

COMMENCEMENT MEMORIES

I asked Jean whether she remembered any of her graduations...

a research question for this page...a year when no one graduates...

and we don't get/have to go to any.

She couldn't recall anything at all from her three.

We would have attended one this year gladly...

youngest grandson Max is graduating from Oregon State University...

It must be true because we saw his name in the paper...

Max Peter listed as graduating with highest honors

(had to look up "*cum sum laude*" to find what it means).

(Just interrupted with a phone call from Max from our cabin...

He found the outboard motor stolen from our beach last summer...

asking advice about reclaiming it from the boat where he found it ---

I said "Don't touch it...call the Sheriff")

I've gone through 5 commencements of my own...

High school, University, 3 Seminary Graduations...

most recently 51 years blurry years ago.

We have attended at least 10 high school graduations

for our own children and grandchildren...

and six University graduations plus Jean's Master's

and one PhD UC Berkeley and one Dr. of Physical Therapy.

Graduations tend to be too long and tiring to sit through...

in later years requiring a bathroom break at the 1 and ½ hour mark...

but I end up guessing why my parents attended all of mine...

a validation of their own parenting?...a passing on to independence?

amazement and wonder that I made it so far?

I just asked Max about any ceremonies...it has been re-scheduled to October!

I don't see how they could do it then...or why...

but chances are that if is safe to happen lots of people will arrange to be there.

And Max too if he can get off from his work...and Hannah..

his parents and relatives and we grandparents as well.

I taught Max how to sail when he was about 5 years old...

first sailing with me...then holding the tiller...then learning the ropes...

then alone in that little boat...tethered to me standing the water...

learning to tack...to head into the wind...then come back...

and finally I let go of the tether and off he went...hopes and fears and cheers...

yes, he went out and came back...on his own...he had graduated!

A text just in from Max...a photo of him with the Sheriff on the beach...as I advised...

nice when a sum cum laude still asks his old grandpa for advice.

--- Art Morgan, Staying Place May 21, 2020