

41. Comments from various acquaintances

A) Comment from my friend James Holloway part of the "Fearless Four"



The "Fearless Foursome" from Left to Right: Jim Holloway, Robert Miller, Elmer Verigin, Ron Ross. This photo was taken in February 2016, at Whatshan Lake Retreat as we bravely gathered to bid our farewells to Ron who was terminally ill with Cancer. We reminisced the two years we were friends and worked at Prince Rupert 1963 – 1965.

Sent: September 26, 2016 6:41 AM

To: Elmer Verigin

Subject: Re: Update on Ron

Elmer

You are most kind and strong maintaining the link tightly with Ron and Elaine, as he passes.

It is hardly easy staying so physically close to someone dying, especially someone connected so strongly to our beginnings.

I struggle with this to some degree also, because so many of our long term friends seem to be dropping out day by day, whether dying or losing their ability to relate and function.

There is guilt for sure being a survivor, and for me, being removed by the miles.

Elmer, I really appreciate your steadfast friendship and commitment to inclusion. Bless you. And bless Ron and Elaine in his passage.

Finally, I will go to own grave in my time, with a few really bright memories to cheer me on. The most recent, and perhaps brightest was our few days at Ross's cabin this summer.

Our very special foursome consists (for a few days more at least) of four very diverse personalities with, in some special way, an uncommon passion to share deep and lively conversations between spasms of laughter and jest.

Never have I ever enjoyed other such a meaningful and fulfilling connections with genuine male musketeers other than our fearsome foursome. And Elmer, of our foursome, you are the strongest adhesive and spark to our bonds,

Bless you.

Ron is indeed fortunate to have you nearby. May he pass in peace and tranquility.

Hugs all around,

Jim

B) My Facebook comment to Brian Feitz on his birthday November 25, 2017:

".....Last time I saw you we were coaching Castlegar Girls Softball and you were a young man then.

Remember to think young and hang around the right people and birthdays just become a counting process.

Don't pay too much attention to counting but loving is a wonderful pastime....."

Brian Feitz Response on Facebook;

".....Elmer Verigin.... Thank you so much. Yes, I was a young man coaching ball with you. Remember the jump we would do clicking our heels...:-) Damn we had a lot of fun and memories traveling to the provincials. Elmer, you have know idea what you thought me in our casual conversations, Two of the biggest lessons... 1) you told me about the apprentice in Elkford... you would take a year off his apprenticeship if he could always tell you where a shovel was when you asked.... I must have had a dumb look an my face... you then explained that you wanted him to pay attention too everything even when walking around... you have no idea how valuable this has been to me and how many people I have told that story to so they would pay attention at all times 2) we were on the ferry going to Victoria, we were leaning over the railing watching the waves.... we were talking about your first job... you packed all your books into your office.... One of the guys were teasing you about the books.... He told you school is finished it's time to get experience now... you told me... anyone can buy and education it's what you do with it that counts.... after education its experience that counts. What I took from this was you can sit and have Idea's all day long and great idea's but until you have the experience of putting that idea into action it's just an idea.... Ideas don't take you to far in life until they become and experience. Elmer Verigin I look forward to your posts and the wisdom behind them, I have no idea how many lives you have affected like mine but I am sure it is many. I'm hoping that there are still campsite available tor this year's festival as I look forward to having a beer and a chat with you. I will contact Nona to see what is available. Thanks again for being you Elmer Verigin....."

Elmer Verigin response on Facebook:

".....I wish I could take all the credit that you have showered me with but Brian, you had in you then which you have exposed now with the manner in which you unfolded your life and applied all of yourself to all that you did

You remind me very much of the commitment that your mother had when you lived by the tracks.,,, she worked her fingers to the bond to raise all of you

You have proven that her efforts were not in vain

Yes, you should come to Whatshan and see what the unselfishness in people can contribute to all of mankind

You are ready to understand what I am saying now and I look forward to seeing you again


Maybe even a Scotch might work as well....."

C) Notation on thank you card received from the Superintendent hired to direct the education of 10 carpenter apprentices from J. Lloyd Crowe High School in Trail, B.C. for our construction program in 2004 at Whatshan Lake Retreat. They erected cabins 6 through 8 inclusive and the bandshell at Whatshan Lake Retreat 645 Whatshan Lake Forestry Road, near Edgewood, B.C.

Edited by EWV November 09, 2021

My life was
enriched working
for you this year!

Thanks,



ABY & KALY