

One Finger Style

Typing.

THE SURPRISE

Started 11/14/2001 Wed.

It is hard to know where to start on this one, because it has been an up and down year so far.

Feb. 1st 2001 I was told I had to have A Hernia Operation, to repair an intestinal rip in my stomach just above the navel. The Doctor was Brad Smith a very easy going fella at Immediate Care on Vallumbrosa Ave. in Chico. Too myself I said Rats. I had just gotten back into the black after making my last payment to Enloe hospital for having eye surgery in Oct. of 1999. And I still owed some money to Enloe for almost cutting my right thumb off in Dec. of 2000. And now this. Bummer!!!

So I Checked into Enloe at 12:30 p.m. My landlord Chuck had driven me down. At 4 p.m. I was taken into the operating room. The Surgen was Dr. Eugene Cleek. it only took 15 to 25 minutes, and I was back in the recovery room. I was released at 7 p.m. Chuck picked me up. (NOTE) I have already written a Short Story called (ME AN MY HERNIA) so I will not put more here.

Feb. 16 2001 I went to Michaels in Chico an bought a No Trills calender. I was surprised on how much it cost, almost \$14. Those pages must be made of Gold. Ha! Ha!

March 7 2001 I drove my (



lemon down to Sac -of - Tomato to visit an old girl friend.

Patty Jones, Hanby, Olson, Croquette. And she was still broke. She looked the same to me. Pa - teete and blonde. With just a few wrinkles around her Eye's. She was now living with her Mother Anne-Allen. I spent all day and a few bucks, going heather an yonder visiting her family, buying lunch and a Video for her Birthday. Some movie she could not live without.

Patty asked me to Draw up a Betty Boop board, so she could give it to her Daughter for a Xmas present. She said she would pay for the board and the postage for mailing it to her.

Well sad to say she got the board or talked to her since my one day Surprised when she did'nt pay. Well "



And I got the Shaft. I have never seen visit there. I should have not been But she sounded so Sincere. "Oh

3/23/2001 Fri. my landlady Dottie Bain called from Sacramento, to let me know her husband Chuck was recovering well from having a Leaky Valve fixed in his heart. I was really Surprised to hear from her since i'm not family. But very happy she did.

Even though i'm not family, I still like both Dorothy and Chuck Bain very much. They have treated me very well since I moved here in 1996. When they are off to points unknown I take care of Corky the sometimes Bird Dog. And water her flowers, get the paper and mail. In turn they feed me from time to time with Great Veggie Meals. And they have shared some of Chuck's hurting kills, like Deer, Elk, Wild Boar, Duck, and Pheasant, and even some Salmon he caught up in Alaska.

End of Page one.

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Now 11/15/2001 Thursday

A bit of a Surprise. On 3/30/2001 I was informed by my landlady Dottie that I could stop worrying about having to move if anything happened to her Mother who lives in Medford Oregon. They were going to put her in a Care Home up there. When I first moved here in May of 1996 I was told, at any point her mother could not take care of herself, they would move me out and her in. After Dottie told me this, it was like someone had lifted a 2

ton rock off my back. 

I then changed my mailing address from my P.O.Box to my Apartment on Rancho Rd. I've saved a few gallons of gas not having to go get my mail.

Made a Boo! Boo! On 4/7/2001 Sat. I went shopping at WinCo Foods in south/east Chico. I bought \$21 worth of food. And I was greatly Surprised when I was stopped outside of the Main Front Doors by 2 WinCo employee's and a Surcuity Guard name Paul Clark. Mr. Clark said I guess you forgot to pay for the 2 Boxes of Somenix Sleeping Pills

in your Pocket.  All I said was: (I guess So).

The 3 of them ushered me back into the store. Put my kart of groceries in a room, then took me up stairs to a room to ask me a few Questions. Mr. Clark was really nice, and did not use any threatening words. He did not call the local Police Department. He stated I could be fined up to \$500 for rest - tu - two - tion for trying to Steal \$6.44 worth of pills. I said that is a mite steep. Then he said something about a California Penal Code pertaining to Shop Lifting. I said nothing I can do about that now. He said I would be hearing from the Main Office up in Woodburn, Or. within 3 weeks. As I was leaving he said if I was caught on WinCo Property I would be Charged with Traspassing. I said OKKIE DOKKIE and left. (I have No Defence on what I did. I'm Guilty As Charged)

3 weeks later I did recieve a Letter from the Main Office up in Oregon. They said the total fine would be \$256.44. And if I did not pay it within 30 days, they would take me to court. I wrote them back and said I could make monthly payments at \$50 per month. They wrote back and said that was just fine. I paid it in full in 5 months. Now allI have to pay is 3 doctors and Enloe Hospital for my cut thumb and Hernia operation. "Oh Joy, Oh Joy"

4/9/2001 I had a costly exsperience with one Credit Card. My friend Larry Ward helped me get a credit card from Providian Financial back in Vermont. I wanted a credit card just in case (JUNO) decided they were going to start charging for E-Mail service. They would not take payment by Personel Check, Money Order, or Cash. Only by Credit Card.

