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City Mouse - Country Mouse - My 2 Worlds

Monday, October 05, 2020



Nothing to do with rodents, just an observation of how location impacts our lives, especially our options

These thoughts are prompted today by my recent status posts

"I REALLY, REALLY need a new Internet provider"

"City Mouse, Country Mouse" was a song from a Broadway musical "Plain and Fancy" (1955-56) More about this at the end.

We now live in a lovely location on a lake with 500 miles of shoreline, 25 miles from a town of 7,000. Since we retired here in 2007, Internet access has varied from slow to slower.

"Satellite access" was our only option. It goes down completely in bad weather. However, since COVID with more people online more of the time, it's REALLY awful.

As my name implies, I was born in raised in Brooklyn, NY where I saw more people during my daily subway commute than live in my entire area now. I've lived in smaller cities and suburbs since then. Each had an impact on my life.

Food choices

The larger the city, the more diverse options in supermarkets and restaurants. This is neighborhood dependent of course. "Grow our own food?" I remember our Brooklyn apartment. Not possible.

We do have a garden now. At least we try to. Our best efforts failed to deter an Olympic deer who hurdled our 4 foot fence (it's now 6 feet high) or the bunnies who squeeze through it or the voles who attack from below. We did have success with cucumbers, eggplant, zucchini and peppers plus a few daily tomatoes.

Exercise

In Brooklyn we walked to work/school or to public transit where I usually ended up standing for the entire trip. We walked to shopping areas pulling a "shopping cart" for groceries or to a bus stop carrying "shopping bags"

I remember riding bikes, skating and playing in the street. Mostly good times, but also a funeral of a young friend who didn't get out of the way of a car accelerating to "make the light." I remember his mother bringing me his new skates that he wouldn't be needing anymore.

In the suburbs we encountered "bike lanes" and even paved "bike paths" Outside of Washington DC we could ride 60 miles in safety.

Now the bikes are stored away. Narrow country roads are not conducive to bike riding. I have an exercise bike not quite the same experience

I can run/walk "facing traffic" waving and making eye contact with oncoming drivers. Most move over. There are no sidewalks.



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Back to my Internet problem

Surprise! We have learned that Comcast Cable has finally been extended to our cove. We missed the initial rollout during our extended travels last year. They will be here on Wednesday to hook us up. Yea!

City Mouse Country Mouse is also one of Aesop's Fables but the moral of that story is different from the song I once sang.

"Plain and Fancy," is not a well known musical. My DD (Hayburner1969) and I were in a community theater production of it in 1980. She was the child lead.



I was in the chorus with a short solo in "City Mouse, Country Mouse."
I still remember some of it
"City Mouse, City Mouse, so upset. What should she be, blond or brunette?"
Quite funny since I've been both throughout my life no matter where I lived.



I remember the story for another reason. To paraphrase a review

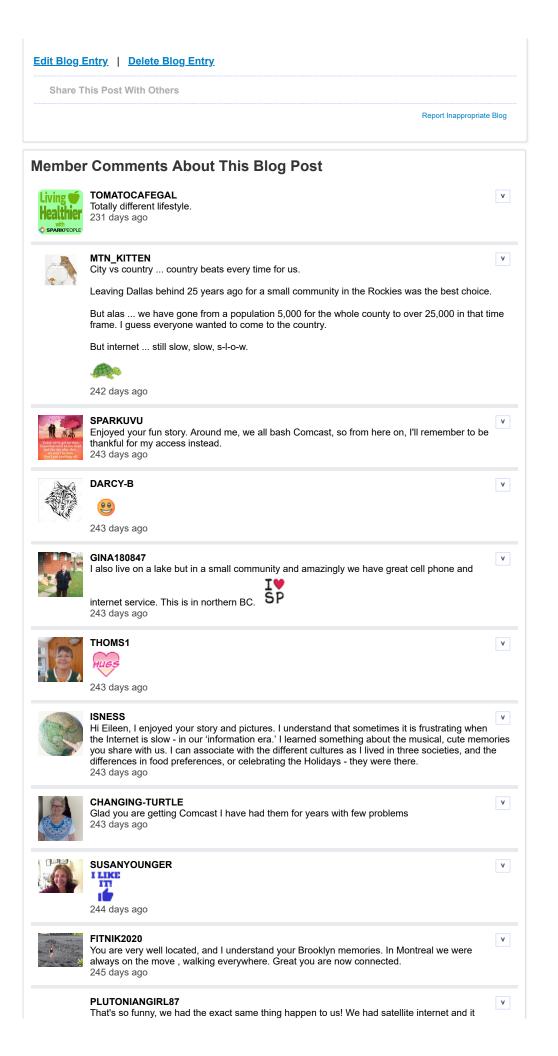
The musical is set amidst the scenic locales and the denizens of Pennsylvania's Dutch Country,
It is a gentle story of two clashing cultures (Amish and NYC visitors) and

