The Boomer Times

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Jackson and the Tetons

Charles E. Hill
COLUMBIA

As born and bred South Carolinians, my wife Frances and I hadn't spent much time in the American West. Retirement afforded us the opportunity to fill this void. Our journey last summer began in Salt Lake City and continued via the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway to Jackson, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Cody, the Bighorn Mountains, the Great Plains, the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore. There was too much territory to cover in one article, so this is going to focus on our experience in Jackson and the Tetons.

First, the nomenclature. Jackson is the name of a small city that is situated in a valley called Jackson Hole. The names are often used interchangeably. There are several popular ski areas such as Snow King and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, but these are outside of the immediate town.

According to our tour guide, Jackson is beset by upscale gentrification where the billionaires are driving out the millionaires. Items for sale in the local emporia evidence this status where you can find various taxidermized wildlife for sale at the prices that range from a $1,500 badger to a full-sized $29,000 grizzly bear. The clerk assured me that they had sold four grizzlies, as well as a couple of polar bears.

The shady town square features arches made of shed elk antlers at each corner of the park. Boy Scouts collect these from nearby National Elk Refuge. We had lunch at a small restaurant, with a rabbit theme, featuring homemade buns. The name—wait for it—the Bunnery Bakery. The food was good, the pun notwithstanding. There are also art galleries, outdoor sculptures and an ice cream store ($5.89 per scoop) in the easily walkable town.

The airport, several miles north of town, claims to be the busiest in Wyoming. Hmmm. When we arrived at 6 p.m. to turn in our rental car, the place was all but abandoned. We saw just one couple in the waiting area, and they said, "You must be the Hills." Our driver to Jackson Lake Lodge was the only other person on the premises, and he was looking for us. The quiet isolation of the area attracted a group of pronghorns, which were grazing in the sagebrush as we left.

Next we travelled to the Teton Range that provides a mountainous transition from the flat Jackson Hole valley to the Yellowstone region. The Grand Teton National Park was established in 1929 to protect the range's major peaks. Legend has it that early 19th-century French speaking trappers, who were apparently lonely and starved for female companionship, named the three highest peaks "les trois Tetons," literally, "the three breasts." Hence the name.

Jackson Lake Lodge is the centerpiece of the park. The 60-foot floor to ceiling windows in the main lobby afford a mesmerizing view of Jackson Lake and the snow-capped Tetons beyond. Guests spend a lot of time here, as the accommodations are not so spectacular. Our room was in a row of rustic cabins near the lodge, which one of our fellow travelers dubbed "the Boy Scout camp." The disclaimer in our tour brochure noted that "the unique benefit of staying in the parks' hotels and lodges more than make up for their occasional shortcomings." There wasn't air conditioning in our cabin, however it wasn't needed as the morning temperatures in late May hovered in the 30s.

It's a short walk from the hotel to the top of Lunch Tree Hill, which offers a different perspective of the Willow Flats wetlands, flowering arrowleaf balsamroot, the lake and the Teton range. Though the distance wasn't far, I quickly became short of breath, hopefully more due to the altitude than a lack of conditioning.

We went on a horseback ride one afternoon. Taking our reservation, the hotel concierge wanted to know our age, weight and equestrian experience. Zilch, I told her. Presumably they matched us with mounts suitable to our measurables. Our horses were very docile, and pretty much on autopilot once we got on the trail. Afterwards, however, we learned of an unfortunate encounter between riders and a bear in different area of the park.

The hour-long ride took us up a ridge, through groves of aspen and to an overlook of the Oxbow Bend of the Snake River. The view of the lake and the mountains beyond was glorious. A white trumpeter swan even sat on her nest while her mate lurked nearby.

For the more adventurous, the park offers float trips on the Snake River, trails for hiking, backpacking, fly fishing, boating and camping. For the more sedentary, there is spectacular scenery driving Teton Park Road, with close-up views of the three main peaks and a glimpse of the historic Jenny Lake Lodge, the luxury accommodation in the park.

The vistas in this park are so stunning that I had to keep reminding myself we weren't in the Canadian Rockies. It's good to remember that we don't have to leave the U.S to find pristine, spectacular natural beauty.

If you would like the full travelogue of this trip, send an email to chill@sc.rr.com.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Donald L. (Rip) Van Riper, Greenville

First, a "thank you" to Mills Gallivan for serving as editor of the Boomer Times and recently compiled this update from one of our members.

Rip: Retiring from practicing law is like being retired from any other job. You are free to chase all of the non-essential pursuits that you have put off for decades. I am amazed at how busy I have become with house maintenance, volunteering and grandchildren.

