

Sisters and Brothers

Greetings from the southern part of the fair state of New Mexico. I hope this finds you all well and actively pursuing life, liberty and happiness!

I have had a week of mixed blessings. I now have three tractors down instead of two. But I finally got the correct part for one of them. I called in the gentleman to build the shower pan for the bathroom we are building and he told me that I was ahead of myself and I will need to take some of the cement board out so he can waterproof. The bright side of that is that I use screws and can remove the panels and they will be easy to re-install. Mixed blessings.

I have recently been given a history lesson. Do you all remember Woodstock? Not that we were there, but there was much to do about that gathering. About 400,000 people attended. Woodstock was planned in January 1969 and occurred in August of that same year. Back a step. In 1968, the H3N2 virus migrated from Hong Kong to the United States and a Pandemic was declared. Ultimately, from a U.S. population of approximately 200 million, 100 thousand succumbed. I barely remember the "Hong Kong" virus even though I was teaching in Northern New Mexico and moved to White Sands Missile Range with the Physical Science Lab during that period. The only closures during this period were due to absenteeism. If you were sick, you kept yourself away from everyone else. A lot of people got sick! Unfortunately, many perished. Why did I not remember this right away? I think that is because of the approach of containment. In 68/69, common sense was applied and it was generally assumed that the disease required a medical response rather than a political one. At a current U.S. population of approximately 328 million (by some-one's count), we could expect over 160 thousand to perish due to the pandemic. Future generations will (hopefully) look back and decide which approach, medical or political, was best.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, my pickup is getting 3 weeks to the gallon! Not too bad for an old truck. And I have begun to practice telekinesis. I'm practicing melting ice cubes with my mind. It is taking a little bit longer than I thought it would, but I am getting it done. Oh, BTW, a word of caution. When you and your husband/wife get back in the car after buying groceries, remove your masks right away to be sure you have the right person. I wish you the best in pursuing life, liberty and happiness!

Sincerely, your brother
Robert "Bob" Bradshaw
Grand Sentinel

