

(2)

shed.

During June Dad hadn't been very well so Dr. Wallace did some tests to see if he had brought something strange home with him. By the time he hurt his knee he was feeling better & the tests were all normal. The only thing was that his blood pressure was on the borderline of being high. After he hurt his knee he spent 2 weeks in bed to see if it would heal by itself. During this time a kind neighbor offered to use a poultice of mallow leaves to cure his knee. Mallow is the weed that has those little round green fruits on your beds used to peel & eat. "Cheese-its" we call them. Mallow is listed as an edible, non-poisonous plant by the poison control people, whatever. Dad had a severe reaction from it & took 3 weeks to recover from that. About Aug 1, however he felt better & had gone to a Dr. Rosenberg, (non-Jewish, in spite of name) a knee specialist in S.C. who had said "See it three more weeks & come back." After three weeks he said "It's not going to heal itself - I'd recommend surgery. Today I am sitting in the waiting room while they do surgery on him. This micro surgery they do is remarkable. They make several small incisions in the knee & enter & take pictures of the inside of the knee. Then they repair the damage if they can. The X-rays showed that Dad had good thick cartilage & there was no X-ray

(3) evidence of any arthritic bone damage, which will help probably when they operate. I guess they call that being a good candidate for surgery.

(I just came into the recovery room where they put patients before & after surgery. The anaesthesiologist is here now getting a history -)

August has been a busy month. Everything had been pruned before we left, but it needed it again, badly. The Jay on the house had gone wild & had covered the windows so they couldn't be opened. We made some decisions. The Jay had to go. It was too much work for us. We hired a couple of high school boys who cut a 6" band along the bottom of the say. It hangs there now, dead & pruned. npt job - remove it & try to make the prick look good. We left one hundred on the north west wall & all on the north east. I like the green & can reach it all myself with a small ladder. We did a lot of pruning but still have some to do - we are going to take all our *Pyraecantha* out. Bro. Duke has given us a *rustred* I will plant on the wall & it can go as wild as it wants there as we don't paint the fence. I would put it on the West end of the south terrace (where we took out a cedar) but it would have to be moved for painting.

I am going to put terraced ~~to~~ railroad ties planting boxes in the front of the house to prevent washing, cover foundation & give me a place for

(4) Flowers. (Lies not in yet).

Meanwhile Dad's August has been spent building a carport on the ~~South~~ <sup>North</sup> end of the farm house. Uncle Donald has been staying with us & helping him. Donald has retired from school teaching. He plans to write computer programming for the schools in history.

(Dr. Adair, the anaesthesiologist who will handle Tracy's anaesthesia just came in.) He says they hope to start at 11:30 (now 11:15) & by 3 P.M. He will be out of surgery and recovered & he really will go home. He estimates the surgery will take about an hour.

Tracy has been working hard - (he was supposed to supervise) but I think it had really been good for him. He's tan & looks & feels well. He's been climbing & hammering & painting & nailing. You know Dad! when he does something he does it well. The carport will probably outlast the house. Even the prevailing winds in Paxon won't blow that down. The cost, including Donald's labor was about \$3,000. which is considerably cheaper than the estimate someone gave him 2 yrs ago. He's decided to finish the solar unit on the South next spring.

It's cost us \$800 so far for pruning, etc. on the house. That's why we're eliminating some of the "need-tos". I don't want to spend that much time & money on upkeep. Besides it's going to get progressively harder for me to do it - or for your father to do it.

We pruned the Arbovitae hedge on the South. It looks terrible now, but I can see signs of its recovery. The interesting thing is the day lilies response to the spotlight the pruning let in. Almost as magic.

Wed. Gordon Peterson, Doug's bro-in-law is coming to start on the restructuring of the ceiling in the 2. R. Then we will have to have the walls painted (& the ceiling) I guess you all heard me found termites when we removed the downstairs carpet. Fun! Fun! That is now taken care of.

The fun things like shopping for a computer & a new car, we haven't even had time for. But we can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Byu is building an office-lab for Tracy in the Science building, and mega is waiting for him to design his office there.

Last week (Thurs. Fri. & Sat) we had a garage sale for Zimbabwe crocheted goods. I guess Dad (just joking) will have to go back to science. Our total profit (minus advertising) was about \$60. I'm planning a Caribbean cruise!

Another thing I have done is clean out & weed the greenhouse & do some repotting. Bro Luke took excellent care of the greenhouse. Bless his heart. The orchids are beginning to bloom again. There's 3 pots of a white-med size fragrant one out now. Also a first blooming for a mericlone baby. a miniature deep maroon orchid.

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6.

Dad went into surgery at 11:45. I walked over to a corner Arctic Circle and had lunch. They said he would be in surgery for 1 hr & recovery for about an hr. It's 12:30 now. If the surgery was straight forward, they may be finishing him up about now. Waiting is for the birds at a time like this.

All these little (?) things show we're getting old. I have been down 2 days with low back problems on the floor. I think we went into full physical activity too soon after comparative inactivity, physically.

Mega is looking good. New building and landscaping, including a beautiful new lawn. I heard Greg my Dadcar properties has been sold. They say we should be paid out in what he paid. It will be interesting to see what if anything we make on it. We have 3000 in it. All the properties I'm in (3 others) are if for sale. The Co. (Dadcar) will ~~only~~ not do any of these limited partner deals. They are into the type of investment (real estate) that Dad has money in. Ben de Hayes is now a new President & working full time for Dadcar.

The women across from me had her husband just go in - so Tracy must be out. It's 1:06

TRACY WAS WHEELED OUT OF THE RECOVERY ROOM AT ABOUT 1:50. I WAS SHOCKED AT HIS LEG. I HAD ANTICIPATED SOME SMALL BANDAGE MAYBE EVEN A LARGE BAND AID AND HIS WHOLE LEG WAS SWATHED IN BANDAGES, WHICH WAS COVERED BY A ACE ELEASTIC BANDAGE. I HAD TO SPLIT HIS PANTS LEG ON THAT LEG FOR MOST OF THE LEG TO GET HIS PANTS ON. HE WAS PRETTY GROGGY. HE LEFT FOR HOME AT 3:00 P.M AND GOT HIM HOME ABOUT 4. HE SLEPT MOST OF THE EVENING, AND IT IS GOOD TO HAVE HIM HIS OLD RATIONAL SELF TODAY (TUESDAY). HE CAN'T TAKE OFF THE BANDAGE AND CAN'T REALLY WALK ON IT UNTIL WEDNESDAY. FRIDAY HE GOES BACK TO THE DOCTOR. THEY TOOK OUT QUITE A BIG OF CHEWED UP CARTILEGE. THE DOCTOR SAID IT LOOKED LIKE MINCEMEAT IN SOME PLACES AND IT WAS A GOOD THING WE HAD HIM HAVE THE SURGERY. HE THINKS HE WILL RECOVER FAST AND THAT HE IS IN GOOD SHAPE TO MAKE A GOOD RECOVERY.

WELL MUST GET THIS TO THE MAILMAN. SORRY I DIDN'T WRITE LAST WEEK.

LOVE,

MOM