

AND THEN IT IS WINTER

By Winston Moore

You know.....time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams.

But here it is.....the back nine of my life and it catches me by surprise.....How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that I was only on the first hole and the back nine was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is....my friends are retired and getting gray.....they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me.....but, I see the great change.....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant.....but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for that day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore.....it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will....I just fall asleep where I sit.

And so.....now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though I'm on the back nine, and I'm not sure how long it will last.....this I know, that when it's over on this earth.....it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done.....things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not on the back nine yet.....let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the back nine or not!

Notes: Winston was 91 when he wrote this. Today, he is 100 and still drives himself to his office. He was/is a legendary outdoorsman, Idaho businessman, and fly fisher. He was a pioneer in permit fishing back in the day when most fly fishers didn't think permit could be caught on a fly. He released 112 permit, taking most of them in Belize. He often used a mothership, fishing with Captain Martin McCord and also Dean Myers, when Dean was a kid and new to guiding (Dean is the current captain of the Rising Tide).

I recall meeting him over 30 years ago, at an American Sportsman's Expo in San Mateo, where he was putting on a presentation on permit fishing. We went to the show specifically to listen to him and to ask him some questions about catching permit, which he graciously took the time to answer.

