

Jeff Around Town – May 24th, 2024

Otis: 8:45, let me see, what do we have scheduled for 8:45? Oh! It's about town. Jeff, specifically, about town. Jeff.

Jeff: What would it be like if Patrick Stewart was doing the weather during a storm warning? Otis, would you travel 4,000 miles to Omaha to help your kid build a piece of furniture?

Otis: Depends on which kid.

Jeff: Yeah.

Otis: And which furniture.

Jeff: And in the rain.

Otis: I wouldn't do an armoire.

Jeff: No?

Otis: No.

Jeff: And how about in the rain?

Otis: Well, what, they didn't have a roof.

Jeff: Well, they did, but it was still raining out in that, but that's what one father did recently. There's this newish bodega in the Old Market, and it's-

Otis: I know the one you're talking about.

Jeff: Yeah, and it's cleverly called Godega.

Otis: Yeah.

Jeff: And they have lots of, well, grab-and-go items, and they have a coffee bar, and a few adult beverages. So, I like to go out for walks, and even in the rain, especially in the rain, it's kind of cozy. You've got your umbrella and your rain jacket, and you're sort of like in your own little cozy world, walking around, looking at stuff. I love to look at stuff. So, a few weeks ago, I noticed that Godega was adding this little outside patio area, and they have Parisian chairs and tables, and that's my thing, Otis, is to people watch, to sit there and watch the people going by. So, on this particular rainy morning, I noticed there's a guy building wooden benches. So, you know, I'm a curious fellow, so yeah, I stopped by to introduce myself, and he said his name was Joe, but to my surprise, Otis, he spoke with a Scottish accent.

Otis: Had the brogue, eh?

Jeff: Had the brogue. Cue Ben Rasmussen with his Scottish accent. So, it turns out Joe was from Glasgow, and I asked him what had brought him to Omaha. You know, considering he was building a bench, I assumed that he lived here. Well, no, he said that his son brought him

here, and at that moment, his son, David Kerr, came out to help his dad work on the benches. Godega is co-owned by David and Nate Flick, and David lives here, but Joe's dad lives in Glasgow. So, it turns out that Joe's a carpenter back in Glasgow. He helps build furniture, and he also helps, he's hired out to help people put their Ikea furniture together. Otis, have you ever tried to put some Ikea furniture together, those instructions?

Otis: Yeah. I don't do that. I have, as it turns out, a daughter who loves doing that.

Jeff: Oh, well, that's helpful.

Otis: And right now, there's a box in my hallway.

Jeff: If Joe's still in town, he makes a living.

Otis: They should meet.

Jeff: They should. So, what happened was that David got some quotes to build a bench, and it was a little pricey for his budget. It was cheaper to fly his dad here from Glasgow to help do the work, but Otis, watching the two of them together, I have a feeling that it was just a great opportunity for father and son to kind of hang out for a bit. And as Joe said, with all the rain, he felt like he was back home in Glasgow. And I had this raincoat on, and they said, oh, you look like you belong in Glasgow. So, we chatted for a while. We talked about things like, you're a fan of Ted Lasso, right?

Otis: Oh, yeah.

Jeff: Oh, love that show. They loved it. We were talking about Ted Lasso and kindness, and I just, Joe was so cool. Like, I think we're about the same age. I might even be a little older, but I kept thinking, can Joe be my dad too? And I've never been to Scotland. I love to travel, but I've never been there. But during the rest of my walk in the rain, I imagined I was in Glasgow, and just this heartwarming moment thinking about this dad who came 4,000 miles from Scotland to help build this bench, where eventually patrons will sit and have a coffee and a cocktail. And watching them together, it was just clear that there was so much love between them. So, Otis.

Otis: Very cool.

Jeff: Yeah, yeah. So how long, you know, how far would you travel to help your kid? From the parents I know, Otis, they travel to the moon and back for their kids. Even it was just to build a bench. But ultimately, it wasn't about saving a few dollars. It was, I think, spending time with each other.

Otis: Yeah, doing some time.

Jeff: Yeah, and Father's Day is around the corner. So, there you go. Another Jeff around town, Otis.

Otis: I like that. I like that. It's very touching.