

Addendum to the 2010 Newsletter. (2010 Newsletter Addendum, Published September 2014)

I overlooked several things writing the 2010 Newsletter two years after the fact, and now this one is three years overdue. My son Gary Jr. likes to see what steps I take during a renovation project, so my focus in the 2010 Newsletter addressed his interests, and was based mainly on that aspect.

We suffered more than our share of disasters since my heart attack on February 10, 2010. Both of our cars required repairs I could no longer do, so had to take them to expensive mechanics who never do things exactly the way I would. Then in April our Water Heater went bad, more than just the heating elements.

One thing I cannot do is lift my hands over my head, it would mean certain death. If you ever wanted to see a side-splitting silent comedy show; watching me replace the overhead plumbing for the water heater using those little grabbing tools wins the prize. I could only work a few minutes at a time, then had to rest for about half an hour. Something I shouldn't have been doing at all. Everyone and their brother, including my doctor, was mad at me for straining myself. I was ordered to do nothing but sit.

Well, sit I did. I took the idle time between my writing job assignments to learn XHTML/CSS, and during the merry month of May 2010 rewrote my website code to bring it up to date. Still ordered to rest I spent most of June sorting through and reorganizing a mess of paperwork I ignored for way too long. Needing to get out of the house and do something, Debi and I took a one day Bus Tour to Scottsboro Alabama to a place named Unclaimed Baggage Center.

Finally getting out of the house spoiled me a little, plus I wanted to take a nice long drive, so Debi, her sister Laverne, and myself as the driver, yay, ran out to Grainger County for their famous tomatoes. Had a wonderful Fourth of July party at home. Then it was back to my writing job for most of the long days alone, because Debi was still working at this time. She used my car for about six months, which caused hers to suffer more deterioration.

My doctor was pleased with the results of my taking the time to rest. I wanted to get back to my renovation project, even though I knew I couldn't exert myself. Figured I could do things in a lighter, easier manner. No such luck, I completely wore out doing the simplest of things, so returned to my office to piddle around up there.

Other than a couple more trips up to Turley's Tomatoes, and one out of the way stop at Beans Station, it was all I could handle. Trying to do anything got my back to hurting, so when Debi and I went to a Civil War Reenactment, the most I could do was sit in a lawn chair and watch.

Already well covered in the 2010 Newsletter, Debi's brother-in-law Everett pitched in to help after my heart attack. He hauled out debris, and helped get the rest of the wall torn out. Then installed the floor joists, lowered the ceiling, and installed a ramp outside the door. His work on this part of the project was completed by March 18, 2010.

I would continue to work a little at a time, getting the electric installed, taking measurements in the kitchen, and drawing up tentative blueprints for possible kitchen designs. As did everything since my heart attack, it took ten times longer than it should. Burying both Debi's mom here, and my mother back home, made it a sad year. I will place photo's of the finished patio room in the 2011 newsletter.

From our house to yours, have a Happy Thanksgiving.