

August 25, 2004

We missed you again because we set out early Sunday and went up to Manistee. On Monday, we canoed our favorite stretch of the Manistee River - the first time we've done it since we capsized 2 (or was it 3?) years ago. It started out breezy and cloudy, but then cleared up and got warm. It was a pleasant trip. On Tuesday in Ludington, we went to a U-pick blueberry farm and picked 14 pounds of blueberries. It probably took us 2 hours. They have a lot of blueberries that have yet to ripen.

I am really retired now. My last day of work was Thursday, although I didn't know it until Saturday, when UPS delivered a letter from MERS terminating my contract. I had expected to work until the middle of next year, but I think they were pissed off by my criticism of the design of their new system. Another long-time employee got fired without warning Friday. MERS likes to fire people. This time, however, the employee is considering suing. MERS has a "just cause" clause in their personnel policy, and they clearly violated it.

I've about decided that we have enough income (pensions) and after-tax savings to get us by 4 years until I'm eligible for full social security payments, so I'm not going to look for another job.

One thing I'd like to do is create a website for stories about the stuff that goes on at MERS. I have a pretty good collection, and I might be able to get others to contribute. There are a lot of ex-employees of MERS. I wonder if the domain name "mersdirt.com" has been taken.

Steve