

To my customers, my friends—

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "I wish the days to be as centuries, loaded, fragrant."

It is ironic to me that this author, a relative of the same Captain Emerson who was instrumental in naming the town of St. Francis should make a statement that certainly sums up the 47 years that I have been in business in this same town.

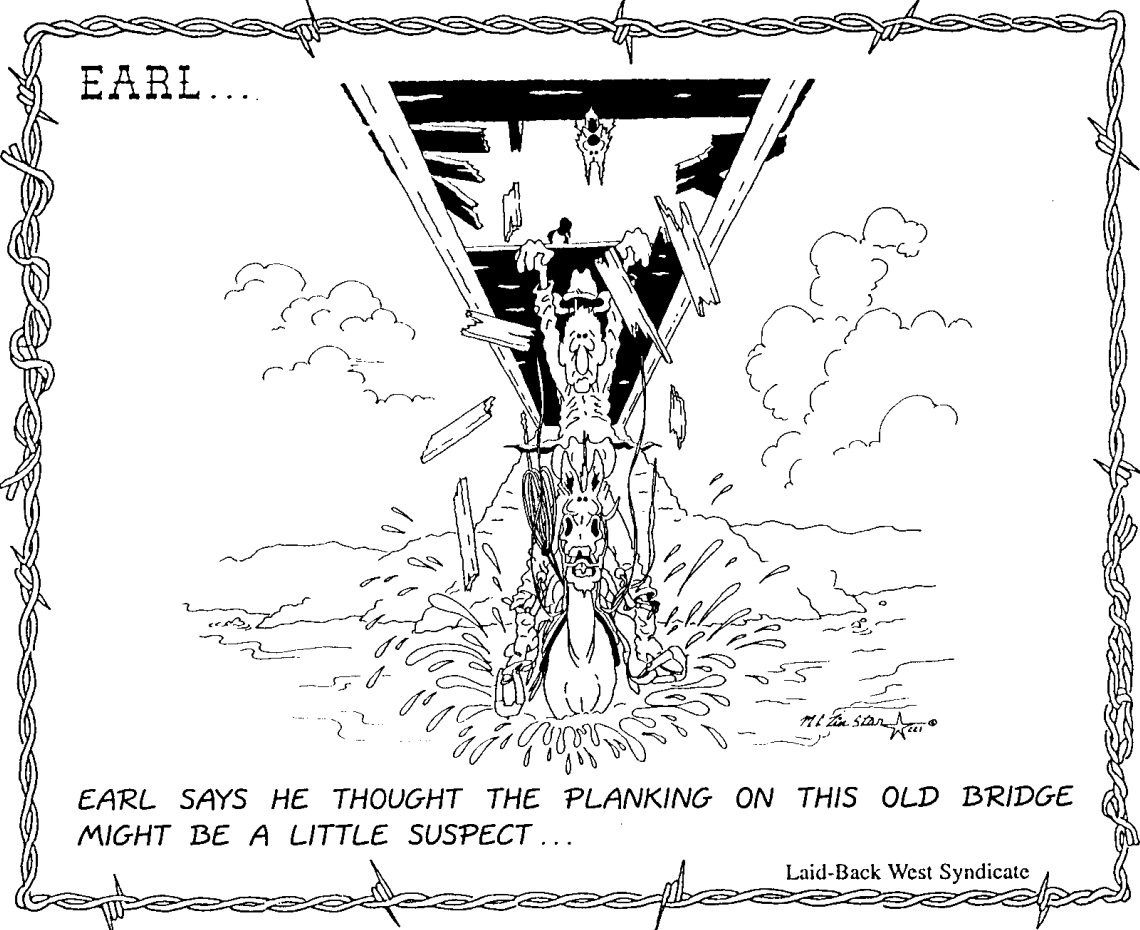
Some of you will remember my little sayings, but when I read Emerson's quote, I find it to be quite true for me.

The wonderful customers that I have met through the years on Washington Avenue are certainly special to me. Their support was always there and greatly appreciated — the same support through the early years that Chick was given. The wonderful employees through the years will always have a place in my heart because of their dedication: Larry Brunow with 42 years and our fantastic four who have garnered a total of 96 years. The approximately 200 high school students who worked for us gave us hope for the future.

For a business to survive for so many years is a definite tribute to the people of St. Francis and the surrounding area. As I walk out the door on the last day of my 47 years, I won't forget all the wonderful days which truly were not only "loaded but also fragrant."

Thank you for a wonderful lifetime of memories and support.

Pauline Hixon



EARL....

EARL SAYS HE THOUGHT THE PLANKING ON THIS OLD BRIDGE MIGHT BE A LITTLE SUSPECT...

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