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## **Amerine a Rusty Nail regular**

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**By Seth Kabala, [seth@sethkabala.com](mailto:seth@sethkabala.com)**

On a day that should have been sunny — it's spring for goodness sakes! — Larry Amerine, 71, wearing a cream-colored button-down and Iowa Hawkeyes cap and pants, was avoiding the outside gloom by passing the time with friends at the Rusty Nail bar and grill in Davenport.

Long-neck in hand, he was making his way around the bar, chatting people up, telling jokes, some unsuitable for network television primetime, when I found him.

**Q:** What is your occupation?

**A:** I'm an insurance agent.

**Q:** How did you get into that?

**A:** The job I was at, I was out selling just articles and stuff. I was just trying to make, earn some money. The guy who had coached me -- I was living in Wilton at that time — and he said it might be a good way to make money, and so I started. I liked it. I've been doing it for 40 years.

**Q:** If you could retire now, what would you do?

**A:** I really don't have a hobby. I love my job so much that if I quit, I'd just wonder what my clients (were) going to do, because my clients depend on me. They call me at home, during the weekend, and I'll never do it. ... (M)y father passed away at 68. He retired, and I'm 71. I'm feeling good. So if I quit I'll just sit around and get old.

**Q:** Do you have a favorite musician?

**A:** Johnny Cash.

**Q:** Why do you like him?



**Photo:**  
Larry Amerine likes Johnny Cash and the ukelele.

**A:** He sings soul music — the songs which I really like. He's so versatile. But my favorite group is the Statler Brothers. I saw them live down here at Davenport a few years ago.

**Q:** What do you think of bluegrass groups like Ricky Skaggs?

**A:** He's very good. Quite an artist, and he can play, whether it's the banjo or whatever he plays.

**Q:** Do you have a favorite author?

**A:** I read the Bible a lot.

**Q:** Are you a singer?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** Awesome. I'm a singer myself. Are you a guitar player?

**A:** I'm a ukulele player.

**Q:** What about piano?

**A:** Nope. We've got a piano at home. My wife plays the piano, but I do the ukulele.

**Q:** You said you don't really have any hobbies, but what do you like to do for fun?

**A:** (Bartender interjects: "Larry, you have a hobby: drinking." Larry laughs) I've been at the Rusty Nail ever since it opened up at the other place. I do like sports. Once in a while we'll go down to Saint Louis. My brother will come home, and we'll go down and see the Cardinals. I love baseball. I love basketball.

**Q:** What are you absolutely terrible at doing?

**A:** I hate to sit and do nothing. I have to keep moving. ... Writing letters. I am not very good at writing letters, but the computer has made it a lot easier.

**Q:** Are you a texter?

**A:** No. I don't like texting. I don't believe in texting.

**Q:** What's your favorite food?

**A:** I like a good top-sirloin steak.

**Q:** Tell me something most people would be surprised to know about you?

**A:** Sometimes my feelings get hurt, and I hide it. ... I do not like swearing. If I'm in a bar here, and somebody is swearing next to me, I will get up and move. I don't cuss, and I don't like people who do that, because they should have respect.

Each week, The Dispatch and The Rock Island Argus send out a reporter to interview a Quad-Citizen found at random. Look for Totally Random Q&A, Mondays in Neighbors.