

8/27/04

I am really retired now. My last day of work was Thursday last week, 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.

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'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 benefits, so I'm not going to look for another job. And Carol is going back to work at Haslett Schools. They called today and begged her to come back temporarily. The person who replaced her quit and left things in a mess. Part of the reason Carol agreed to go back is that she has a couple of good friends there.

I will be working on yard projects and doing some writing. Right now, I am hand-sanding the deck, or at least part of it. I bought a little electric sander, but I can't put my weight on it enough to really cut, so I'm doing it by hand, which allows me to put some muscle into it. Old, worn wood is starting to look like new.

Steve