

Delores's Monologue

Silver Lining

My brother served mass back in Vietnam. He was the only one that knew how to be a server. So he wasn't a fanatic as far as religion goes. But he always said the reason why he came home was because of his guardian angel. When my brother died he was ninety and six months old.

The thing of it is, my dad was ninety and six months exactly when he died. Ninety and six months. My dad comes from a long line of -- what do you call it? People who lived to be a very *ripe* old age. I hope that I don't live that long. It's not fun getting old. Don't get old. It would be nice if you could control it but you can't. When you get old you get all kinds of aches and pains. And of course I've got these (gestures towards legs) because I have no circulation . My feet always feel like they're on a block of ice. So, it's not nice getting old.

Up here (gestures towards head), I feel like I'm forty-five. But it doesn't work out because my oldest girl is going to be sixty-four in September. Come November, I'm going to be eighty-four. And I don't feel eighty-four. I don't feel any more than I did when I was forty-five except my body doesn't agree.

Now I sit here alone since my husband is in the nursing home. I sit here alone and I think to myself, "what should I complain about?" There are people who have cancer. There are people who have alzheimer's that are way out of it, y'know? And I think to myself, "I have a lot of back problems." I've had surgery on my back that didn't work. And I still think about, "what should I complain about?"

So when people say to me, "how are you Delores?" I say, "Oh just fine!" Because who really wants to hear all of your aches and pains when you get old. They don't! You've got to think positive, y'know? I think that's the best way to go through life. I know of someone who mails five pages about their aches and pains. I don't even want to hear from them anymore because it gets tiresome to hear something negative like that, y'know? Thinking positively... that's the best way. And that is what I'm going to do for as long as I live.