

## MM Summer Blue Sheet Final

ON BEING HOME ALONE...for a while....

Jean is just back from two weeks in Switzerland where she celebrated our 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary! I occupied my time that day in Corvallis with the memorial service for Art Wilmot. Paul Pritchard and I went out for coffee afterwards. I guess that was my party.

I'm sort of addicted to Jean after all these years. We like to hang out together. So I'm rarely home alone. I wondered how I would handle it.

One thing I did was try to remember all the people I know who are doing life alone in some way or another. I skimmed my list and counted 30 right away. Maybe 10%. It is reported that 80% of those past 50 who are alone are satisfied being single. Men are less satisfied alone than women, but even among single men more than one third prefer living alone.

I toyed with the Genesis explanation of how and why God is said to have said: *"It is not good that the man shall be alone; I will make a helper for him."* (Genesis 2:18)

When I read those words to Jean she said *"Did you get that from the Bible?"* When I told her, she said, *"You can't believe everything you read in the Bible."* She was probably suspicious that making the woman the man's helper was just another masculine dominance bias by the numerous authors and male priests and bishops who chose which writings were sacred.

There were moments when I believed maybe it wasn't good for me to be alone. Like where does Jean keep the toilet paper or extra dental floss or my library card? I managed. Actually, I was fairly busy.

For instance I drove over 1,200 miles, accounting for three of my days. And three days getting the boat cleaned and closed for winter. Then there was a trip to Bremerton to check in on good friend, Don Payne, for lunch. My day in Corvallis allowed for a haircut, car service and luncheon meeting to plan the memorial service that I came back for on another day. A couple of library books were finished and written up. (Has anyone read Spong's *"The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic"*?) There was always email to read, answer and clean up.

One is not necessarily alone when home alone. And alone doesn't mean lonely. And some lonely people do not live alone. If you're used to another's presence who is absent, loneliness is normal. I wonder if the loneliness emotion is not nature's prod toward reaching outward. The Genesis writer speaks truth about the man alone. When a woman showed up the man surely thought it was one of God's better ideas.

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying connected with people takes time and effort...and driving! I just added up our summer of a graduation, wedding, memorial events and trips to the airport. Lots of people connections in over 3500 miles.

We hope to be present this Saturday in Wenatchee for the Memorial for Ron Yates, long time pastor in Washington, who died on September 26. We knew Ron (and Lois) from our earliest years in Washington. A gracious and thoughtful man...and Blue Sheet fan!

Our annual date with the Turner Lectureship in Yakima is October 6 – 9. We have a couple of other destinations in mind before returning to Corvallis by October 15. So add another 1800 miles to our summer total. For the Moment...



You may remember when I spoke about my dinghy becoming too heavy or me becoming too aged. Well, I carried it to end the summer. Grandson Max easily hefted it onto the bulkhead for the winter season. That's me playing turtle.

Closing summer should be done slowly, thoughtfully, thankfully... turtle time is fine.

Too easy to miss the moments...

I realize as I read the sailboat log from each day the boat went out. Only 28 sailing days this summer... half our seasonal average... and only 16 passengers.

What a WOW! to have grandkids now adults returning to spirit roots even bringing great-grandchildren. And a SAY YAY! to their friends... invited to share sailing and s'more's and memories for a life-time.

How fortunate we are to have ancestral treasure to share too valuable to keep for ourselves. It all goes into the past so fast... but I try to remember in turtle time... slowly, thoughtfully...thankfully.

Art Morgan

SOME SUMMER READING TITLES  
*Cutting For Stone; Sailing Home; Clandestine Marriage; Take, Burn, or Destroy; The Fourth Gospel; Letters to Pope Francis.* I usually do one page comments on all books read. Will share if interested.

SUMMER EDITIONS CONCLUDED  
It's October 1 and summer is long gone. We will return our MM headquarters to Corvallis.

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