



Dan Schweitzer

A young Timberline Topper paid me an odd compliment. Said he wished I could write his obituary. This comment was my first clue that he is a few degrees short of a full Cloverleaf.

Who in their right mind would want their life summarized by someone with a penchant for fiction and weird perspectives? The situation is especially problematic when there's no chance to set the story straight.

Still, being desperate, as usual, for a topic, I got to wondering.

I think that, for an obit, I'd go with this:

"Jack* was a true square dancer, on the floor and in life."

Short and to the point.

Unfortunately, it occurs to me that the great, un-converted masses out there, would wonder: "What's a true square dancer?" You, of course, know what a true square dancer is. Right?

* Jack is not his real name.
What kind of friend would use real names here?

Well, come to think of it, the definition may be open to interpretation.

I'm thinking it means:

- You bow to your partner – in many ways.
- You hug those in your corner.
- Your goals are met when everyone around you is having fun.
- You maintain your skills and focus, and your outstretched hand is ready at every call.
- When that caller throws a curve, and the "world" is a mess, you just grin and repair the square.
- And, when that last call is over, you go home – satisfied that you've enjoyed, and contributed to a good dance.

But, that may just be me. There are other opinions. For example, you are a true square dancer if, you wear clothes that were already out of date way back when you were 7 years old.