

The Bainbridge Blabber

Holiday Edition

December 2000



Christmas Greetings!

Once again it is time to update our friends and family on our comings and goings.



Season's Greetings to all of our friends and family whom we hold dear. During this past year, there were times of adventure, joy, sadness, and personal growth for both of us. We will try not to bore or brag too much—and we hope that you will enjoy reading our letter as much as we enjoy reading similar letters from all of you.

Family Changes

This year started off on a somber note. Sandy's mother suffered a stroke on Christmas Day last year. While we were told the stroke was small, its effects were devastating. Unfortunately, she was unable to recover and passed away in early February just short of age 81. Sandy spent many hours with her father dealing with her passing and the subsequent wrapping up of affairs, etc. It was a sad time, and her mother is still greatly missed.

During this same time, we got a call from the nursing home where Bob's mother lives. She had stopped eating and was not expected to live more than a week or so. Bob rallied the family to go and see her one last time. She apparently enjoyed the attention so much, that she perked up, started to eat again and is still with us. Although she is very frail, she is still alert and in good spirits. As an aside, we also discovered that she is really two years older than we thought and will turn 99 next March if she continues to hang in there.

In March, Carla's mother (Bob's first wife) passed away unexpectedly. It was a difficult time for Carla. Although the year started sadly, we are all picking up the pieces and moving on.

Forest Urbanization - Trees Get Addresses



In March, we finally got our new E911 address, after almost a two-year delay. We now have a street address just like "city folks"! **Our new address is: 33723 Winnamakee Shores Road, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472. Please make a note of it.** The Address Assignment Bureaucrats also assigned an address to our pole building and another to vacant forestland. Apparently the DNR did not want any of the deer or wildlife to get lost.

Bob's Toy Box Cleaned Up!!

Bob, after a decade of procrastination, decided to put a cement floor in his toy box, also known as the pole barn. Sandy was truly amazed at the amount of "really good stuff" that he had squirreled away -- hanging on walls, stacked in rows of shelving, stuffed into rafters and in various piles on the dirt floor. Imagine over thirty years of accumulation packed away along with "fine vintage equipment" (old stuff) like tractors, loaders, boats, etc. The problem was to get all this stuff out of the building and store it someplace so that the concrete could get poured. Bob had the clever idea of having Sandy help him pile it all onto trailers -- boat trailers, flatbed trailer, utility trailers, and any other device he could find. Once appropriately overloaded and piled sky high, we towed each one to an appropriate spot in the yard for storage, covered them with tarps and watched the neighbors hold their sides as they pointed and laughed. Then, of course, we had to put it all back again afterward. Throughout this, Sandy was her usual pleasant self and Bob steadfastly refused to discard anything.

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Sandy Gets “Wacky”

Springtime came and gave rise to new hope that life goes on. At Carla’s suggestion, Sandy took beginning golf lessons. Carla is a real golf fanatic and is out to convert everyone to whacking and chasing the little white ball. Sandy really enjoyed the lessons and will probably take them again next spring. Now she just needs to find some folks to play with on a more regular basis!



Garden and Wildlife Report

The gardening report this year was mixed at best. Peas, peppers, Swiss chard, carrots, eggplant, broccoli & cauliflower did OK but most of our tomato plants broke off in strong winds and needed to be replaced. Bob had great visions of pole beans veritably climbing up to the sky like Jack & the Beanstalk. He went into the woods and cut down almost every small tree in sight so he could build 5 teepee style beanpoles and have a pile of sticks left over. We planted 20 beans in each mound – over 100 plants! Then we waited...and waited...and waited. Nothing sprouted except for one seed and one of the birch poles, which we had just stuck in the ground!! We thought of entering the sprouting pole at the county fair but they didn’t have a judging class for it. Well, better luck next year.

When the pole barn got its own address and floor, a doe and two fawns decided to move into the new upscale neighborhood. They really enjoyed nibbling on the zucchini and cucumbers that were planted outside of the fenced area. We managed to get a few vegetables there, but the deer bested us by waiting until just the right moment and then eating every single butternut squash and most of the hubbard squash as well.

Meanwhile, this year Sandy was determined to grow giant pumpkins – the 100 to 200 lb size! She bought the seeds and started them indoors and carefully nourished them. Only two seedlings survived but they grew well outside the fence, and one formed a gorgeous pumpkin. The deer were nice enough to wait until it was nice and plump, and then one night they finished that off as well – leaving only a piece of the outer shell as if to say they were so stuffed they couldn’t finish it all!



Bob—10, Chipmunks—0

The best sport of the year was to watch Bob try and outwit some local chipmunks who insisted on taking up residence in the pole barn. They too, must have been impressed with the new address and wanted to move in. Sandy watched with increasing mirth as Bob tried to persuade them to move. Think of the old fashioned cartoons and all of the schemes to get rid of the pests. Think of Elmer Fudd and Bugs Bunny. Think of Bob.

Community Life

Sandy is getting busier with church and involvement in Zonta, a service organization that works to advance the status of women. Sandy was one of the models at the annual style show fundraiser and developed an extensive web site for the group. Church involvement includes being a lector, deacon, money counter, and serving on the council.

Bob continues to serve on the MPR Regional Advisory board, attend township meetings, and stay involved with Chamber of Commerce events. Increased marketing efforts are beginning to pay off and we are starting to develop name recognition in the local community.



Fitness Report

Like most baby boomers, we are reaching the age when middle age spread and cholesterol counts are no longer something that happens to other people! Sandy has been trying to get into the habit of regular walks, while Bob desires something more active—like chain sawing! Both of us have been biking occasionally and this fall decided to try rollerblading! It’s pretty fun, but our skill level is low and the local roads are hilly, so we have the knee and wrist protection on at all times. I’m sure if any young folks saw us they’d have a good laugh. Still haven’t found any rollerbladers who will admit they actually know how to stop on those things!



*May all of you have a wonderful Christmas with the blessings of home, family and friends.
And may the New Year bring happiness, health and prosperity to all.*