



Ever' Day Things

► by Tom McBeth

Folks need to slow down, listen

I'm buildin' up a head of steam to start to gripe and growl about things again. As you all know, I get this way once in a while, so just bear with me a little. I'm in a people-oriented type of business and have been since I can remember workin'. Even when I was a kid haulin' hay for the widow who lived down the road, it was a people business.

Somebody told me that I could be a success sellin' real estate if I could go a week and not grab somebody by the neck and choke the breath plumb out of them. I'm beginnin' to believe it. Ever'body wants me to tell them stuff I ain't supposed to tell 'em, and they get mad when I don't.

If I list a place to sell for somebody, people always want me to tell them what the bottom dollar is on a place. Hey, in that case I work for the seller. I always tell them, "Would you want me to sell you out for the bottom dollar if I worked for you?" I have done market research to find out what it should bring, and that's how we priced it, based on what similar stuff sold for. We didn't just pull a figure out of the air.

Draw me a picture

Lawyers, government workers and molasses on a cold day are things that I get tired of waiting for to do something. I'm dealing with about four lawyers, and I can tell you they do not have much of a sense of urgency to get things done on time. Why? I wish I knew. They are makin' me want to pull my hair out in clumps. The thing that really steams me is that lawyers are not much different than most other people.

I have come to the conclusion that most people have a tendency to put the cart before the horse, so to speak. They may not be right, but they're never in doubt. If you ask somebody to get something for you, they don't give you what you ask for. They give you what they think you need, or they give you something completely different. Sometimes they don't do anything.

I can understand why the Egyptians and the Chinese used pictures to write with. Maybe those guys are a lot smarter than the rest of us. Maybe we should reinvent the alphabet so most folks can understand better. If you look at road signs nowadays, you can see that some folks in the government are startin' to use pictures to get a lot of folks to understand.

Crazy has possibilities

I'm beginnin' to think the guy in the movie *Harvey* (his name was Elwood P. Dowd) had a point. Elwood had a friend named Harvey, who was a 6-foot-tall invisible rabbit. Ever'body thought Elwood was crazy, except a few who, although they could not see Harvey, knew he was there.

Elwood's mom told him that in this world a person had to be either smart or pleasant. Elwood thought that pleasant was a better deal, and few people understood — most thought he was just crazy. Occasionally this bein' crazy thing looks like it has possibilities.

Whose life ain't hectic? All of us run like a car with a stuck gas pedal. Mom and Dad told me there would be days like this. However, they just didn't tell me there would be so darned many of them stuck together.

Oh well, I think I'll just go out and dye my hair purple on top and white on the bottom, get a ring in my nose and a "DON'T ASK" tattoo on my forehead. You know what's really crazy? That's acceptable behavior now!

Well, thanks for listenin' to me vent. I feel better. I can go back to work. God bless you all.

Tom McBeth