
OFFLINE READER

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MUMBLE, MUMBLE

From: Irv Koch, 3630 Salem Dr., Lithonia, GA 30038-2941; 770-593-3350, but irvkoch@sprintmail.com works better than phone.

Besides bugs eating the rose bushes, the house is still under control. <sigh> I pretty much spend half the day Sunday ... well, 3 or 4 hours ... spraying and pruning. Someone else occasionally comes by and mows the grass.

The investing appears to have bottomed out and is showing signs of recovery. I'll spend pages and pages on that, later in this zine. The proxy fight with the "evil: managers of one company is now in full swing; we'll just have to see what happens with that one. I do have the details of the lawsuits there, though, now -- typical "make the lawyers rich but help no one" stuff. With a LOT of luck, those will go away when the new Directors get in.

The Census Bureau jobs, two of them, were ... how to say it ... not so great. More on those, later, as well.

Various other projects lurch along or else sit in piles. At least the stuffed kitty hawks are cute.



I doubt the picture above will print well. It's a tabby

colored "kitty" with wings = kitty hawk. The "aviator scarf" says, of course, "Charlotte 2004, From Kitty Hawk to Outer Space" on it. I think my color cartridge is dead so it will print green. No, the critter is orange, not green. We're getting other stuff to go with these critters as well. You can "adopt" one, complete with certificate, for \$10, or \$15 by mail (including postage). You get to pick a name, too, and I register them (you as adopter and the kitty hawk's name.) I can e-mail the jpg file, which does come out OK, to anyone who asks.

FOR SFPA 216 -- MC's on 215

TKFW in SOUTHERNER 215: You'll find my dues check for \$15 in with my copies, this issue.

On the SFPA web site, I'm afraid it's going to be a matter of survival. If www.SouthernFandom.??? is up, already, I couldn't find it, but, the sooner the better. Then, as with all web sites, you can't just let it sit there, but have to announce/advertise it all over the net, e-lists, etc.

Yay and hurray on your getting me updated in your mailing label file.

Oneshot Deleted: Allie is SO dainty ... and could pass for an elf as well. I hope everyone who is NOT in SFPA but in that 'zine got at least a partial mailing ... with the oneshot at least.

Ned B. in NEWS 191: I'm sure Janet, as the closest thing we have here to a Talmudic Scholar, will give you the authoritative answers on keeping of prepuces and keeping all the body parts. The rule against taking a census of Jews was, to some extent at least, put in to prevent successful extermination attempts.

Re me, sending address stickers and stamps to old residence. You can still do it for your VA address -- send them some small gift and a nice letter. I just did

the letter, anyway, to Chattanooga. I was informed by High School classmates who STILL live nearby, that the guy I sold it to, has it up for sale. No surprise.

Your GA Polling Place is printed on your voter card. You can, often, vote in various primary stuff that's neither Democrat nor Republican, by the way.

Sheila S. in REVENANT 1: Library Technician ... Specialist ... Assistant ... they have different titles in different systems ... sometimes even "Clerk" ... and to make matters worse, the same rank in some places has the same title as a different rank elsewhere (e.g., a Specialist being higher than a Technician). Yes, my wife is a Librarian with a Masters ... and because of that has to be the supervisor.

If you're going to be at Chicon, we can use help in the Charlotte 2004 suite, or, you can just eat the BBQ.

Re your seeing my notice in "rassf," good deal. Now my system won't download it or the other large newsgroup, usually. Other machines are doing the same thing. <shakes head>

Liz in ARMADILLO 41: AARP is \$8 a year if you join for 3 or 4 years at a shot -- \$15 a year otherwise. The insurance is "erratic." OTOH, it's so cheap to join that if I read the 'zines every third month, it's worth it.

JEFF C: OK, noted on no official Liz.

Guy L. in MUNDI 177: Yes, I know Meow Screech doesn't zerox well but it repro's well by other means. Artists do what they want.

Re Charlotte/Charlie Williams, she's chubby and still teaching. Same old, same old. And settled in for life, it appears, to being a Chattacon Director.

Janice G. in PURSUITS 89: Carpal Tunnel ... yep, Kay's got it ... from using a mouse <shakes head>.

Yep, sell that expensive condo in a few years and move back South ... wwwaaaaay out of the city somewhere ... like Kay and I ... and that money will go a long way.

On "Corrections," my stocks are in a different world from "the market," mostly. OTOH, a half day after I started this issue, things went bad again. Who knows what tomorrow will bring. As long as I don't have to go

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back to work....

On the PO mix up ... well ... they get mixed up a lot.

When I get a new PC, it will likely be an HP6535 like I got Kay. I'll keep the clunker laptop though ... for traveling.

