

By Nancy Whitaker

TALES OF DETAILS

How close do you pay attention to detail? How quick are you to notice changes to someone's appearance such as a new hair style or new glasses? How long does it take you to notice a change in your surroundings?

It is funny what details you might notice that I don't. The age old question has been posed to me many times, "Don't you notice anything different today?"

One day I was typing away on my computer and someone said, "Don't you see anything different?"

I looked around at my desk and everything appeared to be in place. I said, "No. Should I?"

Then it was pointed out to me that I had been typing on a new keyboard. Even though it felt a little different to me, I had not noticed anything especially different.

Now, I am not saying everything gets past me, because there have been times when I notice something on someone and I don't know how to politely tell them or if I should tell them.

So let me ask you. If you notice a friend or a coworker with food on their face or nose, what do you do? Do you go up and give them a spit bath? Do you tell them? Or, do you let them walk around all day with a dirty face?

If you notice someone is only wearing one earring (and they were supposed to be wearing two) what do you do? Do you tell them discreetly or just ignore it?

Here is another situation that is hard to know how to handle. If someone uses the bathroom and forgets to zip up their britches, what do you say or do?

I have been in all of these situations and if I happen to be the one with a dirty face, one earring or unzipped pants, I would really want someone to tell me.

One day a pal bought a new pair of jeans for her male friend. Now, unbeknownst to him, when he put the new britches on, he had left a strip of tape down the back of the leg which had the size on it.

His gal pal happened to notice the strip down his pants and thought it was funny. The poor guy walked around the store without a clue that there was a strip of tape stuck to his pants.

When he did discover it, he said, "Thanks," and had a good laugh. However, now he checks his jeans.

One day we were in a big church for a musical program. On the opening prayer, we all had to stand up and close our eyes. However, sitting ahead of me was a rather large lady and she had sat on someone's fake fingernail.

I did not know what to do. The fingernail was red and was so obvious, but I really did not want to just pull it off of her. So I prayed, "Lord, let that fingernail fall off of her behind, so I don't have to tell her about it."

The nail never did fall off and hopefully she discovered it when she got home. But, what would

you have done or would you have noticed? Perhaps she thought we all had our eyes closed.

Noticing details can be helpful in different party games. At one of my grandchildren's birthday party we had each kid go separately in another room and change one thing about themselves, come back in the room and have the other guests guess what they had changed about themselves.

(Of course they were helped by their mama and grandma.)

One kid put on a hat, one took off a shoe, another child put a long strip of toilet paper in their pocket and yet another child rolled up one pants leg.

Actually some of the ideas were very creative, but the kids really paid attention to detail and the game was a lot of fun.

It is just funny how different people notice different things and react differently to situations.

What would you want someone to do if you had a dirty face, a strip of tape on your pants or a fake fingernail stuck to your fanny? Would you want to wear it all day or be told? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.