By Nancy Whitaker

ONLY THE NOSE KNOWS

Have you ever stopped and thought just how important your nose is? We may say we hate the way our noses look or we don't like the size or the shape. Some people have turned up noses, others have huge noses and some have crooked noses.

The size and shape of the nose is really irrelevant, as it is the nose's job that makes it one of the most important parts of our body. Have you ever stopped and thought what it would be like if you couldn't smell anything or if we didn't have a nose?

Of course not every scent is good and not every scent is bad. However, some things smell different to different folks. Smells should indeed be our friends; open your arms and welcome them in.

Some of my favorite memories reflect the different aromas which I smelled as a child. Now, it has been reported that some smells, although they might be stinky ones, can bring back good memories. It is almost like physiological smelling.

For instance, a scent I connect with my grandma is that of an old perfume called, "Evening in Paris." She used to buy it at the Five and Dime Store and it came in a little blue bottle. I loved to sneak and get that little blue bottle of perfume and put it behind my ears just like Grandma did. I wish I could find some of it today.

I remember my Grandma also made homemade cookies. When she did, the whole house would smell like sugar and vanilla. I could not wait to get the first bite of that hot cookie.

Then there was always the smell of a cake of Ivory soap. That is the only kind of soap I thought there was when I was a kid. I do remember one time I thought it smelled so good, I took a bite of it and it tasted rotten and bitter.

Another smell I like is that of fresh bedding washed and dried on an outside clothesline. There is nothing like that smell and even though they have tried to bottle it, they will not even come close. It is just one of those natural aromas which cannot be duplicated.

With so many scents and smells in this world, it would be impossible to smell everything even in a lifetime.

Have you ever noticed that different events have different smells? If you go to an amusement park or to a fair, the smell of cotton candy, peanuts, and candy apples lets you know where you are.

The smell of chlorine in a pool in the summer lets you know that you may be going swimming. The smell of dirt from freshly plowed fields excites the farmers and delights their sensory organ as they look forward to planting.

There are all kinds of smells like beer, smoke, fried foods, gasoline, burning leaves, freshly mowed grass and you can even smell the rain on a spring day.

Our little Shih-tzu always has to smell something before he will eat it. It doesn't matter if he has eaten it 100 times before, he will still smell his food before he eats it.

Of course the gals here at the office said they might be interested in making up different kinds and fragrances of body lotions of some of our favorite smells.

We came up with a french fry scented lotion, deep deep chocolate, hamburger aroma, and one gal even suggested liver and onions. (because it reminded her of her grandma).

Do you have any favorite smells or scents? What do you think is foulest order you have ever encountered? Do you smell with your nose or your mind? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your thoughts.