When I talked to the people on the phone  about getting a card. Not one time did they ever mention it would cost me \$39 a month just to carry it around in my wallet. When I recieved the card with a credit limit of \$100, the letter said I would have to send \$139 to a Financial Office in San Francisco, Ca. Open an account for \$100 in lure of using the card. And the \$39 was for the use of the card.

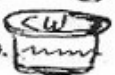
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Credit Card Cont.

I did not have that much money on hand. So I barrowed the \$139 from Larry and would pay him back \$170. A bit later I had sent them another \$10 to put in my Account. So now I had \$110 and had not used the card yet. I held on to that card for 4 months but never use it. I finally got a hold of Providian and told them to drop my account. That I had no use for it. I then cut up my card, and mailed it back to them. 3 weeks later I recieved a Check for \$89. They Charged me \$21 to close the account. I paid Larry \$31 interest on a loan I did'nt really need. And Providian kept the \$39 Annual Fee. I lost \$91 dollars in 4 months and never used the card. (NEVER AGAIN)

On 5/7/2001 Mon. I surprised my landlord Chuck by giving him 2 large boxes of fresh

Strawberries  6 small short  cakes, and a large tub of Cool Whip.  He said thanks.

On 5/10/2001 Thurs. I really surprised my only Uncle Bob Cram up in Seattle, Wa. by calling him on the phone. The last time we had spoke was at our Family Reunion in Chico in 1969. His daughter Robin whom i've never met answered the phone. She about fainted when I told her who I was. When Bob got on the phone he was a bit speechless for a few seconds. Then he said sorry Alan but we were told back in 1985 that you had Died after falling off a roof at your last job for the Nut Co. I said my so called NON Loving Brothers an Sisters LIED.

After the shock of hearing me wore off a bit we had a nice long chat. I wrote him a long letter, telling him of my life after my Accident at the Nut Co. He in turned wroter me a long letter back, telling me about his life since 1969. I have not spoken or written anything since.

5/14/2001 I shoveled out the 6 stalls in Mr. Bob Jones horse barn.

Took me just over 9 hours to shovel it out. Used a wheel  barrow to haul all the pucky out to a pile. Dried horse pucky don't smell like cow dung. So it was'nt a bad job. 

6/18/2001 Fri. I went to Michaels an bought 6 fake silk tulips for my plant a flower in my Pot Hole Project on Rancho Road. Then I drove over to Orland an got from the sand an gravel place 5 = 5 gallon buckets of Cold Pack Asphalt. They gave it to me FREE. Then I drove on home and did my thing.

I put some cold pack in a hole. 

Then put a tulip in the middle. I did that in 5  holes. I was really Surprised that they lasted as long as they did. Almost 4 hours, before someone ran over an flattened them all. But before whomever had done that I had taken Pictures of my Pot Hole Flower Job. A few days later a couple of people said it was nice to see those flowers for the short time they were there.

Now 11/16/2001 Fri. at 12:06 a.m.

On 6/24/2001 Sun. I went to the Donut Nook on East Ave. and bought 2 dozen assorted Donuts. The night before I had talked to a Blind Ham on a 2 meter repeater named Bobby KG6EKK. He said he loved donuts. So I was going to Surprise him and a couple of other hams up at the GEARS Field Day Site at Platte Mt. Lookout on Hwy. 32, 8 miles above Forest Ranch, Ca. But sad to say when I got there at 8 a.m. the Surprise was on me. Bobby and his friends had left 2 hours earlier.

So I ended up eating all those donuts myself. Those donuts do wonders for your waist line, but they are so yummy, yummy Ha! Ha!



From 6/26 Tues. to 6/28 Thurs. 2001 I did my annual road repair job on Rancho Road. I've volunteered my time gas and money for the past 6 years filling in the many Pot Holes on that Private Road. It was built wrong in the beginning. Whomever just put a thin layer of Blacktop on bare ground. They did not grade it or put road base down first.