When I was in law school, Lisa and I loaded our 1973 Plymouth Duster with sleeping bags and a tent. That 1974-summer we drove from Columbia to Alaska. Still having a few weeks before the start of the next semester, we also drove to Mexico on the same trip. The car odometer registered 12,000 miles larger when we returned. The reason I mention this is that I have an unquenchable thirst for travel. I took a lot of great trips during my career as a lawyer but since retirement I am unchained. Recently I went to Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius. Having traveled to Rome frequently, I even served as a tour guide to a group in the summer of 2018. I believe the number of countries I have visited to date is around 40.

After serving as a workers' compensation commissioner, I learned that there are a number of lawyers who despise me. They have been cordial on the surface, but I have seen delight in their eyes if I suffer any misfortune. For their pleasure, I am going to tell about the raccoon.

Following my retirement, a troop of raccoons began living in my garage, eating leftover cat food. I found them fascinating to watch with their human-like hands. One particular raccoon seemed to lose her fear of me. She began taking food from my hand. Every afternoon she came to my back door around dusk expecting a meal. I named her Rochelle, and I could actually call her like a dog. One afternoon I noticed Rochelle on the deck. I went outside and told her I would get some scraps. As I turned to go into the kitchen she charged and bit me on the back of my leg. Raccoons frequently carry rabies, and I was fearful that I would also become rabid. I did the only thing I could: I shot Rochelle with a pistol and took the carcass to DHEC. I then began a series of shots for rabies treatment. After the shots were finished, DHEC said she was clean of rabies. I was on Medicare by this time, but the cost of rabies treatment is about $15,000. I hope my enemies are smiling.

What I miss about practicing law is the genuine appreciation of clients that are happy with your service. I still have a client who faithfully brings me a ham every Christmas because I won a child custody case for him 30 years earlier. Would I become a lawyer again? That question is impossible to answer. Given my desire to succeed at the age of 22, probably yes. On the other-hand my license is still good, but I have no desire to practice law at 68. I have made friendships with some attorneys who are very fine people and I count that as a "plus" over my career. However, the legal profession has changed, especially after Bates v. State Bar of Arizona in 1977, and I would not like to enter the competitive climate that currently surrounds the practice of law.

My next big adventure is helping my children raise my grandchildren. It is clear to me that they have no idea how to do this. I have three grandchildren in Greenville and two in Memphis, Tennessee. Not that Lisa and I are doting grandparents, but we bought a place in Memphis. Even though it is a nine-hour drive, we frequently go there so we can be grandparents to these children. I also still have some traveling to do with my free time. I intend to spend some time in the Balkans and perhaps North Africa.

Since retirement, I have served on the boards of the Greenville Symphony, the Greenville Chorale and the Carolina Youth Symphony. I have also spent four years volunteering at Hollis Academy, a Title One school in west Greenville. To our younger lawyers I would say this: engage and support your community. I have watched the transformation of our city since opening a law office in 1975. Find something, anything, in Greenville that needs your time and talent and give freely. Be part of it of building this great city. I wish all of you, success and wellbeing.

WELLNESS CORNER

Jack Muench
WILLCOX BUYCK & WILLIAMS, PA, FLORENCE

The SC Bar Wellness Committee is inviting you to join its virtual walk across the country in the Walk with Us! challenge. The goal is to log enough collective steps to walk from Charleston, SC to Los Angeles, California. All you need to do is download the free Strava app, join the SC Bar Wellness Club and get active. Walk, run, bike or swim to have your steps counted to the cross-country adventure. The challenge begins July 1. One lucky participant will win the grand prize! Click here for additional information.

Know An Outstanding Colleague Who Serves Others?

Nominations are currently being accepted for our division's Pro Bono Award, given to recognize outstanding pro bono contributions of members of the SC Bar Senior Lawyers Division. The recognition focuses on the improvement of the civil legal system and the legal profession through pro bono public service to those unable to afford the services of an attorney. Nominations are accepted electronically. The deadline is October 1.

Where There's a Will There's a Way . . . to Provide Pro Bono Legal Assistance

Betsy Goodale
SC BAR, COLUMBIA

As some of you know, the South Carolina Bar's Pro Bono Program and the USC School of Law Pro Bono Program partner during the year to offer "My Will Clinics" to qualifying senior citizens in the Midlands area. Volunteer attorneys and law students participating in the My Will Program prepare wills for senior citizens whose income is at 200 percent or below of the federal poverty guidelines and who only need a simple will.

The pro bono programs work with the Central Midlands Area Agency on Aging, which provides locations for the My Will Program and screens and registers clients. A simple will template is provided for your use and law students graciously volunteer to handle the technology side of things – filling in the blanks on the template at the direction of the volunteer lawyer and printing the documents.