Re the Presidential candidates: Kay calls them the pair of pander bears. I agree.

Do you want someone who takes care of YOU during anesthesia?



Gary R. in TRASH 35: On next year's DSC ... yeah ... the people running it are nice ... but ... I'm afraid their flyers aren't going to attract anyone ... just the opposite. OTOH, I'm afraid I'm simply not going to be able to go because I can only go to so many cons a year and MUST go to a batch that I wouldn't otherwise get to, due to the bid.

On stocks ... see elsewhere.

Thanks for the complements on stuff. Kay enjoyed talking to you too.

On UpperSouthClave ... well ... maybe .. someday ...

Did anyone give me grief as a census taker? Mostly the supervisor. I'll bleat about all that ... long story if I tell it all ... in comments to mike w.

Richard D. in GAZETTE 64: As you can see, the main feature of today's stock market is the massive surplus of TALK. It goes up and down and around and around, but hardly any "great" anything, be it crash or boom. In short, it's more or less normal.

I beg to differ with you on 1929. You can look at all sorts of charts and history. While it may not have been known immediately for ALL it was, it was obviously "the great crash" from within a year of it happening.

On getting Kay to move her money, I did, at least, get her to set up a Vanguard Index fund with her half of the large Federal Tax refund we got. It turns out she has some reasons besides inertia for not wanting to move another dime of what she has handy, though I still want her to put it in a better money market fund. An unexpected \$800 dental bill, not covered by insurance, is one example.

On the Census "job," there was no interview (nor was there one for the IRS, when I worked there). In fact, the Census "job" was so unlike anything you'd ever known about, that it's difficult to describe. It was also more bad luck, than anything else, dealing with it, as Mike Weber noted.

Randy C. in PRESS 9V2: Don't look at me. Whatever you're doing as investing for retirement, just "do it."

David S. in MERRY 29: We've got a Sentrex System, to keep the termites out, that came with the house. I've kept up the contract. (For those not familiar with these, they're a ring of "bait traps" around the house, maintained by a pest control company.) Unfortunately, NOW we have "real" roaches and the "Combat" things haven't slowed them down much. We went for a year with only "giant waterbugs" that didn't reproduce. Now it's the "hard to get rid of regular roaches." And, with Kay about, I can't do my usual "fog" saturation or "roach prufe" saturation. I guess the next step is to call an exterminator -- same one we've got a contract with -- but I never seem to get to it.

TKFW in GRAFFITOS 65: The "subtle difference between Rav and Mr. is a put down, more or less, on those who are not the Rav (rabbi, teacher) type "authorities" who deserve respect. The kitty hawk (Meow Screech, the one on the flyer, there are "other" kitty hawks) says "thanks."

Mike W. in usual oneshot title: When I got the mailing, I was in the middle of Non-Response Follow-up. I had a set of comments to you on the Census. When it became time to DO the issue, I'd "HAD IT" with Coverage Improvement Follow-up. The longer the whole Census went on, for most workers, the worse it got. It became, mainly, for me, one more extremely unpleasantness I don't need to remember. Organization, in my opinion, wasn't the problem. PEOPLE were the problem. American managers usually have poor ability to deal with reality but find some way to take it out of someone else's hide. OTOH, most don't keep THEIR jobs long, either, and the Census was just one big temporary part time deal.

-o0o-

Reminder to me: The Celko - Brock - Hughes - Koch etc. get-together ... someday ...

OFFLINE READER STOCK STUFF

First, lets see what happened to the stuff I owned last time:

Borden Bond -- still recovering.

Bethlehem Steel Preferred -- slightly worse.

Boykin Lodging REIT -- now slightly higher than what I paid for it. I keep wondering if it's time to sell but have pretty much decided to hang on until it goes up another 1.5 points ... and then maybe keep 100 shares.

Captec REIT -- has deteriorated some. The proxy fight is now in full cry. They DID pay the quarterly dividend again.

CBL REIT -- is now selling for more than I paid, was up even higher, and has come back down slightly. I'm a happy shareholder. In general, it looks like the entire REIT "sector" is "recovering."

Colonial Properties REIT -- I sold all my "common" at a small loss and then watched it climb and climb and ... finally back off some. <sigh> The money went into more, safer, stuff, mostly, or much higher paying, but riskier stuff, for a small chunk. The Preferred is now 2 points above what I paid for it and maybe leveled off. I cannot complain!

Connectiv Class A -- has floated up some, then backed off. I keep eyeing it with the idea of buying another 101 shares (I now own 599), but, so far, "it's a hold."

ExxonMobil -- has dropped a tiny bit. <yawn>

Gabelli Equity (GAB) -- is up a point and remains the "rock" upon which my "trading account" is based ... and ... <sigh> I've gone back to a small amount of "active trading."