Those pot holes need to be filled in with a Hot Pack mixture of Hot Oil and blacktop. But nobody on this street wants to spend the money to do so. I get tired of trying to dodge the hundreds of large and small holes. I don't own my own home on the road, I just Rent. And I don't own a pickup truck. So I just put a 50 gallon metal tub, and 4-5 gallon plastic buckets in the Trunk of my Ford Taurus Lemon and haul it that way.



For the past 5 years I had a barter system set up with the Scale Master (Sharon) at Baldwin Sand and Gravel on Hwy. 32 west of Hamilton City. She did not like making out a ticket for such a small load of 600 pounds. So to show my appreciation I would give her 2 lbs. of walnut meats on one load. Then a jar or two of Olives for the second load, and a couple of loaves of French Bread for the third load. She thought that was really neat. But this year they closed that place for everyday use. They are only open on special orders.

Cold Pack is just a temporary fix. It holds up well in the hot summer months. But when it starts to rain and get cold, that stuff desolves like hot butter and melts away. In the spring time one would never know there was ever anything done to the road. But since I get the packing material Free so to speak. (I don't pay the \$35 per Ton) Then all it cost me is for gas and my time. And being Retired I have lots of time.

This year I had to drive an extra 14 miles one way over to their plant, that is north of Orland, Ca. and just west off I-5. Again the Scale lady named Lory would not charge me for the 3 loads of Cold Pack I got this year. I would use a square nosed shovel to place the stuff in the holes. Tamp it down a bit, then flatten it out good by driving over the filled holes with my tires. Not one person on that street offered to come out and help me. So sad for them. But on the other hand, when I went to each household and asked: (Would you like to donate \$1 to \$5 towards the Road Repair Fund.) Most all were very Generous. Giving \$3 to \$20 and thanking me for doing a nice job. So I felt better. After my walnut season started. I took Lory 3 and 1/2 lbs. of Meats to show my appreciation. She thought that was very nice.



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Now 11/16/2001 Fri. at 8:33 a.m.

From 7/11 thru 7/18/2001 I went on a eating binge of Pies. I bought at Marie Calenders 14 Chocolate Pies with Whip Cream topping. Ate them all. "Oh so Yummy Yummy"

On 7/12/2001 Perkins Mobile Glass came to my house and replaced my Broken Windshield for under \$200.

From Jan. 7 thru 11/14/2001 i've had my Lemon (FORD) in the shop 12 times to either replace something or repair it. It is my Lemon and No one else has to worry about it. Ha! Ha!

On 7/30/2001 Mon. I found a New Auto Shop to fix my Car. There is the owner Rick Ruz, Shop Manager Leroy, and 3 very good an honest machanics. Tom, Frankie, Jason. They take you home and pick you up if you don't have anyone else to help you. I for one think that's a great service. The machanic that has worked on my car for the past 25 years, seemed to have lost interest in fixing my car. So I got tired of him putting me on hold and found someplace else. Good move on my part.

In the past several weeks I have given to each some walnut meats
persimmons   and tangerine oranges.   

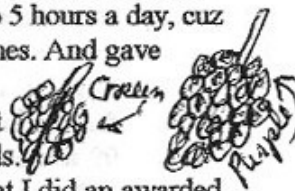


I have friends that have trees of these fruits and do nothing with them. So I go out and pick them and find people who like that sort of stuff. This year I think I gave away 40lbs. each of persimmons and tangerines. I'm still waiting for the cookies. But nothing so far. Ha! Ha!

From 8/10 to 8/17/2001 I helped my landlord Chuck take down an cut up to length the old redwood Deck around his Small Doe Boy swimming pool. I used my chainsaw. Because I have a very bad lower back I could not stand while splitting up the wood to make kinling.

So I sat in a metal chair  an used a double edged long handled Ax  to split the wood. I put in 32 hours into this project, and recieved a thankyou from Chuck and 2 Hot Home Cooked meals from Dottie, and lots of loving from the sometimes bird dog Corky. After splitting it all I stacked it too.

On that same Fri. afternoon on 8/17/2001 I started a yard cleaning project for the neighbor who lives behind me, Earl and his wife Vivian (last name unkown). I put in 36 hours and finished the first part on 8/24/2001 Fri. I could only work 3 to 5 hours a day, cuz of my lower back problems. I took down 40 yards of Concord Grape Vines. And gave away 140 lbs. of green an purple sweet tasting grapes. I ate them for a month. I pruned back 2 dozen rose bushes. And took out hundreds of volenteer hedge plants. Trimmed up a lot of trees of all kinds. made 12 large brush piles which he will burn later. Earl really liked what I did an awarded me very well. Back in the late 60's and early 70's I had my own Yard Service Business. I liked that type of work.