My Will clinics will be held in the Midlands area on August 9, September 20, October 11 and November 15. With the exception of the November clinic, all clinics will be held at Central Midlands Council of Governments, located at 236 Stoneridge Drive in Columbia.

The November clinic will be held at the Newberry County Council on Aging, located at 1300 Hunt Street in Newberry. All clinics are from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This is a quick, easy and rewarding pro bono opportunity that only requires a three-hour commitment.

If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, contact Pam Robinson at robinspd@law.sc.edu or 803-777-3405 or Betsy Goodale at bgoodale@scbar.org or 803-576-3808.

If you are not in the Midlands but are interested in assisting with a My Will Clinic in your area of the state, contact Betsy. The South Carolina Bar Pro Bono Program is always willing to coordinate clinics in other communities!

President's Page

Bobby Kilgo
DARLINGTON

The Executive Council of the Senior Lawyer Division looks forward to serving you as we begin the new South Carolina Bar year. We have established goals for this year including a trip to Ireland and an informational seminar for the bar convention in January. At the convention, we will have a reception Friday afternoon for all our members. You do not have to be registered for the convention to attend.

You can review the Division web page to see detailed information on the goals and activities of the Division. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact park1602@outlook.com or Tara Caine at tcaine@scbar.org.

Enjoy your summer!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019

OCTOBER 18
Nifty Fifty Luncheon–Class of 1969, Senate's End, Columbia
For additional information, contact Tara Caine at tcaine@scbar.org.

2020

JANUARY 23–26
2020 Bar Convention, Columbia Metropolitan Conference Center
SLD Reception, January 24, 5:30-6:30, Location TBA
SLD Symposium, January 25, 8:30-11:45 a.m.

FY2019-2020 Division Goals

1. Continue to conduct a symposium, reception and Ex. Council meeting in conjunction with the SC Bar Convention.
2. Arrange for members to be sworn in to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, DC.
3. Continue to encourage active participation in the South Carolina Supreme Court Lawyer Mentoring program.
4. Continue to coordinate with local county bar associations on participating and promoting the Law Day Essay Contest. In addition, each statewide essay winner will be recognized and presented with a monetary contribution, medal and certificate, with the overall winner to be acknowledged at the SC Bar Convention.
5. Continue to coordinate efforts with the USC School of Law Pro Bono program by promoting and participating in the S.C. Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts project, My Wills and a variety of other potential programs.
6. Continue to promote participation in the Center for International Legal Studies program in cooperation with law faculties in Eastern Europe and the former republics of the Soviet Union.
7. Continue to explore travel destinations for members of the Division.
8. Continue to support and recognize the Nifty Fifty Honorees.
9. Continue to host a Fall Symposium to include networking opportunities and an educational seminar.
10. Identify and pursue methods to successfully market and enhance the benefits of being a member of the Division.
11. Provide regional networking opportunities for members of the Division.
12. Conduct statewide programs on topics to include but not limited to, competency issues, succession plans, health and retirement, technology, etc.
13. Pursuant to Rule 428, SCACR, in coordination with the SC Bar Executive Director, the Division created a SLD Lawyers Assistance Program, which assists legal professionals in a confidential manner who are exhibiting cognitive decline and impairment. The Division will host virtual cognitive assessment training and provide cognitive engagement training for current volunteers. Goals include the following:
    - Provide education and resources to assist legal professionals with the transition to retirement;
    - Maintain the integrity of the legal professional in question and avoid disciplinary action to those who agree to the Bar's recommendation(s) to address concerns;
    - Provide assistance to individuals, law firms, and organizations in handling cases of cognitive decline or impairment in a manner that protects the public;
    - Raise awareness of cognitive decline and impairment affecting legal professionals; and,
    - Reduce negative stigma and promote the benefits of retirement.
14. Provide input regarding senior attorney issues and support the SC Bar Wellness Committee. In addition, actively promote and assist with projects of interest to the Division.
15. Acknowledge a senior Bar member who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services and who has made a positive impact in the community by presenting the individual with the Division's Pro Bono Award.
16. Continue to address issues and explore options to properly accommodate the hearing and vision impaired within the court system.
17. Promote diversity within the Division's Ex. Council as well as in Division sponsored activities.

The Boomer Times is the newsletter of the S.C. Bar Senior Lawyers Division that is distributed electronically to all SLD members. Membership in the Division is free to S.C. Bar members who are age 60 and older. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not represent the opinions or policies of the Senior Lawyers Division or the South Carolina Bar. Unauthorized reproduction or use of the materials contained herein is prohibited. *The Boomer Times* offers articles of interest to members, Division activities, pro bono opportunities, wellness challenges and much more. Copyright © 2018 South Carolina Bar.