

Change, Naturally Reluctant

By Tim Tice, Groundwater Technician

During this past quarter we have seen the weather change from the cloud cover of winter to the high skies of summer as well as the congestion in our communities as the year's school session has let out. Change is pertinent to our lives as it keeps our minds active with new thoughts. If you're over the age of thirty, one can reflect back on the many changes in life in regard to family, friendships, or lost of, acquaintances, work and maturity.

Family picnics or quiet evenings are only a couple of timeframes that change, as time itself perpetually moves on. The siblings are maturing to find their niche in the community, only to be matched up with a partner and come home to share their newfound love. The size of the family just grew a little, for the moment, until the second generation of the immediate family is born and now it seems, "Wow, what a change!" As families change, the essence, the core element is changing from the general life's reflections stemmed from the parents to more outward thoughts from the children as they begin to raise the offspring. Each new set of parents interprets the many lessons of life into their own format, many times quite diverse from their brother or sister whom is separated by only a few years. One cannot disagree that these subtle patterns are not evident to each of us in regard to variation in lives as we attend the annual picnic, Thanksgiving dinner or spend Christmas Day with family. This segment in life can be called growth, but growth is change.

Friendships come and go, but all of them have a lasting impression on us, no matter how short termed they have seemed. During the present we often will be performing a task or talking with a NEW acquaintance that will spark a memory of someone from the past. On the flipside of the coin, it is believed that we as individuals and or a group have sparked a memory in someone whom we have encountered, either short term or long term. If you're thinking at this time, NOT ME, please do not sell yourself short. Good, bad or indifferent we do impact the people with whom we cross paths, and more often than not, a person whom we have met is thinking of us.

How often do we reflect on the people whom we have met only to learn of their passing? To some degree these reflective thoughts change after we hear of their departure from life, as we know it. Has anyone ever attended a funeral and heard real negative points mentioned in the eulogy? On the other hand, most speakers at a funeral service bring out the many wonderful attributes of the deceased. Mentioned are great spouse, good parent, hard worker, dedicated citizen and so on. Maybe it might be bad karma, but someone other than yours truly has had to think, "Yeah, right!" People are people and they are no different from the many of us who try to get through life the best we can, and from time to time, cause ill feelings with someone we have thwarted. It's what we learn from these many experiences which allow us to make up for rubbing someone the wrong way, either by dealing with the person in a better way or treating another with more respect, kindness and consideration, all of which we would like to be treated.

There is a remembrance that while running down the road, a fuel filter had plugged on the old rig, which meant parking the truck along a desolate stretch of highway. After what seemed an hour of fooling around with the filter, a fellow trucker stopped, listened to the prognosis and proceeded to explain a solution that within ten minutes the rig was running at full speed. It was inquired as to the payment for the services and the only response was, "Pass on the favor next time you see someone broken down on the road." This chap was simply an acquaintance, but to this day, his rough weathered scruffy face is imprinted on the brain. Merely one-line accolades or an act of goodwill from someone who is truly an acquaintance; can really change a person.

Reflection of the past and present positions with the few companies of employment, often brings about the thought, first and foremost, of the people who we deal(t) with. From time to time, we bring up in a conversation what crazy endeavors were accomplished or the lunacy of a particular situation, but more times than not, it is the people who are captured in the memory banks. The stature, the tone of voice, the laugh, or the way the hair is styled that sticks in our memories. People with whom we work seem to quite easily become closer to each other without even trying. Are these relationships, or the familiarity of these relationships, right or wrong? We as individuals are just that, individuals. Through

some uncanny act, we are actually creatures of society, needing interaction with someone other than our own thoughts.

What makes all these relationships work, day after day; year upon year is the maturity of the people who are involved. To be able to comprehend someone's own ideas, reflect back to them to their meaning and judge not the point of view, are key elements. Realizing the experiences people bring to the table can enhance our maturity and growth; allowing our growth to nurture back to others.

The great change we go through for how many number of years on this planet is only natural, and no matter how hard we try to curtail, impede or reverse a moment in time, change will occur. By viewing change in a proactive manner, is like taking medicine with a spoonful of sugar, it's a little easier to go down. If the personality type is that of forcing change, then consider the reaction and the imposing position we put on our colleagues, be it family, friends, acquaintances or co-workers. Ask yourself, "Would I wish this change on me?" Continue to enjoy the summer months, because before we realize it, the weather will be changing to the cloudy skies and cooler days, as one cycle ends and another cycle begins, this change we all know to be imminent. Best of everything that life has to offer.
Mr. OpTIMist.