High risk, eh, I mean Income, Fund (HIF) -- well, maybe it's not all THAT high risk, just not as good as Vanguard's High Yield Bond Fund. It's recovered a point. If it ever comes all the way back up, however, it's still likely a goner.

Hospitality Properties Trust REIT -- has had nothing but quite good news but has only recovered about 2 points. <shrug>

Meditrust Common -- can still best be described by saying "woof woof." If and when they pay a dividend, it will rise some, and eventually I'll bail. The Preferred did better so I sold the 400 shares in my trading account at a modest profit and went back to a small

amount of active trading. And, OBTW, my Ameritrade Account has indeed moved entirely over to Suretrade, for between \$500 and \$1000 a year saving. I still have the 100 shares at Vanguard.

Merck -- sold before the move to Suretrade -- and, as it now stands, I only have to make another \$2500 or so capital gains, this year, to avoid having to carry over any of the loss.

National Health Investors -- has had more bad news and lost a point. However its president continues to try to hold the price up, by himself, buying it. This remains a "wait 'til next year."

PMC REIT (PCC) -- is about the same.

Prospect Street High Risk <F>Fund -- is gone, gone, gone, like I said, and the proceeds put into Vanguard stuff.

Meisha Merlin -- remains in the same category as the stuffed kitty hawks. <shrug> Never mind that Meisha and Merlin are the pet dogs of the two founders.

Triple Tax Free "Muni"s -- have recovered slightly and the plan to use ALL the interest to buy GA Tax Free Bond Fund, then more of these muni's (which could also be Virgin Islands bonds), continues.

Vanguard Funds in general -- I'm a happy holder!

RJR Tobacco -- came back up enough for a tiny profit and is now gone, gone, gone, with the proceeds used to reduce my margin debt, and, later, return to a small amount of active trading.

NEW TO THE LINE UP:

Jameson Inns REIT: bought on a comment made by someone in the CRRR message board. Bottom line is it's Atlanta HQ'd so maybe I'll go to the stockholders' meeting, next July. It's paying 12.22% on my cost and looks like it's not going to drop any. If the general REIT recovery continues, it should go up with it. If things go to hades ... ditto. We're not talking a big investment.

Ford -- I have 300 shares bought at slightly less, on average, than it's now selling for, and await my \$20 per share "enhancement program cash" and various other goodies. I've also put in to sell options; when that's approved, I'll sell covered calls on this stuff, eventually.

Proctor & Gamble -- I bought 100 shares to sell a covered call on, then sold before the Options were approved. A \$105 profit for holding overnight. <grin>.

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Lucent -- I had a BUY in, in case it dropped. It dropped OK, and kept going 4 points below what I paid. It'll go up, though. This has happened before. And when I get my Option Approval, I'll make some money selling the Covered Call.

WHAT I'M LOOKING AT BUYING:

I've got "watch lists" on Yahoo, Excite, and the Earthlink home page. Some of these, which I owned previously, are still on the spread sheet I use to keep track of all this. (Most of you saw some examples, long time back, run through here.)

AOL -- "day trade bait," 'nuff said.

Health Care Properties REIT (HCP) -- doing far too good. The price went above what I'm willing to pay.

AbbotLabs -- doing just good enough I can't "short" it, but not good enough to buy.

Amsouth Bancorp -- doing too good but with a little luck I may yet get it at what I consider a good price and at a time I think I've got the money for it.

BUD -- doing way way too good on price for me to buy <sigh> and I'm not up to the point, yet, where I can buy blue ships to hold, long term.

Coca Cola -- selling at a "reasonable" price, but, I'm still in no shape to buy it except to day trade or "sell a call."

Colonial Properties Trust Common -- I've whined about this one already. Too high to buy <G>.

Conectiv Common -- is losing money but not enough to drive the price down to where I'd rebuy it. This is an income stock, only.

Gabelli Utility Trust -- if bought at present price would be a very safe, but not high percent, income, with some growth potential. This is a "someday when I've got plenty cash to invest, long term."

Merck -- "somewhere between Coke and P&G."

Microsoft -- "day trade bait," see AOL.

PepsiCo -- another "doing too good, for now."

Pfizer -- "someday," maybe.

Town & Country Trust REIT -- considering I bought the Jameson Inns, and considering this is a relative lower yield and risk income stock, maybe I should take this off the list? It's on because I had some once, but there's no real reason to rebuy it, instead of many other income stocks.

Yahoo -- see AOL, only more so.

Prime Hospitality 9.25% 2006 bond -- this is the only bond left on the list and I'm not sure it should stay.