

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Bucket List Dreaming

I can not say sitting on a bull was ever on my bucket list, but it was fun to be reminded of the occasion. Our daughter came across this gem of a photo of her mamma when unpacking a storage box that had not been opened in many years.

Seeing the photo made me wonder if there are other daring adventures or feats I should add to my to-do list. I certainly do not believe it is ever too late to learn something new or experience something never done before.

When I think about the word dare, my first memories recall hearing it as a child. It might have been a moment when I was facing some obstacle, or a hill to climb, and a friend would exclaim, “I dare you to!”

Back in those days, hearing that exclamation would have sparked my determination to prove I could do whatever I suspected my friend, or brother, thought I could not or would not do.

Dare means having the courage to do something, to defy or challenge. It is an intriguing idea to consider at this season of my life.

I am way more cautious now than I was when I was much younger. Certainly, my physical capabilities are not as they once were. Yet, I do not think a daring achievement must be dangerous.

I have always loved the phrase, “Dare to dream.” Maybe bucket lists could include dreams you would like to revisit, or dreams you always wanted to do but have not, or even dreams you thought were too late to fulfill. I do not



Seeing this photo made Annette Bridges wonder if there are other feats she should add to her to-do list. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

think there is any limit to what we might dare to dream if we remain open to any possibility.

I dare myself to get my paints and blank canvas out of storage and do again what used to bring me utter peace and joy. I dare myself to not care what I look like in my swimsuit. I dare myself to start writing the book I have always wanted to but was not sure how to begin. I dare myself to simply start, even if it is in the middle of the story.

I dare myself to stop doing

some things that no longer make me happy or feel outgrown. I dare myself to stop talking about the trips I want us to take someday, and start actually making plans and reservations.

I dare myself to throw away or give away more stuff that goes unused and collects dust. I dare myself to find joy in each and every day, including the mundane chores I’m tired of doing.

My list of dares could go on. I will stop here to add that when I began giving my list its due

consideration, I thought I would be creating a very different kind of list. I am realizing that some of the things on my bucket list are no longer of interest or importance to me.

So, I want to say it is probably a good thing to reevaluate what is on our bucket list from time to time. It is okay to change our minds and scratch off things you no longer want on your list. This is as important as keeping our minds open to trying the unexpected, unplanned or unimaginable. 