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MESSAGES from the Masters

Excerpt from 22 Success Lessons from Baseball by Ron White

Robert Frost and Bobby Thigpen

Bobby Thigpen spent most of his career with the Chicago White Sox and had a good baseball career. However, I am sure that it's a little known fact that he also fancied himself as somewhat of a poet. That's right...a poet. The man who the White Sox looked to in the ninth to mow down batters could have been the next Robert Frost.

Actually, that may be an exaggeration. His poetry most likely would not have received an 'A' in any Junior High English class. Thigpen, after his first full year in the Major Leagues, posted a 7 and 5 record with 16 saves and an ERA of 2.70. But, he did sense that the possibility of not being signed was real. He sent this short poem to White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf:

As I sit at home this off-season,
I wonder what the hell is the reason,
Why the club wants to be unfair,
Underpaying a player who can produce and care.

Reinsdorf could roll with the punches and promptly responded with some rhymes of his own.

I hope you are a really good pitcher,
Because as a poet you will never get richer;
If you are not pitching this year,
I will be sad but won't fear;
Though you may be one of the best,
There's always someone among the rest.

At this point it was getting fun. And Thigpen couldn't resist but to respond with more poetry of his own. Thigpen sent this gem to his fellow poet:

It is true that my potential as a poet is very small,
But, in the ninth who do you want to have the ball?
You say there will always be someone among the rest,
But, who do you want, them or the best?

Thigpen didn't get his salary doubled like he wanted. But, he did get signed and had a nice career. Someone once said that, 'Life is too serious to be taken seriously.' Thigpen is a man who had an unconventional and fun approach to a very serious issue, such as his salary. How often in business and life do you make a serious situation only more serious by being unnecessarily stoic. If we can learn any lesson from Thigpen, it would be to lighten up and have some fun.



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At one time, there were only two ways to tap into the value of your home:

Sell your home

BUT... then you would have to move somewhere else.

Borrow against the equity in your home

BUT... then you would have to make monthly loan repayments.

Many people have retired with what they assumed would be a comfortable retirement income into the future, only to find that inflation, rising health care costs and unexpected expenses have worked to make their retirement less secure. These people may have substantial equity in their homes...equity they would like to convert to cash without having to move or assume debt that has to be repaid.

A reverse mortgage, which converts a portion of a home's equity into cash without requiring that the home be sold or that the equity be repaid currently, may provide the answer.

What Is a Reverse Mortgage?

A reverse mortgage is a loan against the value of your home that does not have to be paid back for as long as you live in the home. Simply put, a reverse mortgage converts some of the equity in your home into income.

The proceeds from a reverse mortgage can be paid to you:

- In a single lump sum;
- As a regular monthly income; or
- At times and in amounts of your choosing.

While reverse mortgages typically require no repayment while you are living in your home, they must be repaid in full, including interest and any other charges, at the earliest of:

- The death of the last living borrower (meaning that a surviving spouse may continue to live in the home without repaying the reverse mortgage);
- The sale of the home; or
- The last living borrower moves permanently away from the home, such as to an assisted living facility or nursing home.

Please contact my office if you would like additional information on reverse mortgages.