

What do you want Sage Companion readers to know about your work?

I enjoy selling and consulting to help business. I help a small software and services company, I help a local county with helping their entrepreneurs to start businesses and sit on several University Boards to help improve the programs and raise awareness and money for the University. I like the winning of selling, and I feel if you believe in a product and don't tell people about it, you are doing them a disservice.

If you could trade places with any other person for a week, famous or not famous, living or dead, real or fictional with whom would you change places?

I would trade places with Willie Nelson. I enjoy singing and playing the guitar, I played in a folk singing group through high school and into college. I also used to sit in once in a while at a little bar in the Hill Country of Texas with the local band. I play at camp fires and trail rides with a sing along. I am not very good, but know enough cords and the first few bars of enough old songs, that everyone can join in.

High-Tech Drifter

How would you describe yourself in five words?

Competitive, Compassionate, Spiritual, Intelligent and Laidback

How would you explain a social network in five sentences to a fourth-grader?

Well class, I would like to explain a social network. That is a complicated term for something that is pretty easy to understand. How many of you in this class like to share secrets? Pretty much everyone, just as I expected. What if you could share a secret with all of your friends, and only your friends at any time anywhere with just writing down the secret on a special piece of paper? You wouldn't have to call them, you wouldn't have to meet them in the lunch room, you wouldn't have to wait by your locker or their locker. The paper would magically be sent to all of your friends with whom, you wanted to share the secret. They would be able to send the same type of messages back to you. You would look at a special mailbox that you had in your pocket and look the messages any time you wanted. That is pretty much what a social network is.

High-Tech Drifter

What is, or what do you expect to be the most adventurous thing you have done/will do after the age of 60, 70,80?

I intend to keep traveling, having fun and working both for pay and for satisfaction. Because of arthritis, I have had to cut back on a lot of activities like mountain trail rides, down hill skiing etc. I do enjoy fishing, sailing and cruising. I just returned from a cruise around Cape Horn with my friend. That was pretty exciting, as was seeing whales, dolphins, penguins, sea lions etc. Following Darwin's the Voyage of the Beagle. It brought the book to life.

[High-Tech Drifter](#)

What age-related hazards do you meet almost every day?

I still have a couple of horses, and working with a 1200 lb. animal who doesn't always want to do what you want presents some unique challenges. Also climbing stairs, I always worry about my knee or hip giving out and tumbling down like a very large rag doll.

What advice do you have about how to spend your free time after you (UN)"retire"?

A good friend once told me that Success, was not doing what you want, it was not having to do the things you don't want to do. That is pretty much how I measure spending my free time. There are certainly things I don't enjoy as much as others, but for the most part I have been pretty lucky. I do recommend having some goals and plans. If you don't know where you are going, you will never know if you have arrived. My friend and I enjoy traveling, and we are always planning 2 or 3 trips in advance. Right now, we are trying to formulate a way to cruise the spots in the Movie Casablanca. We want to do Casablanca and Lisbon, as well as spending some time in Portugal and Spain then do a transatlantic cruise to Barbados. It is requiring a lot of research, but it will be an interesting trip. We also use apps like Trip Advisor, that have helped us find, unique and great restaurants, hotels and things to do.

In one sentence, what is your best **AGING 101 (AGING 102, 201, 501) advice?**

If I thought I was going to live this long, I would have started taking better care of myself earlier. That is true regardless of how old you are. If you don't start now to work harder every day, then regardless of how old you live to be, you could have done a better job.

High-Tech

Drifter

What is the essential thing to remember as one approaches and/or moves into elderhood?

This is a very hard question. The essential thing will probably be different for each of us. For me, it is like the Willie Nelson Song, "There is nothing I can do about it now" Learn from your mistakes, try not to make them again, but don't waste time or negative energy thinking about what could have been. Concentrate on what can be, and make it better.

Define "young at heart" as it relates to you. And how do you envision your "white-haired" years

I wake up in the morning with a smile and happy to be alive. I can look out my window and see the sun coming up over the Blue Ridge Mountains, and in my yard I can often see deer, wild turkeys and other interesting animals in addition to my horses. I feel like I am about 35-40 until of course I start to get up and the reality of a bad back kicks in. But I am still smiling enjoying every day and reveling in the beauty. When I am in a city, I try to enjoy the unique sounds, sights and smells that the city has to offer. There is something beautiful wherever you are, if you take a moment to look for it. It will make you happier and keep that carefree spirit alive.

