Eyewash

When I retired in ’03 at the age of 65 I began going to a retired Air Force ophthalmologist. He said my eyes were in good condition. He died in 2008.

I found a new eye doctor, Dr Adams, out near where I lived. His inspection indicated cataracts in a few years. He also found touches of glaucoma for which he recommended a nightly drop of Latanoprost. I asked about irritation on the outer corners of both eyes and his diagnosis was some short eyelashes that should be pulled. None of this had been told to me before.

For years I preferred to have a bright reading light. I had annual eye checks and wore my glasses as prescribed. My vision finally had deteriorated so that I could not read road signs and, finally, I could not make out the license plate numbers on the car ahead of me. Night vision was not what it used to be. Colors were not sharp. Dr Adams recommended the cataracts in the left eye should be fixed. The right eye could wait maybe a year. He recommended I see a specialist.

The specialist said the cataract in the left eye had progressed to a point that he recommended surgery, a procedure called phacoemulsification. Preoperational preparation consisted of three kinds of drops (Prednisolone Acetate, Nevanac, and Vigamox) four times a day for a month. In an outpatient surgery facility I was put under a light general anesthesia. A slit is made in the cornea and an ultrasonic probe shattered and liquefied the lens which was then removed by suction. A new lens was inserted and the eye was bandaged. The bandage was removed the next day and drops were continued for four weeks.

The change in vision was remarkable. 3-D and Technicolor. Everything was in focus except I still needed reading glasses for close up work. As for the colors the difference was like bright white paper in the left side and light tan on the right side. Can hardly wait for the other eye’s operation. I found that cataract surgery was the most common surgery in America. I’m a believer.