

## ENJOY YOUR FULL DEMEANOR IN THE ABSENCE OF WOMEN 07/11/00

Andy Rooney and I have more in common than writing a column for the *Express*. His recent piece on vacations and places he would rather not go on or visit suits me to a tee. In fact, I will go him one better and say I will not do either for love or money.

A routine answer from either my spouse or my granddaughter to the question of whether or not I will be accompanying them on a planned excursion is the same: "No, he would only spoil the trip."

My resolve in such matters was fortified on my trip to Albany airport on July 1 to see them off on their latest sojourn. The traffic on the Thruway and the mob scene at the rest stops were a nightmare. I suddenly realized how out of touch with the real world I have become.

So, while my two loved ones are off to enjoying the sights and sounds of far off places, I am enjoying myself immensely here at home. It's amazing how little it takes to enjoy oneself. I never really gave it much thought before, but I have become increasingly aware of it since I have become older.

I enjoy simple everyday pleasures that we often take for granted. Such as:

- My daily 'fix' with grandsons Forrest and Tecwyn, who live just across the road, is without question my greatest joy. Examining their latest hurts, or letting them help me clean fish where the stomach contents hold the most interest.
- Taking the back road to Mercer's Dairy for an ice cream cone after supper, checking for wildlife on the way, watching the ever-present fishermen at the bridge over the Black River above Port Leyden while I see if I can make my cone outlast Nancy's.
- Coming home after a long, hard day of marking timber or running boundary lines and enjoying one ice cold beer while I unwind. It's especially refreshing when you have the house to yourself and can take a leisurely shower and leave the bathroom door open.

- Watching the news while the women are gone and being able to comment on the particular comments I disagree with in a manner more appropriate to my demeanor. It's a simple pleasure to never have to watch the major network news anchors espouse their left wing agendas again by switching to Fox News.
- Being able to have a most enjoyable holiday weekend like the one just past without having to deal with crowds.

My cousin came up Sunday afternoon and we went fishing over on the Black River.

Four well-maintained boat-launching sites are well distributed from Carthage to Glenfield free of charge. We had plenty of action and brought home seven nice walleyes the first day and two walleyes and two small mouth bass the second.

The trip is worth it just for the scenery alone even if you never catch a fish or even fish. It's the perfect place to take your wife. She can relax and read or watch the wildlife. We saw muskrat, beaver, ducks, geese and best of all, no bugs or flies.

As I finish this, a scene of the grounds around the Capitol after the fireworks display in Washington, D.C. is being shown portraying the after-mess of the crowd scene. It's a perfect example of an activity you could not pay me to participate in. I derive my greatest pleasure in the fact that many others do.