

Ever' Day Things

by Tom McBeth



Is it a new deal or a raw deal?

My brother said that our granddad told him that Roosevelt's New Deal would turn out to be a raw deal in the long run. Bein' more of the Republican ilk on many things, I have to throw in with him on some things. But I have to say the New Deal helped the country. Whatever. "It's an ill wind that don't blow some good." I don't know if that comes from some old Irishman or my great-grandmother. She was known to spread a lot of

stuff (trying to be nice) from old Irishmen. Well, as

you may have read last month, I have some bad news. Either a raw deal or maybe a new deal. I am out of work. The chronic disease that has spread across corporate America has come to roost at my house. I had been sellin' the same stuff for almost 17 years, and in the last four I had doubled the amount of stuff I had sold. I had several successful projects that contributed to that effort, and the outfit that bought the stuff I used to sell did not offer me a job.

For about the first 10-12 hours, I was pretty heartbroken. Then I got about half mad, and the old Irish attitude came out. "To heck with them, I'll figure a way to make more money and not have to travel all over the dang country."

A friend of mine told me to come to work for him selling real estate, and this past week I went through school and passed the state test. This weekend I'm leaving for auction school. I have been wantin' to go to that thing for 15 years. I just hope that I'm smart enough to make it happen. I have

had a lot of people in my corner rootin' me on, anyhow. Some of them are not in my family, and that makes me feel good.

Besides that, the garden is in better shape than any other year for a long time. My wife has worn out three or four pairs of gloves just pointin' at stuff for me to do around the house. If I don't figure out something to do to make a livin' 'fore too long, she is goin' to work me to a frazzle.

I have found out real quick that if I don't figure out something to do she is goin' to dang sure help me out. I can tell you that she has a long list. It's like negative amortization — the principle just keeps growin' and growin'.

All of the companies that used to be my competition that *need* people want folks who are a lot younger than I am and who have less experience and less requirement for money. I never really worried about gettin' older until the last few weeks. Now I am really worried that I need to get out and stir the pot.

Besides goin' to real-estate school and fixin' to take off to auction school, my friend and I have been working on puttin' together a consignment auction. I have not been able to sit around or go fishin' yet.

I have been havin' my fishin' fever rise a little more ever' day, but until I get a few projects near completion, the fishin' ain't goin' to happen.

Maybe I can slip away 'fore too long. I've got a truckload of nephews and nieces who want to take me.

Now that is kind of like Miss Randi wearin' out her gloves pointin' at stuff for me to do. When I take those kids, I never get to fish. I just get to laugh at them and bait the hooks for the smaller ones.

Last fall we took a bunch of them, and one was sittin' on the bank grumblin' about how he never caught anything (this was the second time he had been fishin', and he's 6 years old). He had no sooner got the words out of his mouth than his fishin' pole started movin' toward the water's edge.

When he picked up and reeled in a fish, it was like you turned on a lightbulb in his head. The light shined out through his eyes, ears and, I think, even a little out of the ends of his hair. It sure has changed his complexion, anyhow. He got a lot more serious about fishin' and less involved with his grumblin'.

Ain't it funny how grumblin' seems to go away when things start to happen? I found out a long time ago that makin' things happen ain't usually an accident. You got to stir the pot to make the soup get done all the way through.

I kind of wish that I could hang around the house and wait for things to happen, but I don't think anything will if I wait for it like that. I never heard of it workin' like that in the past, anyhow.

Take care, folks. I'll tell you later if it is a raw deal or a new deal.

