

Going Door to Door

By Dennis Payton Knight

No doubt this morning there are essayists among us who will have written about doors to the future, doors to the past, and doors to our hearts. They'll tell us in elegant language how we can open doors, shut doors, knock on doors, lock doors, block doors, slam doors, bar doors, blow them open or break them down.

The subject of doors has been addressed by comedians like Elayne Boosler, who joked, "I have six locks on my door, all in a row. When I go out, I lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three." Even royalty gets in on the act by way of Prince Philip who quipped, "When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife."

Fortunately, there are a number of actual thinkers who have explored the subject well. For instance, Helen Keller said, "When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us." George Moore said "Faith goes out of the window when beauty comes in at the door", and W. Clement Stone gave us the bit of wisdom, "Big doors swing on little hinges."

My favorite, however, is one which has been variously attributed to Aldous Huxley or to Jim Morrison of the musical group named appropriately The Doors. It goes, "There are things known and things unknown, and in between are the doors."

Those doors "in between" consist of quite a list indeed. There are back doors, front doors, storm doors, screen doors and green doors. There are outdoors, indoors, doors in and doors out, interior doors, exterior doors, bi-fold doors, hollow core doors, solid core doors, steel doors and iron doors. There are doggy doors, barn doors, garage doors, car doors, church doors, parlor doors, sliding doors, revolving doors, elevator doors, automatic doors, French doors and security doors. At Windsor Gardens we have what we rather snobbily call lanai doors, but they're really only patio doors.

There are refrigerator doors, oven doors, kitchen doors, cabinet doors, closet doors, bathroom doors, carved doors, outhouse doors, chamber doors, classroom doors, office doors, courthouse doors, cell doors, swinging doors, squeaking doors, creaking doors, hidden doors, heaven's door and trap doors, and ending the list, I hope without sudden irony to me, is death's door.

There are, of course, practical accessories to make doors useful, including door bells, door chimes, door knockers, door knobs, door locks, door nails, door hinges, door stops, door frames, door jambs, door mats, keys to the door, girls next door, next door neighbors, door-to-door salesmen, door men, even door mice. But now I have gotten completely caught up in this maze of an essay and fear I may never get out. Can anyone here help me find a door?

