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City Mouse – Country Mouse – My 2 Worlds

*Monday, October 05, 2020*Voted Featured Blog Post
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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."

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TOMATOCAFEGAL
Totally different lifestyle.
231 days ago



MTN_KITTEN
City vs country ... country beats every time for us.



Leaving Dallas behind 25 years ago for a small community in the Rockies was the best choice.

But alas ... we have gone from a population 5,000 for the whole county to over 25,000 in that time frame. I guess everyone wanted to come to the country.

But internet ... still slow, slow, s-l-o-w.



242 days ago



SPARKUVU
Enjoyed your fun story. Around me, we all bash Comcast, so from here on, I'll remember to be thankful for my access instead.
243 days ago



DARCY-B



243 days ago



GINA180847
I also live on a lake but in a small community and amazingly we have great cell phone and internet service. This is in northern BC.



243 days ago



THOMS1



243 days ago



ISNESS
Hi Eileen, I enjoyed your story and pictures. I understand that sometimes it is frustrating when the Internet is slow - in our 'information era.' I learned something about the musical, cute memories you share with us. I can associate with the different cultures as I lived in three societies, and the differences in food preferences, or celebrating the Holidays - they were there.

243 days ago



CHANGING-TURTLE
Glad you are getting Comcast I have had them for years with few problems
243 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



244 days ago



FITNIK2020
You are very well located, and I understand your Brooklyn memories. In Montreal we were always on the move, walking everywhere. Great you are now connected.
245 days ago



PLUTONIANGIRL87

That's so funny, we had the exact same thing happen to us! We had satellite internet and it





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

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!

245 days ago



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

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

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 select a show or station. Very cool.

245 days ago



YELLOW09RED

Hi Eileen,

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

I enjoyed reading the differences you have lived with. I just cannot imagine living and walking around 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





OHMEMEME
Well Said! KEEP SPARKING!

245 days ago



SHAWFAN

Certainly glad that Comcast will finally be hooking you up "hopefully" to faster internet speeds.



It really does make a difference. (Remember the days of dial-up?) 🙄



It's too bad the country roads don't have bike lanes to make it safer for those who wish to ride. Perhaps this is something to write for? Just a thought. Maybe get your community involved? Doesn't hurt to try.

Thank you for sharing your story of the "City Mouse, Country Mouse." Can't say as I've heard of "Plain and Fancy." If it's from Broadway, I wouldn't have. The one from Aesop's Fables is familiar. Kind of had the same experiences where we've lived throughout the years.

246 days ago



JUNETTA2002

Thanks for sharing.

246 days ago



JACKIEWALKS4FUN



246 days ago



SHAKERATTLEROLL



The County Mouse is becoming somewhat a City Mouse now with new Comcast Cable Internet...So happy for you...Enjoy it

246 days ago



RACHNACH



246 days ago



WATERMELLEN

What a fun blog -- I really liked your contrasts of the benefits/burdens of country/city living, many of which would not have occurred to me!! For example, I think most would assume that biking's more rural accessible but clearly not!! Glad your internet problems appear to be resolved . . . imminently!!

246 days ago



SUSANYOUNGER



246 days ago



THROOPER62



246 days ago



CHERYLHURT

Beautiful

246 days ago



PATTYSPENCER



246 days ago



MSLZZY

Great observations and wonderful memories.

246 days ago





UPTOIT59

We make choices and live with the good and not so good consequences. We had to leave NY



because it was too expensive. Hard choice,  but all in all a good choice for us at our age.
246 days ago



RHOOK20047

Comcast/Spectrum may be better service since you had bad. I dumped them some time ago.
Service was bad. Good luck got to be better than what you have.



246 days ago



PLCHAPPELL

So glad you are getting better service - great story
246 days ago



CARD512002

**Well
Said!**

246 days ago



LIS193

We mostly lived in the boonies, definitely prefer it but yes, internet can be tricky..



246 days ago



KITTYHAWK1949



246 days ago



MJREIMERS

It's always difficult to me when roads aren't conducive for exercises. Hang in there and keep at it



246 days ago



ALICIA363



246 days ago



QUARTERMASTER3

You paint a beautiful picture.



246 days ago



SPEDED2

While DH followed his Navy career, we lived all over the world. Big Naval bases usually in close proximity to large cities. After he retired, we settled here. We're in the country, 2 miles from the closest town of 198. Tv and Internet choices are limited, but it's worth the trade-off.



DD sure looks like her mom. Great photo.



Stay safe. Be well.
246 days ago



DOVESEYES

Internet is important these days hope you find a way :)
246 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1

you are a good storyteller glad you will have cable soon Hugs
246 days ago



LINDA!

Great photos. The area, where you live, sounds wonderful and quiet.
246 days ago





PAULALALALA

Interesting reading.
246 days ago



A good internet provider is a nice thing to have available!



CRADLEY

Glad you were able to get the internet connection updated. With working from home, I don't know what I would do if we didn't have a consistent connection.

Love the photos and thoughts of wisdom!!

246 days ago



RAZZOOZLE

**KEEP
SPARK
ING!**

246 days ago

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