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More for Earl Cont.

On 9/8 thru 9/10 I finished cleaning up Earl's yard. First I helped a friend of his from Magalia, Ca. load up 4 old refrigerators and 1 freezer to haul off to parts unknown. Then it took me 18 hours in 3 days to take out a large Blackberry Patch and other stuff. When I finished his place looked like a park, everything trimmed and in it's proper place. I told him to spray with roundup to keep it that way. He assured me he would.

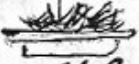
9/16/2001 Sun. my walnut season started. I had a great nut season. More on this later.

10/20/2001 Sat. I went to Pacificon in Concord, Ca. to Surprise a Lovely Lady Mrs. Becky Ormonde a Ham friend and her husband Andy from Chino, Ca. for the past couple of months Becky had been telling me via E-mail that she was going to attend this years Ham Convention, and wanted to know if I could come down to meet her in person. I kept telling her it was my Walnut season and I had to get them thar nuts while the sun was a shining.

On Thurs. the 18th I called my friend Dennis Hively to ask him to deliever a message to Becky if he happen to find her in Concord on Sat. (The message was: Sorry Alan Could Not Make It) I told him I mite go down to surprise her. I sent Becky an e-mail telling her to take her Handi Talkie and put in the Simplex Freq. of 147.525. told her to call Dennis KD6DFY and he had a message from me.

I did not make up my mind to go down until I got up on Sat. morning. the night before I had loaded 588 lbs. or 12 = sacks of walnuts in my car that I was taking to the (Gold State Nut Co.) in East Biggs, Ca. owned by a nice easy going fella named Greg Banes and his sister Marci. His Father James works there to, to keep everybody in line. I'm not sure if his Mother Colleen helps out as well. At this point in time I had not met his mother yet.

I took a shower at 5 a.m. Sat. morning and put on some (I don't care if you like me or not Colonge) then put on some of my going to the Big City Clothes. Even wore my new shoes. I left at 6:30 a.m. a went to Denny's to have breakfast. I had 2 eggs scrambled

hard as a rock. 2 pieces  of bacon krispy. 2 link  sasages well done. 1
1 slice of ham  well done. Hashbrowns  normal, not burnt. And 2
english muffins  toasted well. *And a tall Glass of Water.* 

Then at 7 a.m. I drove the 29 miles south to Biggs. I was met there by Alberto who helped me put the sacks on the scale to be weighed. Then I weighed myself and it showed I was at 363 lbs. and still at 6'7" tall.

I then went to the Office where I had a brief Chat with Greg, and he gave me a nice check for the nuts. I then said ado and headed for Conord. The wx or weather was perfect. I took 99 south to Yuba City, then 20 west to Williams, then I-5 south to Dunningan, an then 505 south/west to the (SPEED WAY) of I-80 at Vacaville.

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Now 1:45 p.m. the same day. Fast Ain't I.

Being from the northern end of the state and living in the country so to speak. I don't get to drive on Freeways where all types of people drive so bloody fast. My heart was in my throat most of the way down on both I-80 West and I-680 South. In fact I took a short break just south of Susan City off 680 to calm down a bit. I caught myself driving stupid, trying to pass everybody on the road.

As I was getting closer I talked to a Ham who was giving direction to to big get together. He was a lot of help. I arrived at 11:05 a.m. and parked across the street in a Bank Parking lot. I walked the 2 blocks over to the main building. Paid my \$15 entrance fee. Then started looking for Becky. I even called Dennis a couple of time with no luck. I walked over to the Blue Hanger where all the Commercial Sales people had there booths set up. I walked back over to the main building, and looked in on all the seminars going on but did not spot her, or anyone else for that matter.

I found a chair and just sat down and watch the hundreds of hams wonder whether and yonder, but never saw anyone I knew. I now had been there 1 hour, and was going to try one last time to locate Becky. So I walked back over to the Hanger, and sat in a chair by the front door chatting with a member of the Local Ham Club that was putting on the Event.

