



Random Thoughts

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Hi Guys

I had hoped to have a “real” zine for this mailing but life has been rather more interesting than usual. At the moment most of the tools, printers / clip art / scanners, I use to produce zines are either packed in boxes or in storage. Nor has there been much time to work on one. I had intended to run my photos of Guy’s wedding but we don’t have a working color printer so that will have to wait until next mailing. I suppose I could do mailing comments, if I knew where the mailing was.

To be honest, I just can’t take getting a zine out all that seriously. Too much has happened in the real world. The recent events, while not as unexpected to me as they seem to have been to many people, put our little problems in true perspective.

The Attack

The real world is a pretty scary place as most Americans are just now finding out. Peace and freedom from fear are not inalienable rights. They are rare and special gifts that we have enjoyed in this country for a very long time. So long a time that we have mostly forgotten that they were earned for us by others. Now it looks like we may have to pay some of the price.

Suzanne and I were walking through a large electronics retailer in Copenhagen looking at HD TVs when we saw a picture of a skyscraper on fire. I mentioned to her that the building looked familiar but it wasn’t obvious whether it was a movie or news. We walked on by and spent a few minutes browsing their DVD selection. When we came back the image was on all the TVs and CNN International, in English, was up on several of them showing the same image. We stopped and started watching. At that point everyone was assuming it was some kind of horrible accident. While we stood there they announced that an explosion had occurred at the Pentagon. Then we watched the plane hit the second tower. It had to be a deliberate attack.

I would like to say I was in shock but I can’t. Seeing something like that on TV when you’re out of the country gives it an air of unreality and cushions its impact. It was hours later that I really started to feel it. Then there was the little matter of getting home.

We were scheduled on a flight leaving in the early morning on the 12th. Needless to say that wasn’t going to happen with all flights shut down. Suzanne got us seats on a flight leaving the next Sunday, “just in case” and it turns out to have been a very good thing. Mind you we did spend over a \$100 dollars on phone calls to the airline.

But that will all have to wait. I just don’t have the time or energy to write about it now.

The Move

Just before the last mailing, we got an offer on our Atlanta house. It was a pretty good offer, money wise, and we decided to take it. Needless to say it took a week of back and forth between the two realtors to get a real agreement. The problem was the buyer wanted to move in in less than 4 weeks.

We had assumed, when we put the house on the market, that we would have 60 to 90 days between getting an offer and closing. The realtors we talked to said anything under 60 days was almost unheard of. So we planned on having that time to get the house in Ellijay ready to move into. This was critical since putting the contents of a 4500 square foot + house into a smaller one that's already mostly full is no simple matter.

We did have a plan. The basement of the original house is unfinished and so is the large room under the new garage. If both of them were completed we would have about 1500 square feet of space to put the stuff from Atlanta. The area under the garage will be used as a combination guest bedroom and computer work area. The other room will be used as a library, exercise room and my workroom. The original plan called for us to work on both of them at the same time.

As anyone who's ever done construction knows, there's a lot of waiting between parts of jobs. Things like waiting for the paint to dry or the dry wall stuff to set or the parts you ordered six weeks ago to come in. If your working on two rooms at the same time, you can swap back and forth between them and cut the total elapsed time by quite a bit. It was a good plan.

The reality is that the basement of the original house is now full floor to ceiling with the stuff we didn't dare put in storage. Suzanne had bought a new bedroom set just a couple of months before the move and then there were all the electronics and fragile books and clothes and tools and...well you get the idea. So much for the minimal time line approach.

Just to make it more fun, Suzanne had planned, and paid for, a trip a few weeks before we listed the house. It was one of those really low airfare buy your tickets tonight deals. So we were going to Copenhagen the week after we moved to Ellijay.

At this point we have finished the ceiling and electrical work in the room below the garage and we're starting to put the floor down. It would be simple, we're using the new snap lock laminate from Armstrong, but the concrete pad isn't level enough so we have to level it first. That's a nasty and time consuming job involving mixing cement-based filler and spreading it over the low spots with a trowel.

Then there's the doorstep plate that turns out to leak water in a hard rain. Fixing it will require tearing the old one out and replacing it after building up the concrete beneath it. Not a bad job but it will take a day maybe two.

When we get that room done, I'll be able to empty out the other room enough to start working on it. I suspect the whole thing will be done by spring! Why aren't we getting the work done by professionals? Because they are all so busy building new houses that no one is interested in working on "small" jobs.

Life in the country is truly interesting.

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