

Residents' Corner

The Safari

By Peggy W.

"Mama, open the trunk right now!"

I'm seven years old and I can't wait to see what's in the trunk Mama bid on at Bekins Van and Storage for unpaid storage. Mama bought many things at these auctions, but the trunks are my favorites. The last one smelled of lavender, held some pretty dresses, three diaries, pictures of handsome men, and a little beaded purse with a small silver gun in it. Mama says she will try to find the owner and give it all back.

I hold my breath as she opens the lid. It's filled with furs. I'm happy. My hero is Frank Buck of *Bring Them Back Alive* movies. He looks for wild animals in the jungle. His helpers are little black men who don't wear much.

"Mama, can I have these? My friends and I can wear them and play *Bring Them Back Alive*." She laughs and says, "Yes. That's a great idea."

She lifts the furs out one by one. "This black curly one is a Persian lamb. This next one is a mink stole. Oh, look at this lovely fox."

I like best the ones that look like animals, one end a head, the other a tail. All have nice satin linings.

I round up my friends, Elliot, Marilyn, Shel, Marvin, Arnie, Beverly, and Little Richard. Mama fastens the furs on our sunsuits with safety pins. She stands back to admire her work.

"You all look like real hunters. These furs make wonderful loin cloths."

We run out to the front yard. There are bushes to hide in and two nice trees to climb. It's a quiet, warm summer afternoon. The Weissmans' big old brown dog is in his yard, watches us with eyes half shut, then closes them and goes back to sleep.

Marvin says, "If nothing wilder shows up, we'll capture him."

A big, dark green car with black fenders drives

by, stops, backs up and parks in front of my house. Arnie and Shel, up in one of the trees, shake branches. The rest of us shout, yell, and run around the bushes and the lawn.

A tall, thin woman gets out of the car. She wears a light green dress, a small green hat with a long blue feather. She stares at us. She looks mad as she marches up the walk to the front door, pokes the doorbell. We stop the hunt to watch.

Mama opens the door. The tall woman says, in a loud voice, "Do you know there are a lot of children running around your yard wearing costly furs?"

Mama smiles. "Yes, I know. One of them is my daughter. I pinned those furs on myself. Look how much fun it is. You must admit they look just like big game hunters in those outfits."

The woman stares at Mama, eyes wide. Her mouth drops open. Her face turns red. She waves a finger in Mama's face. The feather in her hat shakes as she shouts.

"You're crazy. That's hundreds of dollars in beautiful furs ruined right before my eyes. I can't believe this. It's insane. Don't you know we're in the middle of a depression?"

She turns, gives us an ugly look as she marches back to her car. She gets in, slams the door on the blue feather. Tires squeal. The feather waves in the wind as she speeds away.

Mama calls to us. "Have you caught anything yet?"



Village View



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A Word to the Wise

By Jerry L.

For those of us uncertain about how to deal with the loss of a significant other in terms of dealing with all kinds of financial and tax records, there are several ways to be prepared for this situation. Basically, you need to be educated and be sure you and your loved one have made all the necessary preparations. The consequences of not being prepared can be very traumatic, especially in a time of dealing with the loss.



Resources that are available include: A son or daughter or other trusted relative who is totally familiar with all your financial and tax records and who has a clear understanding of your wishes; a financial adviser; an estate attorney; a fiduciary; or other licensed advisor.

The first step that we're pretty sure everyone has taken is to have a family trust, prepared by a professional. This may be single trust, or in the case so common here, a separate trust for each partner. This step takes care of some of the items mentioned above. A part of this should be an advance health care directive and the POLST* form that we all are required to complete.

Another step (that might be part of the trust) is the preparation of an estate plan, best done with the help of a professional. CA law changes often on this topic so it is best to be sure it is current.

UVTO management cannot and will not provide any direct assistance in this regard but can offer names of professionals that can help. But it is always better to start with a trusted relative.¹

Paul N. and Jerry L. have non-professional experience in these matters and would be happy to try to answer any questions you might have.

Other resources include:

- Such meetings as the annual budget preparation, presentation by the Master Trust Trustee, the Financial Primer and other meetings regarding UVTO finances. Be sure both spouses of a couple attend.
- Savvy Estate Planning, by James Cunningham (available through Amazon)
- Senior Concerns, Conejo Valley, www.seniorconcerns.org
- Iris Health Care (www.irishealthcadre.com). Requires a referral.
- AARP article, *What to Do When a Loved One Dies*, <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/info-2020/when-loved-one-dies-checklist.html>

*Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

¹ If you decide to engage the services of a professional financial manager to handle your finances, you must register that fact with UVTO. See page 57 of the Resident Handbook.

