FROM MY BACKYARD

By Byron Higgin, Mascot Publisher

Mom has always been there ... with a bandaid for my knee, with a kiss for the tear that ran down my cheek and even to buy me a belt so the first grade kids on the bus would quit teasing me about my suspenders.
It's hard to imagine a world without mom.
She kept me going in Vietnam when I found out she stopped in the hallway at home to look at my picture every night and say, "Goodnight Byron, I love you!" She usually cried.

I'd come home late from football practice and find a hot supper waiting for me — compliments of mom.
She had the greatest words of wisdom I've every seen when I needed punishing. And they always worked. They were, "Wait until your dad gets home."
Dad died, I lost a wife in an accident, and yet Mom has always been there.
After the accident that eventually took my wife's life, I called mom and she came running.
"I don't think I can handle this without you," I told her. Mom was in Oregon and the next day she flew to Minnesota.
She arrived the day my wife passed away, held my son as he cried and wiped the tears from his face. And she sat and cried with me.
She stayed until she thought my son and I could handle it alone.
Nobody ever forgets mom. She's four-foot 10 and filled with enough dynamo to ignite the nearest power plant.
Her and dad had their own newspaper in Cosmos, MN and long after his death she was visiting me at one of my newspapers when I saw her walk out the door shaking her head.
"What's the problem mom?" I asked her.
"They send the newspaper over the telephone — the whole newspaper," she said with astonishment. For an old newspaperwoman, it wasn't easy to imagine the current technology.

That’s mom.
So when her doctor told her she had cancer in her ovaries, mom quickly proclaimed, “Well, I’m 86 years old and I’ve had a really good life.”
However, when the doctor saw mom he gasped. He was expecting a very old 86-year-old.
That’s not mom.
Her heart is strong, her bones are strong and she is in great shape.
So the decision was made to operate.
“I think she can handle it. What do you think Ardell (mom’s name)” the doctor asked.
“I think so,” said mom.
So mom had the surgery in Portland, Oregon, last week and now is on the road to recovery.
Just before she went under the knife, my step-father, Rollin Chase, one of the best men in the world, told the doctor, “Don’t be surprised if she sits up and tells you how to do it.”
The doctor didn’t smile.
“Just didn’t have a sense of humor,” said Rollin.
When the doctor told us mom would pretty much have a complete “hysterectomy,” I tried to keep the mood light and blurted out, “Mom doesn’t need those ‘hysters’ anymore anyway.”
I thought my sister Beth was going to fall under the table with laughter.
Today, mom is recovering in the hospital. She pulled through in excellent shape and I can’t really say I’m surprised.
Got to say though, that one of the best things mom ever did was marry Rollin 10 years after my dad’s death.
Rollin is not only a great husband, but has been a great father to all of us three children, Byron, Caryn and Beth.
And his two children, Ronald and Roxy incorporated into our family (or we incorporated into theirs) so well that we all feel like we belong together.
Two weeks ago I flew to Oregon to help mom prepare for the surgery.
Naturally, she got the instructions mixed up and we ended up in the wrong town for her doctor’s appointment — but I was there to make a new appointment and keep mom calm.
It was the best trip I’ve ever taken to see mom, because I knew she appreciated it so much.
My mom is special — as so many moms are ... but the best thing about her is that she stayed around a little longer for all of us. That’s the best thing she’s ever done for me.
I Love You Mom!

LAUGH A LITTLE: Reasons Not To Jog
My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. She's 97 now and we don't know where the heck she is.
I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to show up.
I have to exercise in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.
If you are going to try cross-country skiing, start with a small country. (From funny Jokes website).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: As my ole pappy used to say, “A wise man does not need advice and a fool wll not take it.”

Ole Pappy had a good understanding of people, didn’t he?