

In the process of moving from Cannon Falls to Portage, Wisconsin I have found things that have been lost since the previous move. One of which was a banner that was produced for the national convention of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) in 2004. I was President-Elect of the organization that year which meant I was also chairman of the convention. For several years, NAFB would hang a banner prominently at the Westin Crown Center Hotel for all attendees to see. They were encouraged to autograph the banner which if you look close at the picture you'll see some of those autographs. The picture has been added to this column if you scroll all the way down to the bottom.

Jeremy Povenmire was an employee of NAFB that year. Jeremy, with his advertising background, came up with this idea to superimpose Glen Campbell's hair onto me and then he proceeded to compose a top ten list. I was known to come up with various top ten lists that were related to agriculture or farm broadcasting. Jeremy's Top Ten list was about the top things I would bring to the office of NAFB President.

I will explain some of the background of some of the items on the list. For instance #10: Proving the Brady Bunch System Works. This was at the time, a little over a year since Mary Pat and I were married. I brought my four kids into the marriage and she brought her two so not quite how the Brady Bunch did it by darn close. And it does work.

#9: Has Access to NAFB Staff in "All Locations." This came about as I needed to talk to our Executive Director Gene Millard and I was told that he had gone to the men's room. Well naturally I found him because I needed a signature. I had to find Jeremy one day in the same fashion. It was however in a different bathroom.

#8: Outranks a Colonel. As I've written about previously, I worked for a long time with my colleague Col Jon Phillips. He was a Colonel from his many years of being a livestock auctioneer. And as we all know in the military, the President outranks a Colonel.

Over the course of my time on the national NAFB board, we would have numerous meetings and informal meetings in various locations and Jeremy would always quiz me about things in my life so that's how he got to know me and come up with this list. #7: Will play "Rhinstone Cowboy" Every Time He Enters a Room. I must have told Jeremy more than once that Rhinstone Cowboy was the most overplayed bad song on the radio and he remembered that. Now I liked Glen Campbell but just not that particular song.

#6: Spouse Doesn't Know NAFB Enough To Dislike Us. Again by the time this convention came around in 2004, we had only been married 14 months. Mary Pat one year later came up with her own 'Top Ten' list and she brought the house down with applause and laughter. It was a tough act to follow. Her list had to do with things she learned about farm broadcasters and radio people. I remember the one that really got the crowd I believe into a standing ovation was

when she said she learned that they do everything in 30 seconds and I mean EVERYTHING. If only I had her sense of humor. Afterword's, Hall of Fame farm broadcaster Ken Root comes up to her and asks; "Hey Mary Pat, you got a minute?"

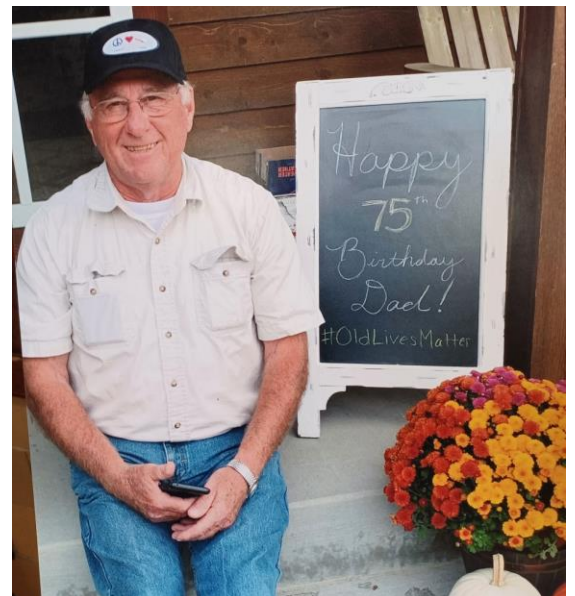
This reminds me of my high school teacher and former West Concord Mayor Bob Doyle who would often say to us students and I quote "10,000 comedians starving to death and you're trying to be one."

#5: Proclaim Dan Fogelberg Honorary NAFB Member. Again as Jeremy quizzed me over the few years I worked with him he took a mental note of me saying Fogelberg was one of my favorite musicians. #4: Perpetuates the Stoic Minnesotan Stereotype. What can I say? I do.

#3: Thinks He Can Keep Jahnke in Line. Pam Jahnke is a longtime farm broadcaster from Wisconsin. She would keep all us peapods in line and I'm not sure anyone could ever keep her in line. She's a gifted broadcaster who says it like it is and at times would scare the bejeebers out of all of us.

#2: Best Hair in NAFB. That was only when I wore the Glen Campbell wig. Ken Root actually had the best hair in NAFB. His hair was very much like the pointy-haired boss in the Dilbert cartoon strip. And finally #1: Will Set the Pace for the Next 60 Years. The 2004 convention was our 60th anniversary of the NAFB. I don't know if I set the pace but at least I kept the organization going and it's still going strong today.

Finally as I end this particular column I wanted to make mention of the passing of my longtime friend Corky Buckingham. Corky was my biggest fan of this column. Often times I would write something that would bring back a memory or two for him and he'd have to call and tell me a story or two. Being a mail carrier for 40 years, he got to know who lived where and he would know who used to live there. His knowledge of the history of the area was amazing. We looked at an aerial picture of a farm place at the WCHS museum that I did not recognize and no one did until Corky looked at it and gave us an entire history of that particular farm and told us which road it was on and who lived to the north and south of it.



One of many pics displays at visitation



Corky always had great stories and had a great laugh that he would interject into the stories. And of course he'd get telling a story and start laughing and I'd start laughing and then he'd interject the phrase 'You can't make this shit up!' And then he'd continue with the story. We served on the Concord Town Board together for the 10 years I was on the board back in the 1980's. I will miss seeing him around. I think of the words of the Randy Travis song Three Wooden Crosses: It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you; it's what you leave behind you when you go. So long Corky.



Also on display at the visitation was Corky's key to the city which he received in 2013 for his work on establishing a Charter School in West Concord.



Below is a picture of the 2004 NAFB banner during Emery's Presidential-Elect year. He was chair of that year's National NAFB convention.

