

December 2010

Dearest Family and Friends;

2010 is drawing quickly to its projected close; and I don't seem to have much to report for the year. Which in the balance of things, is a good thing. As to reporting for the decade; well, it's been a busy one.

I'll work backwards down to the bottom of the paper, and impart what news I can.

I'm engaged in an enormous project, designed to keep me busy and healthy. It's summed up pretty simply by the objective statement:

Hike every designated day trail in every national park.

Some of the steps I've taken in the past couple of years towards this goal include moving out of the house in Leucadia, into a 25' motorhome. I'm not completely out of the house quite yet; but have been working on completing construction projects I was in the middle of at the end of 2008. The front door's been replaced; the fancy window originally destined for the reading-nook by the front door got installed in the office wall instead. The laundry room is a few days of work from being complete, and I'm down to the last panel of mosaic in the wine cellar.

I've taken a few breaks to hike trails in Joshua Tree, Pinnacles, and Death Valley this year; at the end of 2009, I drove the motorhome to my nephew's house in Austin TX; taking in Mojave, Casa Grande, Fort Bowie, Chiracahua, Chamizal, Fort Davis, Lyndon B. Johnson, Carlsbad Caverns, Saguaro, and Organ Pipe (National - Park, Monument, Historic Site...).

We sold the E Street Cafe to my friend Dominic; who's doing a great job running it; although he's needed a bit of help with some of the more technical nature of how I set that business to running in the first place. There's a lot to be said for computer based Point-of-sale systems; and much of what is to be said contains the word "maintenance."

The community supported getting Bob's poem "Magic Carpet Ride" engraved onto the stone base of the sculpture in Cardiff (sculpture titled, oddly enough, "Magic Carpet Ride").

My dear friend Tracy Condra helped me select an oak tree which has recently been planted inside the Moonlight Amphitheatre at Brengle Terrace Park in Vista. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for December 26th.

I have a draft pulled together of a book of Bob's poetry that was already keyed into computer files; had hoped to actually publish it by now; but getting input from my reviewers has been a more arduous task than I had initially imagined. I also have a draft of my story "The Windchime Chronicles" in review and expect to publish it at about the same time.

At this point, I expect to spend a few more months roughly tethered to Southern California as I finish up projects at the house in Leucadia; work through a sales tax audit at the coffee house in January, and take a little time out to hike a few more of the day trails in Joshua Tree.

February, I'll be traveling with a friend or two to Salt Lake City where my youngest nephew has scheduled his wedding.

Then, Chanterelle and I plan to spend more time hiking in national parks, and less time being busy dealing with the aftermaths of all the passing away that took place earlier in the decade.

Please visit www.bobservations.com from time to time – once I get fully underway, the site will be interesting!

Happy Holidays – Safe New Year – Be well – and, thanks for listening.