

# The Bainbridge Blabber

**Holiday Edition**

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**December 2022**



## *Merry Christmas*

**Christmas Greetings to all:** We hope this finds you doing well and in good health. We enjoyed a very busy 2022 thankful that we have been blessed with good health and can still travel and keep active.

**Health Report—Good News:** So far, Sandy’s cancer appears to be absent for now. She has now “graduated” to seeing the oncologist only 3 times a year but continues to be watchful for anything unusual. Daughter Carla’s cancer also seems to have abated – much to her doctors’ amazement. We are thankful that her scans continue to show no cancer anywhere. In January, Sandy had a “watchman” device implanted in her heart to help prevent strokes caused by AFIB. Everything went fine and she is feeling good although she noted that the device should more correctly be called a “watchperson” device! Bob continues to be in robust health for which we are happy.

**A Blast from the Past and the good (or at least old) days:** This year, Bob reconnected with several of his acquaintances from his working days. We visited with one at his winter home in Tucson while another from Colorado was in Branson for a week and being “nearby” (90 miles), drove down to visit us. This summer Bob also visited with three associates while in St. Paul on the way to our Granddaughter’s wedding. How fun to reminisce about the old days!

**A Warm visit and warm friends:** In July we had a wonderful visit with special friends from Atlanta. We sponsored Gideon several years ago when he immigrated to the U.S. from Cameroon. While we have kept in touch, we had not seen them for several years. Gideon, his wife Celine and 2 of their 3 kids were here for several days, and in spite of 100-degree weather, we all had a great time and lots of good conversations. Sandy especially enjoyed not cooking whenever Celine prepared Cameroonian dishes. Yum!



**Travel Report: Ostrich, UFOs, Buffalo, Bikers and a Wedding:** In February we drove out to Palm Springs, CA to see daughter Carla and her husband who spent several weeks there to escape the worst of winter in Minnesota. We had great food, saw the 1000 palms Nature Area, visited the Living Desert Gardens, and had a nice visit with Bob’s cousin who lives nearby in Palm Desert. On the way home Sandy saw signs to visit the Rooster Cogburn Ostrich farm in Arizona. She pestered Bob and didn’t think he would stop, but to her surprise he did. Even more amazingly, he enjoyed it! We got to see and hand feed several kinds of animals – goats, sheep, donkeys, etc. They have a large herd of ostrich which are big and aggressive, so no handfeeding there, but what a blast! Driving through NM, we also stopped at White Sands Nat’l Park, and the UFO museum in Roswell. Roswell plays up the UFO thing with big “little green men” all over town. The museum was a bit campy and “kitschy”, but curiously unnerving as well.



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In August we went to Minnesota for our granddaughter's wedding. It was a lovely affair in a fancy wedding barn near Mora, MN, and of course a beautiful bride! The weather also cooperated with a nice breeze in spite of being in the middle of a very hot spell. Along the way, we visited with a few more MN family and friends and ended up staying with daughter Carla and her husband in their new house in Crosslake, MN. While we were there, Carla gave Sandy her electronic piano which we brought home in the van – upside down, no less! It arrived unscathed and Sandy is enjoying having a piano once again.

Sandy said that while we were “so close”, we should “swing by” Montana (a 750 mile “swing”) to see her friend Serena. Bob mocked her notion of “swing by” but off we went visiting the North Dakota Badlands, the ND State Capital Museum in Bismark, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park along the way. As we were driving around the park, traffic came to a halt. Soon we saw a herd of over 100 Buffalo and calves walking right down the middle of the road. Clearly, they owned the road! At least the other tourists were wise enough to stay inside their cars. Got some great pics and the buffalo were so close, a long arm could have touched one reaching out a window had one dared. After a nice visit in Montana with Serena, we came home, driving through 105-degree heat in Wyoming and stopping in South Dakota to see Mt. Rushmore, the Badlands and hundreds of motorcycles as the big rally in Sturgis was going on.

**40 Years Together:** This August we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Champagne brunch at Chateau on the Lake in Branson – great food and a very lovely time. We continued our celebration with a trip to the National Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, MO. We spent 4 hours there and didn't see it all. It's huge, impressive and definitely worth a visit.



**Gardens, Deer and Critters:** The vegetable garden did really well in spite of devastating heat. First the deer jumped the fence and defoliated all of the cucumbers! The heat caused the remaining cucumbers to turn bitter, and the tomatoes went into stasis. But when it cooled down, the tomatoes started to ripen, so we had a late, but very productive harvest. Due to the mild weather, Sandy was harvesting tomatoes and peppers in October and November – right up until frost.

In the ongoing battle with squirrels on the birdfeeder, Bob grumbles that the squirrels have cost hundreds of dollars in various attempt to thwart them over the years. Sandy got a large plexiglass dome to go over the feeder – big enough that the little devils couldn't grab the hanger with their back feet and stretch over the top to the feeder. AHA – finally they are foiled!



**Bob's Fall project:** After 19 years of trying, we were finally able to purchase the lot next door to us. Bob was busy for weeks with contractors getting the land cleared and putting up a 40' x 60' pole building to store trailers, etc. Finally, we have all of our “stuff” here instead of in storage 2 ½ miles away.

Overall, we feel good and are optimistic about the future. We hope you are too.

*We feel so blessed to count you all as family and friends . Let us all take time to reflect on the many blessings we have whether home, family, health, or whatever. We wish you all the merriest Christmas.*

*Bob and Sandy Bainbridge*



*May this Christmas Season be one filled with love and joy for all of you, and may you find the New Year filled with blessings and all good things for you and your loved ones.*