

# Another Full Weekend

Yes, another weekend full of things to do. and one more thing after finishing this post... rehearsal... the first at which EVERYONE is to be off book... less than 2 weeks to go, I should think so, although there have been times... but we won't go there not that I would ever be on book with less than 3 weeks to go.

Friday was another long work day followed by another wonderful night of games and friends. But why does everyone assume that I am Mafia all the time. I felt something tickle my leg and I jumped... so NATURALLY that would make me a member of the mafia (ok, the fact that I was that round is beside the point entirely).

Saturday was another birthday for a little princess who is about to turn 2 and is going to be on her way on a flight to Florida in the same less than two weeks. I have never seen such a haul but there were a lot of relatives and well-wishers so... I was told that my gift went over really well. I found a mermaid doll that I thought that any little girl would enjoy. So, I searched for a card. I am particularly fond of the cards with sound so for a little more than a traditional birthday card, I found one with Ariel that played "Part of Your World" one of Lauren's favorites. I don't do clothes, so I had to be creative for my little cousin. Apparently, the parents did not know that the Buckeyes played a 3.30 game because most of us were surprised at the late start (at 5 o'clock). But since Ohio State handily defeated Illinois 30-0, it was not a great tragedy. But the menu was delicious and ALOT was to be had (chicken noodle soup, Uncle Delton's fabulous chili, nacho dip, homemade rolls, not to mention cake, cupcakes, and ice cream).

All this food the day before the church's annual chicken festival. Elizabeth (more on her in a bit) told me that it

was very warm in the church basement where the dinners were served. She should have been around when the dinner was in the middle of July with fans blowing nothing but hot air. My sister asked when this was and honestly, I could not remember when it was changed to the last Sunday of September. Mom informed us that they used to have two chicken dinners annually. I don't remember that.

Speaking of Elizabeth, apparently her joy of getting the role of Mulan was premature. She told me that she was asked to come for a call back for the part. The title role was given to another girl and E-beth is a mother/dressmaker. Oh, well she didn't seem too upset. I believe the dates are either the first or second weekend of November.

Ok... off to rehearsal. Good Luck BEARS... The Yanks are playing for the AL East title tonight.

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## **Lincoln Legends Part II – Robber's Cave**

Living in Lincoln Nebraska was really cool; it was interesting to be in the western part of the midwest and away from the Great Lakes region – there are differences both in culture and in topography. The story of Robber's Cave in Lincoln interested me for a few reasons, but especially for the wild-west themes; sandstone bluffs, outlaw hideouts – ok, so I've eaten dinner at one of Al Capone's old hideouts in the Chicago area which is now a steakhouse, but I was talking Jesse James-type outlaws... Hmmm, interesting, old Lincoln had outlaws, and old Chicago had gangsters, there's one comparison...

Back from the minor tangent and onto Robber's Cave – the

entrance is a now a sandstone bluff located behind a Subway restaurant. We did get a chance to visit it and found it quite easily, but by 2002 when we were there, it had been sealed. In the 1970's, there was a little old lady who would open up Robber's Cave for explorers who paid the admission fee. You would then follow her down a small rickety staircase and be on your own to explore the cave. I've read various reports on the internet about people who grew up on Lincoln and used to go down into the cave all the time – one person even talks of having kids' birthday parties down there! There are tunnels, rooms, a well, and even a natural fireplace with a chimney! There are also legends of western outlaws (like Jesse James, supposedly, though his presence at the cave hasn't been proven) that used to use Robber's Cave as a hideout to count their loot and evade law enforcement after robbing trains, stage coaches, etc. Before the outlaws took over, it's said that Native Americans used the cave for spiritual ceremonies. Robber's Cave also carries legends of being a stop on the Underground Railroad, an underground brewery, and a tunnel that connected the state penitentiary with the State Hospital for the Insane. Hmm, that almost sounds TOO haunted to be true – supposedly patients and convicts would use the tunnels to escape. Then again, when we were there, I did note the State Penitentiary within view of the entrance to Robber's Cave. And speaking of Nebraska's death row, I'll note that NE is the only state in the country to still have the electric chair as the exclusive means of carrying out the death penalty.

But anyway, Robber's Cave is a neat place, steeped in many decades of history. And the reason I'm bringing this up now? [Robber's Cave is for sale!](#) Well, at least the lot that includes the sealed entrance is for sale – I'm not sure if that then entitles the owner to free roam of all the caves or not if they continue onto other parcels underground. If you'd like more details about the legends of Robber's Cave, [this is an interesting read](#).

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# Bloggng and Bloggers....

Now of course there are the many [tangents' bloggers here](#) and I really like to visit their sites, but I want to call my readers attention to a blog listed under Widows/Widowers. Check out [SHR Images and Photography](#). The pictures are just stunning.

I will be the first to admit, I know very little about the art of photography. I enjoy taking pictures now and then, but it is now more for the technical side (thank goodness for Digital cameras) than any artistic drive. I take lots and lots of pictures, delete all the bad ones and keep a precious few. If I happen to take any with artistic appeal, it was all luck. I tend to see something I like and take pictures.

