

Old Too Fast

By Grid Michal

My grandmother looked at the back of my young,
Empty, exceedingly round head
And said,
"You have double whorls. You'll travel far."
Silly me: I thought she said "girls," not "whorls,"
And "car," not "far."
So I made it my mission to always have two girls
(And not let one know of the other)
Sharing my datin' car with my brother,
Always with car, always with girls;
And jumping up like Alfalfa's,
Whorls.
Sinatra crooned with me:
"When I was twenty-one, it was a very good year,"
Lord, yes it was~
So many girls: hundreds---so many cars:
Thousands! The life of a car rental manager
On TUMS.
I had a family by then but lost it to work.

I had another family next,
But lost it to work, too.
I traveled America teaching service so you
Would be treated right, in big-box stores
Or bars.
Sinatra sang again: "I'm in the autumn of my years,"
And I am: girlfriend, children, grandkids, great-grands,
But no bars.
And one car.
We'll be moving soon so the kids can deal with our mess, our muss.
And cuss.
We'll see little girls brought to our room on holidays..
Guided by their parents, dutifully.
The day soon over, gratefully.
The cars will have ramps to take us to doctors who "tsk-tsk"
As Medicare forms are completed by nurses who once were girls.
One room, always. Along with my hair, so went my whorls.
By Grid Michal
8/5/21

Cat Cafés

By Ann Bedford

In December 2021, Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) was introduced to Kitty Kingdom Cat Café (KKCC) in Chesapeake. Cat Cafés are social enterprises, helping local rescues find homes for adoptable felines. By definition, a cat café has an eating establishment in the same building as the feline showrooms.

For a fee visitors interact with the cats while enjoying a beverage and a bite to eat. KKCC is the only cat café in Hampton Roads fitting the definition of cat café. Cat cafés showcase foster cats seeking a match between a loving family and a homeless cat. All adoption fees go to the sponsoring rescue group such as GRI.

The GRI and KKCC partnership has created loving homes for many of our foster cats and kittens. The felines at KKCC are truly royalty in every sense. They have their own TV and sleep wherever they want. The kitties have access to food and water 24/7. Staff keep the litter boxes clean and sanitized. KKCC is truly a royal place for homeless cat to live as they wait for a loving family.

KKCC has facilitated over 420 adoptions working with GRI and other rural rescues. If you are in the Hampton Roads area, please visit KKCC and let them know that you heard about them through GRI. KKCC is the PURRFECTION place to discover your inner cat personality, enjoy a beverage and find peace amongst the chaos of daily life. To learn more about KKCC visit their website, <https://kittykingdomcatcafe.wpcomstaging.com> or better yet, pay them a visit.

Allison's **ACE** HARDWARE
Your Total Outdoor & Grilling Destination

New Outdoor Equipment
& our Service Center
for maintenance.







3010 NORTHUMBERLAND HWY. in LOTTSBURG
804-529-7578



allisonsacehardware.com