

Are They Retired Yet?

Hello. This is Tweetie (a.k.a. Belzebuth), Mark's "favorite" love bird. I have just realized that Mark & Laurel's memories are fading rapidly. They can barely remember last week much less 12 months ago. I have stolen their notes from over the past year and decided to give you my unbiased historical reference of 2015.

I see Mark has cracked open a bottle of wine (Thanks Dean!) and Laurel is watching "It's a wonderful Life", so this is a good time to start capturing our lives together in the Epistle of 2015. You may be wondering why the bird is the best qualified to write this. If you consider I have out lived 4 dogs, 1 cat, countless assaults by Mark, the abandonment by Erik for some human girl, and (thankfully) the tender loving care of Laurel, these life experiences have provided me the opportunity to tell you what really goes on around here.

Laurel's big news is that she got a new clothes washer. Mark was rooting for one of those French maid types but she settled for a Maytag. Now she is discovering that energy efficiency is not all it is cracked up to be.

Much of Mark's spring was helping his brother and sister clean up his Dad's home and move him into assisted living in Edina. Carl is now (pretty much) a permanent resident at Heritage of Edina. He had been known to escape a few times in the first few months, but he is now beginning to settle in. His new address is:

Carl Glewwe, Tiffany #27, c/o Heritage of Edina, 3434 Heritage Drive, Edina, MN 55434

Laurel left her contract job with Cargill after a year to pursue a vigorous summer of washing bottles and keeping the brewery operational. This year, as I risked my life protecting the homestead, they participated in only 2 farmers markets but expanded to 2 open houses for each of the 5 months of summer (May – Sept.). The open houses were a mixture of live music, foods, a wee bit of beverages, and frolicking about with friends, family and neighbors. After a long summer, Laurel has now gone back to the quiet life of contract work – but this time recruiting for St. Olaf College in Northfield. The perks are nice too – Mark and Laurel just attended the Christmas choral concert in early December. Apparently she only got 2 tickets.

Oh! Oh! Erik and Lauren bought a house in St. Paul this summer. It is just west of I-35E and Maryland Avenue and next to a graveyard. They said they could afford it. Damn Wal-Mart!! Then again, we didn't offer to build them a guest house on our property. But they do like it. They are learning all the joys and fun aspects of home ownership. And to break it in (as if the 2 cats were not enough) they now have dog named Peanut – but still no room for my fragile life. I am beginning to think Lauren doesn't like birds. Their address:

Erik Glewwe & Lauren Preuss, 47 Lawson Ave. W., St. Paul, MN 55117

After the final market closed in early October, they considered all sorts of plans (England, Italy, and Sonoma County) but settled for an impromptu road trip through Wisconsin. I am reading from their notes now, because they did not take their favorite bird along. First, they spent a few days near Madison. Flipped a coin and decided to by-pass Chicago and go to Door County. Then went around the bay and traveled through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; eventually ending up in Duluth. They thought about some more traveling, but got a flat tire and after spending half a day getting that taken care of, they decided to sneak on home before anyone expected us to be there. I was happy to see them, but my food was running low. It may not have been

the most romantic trip, but they saw things they would never have planned to have seen and had a remarkable sense of freedom (unlike me, locked in a cage for the entire duration). It was a whirlwind tour of breweries, wineries, monuments, casinos, unfamiliar foods, and two new tires. What else could a girl ask for, eh?

On a sadder note, Mark's aunt, Marge Christensen, passed away in November. Marge was a wonderful woman, sister to his mother, and will be missed. And even though it is not quite in the same category, Mark lost another friend too – the Glockenspiel bar and restaurant in St. Paul closed quickly in November too. That will change a Christmas Eve celebration that had become a favorite activity.

For Thanksgiving we had filled the brewery again with food and people. It was a wonderful time to share with friends and family and show our gratitude for being part of our extended family. Especially since the two offspring could not attend. But Laurel has assured them that they will be around for Christmas.

Here is something different. A good acquaintance of ours from Pennsylvania is asking us to develop a chocolate soda to serve at their next chocolate festival in Lititz in October 2016. God have mercy on our souls, but we are going to try. He is even helping by shipping us chocolate ingredients with which to experiment. So we may be headed off to Lititz again this year (or face horrible ridicule).

Well, the wine is almost gone (hint, hint uncle Dean), and we hope you have not lost hope for us here on the semi-frozen tundra. We are enjoying our lives and really are grateful to all of you for blessing our lives with your friendship.

Feliz Navidad y feliz año Nuevo

"Hey Mark! I think I need get my prescription checked too! I can't read the salutation."

"It's Spanish" Isn't the internet wonderful?

It probably means you're getting lutefisk stew for New Years dinner.

Mark & Laurel Glewwe & Tweetie too

Prior Lake, Minnesota