



The Taylor Times



The Newsletter with "Schmaltz"

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN



In front of the Christmas Cottage in Lincoln City, OR

I can't quite tell if retirement has begun or not. Maybe circumstances have made it difficult to recognize, maybe I'm getting too old to tell, or maybe I'm just being gaslighted. As the year moved ahead I put in fewer and fewer hours for Elcon while they worked to complete a number of projects and I realized I'm just as tired of engineering now as I was when I first started talking about retirement, (really when I first got into the business 51 years ago! Wait! Didn't I say that last year?) but I think I finally reached the promised land.

Many things have happened, including a stroke in mid-January. While it was not major and did not limit me much, it did slow me down when recovery lost its steam after the first couple months.

Music was very active again this year. After much editing of existing pieces, the first movement of "Arboreum" for chorus and orchestra was completed. The Brass Band winter concert included two earlier pieces written specifically for brass band, as appetizers for the spring premiere of "Elements", another lengthy suite for the



Icicle Creek outside of Leavenworth, WA

group. As the year's end approached and after more editing, came the completion of the third of the four movements of "Arboreum". (No, the second and fourth movements are still to be written.)

VACATIONS

While we did as much or more traveling as in any previous year, it's all been within driving distance. The frequency probably had more to do with too many points with Worldmark than a sudden wanderlust or availability of vacation time, but the distance was simply that we still were not willing to fly. Work was not nearly so limiting, but concert and rehearsal schedules still had to be worked around.

In any case, after inaugurating the New Year with another visit to Long Beach, we followed at the end of February, with a trip to the Oregon Coast near Lincoln City. Gleneden is one of the resorts to which we had never been. After traveling through the aftermath of the second biggest snowstorm to ever hit Portland and finding difficult driving over the summit of the Coast Range on that first day, the weather was surprisingly good for the remaining week, with plenty of breaks in rainy (and snowy) spells for walks and drives all over the area of Newport and

Depoe Bay. We had hoped to see some migrating gray whales off the coast but were told we were about a month too early for the northerly migration. Turns out, too, that about 200 whales are known to summer around Depoe Bay so we were there during only about a three month period when there were NO whales to be found. I've scheduled again for 2024, a month later so we'll see if that works out any better. Still, the coast is gorgeous in that area with cliffs and rocks and beaches set against the open ocean and dreams of smoked fish jumping straight onto the dinner plate.

The end of April we traveled only about two and a half hours from home, including the hour waiting for or riding the ferry across the Sound, to another resort we'd never visited at Discovery Bay near Port Townsend. Discovery Bay is one of a number of hydrological features around Puget Sound including bays, inlets, coves, canals, and passages just waiting to be explored. It is far enough to feel like it's a great distance from home, but close enough to still have conveniences. The resort location is situated on a hillside overlooking the bay. It is so quiet that the seagulls can drive you totally to their level of insanity.



A flowered field near Sequim, WA

Our failure to see whales on our Gleneden trip was made up for at Discovery Bay. One morning about 9AM we noticed some motion in the water halfway across the bay and almost directly in front of the resort. A pod of some eight or nine Orcas had decided to enter the bay and frolic there for an hour or so before heading back out to the strait. It was the first time we'd seen them in the wild and we didn't even have to pay for a whale watching tour.

Our next stop was Leavenworth in Eastern Washington over the Memorial Day week. The unit overlooked mountains, a golf course, and a pond populated by two

families of geese. Drives up Icicle Creek and around Lake Wenatchee State Park were gorgeous and entertaining. One walk to downtown along the river surprised us with a congregation of swallowtail butterflies meeting along the river's edge. Leavenworth is also a great destination if you're a wine lover. This trip got our vote for the best of the year.

In August we went to Birch Bay, a regular stop on our tours. (See previous newsletters for anything you might want to know about that.) Then there was Coeur d'Alene in north Idaho. We were a little



Devil's Punchbowl near Depoe Bay, Oregon



Lake Coeur d'Alene from Arrow Point, ID



Totem carving at 7 Cedars Resort & Casino near Sequim, WA

hesitant to do this trip as it was a 6-hour drive and was in late October, when weather can be pretty iffy. And coming from western Washington, which is quite liberal, I was a little concerned about the very conservative political environment.



Butterfly "convention" in Leavenworth

We drove into town to pick up groceries on our way in, and stopped to ask someone where the Costco was. The man who walked over to the car, friendly as he was, still caught us by surprise with his



Constructed of discarded pallets this Troll now resides in Lincoln Park just down the hill.

long beard, camouflage fatigues, and a pistol strapped to his side. It kind of set the mood for the week, but despite the introduction, the weather was perfect. We drove around the area, took many long walks, and saw quite a few deer. Although it is a very beautiful location, the resort had its share of problems and we are not likely to return, but we had to see it once.



Sunset on the Oregon Coast

Wishing you all the health and happiness in another NewYear!

Jeff and Donna

Doonesbury by Garry Trudeau

[Sorry to report that Dilbert has been canceled by every newspaper in the country. Doonesbury is the next best.]

