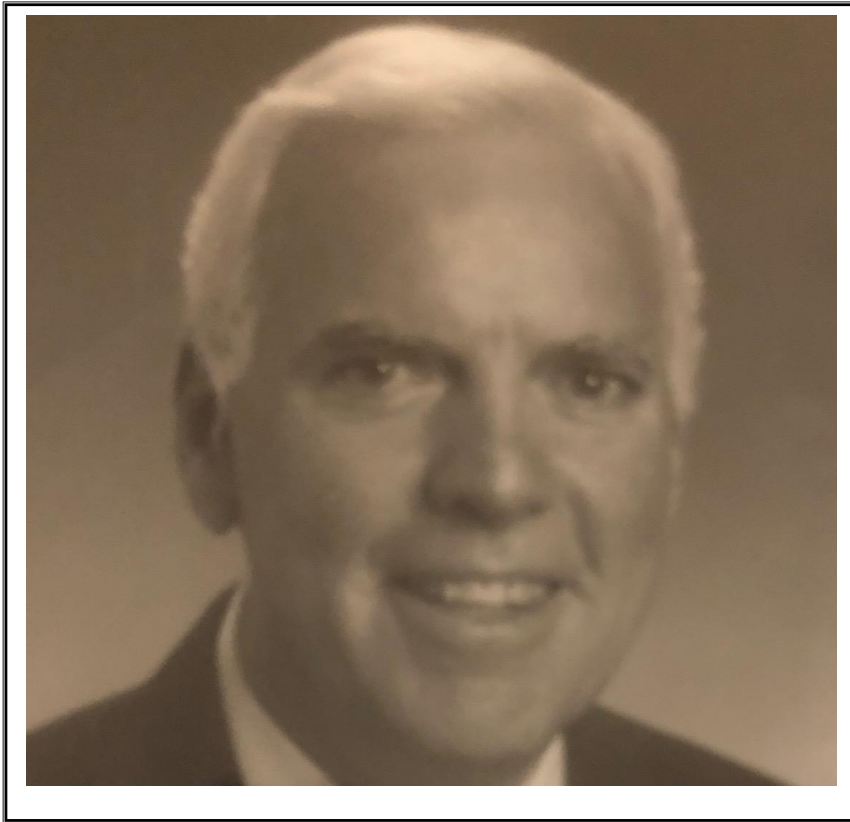


# **OH CAPTAIN, OUR CAPTAIN!**



*RoberTo  
a VERY Special Edition*

*Received as a gift from dad in a small two-part hinged frame,  
with this poem on the right  
and a mirror on the left.*

The Man In The Glass

Peter Dale Wimbrow Sr.

When you get what you want in your struggle for self  
and the world makes you king for a day,  
just go to the mirror and look at yourself  
and see what that man has to say.

For it isn't your father, or mother, or wife  
whose judgment upon you must pass.  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life  
is the one staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please – never mind all the rest  
For he's with you, clear to the end  
And you've passed your most difficult, dangerous test  
If the man in the glass is your friend.

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years  
and get pats on the back as you pass.  
But your final reward will be heartache and tears  
If you've cheated the man in the glass.

8/14/88  
40th Anniversary

THE TOBIN CANNONBALL  
(to the tune of "Walbash Cannonball")

We're 'bout to tell a story  
the tale of how we came to be.  
We'll skip the harrowing times and laundry lines,  
and praying on our knees  
We might make up some details  
to fill in those we can't recall.  
We may regret this, but can't help it.  
We're on the TOBIN CANNONBALL

CHORUS: Well there came a lot of children,  
and there went a lot of years.  
And how it all got paid for,  
that ain't exactly clear.  
The one thing that we've got is:  
each other, and that's all.  
Love's the way that we all stay  
on the TOBIN CANNONBALL.

It all began one evening  
at a dance near Riverview.  
Who'd have guess it would come to this  
by the time that they were through.  
To a girl from by the Lake Shore,  
that Navy man seemed tall.  
And that's what started rollin'  
This TOBIN CANNONBALL

CHORUS  
There's some doubt as to her age then,  
of that we're not quite sure.  
But he waited 'til she got to college,  
so his motives must've been pure.  
If she knew what she was in for  
there might've been a longer stall  
But then some of us might not be ridin'  
On the TOBIN CANNONBALL.

