

## QUERY LETTER

RE: *Musical Chairs – A Memoir*

I'm one of those most fortunate fellows who marries his "high school heartthrob" – 35 years down the road. Alas, in 1963, she was a senior. I was a freshman. Her boyfriends had cars. I had acne. But I did manage to write little notes to her in the hallway ... and she would write back! Perhaps a harbinger of my career path in advertising and copywriting.

Musical chairs is the game I hated to play as a child. My parents taught to be a polite and considerate little fellow. I'd share my toys, and render my seat to a lady or to older folks. When I turned 50, I reflected on the game of musical chairs. Most everyone I knew was married (at least once) or had "someone to sit with". I'd certainly had my share of fun in California for 30+ years. I had bar tabs everywhere. I was "Uncle Bud" to a throng of adoring youngsters. John Candy shadowed me for his "Uncle Buck" role. But my social life was slowing down. One day, I got a call from a classmate alerting me to a multi-year reunion at our high school back in New Jersey. She'd volunteered me to create a booklet. Restless one night, unable to sleep, I got up to work on the booklet. Listening to Sinatra, sipping bourbon, I opened the Class of '63's envelope, and this story was born.

Now retired, I toil part-time out at the Travel Desk at the West Gardiner Tourist Plaza. The job is a joy – chatting folks from everywhere, "selling" Maine, distributing brochures, and directing them to our many tourist destinations. Now and then, I'm asked how I got to Maine. I've told it a hundred times. Too often, departing travelers have turned back and said, "Now THAT needs to be a book!"

In my career, I've written for advertising, a politician opinion column, for my own therapy – and for fun. I designed, wrote and photographed *Gardiner Reflections* for our city's Bicentennial. Serving on the board, I wrote and designed *Accolades* for Maine State Music Theaters' 50th anniversary. I self-published a collection of rants: *My Doggone Letters to the Editor*. Occasionally, I'll encounter someone who recognizes my name as being a frequent letter writer and say; "I don't always agree with you – but I ALWAYS read you. You're entertaining!" Stop right there! When I hear that – I'm certainly flattered. But even more so – I'm motivated to keep writing. As if somehow, I'm able to stop.

Indeed, I wrote *Musical Chairs – to entertain*. In February of 2020, *Maine Seniors Magazine* published my introduction. In November, The Portland Sunday Telegram's "Meetinghouse" published my "Reunion" essay (Sara deemed it "the best proposal story I've ever read!" I would be delighted to send the introduction or the essay – or preferably – the entire manuscript for your consideration. Perhaps you'll concur with those many Maine visitors – "Now THIS needs to be a book!"

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