About 15 minutes past and then Dennis KD6DFY from Loma Rica, Paul N6XVL from Olivehurst, and Tom K6AJS from Sacramento came walking thru the door. And I said howdy folks. As I turned to my left I spotted Becky about 20 feet away appeared around the corner. I asked Dennis to please go over and keep her busy while I snuck up behind her. As I walked up behind her, Paul was holding her hands and Dennis said: Have you ever met N6 Real Nice Person Alan in person ?? And she said No. Dennis said well turn around. As she did she looked right at my stomach because she is so short. She looked up and said are you Alan and I said Yup I is. I thought she was going to faint. She gave me a nice BIG HUG then turned around and gave Dennis one too.

She then took me over to meet her husband Andy who was much better looking than his Photo, and had a nice smile. We exchanged a few words. And he was glad to finally meet the guy he has heard so much about. Becky and I then went over and sat and talked for awhile. Then as she went to her motel room to use the Ladies Room and get her bottle of water. I bought a big burger with chips and a diet pepsi. (NOTE) I think Becky would be a great Spoke Person for Losing Weight. On her own Becky Diet she has lost over 195 lbs. the past 2 or 3 years. And is still sticking with it. I on the other hand have tried everything known to man. But I just never stick with any very long.

When Becky came back we talked some more, and she showed me Andy's Chevy Z-80 go fast car. Then she walked me back to my car, and hugged me one last time. And I headed for home at 1:15 P.M. the traffic was just as fast going back. And it took me just 3 hours to drive the 165 miles home. I had a good time and was so pleased to be able to meet them both. I'll remember the warm hugs for years to come. Thanks Becky.

Now 3:38 p.m. and the end is near.

When I first started picking up Walnuts at Bob's place on Pheasant Landing Court an Garner Lane there were just a few nuts to get. I pick up at 4 private homes within a 2 block radius. The variety are Ashley. Before they started building these \$500,000 homes in that walnut orchard, I use to pick up all the wind falls in this 30 acres. Really nice an close from my place, only 1/2 mile away.

As the season wore on I would pick up more Ashleys and Serrs in the George Mandville Orchard north of my place, just on the west side of Garner Lane. Him and his brother in law (Wink) have 40 arces of Walnuts and Almonds. Besides picking up nuts for me I picked up 370 lbs. for George for letting me pick up in there orchard. He sold most of his nuts to Gold State Nut Co. also.

Since none of the 4 places I picked up liked walnuts I gave each a big bag of Persimmons and a 5 lb. bag of Manderine Oranges. To George I gave a gift tin of assorted candied almonds from the Harvest Shop on Daton Rd. A bit later in the season Jerry KE6RZU in Ord Bend, Ca. said I could start picking up the Hartley's and Frankette's on the Don Anderson Ranch. I had been picking up the wind falls at that ranch for the past 5 years, and had No Idea that Mr. Anderson and his Son Tim owned more than the 40 some acre I had been picking up in.

But on 11/2 /2001 Friday. Mr. Don Anderson took me for a little drive and showed me part of the 5000 acres of walnuts and almonds he owns. Plus they lease another 3000 acres. I was mighty impressed to say the least. On the way back to my car, Mr. Anderson said I was welcomed to pick up the wind falls in all his Orchards. A couple of weeks earlier I had found out that Mr. Anderson and My Landlord Chuck Bain were good friends in High School in Wasco, Ca. in southern California.

I had a great season. I picked up a total of 4,244 pounds. Sold 3,381 pounds in the shell. Cracked an shelled 493 lbs. and picked up 370 lbs. for George. I gave both Jerry and Don a 30 pack of there favoite beer. Which I think Tim drank most of. Ha! Ha! If the wet weather had held off for just another 2 weeks I could have made enough to pay off all my bills in Full. But I am most grateful to all of those who allowed me to go on there property and get what I could.

On 11/3/2001 Sat. I took 621 lbs. down to the Gold State Nut Co. in East Biggs, Ca. After Alberto and I had unloaded, weighed and dumped the sacks, I weighed again and I was now at 351 lbs. When I went into the office to get paid there was a very Lovely Lady sitting on the couch. She said she was Greg's Sister, and her name was Colleen Banes. She also gave me a big complement on my story writing and art work. She really enjoyed reading them all. And said I should have them Published. I told her it was nice to meet her and thanks for the kind words. I tried a couple of times to get my stories published, but nothing ever really happened.

On the following Sat. the 11th I took my next to last load down. I weighed again and was now 342lbs. And Greg said Colleen was his Mother not his Sister. She is the same age as I am at 64. I thot that was funny. I don't know much about the Banes Family other than they are really nice people. And have treated me very well with honesty and respect. So I thank you all.

This is the end of this short story. Until next time.

By Alan W. Padgett or N6RNP Chico, Ca.

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