"the connections we can make if we just open our minds and hearts"

Good advice for trying times.

Edit: I should explain that we bought the lake house in 1995 after our daughters graduated from VA Tech, married local boys they met there and never came home. It was our best option to visit with them and the grandchildren. For 12 years it was our weekend/vacation home and in 2007 we retired here.

As for Comcast, they were granted the lake service area over a decade ago, but never ran a cable to our cove because it was not "cost effective."





was awful, and Comcast wouldn't run down our driveway into the woods. After years, my husband finally managed to get the right person in charge to run a line to our farm house. We've had Comcast for about 6 months and it's SO much better! It really helped now that I've been working remotely a lot. Enjoy it!

245 days ago



GRAMPIAN



Fascinating account. 245 days ago



MAREE1953



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I guess I'm very content; lived in the same mid-sized city for 60 yrs and within 100 miles of here all my life. Weekend getaways to our houseboat provide the "country life" and similar family time. I feel very blessed.

245 days ago



THINCPL2004

Those are some diverse experiences! Glad you got a cable provider! Yea!



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2BDYNAMIC

Wonderful to have such diverse experiences. As newlyweds, we bought a home on The shores of a lake and we lived in snow country, not too far from Crater Lake. It was a paradise for capturing beautiful sunsets and various snow scenes. Having also been the proverbial city mouse and a country mouse, both have been quite the experience with treasured memories. Nice story you share.

245 days ago



AZMOMXTWO

oh how I do know the internet issue some day we will get real providers where I am and it will be great

245 days ago





LOLABRUG3

٧

I understand the internet plight as we have lived in the country for the past 26 years. I prefer the country and am not drawn to cities but sometimes I would like to walk everywhere I needed to go. I bet you miss some of the local businesses in Brooklyn. 245 days ago



HARRIETT14

V

I was born in the Bronx. The only difference between us growing up was that I was not allowed to ride a bike. My Mother had a lot of fears and there were a some things that we were not allowed to have. A bike and roller skates. Your blog was really nice to read. Thanks. 245 days ago



MARTHA324



Good advice indeed: "the connections we can make if we just open our minds and hearts"

We have Comcast in FL and have to say it is great. Especially like the remote that lets us speak to sect a show or station. Very cool.

245 days ago



YELLOW09RED

v

Great blog. I like your pictures. Hope your internet is great tomorrow. Glad for you and your husband.

Good evening, Debbie

Take care 245 days ago



SUSIEMT

V

I enjoyed reading the differences you have lived with. I just cannot imagine living and walking arround so many people. I thought I had lived in big cities but I realize now that the population may have been big but the people were scattered out for miles. (((hugs)))



