

State of the Glewwe Family in Prior Lake

Christmas, 2016

Well, we both turned 60 this year. Of course Laurel had to be first -- ☺ In retaliation, we both vowed to stop acting our age and continue our reckless pursuit towards insanity. So, here are our memoirs of 2016.

First, before the forgetfulness overtakes us, let us wish you all a **Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year.**

After a long 2015-16 winter & at the first sign of green grass we did an extended trip through southern Wisconsin, up to Door County and Northern Wisconsin, spending some time in the UP of Michigan and finally coming home through Duluth. Duluth was memorable for purchasing 2 new tires for the van. Mark just had to visit a couple breweries, including Bent Paddle (where he renewed some friendships with one of the owners). Laurel was enjoying the scenery and shopping. Speaking of which, we visited a monument shop in the area of Green Bay that included marble sculptures of Aphrodite, stone gazebos and fountains. It was a very enchanting visit. We see the kid's inheritance being "invested" in garden sculptures and monuments spread around the estate.

Once we got home, it was time to delve into the world of Farmers Markets from early May until early October. Laurel insists on emphasizing May, June, July, August, September and October. We have cut back to only two markets (Prior Lake and Farmington), but apparently she wants you to know it lasts as long as a Minnesota winter. Oh, and we also squeezed in 6 open houses with awesome bands. Mark thinks that with global warming we could go into November for 2017. Laurel thinks that could be cause for Mark's disappearance and being lost somewhere on the 10 acres, never to be seen or heard from again.

To illustrate Laurel's luck, here is an observation she wants to share. After the markets this summer, she decided to clean out the shed. Supposedly the brewery is closed for the season, but it is a hot and humid day. Laurel is filthy dirty, sweating, and dressed like someone cleaning out a barn. Anyway, a car drives up the driveway with an attractive young lady dressed in high fashion – including high heels and a Vogue-looking husband. "Can we and our friends get some soda?" she asks. Laurel just nodded and pointed up to the brewery where Mark was suspected to be "working". Apparently Laurel believes her image is in dire need of a makeover in order to re-establish the elegant image of the stately woman of the manor home. Mark, on the other hand, was totally unaware of his appearance and enjoyed their visit immensely.

Oh, sorry there, we got a bit off the topic. Besides those other summer events, we also attended the Credit River Antique Tractor Show in July at the Cedar Lake Farms regional park. The park was closed most of the summer for its own make-over. Unfortunately, a nasty storm came through that weekend and turned one of our tents into rubbish. We also supported a benefit for First Responders at the Wilds golf course. Laurel was suspicious about Mark and his good buddy insisting that they could handle this on their own so Laurel could tend to the Farmington market. Laurel's suspicions became more evident when she learned some country western guy was the headline entertainment. This is not Mark's typical choice for entertainment. Then she learned the Minnesota Viking's Cheerleaders were also there as part of the entertainment. Do you suspect Laurel is still preparing a cemetery plot somewhere on the 10 acres? Oh!! We still get to participate in the annual Autumn Brew Review up on the old Grain Belt Brewery grounds in September. There were 100+ breweries handing out generous samples of their wares. Another good time was had by all.

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There were more travels that made up the remainder of the year too. With a short stop in Chicago, we drove out to the Chocolate Walk in Lititz, Pennsylvania over Columbus Day weekend. We really do enjoy the countryside and the heavy influence of the Amish. Then we had a holiday down south in November, including a couple days in Miami, a 4 Disney cruise in the Bahamas with our beloved children and their partners, and then four days in the Florida Keys. We got back Thanksgiving day just in time to put Mark back on an airplane for Plymouth UK (for another 2 weeks to work – oh, yea, sure). Laurel joined him for the second week to sightsee and go shopping. The weather in Florida was beautiful. Plymouth was a bit cooler (but above freezing) and cloudy – but when we got home, it was cold and snowing, resulting in 6 inches of accumulation. Guess what?!? Apparently with all that travel and unseasonably warm weather, we forgot to prepare the snow removal gear in order to be ready for a typical Minnesota winter. Oops! And now we hear it will get cold this coming week too. Old age may just be catching up with us.

Grandpa Frank's favorite joke: *There are three signs of old age. The first is becoming more forgetful ... and I can't seem to remember the other two.*

If you get a chance to visit, please check out Sasquatch. Tom Sack sculpted it for us this year and we intend to decorate him appropriately throughout the year. This month he will be wearing a Santa hat, carrying a bag of toys, riding a sleigh guided by penguins. For February, we am looking for a small quiver, bow & arrows so he can be cupid. We may be forgetting so many other things to share, but we want to say before we forget,

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

Mark & Laurel Glewwe
Prior Lake, Minnesota