CHORUS

How he proposed is kind of hazy.  
None of us were there that day.  
There's talk of a telegram that said:  
"Wild horses won't keep me away"  
When Grama Bangert heard the word,  
kettles rattled the kitchen walls.  
She's the only one who could have stopped  
the TOBIN CANNONBALL

CHORUS

Well they moved to Indiana,  
then Chicago's far South Side  
By the next time came to move again,  
there were three kids for the ride.  
Maybe it just turned out this way,  
the coincidence is quite small,  
but the neighborhood turned from German to Greek  
when arrived the TOBIN CANNONBALL.

CHORUS

From Artesian Ave. to Phoenix  
and on to Omaha,  
adding more than twenty grand kids  
thanks to our spouses and in-laws.  
Having been out on our own a while,  
and finding it's quite a haul  
makes us all the more appreciate  
the TOBIN CANNONBALL

CHORUS

Spouses' Verse Added:  
Now you've picked up a few passengers  
all along the way.  
Though we weren't born a Tobin,  
still we're proud to say:  
we're glad to be part of the family.  
We love you one and all.  
We're the in-laws and the outlaws  
On the TOBIN CANNONBALL.

DOUBLE CHORUS

12/18/05  
80th Birthday

If you "remember what your name is"  
you'll take it wherever you go.  
Then "let 80% go over your shoulder,"  
and that's on a good day—ya know?

If "the afternoon knew what the morning never expected,"  
why didn't it tell us sooner?  
"Eat that and you'll get some more,"  
...is that a promise or only a rumor?

Since "...it is all part of it..."  
there's nothing unconnected to the rest.  
And there's never a choice to confuse us,  
if "all you have to do is your best."

If we'd "only speak when there's good things to say,"  
our world would be a quieter place.  
And if you "always know who your friends are,"  
less likely you'll be found in disgrace.

If we all "become part of the solution,"  
our world would not be so much in trouble.  
And if we just "look for the good in others,"  
there's less chance it will turn into rubble

If all would "be of service to others,"  
so many would not feel so alone.  
And if we agreed to "give them your smile,"  
there wouldn't be much for us to atone

This wit and wisdom we're been given  
so we don't have to figure everything out.  
Instead, "make it better and pass it along,"  
thereby discovering what life's all about.

December 16-17, 2006  
On the Amtrack to Chicago  
Headed for Home

Neither time nor distance separates  
connections of the heart.  
So closely aligned,  
whatever's lost, we find  
not where it ends, but how we start.

Whether it be with family or friends,  
the foundation is the same.  
It's built with love,  
that great gift from above.  
If missed is life's only shame.

In the recipe for successful relations,  
the secret ingredient is trust;  
in ourselves and each other,  
as does a child its mother;  
more in bad times than good that we must.

From these pieces our puzzle assembles,  
to create such a beautiful sight.  
Appreciated by all  
who respond to the call  
and receive by giving with all of their might.

12/17/13  
Dad's B-Day

Eighty-ninth year now underway.  
Plenty of songs and smiles,  
traveling millions of miles,  
enduring plenty of trials,  
and yet always a kind word to say.

Exuding good example throughout.  
Quick to help any in need,  
plant an encouragement seed,  
commend a good deed,  
or tell you what life's all about.

Proud of his family and friends.  
Would not hurt a mouse.  
Loved painting his house.  
Easily spots any louse.  
Always sees beginnings in ends.

A great husband and father.  
Official softball pitcher.  
Could not have been richer.  
(musta been a great kisser!-)   
We're lucky to be his son or daughter.

He is, and shall always be,  
our Captain,  
encouraging us to chart our own course,  
anticipate the tides,  
sense the prevailing winds,  
avoid the shoals,  
watch out for pirates,  
keep our sails trimmed, and  
not-just-remain-afloat-but-forge-ahead,  
unfettered if not always undaunted.  
Our Captain taught us to be  
like all good sailors:  
follow our guiding star,  
read our own compass,  
show respect to our shipmates,  
know our depths,  
and stay smart about  
when to drop anchor and where.  
Like all real navy men,  
our Captain stood his watch  
and enjoyed shore leave.  
He has a knack for knowing  
when to go full-steam-ahead,  
and how to pull back the throttle.  
He keeps going in the right direction,  
knowing his position in any weather,  
when to defy the odds,  
how to ride out a storm,  
and where to seek safe harbor.  
He never even thinks about going down with the ship.  
He is, and shall always be, our Captain.

12/19/15

Wit & Wisdom of F.X.T. Sr.

"Look into a fire. You can see the past, present and future."

"Know who you're with."

"Remember your name."

"Be a leader, not a follower."