What are the most positive changes you see happening for older adults in the future?

I see an awareness that being older is not justification for being shunted into the useless pile. Many younger people have not invested the time to become really good at something and there will be a growing reliance on older people to accomplish things in business and in general. Also, the acceptance of the new technology will help older people stay informed and in charge of their lives. On a recent cruise with an average age of about 60-65 with 400 people on board, I would estimate that over 70% were using [smart phones](#) or mobile tablets, and quite a few lap tops. They were staying in touch, doing work, doing research on the stops, etc. Older people are becoming an integral part of the information age. Also the ability to quickly share information, will allow seniors to band together to promote beneficial legislation and to defeat legislation that will negatively impact our age group.

And what is your best advice for changing the way older people are viewed and stereotyped?

I think that television and the media have been a big help. As we grow older and refuse to wear old peoples baggy clothes, refuse to accept fat, refuse to accept being considered not important, we will change the stereotypes. We have to go places, do things, not just bingo on Thursday night, or on a bus from the senior citizens center. We have to get out and experience life, maybe a little more slowly and carefully, but we should be out there. Also, many of us will have to continue to work to make additional money to

make ends meet. I look to senior cooperatives that will help meld the skill sets and experience of seniors into viable organizations that can help make money for the group and individuals. Like quilting bee's for profit.

High-Tech Drifter

Have you experienced ageism?

Yes I have. Being centered in the High Tech Industry it is very prevalent and hard to overcome. I guess, if I would be hiring somebody and one person was 45 and had 20 years to work and the other was 67 and would be working for who knows how long, it would be a hard decision for me as well. Fortunately a lot of employers realize that with a young thinking senior, they get adult supervision and experienced new ideas.

What's your opinion on current cultural/sociological narratives in terms of maturity, late life, the purpose of elders, the nature of retirement communities (are they custodial and repressive?)

Everything is changing at an accelerating pace. Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional. Some are carrying this to an extreme, trying to relive their glory days, not realizing that with a little effort these might be your glory days. Elders in many societies have been looked up to and their wisdom and knowledge valued. In our society, that is not always the case. We have some major disconnects with our children and with younger people in general. Some of these things we can fight, but others we should just ignore. These people will all get older, and with their lack of preparation they will not have the full and rewarding senior years that we have the opportunity to enjoy. I know some friends that live in retirement communities and love it. I would enjoy spending a few months a year at a place like the Villages near Orlando. But I also like to go to Key West, Cape Cod, Cody Wyoming and other places that offer a full assortment of ages and life styles. I do appreciate cruises that do not cater to children, and when I see a boat with a water slide I shudder. I enjoy getting together with my children and grand children, but I also like to go back to my room and stretch out, or have a quiet Manhattan in a favorite local bar.

I don't think I could live in a retirement community full time, while they offer a lot of great benefits, I also enjoy seeing younger people, even if I do laugh at their pants falling off, and their body art and piercings. I know I won't live long enough to see some of these intricate designs on young women, become surrealistic art as they age.

What's your opinion on the relationships between older adults and younger generations?

There has always been an age gap. In the animal world the old bull or the old lion leads until they are forced out of the herd or pride. Fortunately in our society, we can still find a place and a way to contribute our knowledge and to enjoy our lives. We should not try to imitate or emulate youth, but rather take pride in who we are, and in the fact that we are younger at 50 or 60 or 70 than our parents were. Enjoy it and make the most of it.

High-Tech Drifter

What is your greatest contribution to the world to date?

Two wonderful Children who respect me, and are each working hard to raise families and help make their world a better place.

Who is your audience?

I like to think that for High Tech Drifter, it is anyone that shares the same time line as I do and either was or wasn't in the high tech industry. My stories and anecdotes are basically timeless though and good marketing or sales planning is still good today.

How did you get interested in creating work in this particular genre?

