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Getting older definitely misses the (half century) mark

Editor's Note: Lourdine is working on stories so her evil twin, Sardine, offered to work on today's issue.

I know you all have missed hearing from me. I haven't had much to say and frankly, it's hard to get a word in edge-wise with that goody-two-shoes sister of mine. But she's busy now and actually asked me to write a little. There's probably some newsy thing going on that could be in this space but you're stuck with me.

The
Second Cup
by LOURDINE FLOREK



I've got to tell you that I'm not a happy camper but this time, it's not about drivers who don't use turn signals or any of those other things that I've complained about before. The thing that has me upset happened just last week...

It was a day, just like any other. I went to the mailbox and found the usual: junk mail and bills. Then a picture on a piece of mail caught my eye. It was of a woman, wrapped in a blanket, sitting
See OLDER on other side



Clean sweep

Barbara Sanders of Hoopeston cleans off her sister-in-law's car Tuesday morning outside the Methodist Church on East Main St. Hoopeston was expected to get up to five inches of snow by Tuesday afternoon.

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\$6 per person,
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(does not include beverage)
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Older continued from other side

by some water. It asked “How comfortable should 50 be?” I flipped the thing over and I’ll be darned if it isn’t from the folks at AARP.

Yep, the twin and I turn 50 (Sunday, but don’t tell Lour-dine I told you) and they found me. Her, too, I imagine, but she hasn’t said anything about it.

I’m not happy about this whole getting old (I mean older) thing.

First of all, I’d like to know how I got to the point where I’m now eligible for AARP. For you young people, that used to stand for the American Association for Retired Persons but apparently a bunch of cranky older people didn’t like the whole “retired” bit since they start hitting you up at 50. Now AARP just stands for AARP. But I digress.

I don’t feel old and I don’t relish some organization reminding me that I’m getting that way. In my head, I’m no more than 30, and I can believe that as long as I don’t sit in front of the makeup mirror with the sunlight hitting my face, showing the wrinkles. How can I possibly have wrinkles when I still get acne?

On the other hand, age hurts. Oh, probably not as bad

as it will at 65 or 70, if I live that long, but bad enough for now. First, there are the knees. They’ve been giving me fits for years but it seems to have intensified. Not only that, but the pain travels. Today it’s the knees, tomorrow it will be the hip, the day after, maybe the elbow or the back. Apparently, that fellow, Arthur Itis, can’t make up his mind where he wants to settle and is checking out the view in various locations until he finds a permanent home. With my luck, he’ll have his main residence plus several vaca-tion homes.

The cold weather we’ve been having hasn’t helped matters. As I tried to get out of my recliner the other day, I reminded myself of my grandmother. When did THAT happen?

Then there are the eyes. The last time I made oat-meal cookies, I couldn’t tell if the recipe called for 1/4 or 1/3 cup of something and I couldn’t find my magnifying glass so I had to hold the oatmeal box in front of the magnifying side of my makeup mirror, with my glasses on. My arms are not long enough to read a magazine without my glasses.

The ears are going, too. Used to be, I could hear conversations and pick up little tidbits to tell Lour-dine to put in her paper but no more. Now there’s a gathering of crickets constantly chirping in my ears. I’m lucky I can hear someone talking right to me, let alone other conversations. It stinks.

The mind seems to be going, too. I remember hear-ing when I was younger that with age comes wisdom and that in aging, people realize they don’t know all the answers. They would know the answers. The trouble is, they can’t remember the questions.

Perhaps the worst thing about aging is the stuff that’s going on in my head. Fifty is considered mid-dle age, although I know very few people who live to be 100. I didn’t think about it before but more of my life is behind me than ahead of me. I think of my dad, who died at 52. For him, 50 was certainly not the middle.

Then there are the people who have survived 50 and lived to tell the tale. Even people barely past 50 (and you know who you are) annoyingly act like they’re in some secret club that I really don’t want to join. They

can be very patronizing to those of us on the brink. “Just wait until you’re my age,” they say. “You’re just a youngster.”

Which brings me back to AARP. After I got my packet, I scoped out AARP online (www.aarp.org) to see what it’s about. They offer discounts on insurance and other services, apparently have a lobbying branch for (gulp) senior citizen issues and have a magazine. Scrolling over to that, I found an article about choosing a nursing home. They say it’s “for a loved one” but I can’t help but think it’s to get 50-somethings to pick out one for themselves. Another piece on their web page wonders “who will care for you” and talks about the shortage of caregivers that will exist in 2030. Do I even want to think about that?

The information packet I got tried to put a positive spin on this whole aging thing. “50. Feels good, doesn’t it,” it asks.

The simple answer to that is: No.

10TH

ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, Feb. 10

Join us from 1-5 p.m. at The Pump for free chicken dinner. Music by Michael Ingram and Kayla Brown

8-12 p.m.

at the McFerren Park Civic Center

Brat Pack

Drink specials, Prizes, Give-Aways

BJ's Pump

Bar & Package Liquor Store

1023 W. Main, Hoopeston

Police News

Vonda R. Pruitt, 44, of 311 E. Lincoln, was ar-
rested at 2:30 p.m. Monday at her home.

Pruitt was charged with obstruction of justice and
was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville
to await a bond hearing.

Michael A. Rogers, 20, of 311 E. Lincoln, was
arrested at 2:30 p.m. Monday at his home.

Rogers, wanted on two criminal felony warrants,
was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

Obituaries

SHERMAN - Bill Sherman, 74, of Rossville died at
12:20 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, 2007 at Watseka Health
Care. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at
Morningstar Church, 201 N. Chicago, Rossville. Visita-
tion will be one hour before service at the church. Cre-
mation rites will be accorded. Memorials may be made
to a charity of the donor’s choice. Wolfe Funeral Home,
Rossville, was in charge of arrangements.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident
reported at 5:14 a.m. Monday in the 800 block of
East Main.

Sharon Edwards reported that an unknown vehicle
hit her parked 1991 Chevrolet GEO was struck by an
unknown vehicle.

New Books at the Library

Non-Fiction

Legal Guide For Starting & Running a Small Busi-
ness by Fred S. Steingold

Spanish Among Amigos Phrasebook: Conversation
For the Socially Adventurous by Nuria Agullo

Weather

Partly cloudy today and tomorrow. High today 16, low
5. Tomorrow’s high 20, low 6.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston
Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clearance sale on name brand kids’ wear. Save 50-75% off retail. Exclusive time limit offer. Log on to www.magickidsusa.com or call 1-888-225-9411 for free color catalog. Mention discount code MK30193.

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\$300. Call (217) 283-7028.

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