245 days ago

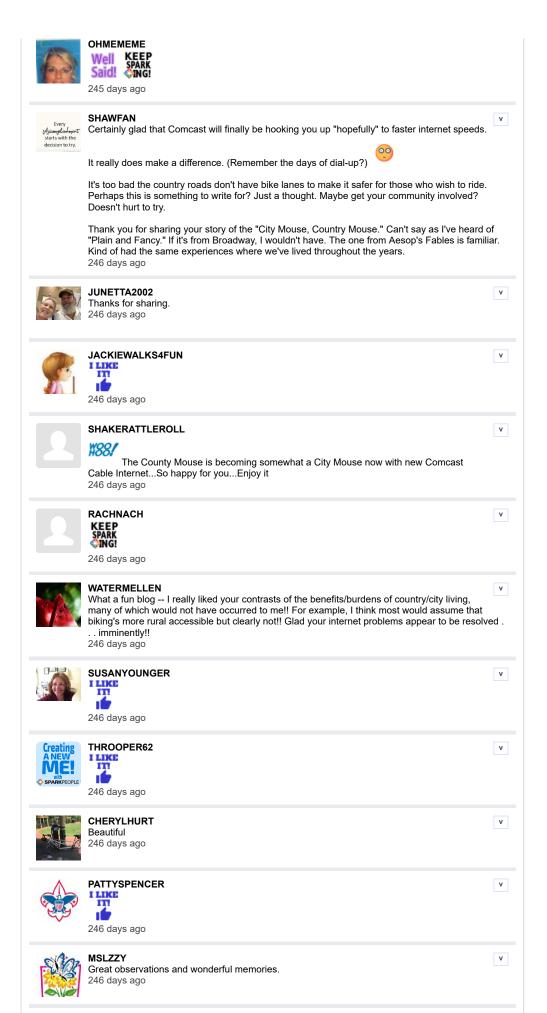


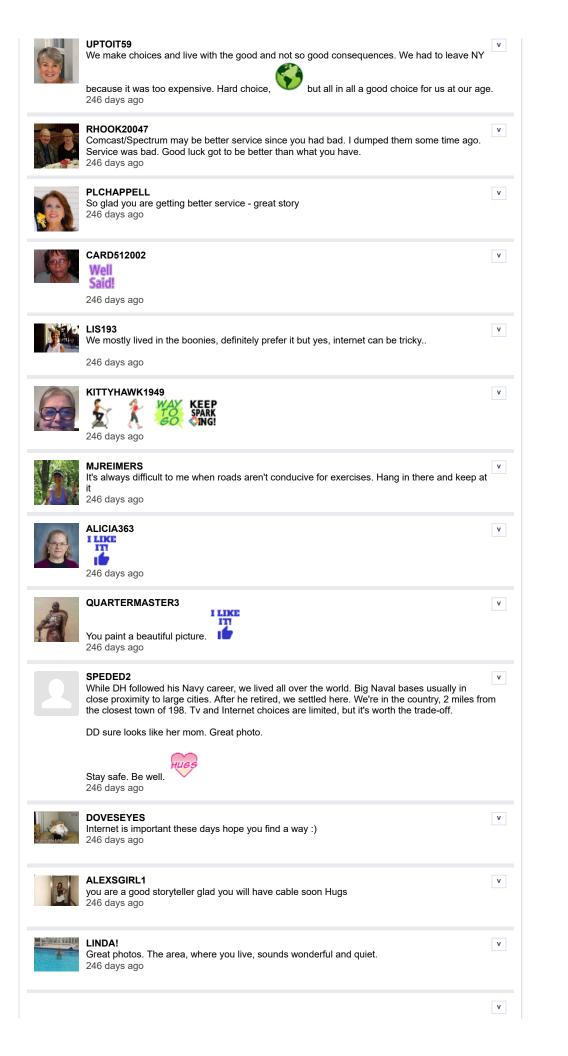
JPPERSELL



I really hope that comcast works out well for you. I have it and we love it. 245 days ago







	PAULALALA	
	Interesting reading. A good internet provider is a nice thing to have available! 246 days ago	
	CRADLEY Glad you were able to get the internet connection updated. With working from home, I described to the state of the	on't
	Love the photos and thoughts of wisdom!!	
	246 days ago	
N Sel Sel	RAZZOOZLE KEEP SPARK CING!	V
	246 days ago	
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