

Alone together

12 Aug, 2020

I have to admit I'm not finding Covid restrictions particularly troubling.

I do hope to make road trips again and I would love to be able to visit Daughter Two and my son-in-law. Phone conversations and Skype help to fill the void but of course, there's nothing like being in the same room.

I would also dearly love to see one of Daughter One's shows in person but I admit to having quite enjoyed her *The Importance of Being Ernest* performed virtually. And since she's as carefully locked down as are we and lives in the area, we do get to visit her frequently.

I miss the side hugs and daily reports from the neighbor kids and being able to share my shop with my woodworking buddy from over on the next block. He stopped by the other day and it was great to see him and his wife and son, albeit briefly and at arm's length.

All of those dislocations are minor, though, compared to what so many people are going through. And most of my favorite pursuits are unaffected by our current isolation.

When I'm able to focus – difficult during these trying times but there are those golden moments – I so love writing. And reading, of course, although as I shared in an earlier missive I haven't been reading as much or from the same genres as usual.

I don't need company to work wood and time spent in the shop is guaranteed to melt the knots in my neck and shoulders. Within a few minutes of walking out there I'm immersed in that world and I'm always a bit surprised at the end of a session with tools in hand to realize how much time has gone by.

I love our dogs and that they depend on us – and trust us – for everything.

But truly the best thing in my life is my relationship with a wonderful woman. We don't even need to talk; just being in the room with her is the best thing I do these days. I hope we have plenty of them left to enjoy together. This time together of enforced closeness has been some of the best of our married life. We pull together well in diversity and we're comfortable just listening to each other breathing.

I've said it before but it bears repeating: I married well. I wish everyone had it this good.