

DREAMS

We all have dreams in life. College for the children, retire comfortably, vacation homes. What are your dreams and how are you planning to get there?

Total life planning includes the financial effects of daily events that we don't pay attention to, or expect. If you could save more *would you?*

Financially, where do you want to be in 10, 20 or 30 years?

Contact Brian Lenell, CLU, ChFC
Personal Financial Solutions, Inc.
307-778-2881 – Cheyenne, WY



Securities offered through The O.N. Equity Sales Company. Member FINRA/SIPC, One Financial Way, Cincinnati, OH 45242 (513)794-6794
Investment Advisory services offered through O.N. Investment Management Company.

The new viaduct

Although it's being presented as an alternative to dialysis, it is nothing more than a bridge across railroad tracks.

Repeat, the new viaduct is nothing more than a bridge over railroad tracks.

And, it displaced dozens of our friends and neighbors.

Oh, wait, Jack Spiker promised "no one will lose their homes."

I guess he's right. No one *lost* their home - they know where it is, they just can't live in it anymore. It's in the landfill, rotting under tons of garbage.

Today, the grand opening day for the new viaduct (we don't even know what to call it - it doesn't have a name), I traversed the expanse at 3:45 pm even though it was not supposed to open for vehicular traffic until 5:00. I didn't duck around any barricades or anything - I just was headed to the southside (where I proudly reside) and was on Logan and saw the new road was available so across it I went.

The surface is rough - it may have some kind of grooving to help with slipperiness - so the ride was both rough and noisy.

But, have I mentioned this before: It is just a bridge over railroad tracks.

The old Norris Viaduct was never unsafe, in spite of the WTE warning residents back in 1993: "Norris Viaduct is on its last legs." I said then it was not on its last legs and six more years of use proved I was right. Had there been even a scintilla of concern about its safety and load bearing capacity, heavy loads would have been prohibited back then or since.

What the new viaduct is is more attractive than the old one. It is not safer. It is not faster. It is not more direct. It is nothing but newer and more aesthetically pleasing. If you're into that sort of thing.

On the radio today (the one that plays the "right" version of "Toes") the mayor was quoted as saying what a big deal this was for not just the southside but the whole city. Jimmy V was beside himself with excitement. Youthful exuberance.

It's always entertaining to hear northsiders tell the southside what is good for them and just how happy and grateful the southsider should be that they're allowed to have spiffy new things like a bridge over railroad tracks.

An interesting aspect to this \$27 million bridge is that it was planned, designed and completed before the southside park that was approved by voters in the same election. A \$3 million open space cannot be completed as fast as a \$27 viaduct or a \$30 million library?

Not to mention the short expanse of roadway known as Deming Boulevard on the southside. The Mackinac Bridge was completed faster than this mile of asphalt roadway. And you just know it's going to be rougher than a cob when it does open here any day now.

In terms of getting something over railroad tracks, a body of water, or another roadway, the simplest yet functional were the old ferries over rivers, creeks or streams. On one side, the flatbed raft would be loaded with animals, vehicles or products and a cable would drag the "ferry" across the water to the other side.

They could have jazzed up the looks of that flat surface but nothing would have improved as a result. It wouldn't have gotten the load across faster, safer or at a shorter distance.

What we have now across those railroad tracks is a fancier raft. Not a necessarily better raft. But a fancier one. One that cost \$27 million and uprooted families who had lived in their houses for generations. But, WYDOT helped them move. Bought them out. Gave them what may have seemed like a windfall for their old house. Then, they went into today's market and found they couldn't buy a shack for what they sold their house for.

In many ways, the new viaduct is as big a hoax as the Howard Hughes "biography" hoax by Clifford Irving.

City government and the local daily newspaper conspired to present a story to voters just as bogus as the one Irving planned to sell about fictional meetings he had with the reclusive Howard Hughes. Just as Irving counted on Hughes remaining reclusive, the daily and mayor counted on other media here not disclosing their hoax. The viaduct hoax blared on the front page of the daily that Norris was about to fall down - that it was unsafe, in effect. The Norris Viaduct was never unsafe and it was never falling down. And still isn't falling down.

What will be comical is when they try to demolish the old viaduct and people can witness just how difficult it will be for the demolition company. There was a time when buildings and bridges were built to last. They'll run into more re-bar in that viaduct that they thought existed in North America. And, of course, if the City pays for the demolition and removal, contract modifications galore will be approved to finally knock that baby down and haul it away. Price is no object.

But, at least, no one lost their home.

It is understandable that the same City that sold this bill of goods to voters would try to put the best face on it. From Day 1 the Unholy Pair (WTE and mayor) exaggerated the need and deceived voters - many who did not even know where the Norris Viaduct was or what it crossed - with horror stories about safety issues. And, the northsiders didn't think the proposition would ever be approved by voters so stuck it on the ballot to be defeated. But, my God, it was approved! It was approved. By a better margin than the equally extravagant county library.

A \$27 million viaduct will now take traffic from a remote area of the city to the front gate of Frontier Refinery - where they are not allowed entry. This viaduct is lipstick on a pig, friends. Lipstick on a pig.

This should work out well

A new law recently went into effect in Arizona that allows people with concealed weapons permits in Arizona to bring their guns into bars and restaurants that have don't have signs posted banning them.

The law allows guns to be brought into bars and restaurants that serve alcohol.

Oh, yes, that should mix pretty well.

There are almost never disagreements between liquored up patrons that can't be settled with a firearm.

"You think that's a gun. That's not a gun. *THIS* is a gun."

I suppose law enforcement would confirm that seldom is a shooting incident linked to tobacco or drugs. Right.

Oh, "those carrying weapons into the bars and restaurants aren't allowed to drink alcohol." What are they going in for - to play darts or shoot pool? And the least of their worries if they shoot someone is that they weren't supposed to drink alcohol inside the bar that allowed them to bring their concealed firearm in with them. The honor system will work real well in

almost every situation.

"Are you carrying?" "Do you mean, 'am I carrying or am I holding'?"

"Both. What do you want, my gun or my drugs?"

"Neither. Just asking."

An owner of Phoenix bar said, "The idea of anyone coming in with guns in a place that serves alcohol just seems ludicrous." Ya think? Another said he hated for his customers to even have a stick - that he breaks the points off steak knives.

Another bar owner thought the new law was pretty neat. His opinion was that when someone came into his bar with evil on his mind, he now wouldn't know how many of the other patrons were armed. Like teachers with guns.

Oh, swell. It's not likely that someone who has been swilling Jack and Coke without dinner might have a poor aim or anything. Signs banning guns aren't effective for the first 30 days and if you're a visitor, you have a defense if you bring a revolver into a bar banning them. What?

TUNE-UPS AND MORE ...

C.A.R.S.



CHEYENNE AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE
604 W. Lincolnway / 632-0498

**YOU ONLY LIVE TO DIE.
IT'S WHAT YOU DO IN
BETWEEN THAT COUNTS.**