On the SHR site, I don't think the pictures are taken in quite the same fashion. They touched me deeply. I thought I should share this with other readers of my blog. Enjoy

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## Wickedly            bloggng            this evening

I just got caught up with the news for today (All the news I need to know anyway) and I noticed an article about [Gmail being down today](#). The article stated that there was some anger directed toward Google for the outage. Really anger? Wow, it's free email folks get over it...

I'm wondering why people would complain when something was free. I've heard complaints and more when the 'free' wi-fi is down at the coffee shop. People have complained in the supermarket when the free sample isn't big enough, or not the right flavor. That free hotdog at the car dealer, comes with its very own car salesman?

I've been told that nothing in this life is free. We always have to pay something for it. Free TV, you get a lot of advertisements or in the case of PBS fund drives and commercials (usually between shows). You also get 'product placement' in the shows. Was that character really drinking that famous soft drink? Free email – Check the ads attached.

Even then, the price is usually something we consider inconsequential. But some people complain anyway. And you still get exactly what you pay for.

Of course this is a free blog too, unless, of course, there are ads attached... ☐

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## The magic directional box

I've been using my GPS in a rather mundane way recently. I know the route I want to take, but I turn the GPS on anyway. Even though it never takes me the route or direction I normally go, it does keep very good track of my arrival time. That way I know if I have time to make a stop before I get to wherever I am going. Neat trick that.

This morning on my way into work, I noticed that I wasn't getting yelled at as often. Wow, did this thing learn my pattern overnight? Then I noticed it wasn't telling me when the turns were coming up. The only thing I heard from it, was

“re-calculating” every time I deviated from its intended route. The route would show up mapped, but I would only “hear” about it when I made at least a 90 degree turn from the intended route. Something strange was happening.

Then I noticed something odd. My little blue truck on the screen was not driving on the mapped road. In fact, it looked to be about 0.2 miles off the road. If the GPS was correct, I was driving through fields, houses, trees and over creeks (all at 55 or so). No wonder it didn’t talk much, it didn’t really know where I was.

Apparently, I’m having some trouble getting satellite reception. This is the second time this happened in a week. I can’t find any news articles on GPS disruptions, so it may just be a local thing. I wonder...

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## From old tech to new tech

I was talking today with my 3rd daughter and her husband about movies I have on VHS tapes. They remarked that they didn’t have a VCR, so they could not watch those movies. I casually remarked that they needed a USB VHS player. I never saw one, and wasn’t even sure if they did make them. Well, I found out that there is at least one company who makes them. So from the company that brought you the usb turntable and the usb cassette player, [ION](#) brings you the VHS 2 PC player. Now you can watch your VHS tapes on your PC. You can also take your home VHS videos and put them on DVD. What more could you want?

□

I didn’t see the 8-track to PC player. Or BetaTape to PC? Or Edison recording tubes to PC? Sheet Music to PC? Player Piano sheets to PC? OK, I’m getting silly, but what about the 8-

track to PC. I had a few not too many years ago. I gave them to someone with a working 8-track player.

I noticed that they have a turntable that goes directly to an Ipod.

They have a 35mm slide to PC scanner and a few other items. Interesting stuff I ever win the lottery.

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# **I went to the top and ... Jumped**

off the elevator or stairs.

This used to be one of my favorite things to say to people. There were times when it caught them completely by surprise, and other times when they got the joke. I've been to the top's of many tall and natural locations.

So far

A few tall buildings in Toledo Ohio. I started in high school when one of the Toledo buildings had a restaurant near the top.

The Sears Tower in Chicago, when it was Still the Sears Tower

The CN tower in Toronto

The Empire State Building

Pontiac Silver Dome Top row

Tiger Stadium, second deck

The Arch in St Louis

Observation Deck at Niagara Falls

Ash Cave in Hocking Hills State Park Ohio (Jumped over the waterfall at the top of the cave, ok I jumped over the creek that becomes the waterfall.

There are other buildings in other cities, but I can't recall them the names of all of them. The cities are Detroit Mi, Cleveland OH, Columbus OH, Cincinnati OH, Dayton OH, Ft Wayne IN.

I missed opportunities in California, Florida, Wisconsin, Minnesota. I'm not even sure what tall buildings I missed there. But I did jump off of a pier in Ca. or was that a long walk on a short pier? ☐

Just remembering this evening to have fun with words...

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## Names and Ties

Another week, another post. As one of you mentioned in a previous post of mine, this blog lets my friends know about my life even if I don't post often so I guess any danger of this blog closing has vanished as it is a really good point. Anyway, I finally finished the DVD I was working on for my cabin last Saturday- well, mostly. There is still one I am trying to fix because the DVD player I tried it in kept glitching at the menu, even after I changed the video and readded it. Yes, each camper got a DVD with a customized menu- an animation of themselves done with Corel's Painter 4 Essentials. With it, you can turn a photo into something that looks like a painting. Oddly enough, though it goes through

an animated process “painting” the picture, you can’t save the animation. Luckily though I still had Camstudio installed from when admin was trying to save a video when JibJab was a bit slow in allowing his paid download last year. It did the job perfectly.

