

TORTILLA VILLE TRIVIA



DECEMBER 2011

RIBERAS DEL PILAR, JALISCO, MX



Peace
On
Earth

Riberas del Pilar:

What was that noise? Must have been another year screaming past at warp speed - oh well, the main message as always is; **HO HO HO - and a Merry Christmas to all from Tortillaville.** Max and I are doing great, I'm in my dotage while he's still young, we've been together 7 years now so guess that puts him around 56 - I should be so lucky?

This begins our 5th year here in Mexico and as with all things, it's changed some, yet remains much the same. It's like most places; you need to "acquire" a taste for the culture and its daily challenges, I've often said it's like living in a country full of teenagers with little or no adult supervision.

Friends from Albq came down in August to travel and spend a few days here which was great and for the 5th season my friend and neighbor has returned for her last winter here. Next year she has decided enough is enough; enough of Mexico and enough of me (she claims - in that order?). The days and months pass so quickly, seems she only left to go back to Canada a couple weeks ago (it was April) and returned a week ago (that would have been October) and now we've already used up Halloween and Thanksgiving and Christmas is threatening just around the next corner.

But, I'm ready for Christmas this year; actually I was ready for Thanksgiving as well. This will be the last year in this house so I decided to do it up right and while in storage in TX I brought down a box of Fall/Thanksgiving decorations and 5 strings of lights to decorate for Christmas.

At Costco, last month, the smallest turkey we could find was 16lbs, I kept it in my freezer until 3 days before we were going to cook it, then moved it down to the frig, but come cooking day the darn thing was still partially frozen?

Cooking was slated for my oven as it's larger. This is a stove I bought 3 years ago and I made a slight error in the selection process. I bought a Whirlpool with *Accubake* (need to call the lawyers on that huge fib) which it turns out does NOT have a temp regulator in the oven - it never occurred to me to check that. So the temp would vary from 300 to 400 degrees, I'd run down and check it every 10 minutes or so and turn it up or down, but eventually it came out great.

We had decided to wait until the Sunday after Tday hoping the workers next door would give us a quiet afternoon in the drive (we love to eat in the driveway). Sunday dawned with a cold E wind blowing out of the mountains of Michoacan with 30mph gusts, which actually caused the anemometer on my weather station to fail? - and, the turkey was still rock solid, so we waited until Monday which was still chilly - we ate inside - all in all a great meal and an enjoyable day. I figure all the running up and down the stairs probably compensated for what I ate!

Of course that was my big holiday meal for the year as my neighbor is in Canada with her family at Christmas and I usually go explore some new place down here.



Annual Trip NOB: The annual pilgrimage to TX/CO happened in mid Oct and I drove to TX and flew to Denver from there to see Mom. I cut the whole trip to 8 days which was dumb, you need at least 10 or 12 to accomplish everything, but the cost of being on the road makes it hard to justify. I did have time to visit and have dinner(s) with friends in TX, then to spend 3 days seeing Mom who is now approaching her 97th year and still doing well.

Mom has set the bar high not only in years but as a moral and ethical example for my sisters and me.

I also visited my uncle Eldon just out of heart surgery; they replaced a valve with a cow valve? - says he hasn't "mooded" yet, but really enjoys greens more than before?

I did have time to have dinner with friends there in Denver. Sister Kathy was in town for the weekend, but I completely missed my sister Mary due to the scheduling. It was good to at least see some folks (and show off what has become my, now, mostly permanent Mexican suntan).



Keisha & Family: My daughter Keisha and family are doing well. Of course Nick the oldest is a father now and next oldest is Wil who will graduate this next year so they're looking at colleges and Lacey is now a teenager so it won't be long before she'll be looking at the wider world. Keisha changed jobs this year to a large healthcare company and likes it, so as long as they've all got jobs, I'm happy!

The mail address remains the same this year:

5802 Bob Bullock C1

#328C-125

Laredo, TX 78041

Blog: www.oneblueflower.com

Weather: www.chapalaweather.net



*Merry Christmas
From
South of the Border*

Steve & Max the Cat



As we all approach the latter years in this life, sometimes we forget to say the things we should, the following story reminds us all of our temporary status in this life.



I Wish You "Enough"!

At an airport I overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together. They had announced her plane's departure and standing near the door she said, "Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever needed. I wish you enough, too, Daddy."

They kissed good-bye and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say good-bye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," I replied. Saying that brought back memories I had of expressing my love and appreciation for all my Dad had done for me. Recognizing that his days were limited, I took the time to tell him face to face how much he meant to me. So I knew what this man was experiencing.

"Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever good-bye?" I asked. "I am old and she lives much too far away. I have challenges ahead and the reality is, her next trip back will be for my funeral," he said.

"When you were saying good-bye I heard you say, 'I wish you enough'. May I ask what that means?" He began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." He paused a moment and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled even more.

"When we said 'I wish you enough', we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with enough good things to sustain them". He continued and then, turning toward me, he shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory:

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
I wish enough 'Hellos' to get you through the final 'Good-bye'.

They say, "It takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire lifetime to forget them "

My friends and loved ones, in this season of joy
Max & I wish you all ENOUGH!!!



On a more tense note, my niece Katie, who is in the OK National Guard, was called up and has been in Afghanistan for several months. She's in a far N base and drives a supply truck and sometimes is the top gunner so we wait and pray, it's all you can do. She will be there until March, then should be pulled out and return stateside which can't come too soon for any of us.

It's hard for me to grasp the logic of sending a 25 year old girl into that situation when I'm sitting here doing nothing. I may not be able to hike 10 miles with a big backpack, but I darn sure can drive a truck and give me a chance to pull the trigger on a 50 cal machine gun and see what happens.

So, my one request for y'all this year is to pray for Katie's safe return and all those who serve and protect us in far away places.



Animal Stories Continues:

Not many to tell this year, we shut down the kitten factory last year, so all we had this year was to watch one little female, Punkin, grow up. She's very small, probably half the size of Max. She's more tame and is somewhat of a loner but likes to come play when we sit out in the drive. We made a toy on a stick and she chases it. Depending on where I move she may go with us. The others will remain here, they were all born here and know the neighborhood.



So, from Max, Shorty, Punkin, Mamasita, Sweet & Sour and even old Gray -

Feliz Navidad to all



Blessings to One and All from Mexico