"It's all part of it."

"Low and slow..."

"Be part of the solution, not part of the problem."

"You mean to tell me..."

"All we have is each other."

"You have to let 90% go over your shoulder."

"Know who your friends are."

"We don't need money, just the use of it."

"Give them your best."

"You're better than that."

"Do the right thing."

"Stay together."

"What's the magic words? Please & thank you."

"We'll see..."

"Be a winner."

"Can I put some ice in that for you.?"

"Show 'em what you got."

"We're proud of you."

"Get along with each other."

"Just keep goin'."

"Look 'em in the eye."

"Anyone who didn't have fun wasn't trying."

"Take the long cut...not the short cut."

"We're in the sunset. You're in the sunrise."

"You'll see days we never see."

Frank: (Sneeze...) Noreen: Bless you, Frankie..

Frank: He has blessed me, Noreen, he has..."

12/19/16

DAD'S 91<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY

It arrests to his character and wisdom  
that the most damning thing he could say

- "you're better than that" -

turned out to be a compliment.

Or that his most clear directive

- "take what you get,

make it better,

and pass it along" -

doesn't tell you what to do,

or how to do it.

Similarly, with his admonitions to

"Do the right thing"

and

"Be a leader, not a follower",

providing scant information

about what that meant,

and not a hint of how hard it would be.

He would teach without preaching,

propel without pushing,

and make the sale without selling,

always quick to smile

and even quicker to apologize,

while never taking his eye off the ball.

He didn't tell as much as show us

how to handle whatever challenges arise  
with grace, humor, humility and humanity,

love ever present,

a strong sense of

highly principled pragmatism,

and, of course, a song.

How fortunate we are  
to have gotten an early HEADS UP!!

In a world that predicts  
we are what we want  
defines us by what we get,  
emphasizes strategy/tactics rather than principles/values,  
prioritizes form over substance,  
and preaches you are not guilty  
if you don't get caught AND convicted,  
we were Instead encouraged to  
be who we are,  
know who you're with  
and treat them right,  
take care of yourself  
and help those who ask for it,  
take the long cut rather than short,  
express appreciation and gratitude,  
maintain a positive attitude,  
lead by example, and remember:  
not much good happens after midnight.

It didn't make life any easier,  
and rather quite to the contrary,  
but it did make it simpler, clearer,  
and filled with more love  
than it otherwise might.

They didn't change the world –  
just ours.

“Sail on! Sail on! Sail on!”  
so our Captain quotes the poet,  
re-conjuring his 6th grade recitation  
of Columbus' imagined words to sailors  
when their doubt and dread intersected.

This coincides with his counsel to us all,  
and to himself sailing into his 94th year  
as, he says, his future is in the past  
and all that's left is the fireworks.

Bold bravery reflecting a positive outlook  
even at a most harrowing moment,  
giving us the best of holiday presents:  
a good example.

Adding hope to faith and love,  
St Paul's “three things that abide”,  
he described and now defines  
the arc we all transverse  
from life's sunrise to its sunset  
that passes as quickly as a single day.

As ever, he exemplifies his own mantra:  
“Take what you get, make it better,  
and pass it along.”

Those follow in his footsteps are blessed  
with this well-marked trail he's blazed.

And so will he,  
and must we all,  
“Sail on! Sail on! Sail on!”

3/11/19  
FXT, Senior – R.I.P.

Neither as here as we think  
nor gone as it seems,  
but rather always somewhere in between.

We celebrate new babies “birth”  
as if they weren’t alive and kickin’  
for months before being seen,

and bemoan a loved one’s loss  
even though they remain with us,  
influencing every lesson we glean.

Celebration and mourning  
mark the high and low points  
of the ongoing Circle of Life,

reminding us constantly  
of life’s ebb and flow  
– its blessings as well as its strife –

whose uncertainties are useful distractions  
from the certainties we prefer to ignore  
until they cut us like a knife.

3/16/19  
Vios con Dios!

Some sing-a-longs cannot be heard.  
Some sights cannot be seen.  
Some facts cannot be believed and  
some ideas never fully understood.

Some lights never get lit,  
and some never go out.  
Some mountains never climbed,  
and those things most important never die.

It’s what we cannot touch  
that we most feel.  
What we will never reach  
toward which we continue to strive.  
What we’ll never know  
that we continue to learn.  
What we most desperately want  
that we’ve already have.

The Circle-of-Life keeps widening  
eventually encompassing us all,  
alerting us to awaken  
before we sleep.

