



Hurry, hurry-up

“I’m late! I’m late! For a very important date! No time to say ‘hello’ ‘good-bye’, I’m late, I’m late, I’m late!” Sound familiar? Would the world end if we got where we are going 10 minutes later? If it would, couldn’t we just leave 10 minutes sooner? I have to admit that on numerous times I have been in a hurry or running late; but generally I am prompt for appointments with other people as well as travel arrangements.

As I mentioned in my last column I had the occasion to travel by plane and to watch people – people in a great hurry. Once they arrive at the airport they must locate their airline to acquire a boarding pass and to check luggage. Some people are so impatient, there is also a line at curbside to check luggage faster. In this line there is a charge involved, but for those in a hurry to get to the gate it is worth it.

Some people are in such a hurry they don’t even check baggage at all, but drag it behind them on wheels. Most airline policy’s is one small carry-on bag and one personal item, such as a purse or laptop computer. It amazed me to see just how big the so-called “carry-on” can be as well as the number of items carried on from wedding dresses to large framed pictures to multiple tote bags and even grocery bags with food. Of course many of these “over-sized” items and bags will be tagged and stored with the other “checked” luggage below; however, these same “over-sized” items and bags will be returned to the passenger at the plane door when exiting the plane.

Once the customary checked luggage at the ticket counter is taken care of, it’s off to the concourse. Next comes that horrible time consuming obstacle – the metal detector. Valuable minutes are lost poking purses and luggage thru the conveyor belt. You must also take off jackets, shoes, belts, hats, cell phones, and anything else in your pockets and place them in bins to proceed thru the conveyor belt. If anything sets off their alarm...WOW! Forget it! The hurried passenger becomes a hostage of the airport security guards for five or more minutes.

Passing inspection, passengers must keep moving while re-dressing themselves (not an easy task) and then they are free to proceed... and proceed... and proceed... Of course, the furthest gate at the end of the concourse is the gate for the most hurried people.

Now that the correct gate is found another wait begins. People fidget, they read, they use cell phones, laptop computers, or watch TV, if there is one. Why doesn’t the plane get here? Don’t airlines know people are in a hurry?

At last the attendants come out. Before they can announce the flight, the suitcase people, who were in too big a hurry to check in at the ticket counter, begin to line up. After all, people in a hurry need to be first! Finally, boarding begins and chaos evokes. Never mind that seats are assigned. People cannot wait, they stand by eagerly waiting for their row to be called so they can rush on the plane. Some don’t wait, but cut ahead of others before their row is even called.

On the plane all the aisles are blocked by the early boarders who have wheeled luggage and are trying to put it in overhead compartments. The other hurried people are very annoyed by

not being able to get to their own seat and put their own wheeled luggage overhead. The smaller personal items are supposed to be stowed under the seat in front of the passenger, but the hurried people want everything stowed overhead. Unsurprisingly, it is these same hurried people that must get up and get their laptops or books or anything else they might need out of their stowed luggage during the flight.

The hurried people need to make one last call while the flight attendants try to prepare the cabin for departure. Should the flight be delayed in taking off for a few minutes, people begin to fidget, murmur and look at watches, sure they will never make their next connection on time.

At the end of the flight, people are out of their seat belts and in the aisles before the plane can stop taxiing. Cell phones are turned on and calls are being made all while bags are jerked from overhead compartments. Once again, impatient evokes until the door is finally opened and the hurry-up people run from the plane pulling their wheels behind them on to their connecting flight for off to the baggage pick-up carrousel.

The baggage pick-up is where the hurried person realizes that their most precious moments can be lost. Therefore, the next time they fly they will not check any luggage; they will purchase a bigger "carry-on" with bigger wheels. Their reasoning is that by dragging their baggage with them they "Saves time." Also, "Don't have to wait to get your baggage when you get off." And the really big, super-duper time consumer is "Don't have to worry about the airlines losing it."

Yes, it is too bad there is no way to collect up all the time saved at airports. We could dole it out to the impatient, baggage pulling passengers along with their airline tickets and give them all sorts of time to board. I'll have to watch myself just to be sure I don't fall into the "hurry-up" crowd any time soon.

As always, please call us with any road or county concerns at the shop at 580-395-2859, or on my cell at 580-541-8950 or Robert Moss on his cell at 580-541-8953.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy R. Bobbitt, Commissioner
Grant County District 2