I have thought about writing a book, about my experiences in the high tech industry and the various aspects in which I have been involved. The high tech industry and the various achievements have changed the way we live, the way we communicate, keep records and work. At one time I had 5 secretaries, administrators and clerks as well as a receptionist. Today companies, have automatic voice mail and executives do their own presentations and keep their own records on CRM, they use [Microsoft Office](#) and are basically independent of any support.

What kind of research do you do for the High Tech Drifter series?

As I remember small vignettes and create the story, I often do research online to get additional facts and information on particular companies, or industries at that time of the story. Most of what I write comes from memories and some of my old day timers, that I kept. For the book I am writing about one man's experience before and during the War of Northern Aggression, I have read many on line files and historical compilations as well as doing research at the libraries and archives of VMI, and several Civil War museums and archives.

High-Tech Drifter

What's a typical working day like for you?

There is no typical day for me. I try to work out for at least 45 minutes every day, unfortunately not always at the same time. I work on the computer, have meetings, make calls, send emails and try to dedicate time every day to my blog and my book. Not always successful on either. Also of course, the horses have to be fed, given water and their stalls cleaned out. Fortunately, I have a great friend that uses all the manure I can deliver for her many gardens.

What is the most challenging part?

At this point in my life the most challenging part is dealing with spinal arthritis. Some days it is difficult to walk, to bend or to even sit an type. I am getting treatment as well as starting yoga and qigong which have been highly recommended. Most days, it just makes me move a little more slowly, and I still get to most things, with a smile.

What's the best thing about being a creative person?

It is easy to amuse yourself in a power outage.

What are you working on now?

Sales for a small services company, an action adventure historical novel about one man's experiences before and during the civil war. A young man that comes from the hill country of Texas to attend the Virginia Military Institute when Stonewall Jackson was an instructor. His mother's people are from Virginia and it is a tradition in their family.

Are there any occupational hazards to being a creative person?

Sure, being creative makes you different. Some people look up to you, others take an immediate dislike, because you are always rocking the boat. Also, you are never satisfied with the status quo, and sometimes it is hard to have the energy to make a change and live up to your capabilities.

Do you ever wish that you had an entirely uncreative job, like data entry or working in a factory?

NEVER!!!!

[High-Tech Drifter](#)

What is your favorite line of poetry?

The Red Rose speaks of passion, The White Rose speaks of love, The Red Rose is a Falcon, the White Rose is a Dove.

Who would play you in a film of your life? And who would narrate it?

I could see Sam Elliott doing the narration and Tom Selleck as me. We have both aged the same. Another actor for me, would be Cary Grant, in Old Gringo with his moustache, we looked pretty much alike when I had mine. I was hunting with friends and we went into a bar and the waitress started calling me Old Gringo.

Do you have a Dog? Cat? Goat? Name(s)- and a few words for our readers about them- BTW, what is your favorite animal?

I have two horses, Fred and Belle. Fred is actually TNT's Red Fred and is a red roan Appaloosa. I have had him for a long time. Belle is a rescue TB and is a horse wreck waiting to happen. My favorite dog now is my friends Jack Russell Terrier named Jazz. Goofiest dog I have ever met. My favorite breed are the large standard poodles. Yep Poodles. They are hunting dogs at heart and great [watch dogs](#) and they love the water. There are some barn cats in the barn. They aren't mine exactly, we merely tolerate each other. I feed them and they bring me dead mice, vols and squirrels from time to time.

If you won \$30 million in the lottery, what would you do with the money?

Put a portion into our traveling fund, set up scholarships for grand children and great grandchildren to come and donate some to Eastern Michigan University in a number of the programs, like the Steinway initiative. The only schools to have more Steinway fellows are Julliard and the Boston School of Music.

[High-Tech Drifter](#)

What are you reading these days?

All types of books. Historic novels, action adventure and of course trade journals.

If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think the title should be?

They were right, the Hokey Pokey is what it is all about!!

When are you going to write your autobiography? And in 100 words or more, give us a summary.

I will probably never write an autobiography, I would want to tell the truth and even at the end of my life I wouldn't want to hurt or make that many people uncomfortable. I

have had wonderful experiences by myself and with a variety of friends. Some of those experiences are best left unshared. Same reason I would never run for public office.

High-Tech Drifter

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