

August 2019

## What I Did During My Summer Vacation

(for the last 56 years)

First, a quick rap-up since high school. I went to ISU and majored in Civil Engineering. After three years, became disenchanted with CE, dropped out and worked as an engineering aid at the Iowa Highway Commission and confirmed that a career in civil engineering was not for me, but I should get a degree (any degree). Since I already had most of the requirements for a CE degree, I completed it but also took most of the core classes for computer science. Now that was something I could get into.

In church choir, I met and then married a cute veterinary student, Sandy Visser. While she finished her degree, I worked for R.H. Donnelley in Nevada, 10 miles from Ames, as a system programmer. A system programmer installs, tunes, and maintains the operating system for large IBM mainframes. Since system programming is more machine specific than industry related, I worked for a direct mail advertiser in IA, retail furniture in CA, cable tv, insurance companies in CO. I finished working as a senior consultant for a small independent consulting company.

Sandy and I have two daughters: Jennifer, 38, is an ICU nurse and pursuing a doctorate in nursing, and Laura, 31, manages the intake department of two drug rehab centers. Both girls still live in CO: Denver and Fort Collins. Sandy and I have and still do live in a house that is too big on 40 acres south of Denver, which, by the way, has the cheapest hotel room rates of any hotel in CO for any of you coming to or through CO.

Since we last met, Sandy has sold her vet practice and retired. Sandy has always been into horses. Before retirement, she was lucky to ride five hours a week. Now she rides five hours a day. I sing in the church choir and the Parker Chorale. I also am a member of several electric vehicle clubs. So, ask me about renewable energy and electric vehicles (especially Teslas). We probably don't quite get the concept of downsizing, because this year we built a 70 X 210 indoor riding arena. When we aren't horsing around, we are clicking off our bucket list. In the last several years we have traveled to Patagonia, Fiji, Haiti, Machu Picchu, Galapagos, Manchester England, Alaska inland passage and the Rhine river. But the list is long, so we need to hurry.

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2023 update

I truly hope the pandemic affected you as little as it did me. For sandy and me, it was an inconvenience. It meant we couldn't go out to eat or a movie or travel as much as we hoped. We kept busy tending to the horses and working on the 40 acres. Our two daughters were also minimally affected, except our oldest daughter, as an ICU nurse, had to deal with too many sick and dying patients. So, we have been blessed.

Since we last met, our youngest daughter got married and has had a child. So, we are now grandparents. We are about to get very busy because she is now expecting twins.