

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Laurel just woke me from my nap with the command of "Write another epistle of wisdom, knowledge, and humor!"

"Tell them of our Travels!"

So, this spring we packed up our bags and flew off to Europe. We spent a week in southwestern England, stayed in a haunted inn, had our fill of English breakfasts, visited a good buddy and nearly killed my father (Carl) in Plymouth, hunted down some mead in Penzance, experienced unseasonable cold, rain, and



snow, and even briefly visited my brother & wife (Paul & Mary) in

Oxford. Then off to Austria, where we primarily stayed in Salzburg, ate chocolate, drank beer and wine, took a "Sound of Music" tour, and experienced more unseasonable cold, rain, and snow. Then we grabbed a car and headed west through southern Germany where we tried pumping diesel into a gasoline engine, experienced the castles of mad king Ludwig, drank more beer and ate more chocolate, and discovered Laurel's German skills a bit rusty. Finally, we drove down to Freienwil, Switzerland (just a bit



northwest of Zurich) in time for Easter. There we were hosted by my cousin (Patty) and her family and the family of our fabled Swiss slave (Samuel).

Here we ate more chocolate, drank beers, checked out more castles, toured Freinwil

(by tractor), Rhine Falls, Zurich and Lucerne (where we visited the farmers market, took the ferry almost to the birthplace of Switzerland, and got a speeding ticket). It was a very enjoyable time and it has inspired us to make more travel plans in 2014.



Laurel went with her parents (Dick & Mavis) to Mount Rushmore just as the government decided to close. She learned all about the differences between national monuments and national parks. They were able to visit some state parks and private entertainment, but I suspect she will remember this trip more come election time.

Mark was so lucky to return to Bristol, UK in August for work. Somehow he managed to turn a 2 day meeting into almost a week of travel. Finally, we also returned to Lititz, Pennsylvania for the annual chocolate walk in early October.

"Tell them of our Joys!"

There was the acquisition of a new dog, Ruby who is half Irish setter and half golden retriever (though Mark thinks she is more a tribulation than a joy), a wedding of the daughter (Kathryn) of a neighbor, and then there is the wonderful times we had with the brewery open houses. This year we had 5 events (once a month from May through September) and each event had musical entertainment. Oh, and we had the honor to host 24 of our friends and family for Thanksgiving this year (Laurel did great – plenty of good food and beverages.)



"Tell them about our kids and how proud we are of them!"

Yea, both Diana and Erik continue to live and prosper. Erik is working up the management chain at Walmart in Burnsville, MN and Diana is handling the pesky international trade of furniture in Chicago, IL.

"Okay. Time to print it and start stuffing cards."

Well, to all of our friends and family, I do hope this finds you all healthy and prosperous. Here is to wishing you all "Peace, Food and Happiness" for now and for many years into the future.

Merry Christmas

Mark & Laurel Glewwe
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