretty good.

Last year I lost about 15% of my business to competitors in the first quarter due to a **big** difference in price. By the end of the year I had made it up — plus some. The training program made the difference. I worked my fluffy little tail off and got the business back. I may not be as smart as some folks, but I've always tried to outwork 'em.

Guess what? The outfit that bought the stuff I used to sell did not hire me. They hired all the younger guys who didn't take care of near as much business. I wasn't worried 'til the last minute when they decided I wasn't going to be part of their outfit.

Maybe I'm bein' "sour-grapey," but I think they are going to have a hard time getting things done when they really need them done.

Anyway, I'm lookin' for a way to make a

livin'. I ain't had to look for a job for 26 years. Jobs always came looking for me in the past. I guess 'cause I worked. I guess hard work is not as valuable as it was in the past.

Well, at least I won't get drug down by the doldrums. I'm plannin' on getting several things done to get things rollin' again.

The other day Al Gore said he was "conservative." I guess he will say anything to get a job in the White House. I ain't that hard up. There has to be a limit to what decent folks will do for money. I don't think Al had figured too much on doin' more than sayin' whatever it takes. Trouble is, he's sayin' so darn much that he gets to contradicting himself. He's even startin' to comb his hair like Ronald Reagan.

What the heck is going on with kids?

They don't go haul hay in the summer to get ready to play football anymore. Now they all think they have to go to the weight room all summer instead of work.

Used to be when a kid wanted something, he'd figure a way to get a job and make the money. Now a lot of kids think that it's demeaning to work. You find a lot of them runnin' around with their pants darn near to fall off. Their pants are big enough to cover two or three kids. They have tattoos and some terrible-looking haircuts along with lots of stuff stuck in their bodies, like

earrings and other hangey-down or sticky-out thingamabobs, that make it hard for me to keep my appetite. And I've never been one to have appetite problems.

Used to be kids thought of onr'y stuff to do that was kind of funny. I, myself, have short-sheeted people and put dried manure in their beds, as well as other stuff. But we never tried to destroy anything or hurt anyone. What happened to that kind of attitude? Onr'iness is really a good thing, but it's hard to find that kind of fun anymore.

Used to be, I'd go for a walk and everybody would stop to find out if I needed a ride. Now all I get is a gullet full of dust from when they go by at 65 mph on a township road. Where did the neighbors go?

I was raised to open doors for ladies. If you do that now, you might get a good "chewin' out" or a punch in the snoot. What the heck happened?

If you call for information on the phone, they ain't got any, can't find it or think *cat* is spelled with a "k." If you try to tease somebody about something, they won't talk to you; they just duck their head and keep goin'.

One thing that is happenin' right is per capita beef consumption is goin' up again. There are still some things right with the world.

The other day Bill Clinton said he wanted a new system to stop missiles from being shot over here by the Russians. Well, the Russians **and** Jesse Helms both said it wasn't a good deal. They didn't want any part of it. I kind of believe ol' Jesse on this deal, and it ain't too often he agrees with the Russians. I think the president is tryin' to push a chain uphill on this one.

Well, I'm done whinin' now, so I will stop and go outside and work. I feel better, though. Thanks for listenin'.

Tom McBeth