

One-Liners.....That Changed My Life!

5 “*Never come between a mother bear and her cubs!*”

I still remember my 5th birthday in August, 1930. After lunch and blowing out the candles, we ate birthday cake, climbed into our car and headed out for Yellowstone National Park.

When we arrived at the Park entrance, Dad opened his bag and to my surprise, pulled out a small pistol—which the Ranger promptly plugged so it couldn’t be fired. Later, we were all surprised, and frightened, when Dad walked toward some young bear cubs and was suddenly confronted by a huge, adult bear keeping guard!

That night the Ranger at the campfire made the lesson clear, when he told us, “*Never come between a mother bear and her cubs!*”

I learned two lessons I never forgot: Be very careful when you are in unfamiliar territory. And, be very careful not to come between *any* mother and her children!

There was one more, less obvious but perhaps more important lesson. Our parents were building us together as a family. No matter how hard the times, we seemed to get away most summers. Dad would pack a tent and luggage on one running board and in an extra trunk on the rear. We three boys would be in the backseat, with luggage between the seats, topped by our bedding. At times one of us saw a lot of the countryside, facing the window in enforced silence as “time out” for quarreling.

But we were together. And we were building memories that have lasted for a lifetime. Those vacations helped make us a family.

And families are *very* important for bears *and* boys!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2016 Marvin J. Martin