

DON'T LET THE OLD MAN IN.



By Larry Hayes, A050 CEO/Publisher

A few weeks ago, I turned 80. Yelp. Me. Hard to believe but that's what my birth certificate says so it must be true. Turning "80" is a big number but not the biggest in my life.

I remember turning 13. That was really big. Exciting. Couldn't wait to be a teenager. No more "kidding" around. Four years later--17 was "big" because that's when I joined the Air Force right out of high school and found myself in Tripoli, North Africa dodging sandstorms, spiders and eating pizza for the first time.

"21" was a magical year. Back to "civilian" life after four years in the military. Starting college. Ready to challenge the world with full voting and drinking rights. Big dreams to become a writer like my idol Ernest Hemmingway.

Turning 27 was big because that's when I graduated from Wichita State University, KS and joined the Peace Corps as a teacher in Madras, India. Why big? Because that's where I met and married my beautiful Indian bride Gloria, my wife of 52 years.

Age 32 was the best year of all. The birth of our beautiful daughter Charm. Professionally-- 43 was big. The launch of my first company—Hayes Marketing which lasted 22 amazing years in the world of "Mad Men" and high tech.

Age 65 was big-- the launch of my second company—ActiveOver50 media which continues today as the leading publication/website for boomers and seniors in the San Francisco Bay Area.

70 went by in the "blink of an eye" which brings

me to "80." Indeed, a big number considering that I'm reminded that the average male dies by age 78. Which means that I'm living and enjoying life on borrowed time.

Recently I overheard a conversation between two older guys. One lamented that he was "65" and old. I smiled and thought to myself—Really? 65 is old? For many, it's the beginning of a new chapter.

On my 80th birthday, my tennis partner asked after a two-hour match: "What are you going to do?"

"DON'T LET THE OLD MAN IN" WAS MY REPLY.

My journey continues. Keep working and publish A050; captain and play USTA tennis two to three times a week; lawn bowl weekly with my wife and go fishing when I can.

I know that 80 is a big number and I'm not immortal but it doesn't define what "I can and cannot do." I'll keep moving and doing the things that I love as long as I can.



Note: "Don't Let The Old Man In" is a music video by Tony Keith and Clint Eastwood, 88, —an inspiring message about living life to the fullest. To view, go to: activeover50.com.