Tales From the City

Random Act of Cash

My future husband and I were killing time sunning ourselves on the curb in front of North Station while waiting for the train to Gloucester one fine spring Friday circa 1975. We were set to embark on a fun filled weekend at the beach with a cottage full of friends. This being payday we were flush with cash as well as a knapsack full of wine and assorted gourmet fare. As we sat jovially on that curb adorned in the frayed denim fashions of the day, an elderly gentleman approached, dollar bills clutched in his hand. While pushing the bills toward us he said "You kids need this more than I do – get yourselves something to eat", apparently assuming we were down on our luck. After trying in vain to refuse the strangers' generosity, we finally gave in and accepted his donation as well as his delighted smile and best wishes. We've looked back on that day often over the past thirty years, and find it amazing to think that we once appeared thin and broke enough to elicit such random kindness!

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