Since then, I have been busy or just plain tired. Mondays are back to having no time to post, and I have been getting up early every day this week, today included, so I have just not felt like posting. Today however I had an incident that couldn’t wait for a post. Actually, it’s the latest in things that have been going through my mind as a post for awhile about names and relations. About names, a couple of recent namesakes have run across my life either personally or in the news. One of them is the CINO (if you are familiar with the political term RINO you will understand this abbreviation considering his recent interview with the local paper) named Milton Bradley. I wonder, is that his real name? I know many entertainers have stage names, but I don’t really know if that applies to sports figures. If the name is real, how did kids treat him growing up? Milton Bradley of course was once a big gaming company in case anyone reading this has forgotten. It’s not a big name anymore of course having been absorbed by the gaming behemoth Hasbro, but still when the ball player Milton was growing up I’m sure the company was still known.

On the same topic I met a student teacher the other day when subbing at a middle school. His namesake was a famous inventor every child in school learns, so I am sure he must have been teased mercilessly. His name? Tom Edison. Undoubtedly he is still asked by kids about it, and will be for some time considering his chosen profession. I can attest to this considering my own last name is a common word if not a namesake (though kids did once ask if I’m related to a character on TV with the same last name- yes, a character- not an actor ☹ ) and I get asked about it all. the. time.

Before I move on to today, I should start a bit earlier. Kids

aren't the only ones who ask about relations when they encounter a name. When I encounter a child with a particularly famous last name I sometimes ask about it. Of course, most either have no idea who I'm talking about or just say no, they aren't related. Well they are, as we are all related to the first man and woman known as Adam and Eve, and later Noah since he and his family were the only survivors of the great flood. They are related, but many generations removed of course. However, one time when I was student teaching myself, I came across a girl with the last name of Fogerty and of course had to ask about John Fogerty. Instead of the expected response she said that yes, he was her uncle. Pretty old for her uncle I would have to say, but maybe she meant great-uncle. I clarified since John Fogerty could still be a common name and not in fact refer to the former CCR member, but she maintained that he was her uncle. Well, I suppose *someone* has to say yes to this question.

Today's encounter started with a guided reading group. We were discussing a book where a shy boy had a talent for playing the piano. He started out telling no one, even his friends, about this talent but ended up overcoming nervousness and performing in front of the school in a talent show. We talked about performing and of course I shared that I acted. The kids' eyes really lit up at this, and I mean **really**. When I said this they assumed I meant I acted on TV. I have never met this kind of fixed attention before when I brought up acting, but it turns out they had a reason for linking acting with television. Their teacher is the mother of an actor who plays a major role in Smallville, and even came to visit last year. I probably shouldn't say which one, but his last name is not the same as his mother's, so I might if prodded. I looked up his bio at a few sites and there's no mention of his mother's name so it may not even take much prodding...

EDIT: I guess I should have looked up [Milton Bradley on Wikipedia](#) before I asked my question, as it has this to say

about the baseball player:

*Bradley is named after his father, Milton Bradley, Sr., who filled out the birth certificate form without his wife's permission. As Milton's mother says of his father, "He wanted a Junior, and made damn sure he got one."<sup>[1]</sup> Junior, who shares a name with a [popular board game pioneer](#), has always been teased about his name, but has never changed it because the memories it evokes "only drive him harder".<sup>[1]</sup>*

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## Eileen Escapes Fightin While Having A Pina Colada

This morning before leaving for work, I was listened to our local [Classic Rock station](#) to see if I could listen and win. Thursday is the Three Songs with a Theme in which you listen to the three songs in their ENTIRETY. I listened to the first song then by song two had the solution. While the final song was playing, I put the station's number up, waiting until the song faded, and hit the talk button. **BUSY SIGNAL!?** And Mr. Brigle came on and said... "Let's see if we have a winner." Sure enough, we had a winner. Someone must have been a little quicker on the draw than I.

OK... test your musical expertise and tell me what these three songs have in common. I can offer no more than your name and answer to be posted on my blog... but isn't that reward enough?

1. "Kung Fu Fightin'"
2. "Come On, Eileen"
3. "Escape (The Pina Colada Song)"

In the past I have won a few prizes: a gift certificate to an area coffee shop, and two CDs (the soundtrack to one of the *Scream* movies and one by Daryl Hall and John Oates that must have been their attempt at a comeback). My mother won a phone-in contest years ago. Her prize? A trip on the Jet Express that ended at the end of the season. The end of the season being that very weekend. Unfortunately, she was not able to use the prize.

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## And Yes... They Keep On Winning (some)

Not all but some... and look out... her comes the return of the Red Stockings (on Friday)... B0000!!!!!! no doubt on the war path following the sweeping of the last series. The Yanks have clinched a berth for the post season. They slipped a bit but thanks to a win or two and a loss from Boston, New York has gone back to a six game first place lead and defeated the Angels of Anaheim tonight. Just sayin'. Last season, I did not get to say that.

And it looks like the Tigers (another team on tangent's radar) will be a post season hopeful, correct, [\\_justj](#)? What about the Cubbies, [taylhis](#)?