

158 Turkey Run

Meadowlakes, TX 78654

Sept. 8, 2018

Dear Bev and Stan:

Thank you so much for your thoughtful card and the nice photo of the Wenatchee Valley; it brings back so many memories of good times and good friends. I'm typing this letter because the Parkinson's (PD) has degraded my manual coordination to the point that my handwriting is nearly illegible. PD has negatively affected my balance, my walking, and my capacity for physical work. I still consider myself a lucky guy, however, because my sleep has only been slightly affected, and I do not have many of the other problems often associated with PD, such as severe tremors, serious loss of cognitive function and even dementia.

Both Dusti and I really like it here. This is a sort of mix between very rural and the developing urbanization that so far has not become too much of an influence. It is wetter here than in central WA; we get about 30 inches of precipitation (all rain, no snow) per year, distributed more or less evenly through the year. The native vegetation around here consists of several species of shrubs and trees that are resistant to the frequent droughts we get here. Summers are hot. We are into the hottest time of year right now, with daily max temps running around 100F. Fortunately, it cools off at night to the mid-70s, so that the morning hours are good for outside activities. A good air conditioner is mandatory, but with that, life is pretty easy.

I joined the Rotary club here in Marble Falls (same place as Meadowlakes) when we arrived 2 years ago (time sure goes fast; it doesn't seem that long that we have been away). Our club is smaller than Wenatchee (79 members), but it is an active group. Right now we are getting ready for our scholarship drive in which we hope to raise around \$30,000 for Rotary scholarships to be awarded to needy students from this area.

Dusti is following up on her developing interest in essential oils in human health. She has become quite knowledgeable in this area and is presently seeking formal certification as an aroma therapist. She has decided that there is an unmet need here for availability of products and information that she plans to explore. She will be opening a shop soon in which she will provide instruction in proper preparation and use of essential oils as well as carrying a line of oils for sale to local customers. This is a totally new venture for her; she plans to become certified as an Aroma Therapist. This is keeping her busy these days.

I am enjoying being retired. There is essentially no tree-fruit industry around here, so no outside work for a pomologist (one who studies fruits and nuts). This is cattle country; our yard backs onto a 5,000 acre cattle ranch. Some of our best-behaved neighbors walk on cloven hooves. There are some less suitable neighbors as well; we have to be on the look-out for the occasional rattlesnake or copperhead, but they are found only infrequently. You folks in Wenatchee find more rattlesnakes above