

**TAKE HEART AND BE PLEASED THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR**  
**May 20, 2003**

On a visit to long-time friend and mentor of mine at Sunset Nursing Home in Boonville, he made an interesting comment that I have not been able to get out of my mind. "There is always something to take the joy out of life".

It was a simple enough notice, but for some reason I have not been able to get it off my mind. For some reason it seems to haunt me lately.

Take for instance this last week. My wife has wanted a new built-in oven for some time and we were fortunate to come up with a few extra dollars and so we purchased one. It was advertised as being the same size as the old one, so I assumed it would fit in the same opening. Wrong! The opening was three quarters of an inch too small.

Naturally I had spurned the offer to install it for an additional two hundred bucks. After all, how could I earn \$200 any easier? While I fumed and raged about how unfair life seems to be for me, my sweet wife read the directions and did some measuring.

About the time I had resigned myself to the fact that Doug Brigito would be happy to build another new cabinet at twice the cost of the oven, a faint glow of hope arrived.

The little woman allowed as how she may have figured a way out of our dilemma. By trimming both sides of the opening down to the thick ness of the sides, we could make it. Miracle of miracles, she was right. My saw hand was straight and true allowing the oven to be neatly ensconced.

I not only was relieved, but my original assessment that I was the stupidest person alive was forever removed from my mind when she cheered me even further by pointing out that I could not have made \$200 any easier. It took a full half hour to end my elation and prove my old friend's statement contained more truth than poetry.

The light of my life discovered our refrigerator was not working. So once again, plunged into the depth of gloom, we put what was salvageable into an old spare in the garage and the rest in ice chests.

The worst was learned the following day when we found out the compressor was shot and it would be best to buy another fridge. When you deduct the 2 bills I made from the 14 we had to lay out for the new one, I figure we would be no more than \$1,200 in the hole.

Another old friend came up with a remark as equally innocuous as the "joy-out-of-life" one mentioned above. It, too, was simply stated but has forever been instilled in my mind. It was, "I am well pleased". The originators of both assertions were late in years and long in character. I love and respect both men.

Charlie Stevens of Thendara went to his reward some 40-odd years ago. He came up with "I am well pleased". Frank Webb is the other originator currently residing in Sunset and doing well for his 97 years.

Both men made true statements that do not over dramatize or over inflate a situation, as it should be. In the instance Frank Webb described the situation as one "taking the joy out of life", Charlie's "I am well pleased" fits as well if you stop to think about it.

We are well pleased and fortunate that we are able to sustain and persevere through all life has handed us so far.