



Comments 16



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HANG GLIDING

Suzanne and I just got back from a long weekend helping to judge the National Hang Gliding Speed Competition. Sounds like fun? It was even though we mostly spent the time standing on a wet hillside looking up a tree to make sure the contestants made turns around pylons and not past or through them. Watching a glider come down a steep slope at speeds over 70 miles an hour is exciting. Seeing it pass overhead through a small gap in the trees is less so. Suzanne did get to judge one of the pylons near the finish line and that let her get some good pictures.

My own skill is nowhere near up to that sort of competition nor do I own a high performance glider. But both are subject to change.

NEW PRINTER

Suzanne decided to do a scrapbook for her parent's 50th Wedding anniversary. At first she was going to do it as a traditional scrapbook but it became obvious that it was going to be very difficult to do. For one thing, we would need to copy a lot of photos and we wanted to make copies for the rest of the family. Finally we decided to do it on the computer and print it on our photo printer. Then we decided that doing it with archival paper made sense and that meant buying another printer.

OK, we have wanted a newer photo printer for some time and this was just a good excuse. The new printer is an Epson 2200. It prints with pigment-based inks that have very good long-term stability and fade resistance. It also does up to 13x44 prints and can do borderless printing. You guys will be seeing an example of it's output in a future mailing.

Oh, the scrapbook came out really well. Suzanne did a marvelous job laying it out in CorelDraw and the finished pages look like high-end professional work.

STEREO CARDS

After doing the stereo card we put through the last mailing, I've gotten very interested in producing them. For one thing, most people can see them in stereo with cheap viewers and it's easy to make copies. Now I'm trying to find a good way to make photo prints to use for the images. Ink jet output looks good until you put it in a magnifying viewer, then it looks awful. I'm trying out a couple of the online photo print: Shutterfly and Ofoto. Both offer real photo output from digital files uploaded across the Internet. Both charge about 49 cents a print and both seem to do a pretty good job. At the moment I'm leaning toward Shutterfly because they use the Fuji Frontier print machine and it seems to do a better job of rendering colors.

Funny thing, there is an organization that works just like an APA for stereo card producers. It's been around for over 50 years and has about 25 members. I'll probably join since making one card or 30 is about the same amount of work.

SEE YOU GUYS NEXT MAILING!

Mailing Comments

The Southerner #228

100% participation with no one lost is not bad. Hopefully the post office is through raising rates for a year or two.

“Yngvi is a Louse” and Other Graffitos #77

T.K.F. Weisskopf

You made several comments about the National Guard not having bullets in their guns. Suzanne’s brother-in-law is a Major in the Guard. I ended up spending a couple of hours talking to him about how he and his men felt about the guard duty and his recent tour of duty in Bosnia.

He’s a very gung ho second or third generation military type so there’s no chance of his ever saying anything really negative about the military. That noted, it was clear to me that spending a couple of years guarding some reservoir or airport runway was not what most of these people had in mind when they signed up. A lot of Americans may suspect that this is all a waste of time but those people know that it is.

By the way, I wouldn’t want to count on those guns being empty!

The New Port News #204

Ned Brooks

Fahrenheit 451 in asbestos. I’ve never heard of a copy printed on asbestos but I did see a copy bound in asbestos. Paper-thin asbestos would be extremely dangerous unless it was totally coated with a good binding agent.

Scanning stereoscope. Your find sounds like the kind of stereoscope used to look at aerial photos. There were a lot of those made during WWII and afterwards so I have no idea which one you have. Delft made several models of scanning viewer for surveying companies. Does yours have the 4.5x lenses?

Oh, if you decided to sell it, let me know what you want for it. I’m always looking for large format stereoscopes because my ink jet prints look better in 3D when I can print them larger. I would like to see it.

Claritin. Claritin can take over two weeks to take effect and may take longer. I liked it but stopped taking it because of the really strange dreams it caused. It also seemed to interfere slightly with my kinetic sense. Which makes it hard to tell just where you have moved your limbs. This is not normally a problem but flying a hang glider requires very precise movement control.

Derogatory Reference 99

Arthur D. Hlavaty

President Bush and Enron. I don’t think you’re going to see any real political scandal coming out of this for a very simple reason: the Democrats have a lot to answer for in the Enron mess. Ponder

these facts: 1. Clinton received the largest contribution Enron ever made. 2. Most, around 65%, of the money taken out of Enron by its executives happened during the Clinton administration. 3. The Clinton administration actually helped Enron set up some of its foreign deals that are the center of the scandal.

Bottom line the Democrats don't dare focus too much light on this matter. For a real scandal one side or the other has to have a very clean conscience.

Even the "intelligence failures" we have heard so much about since 9/11 are pretty much shared. One of the first things the Democratic committee investigating the subject found were documents showing the Clinton administration had been warned that an attack with air liners on the World Trade Center had been discussed by terrorists.

Some problems are systemic and not localized to any one person or group.

Variations on a Theme #14

Rich Lynch

Local gun regulations. We are in no danger from cops driving by while we shoot our pellet guns. They wouldn't care if they were real 9mm Walthers. In this part of the world you can shoot in any unincorporated area.

Eastern Europe. At the last stereo photography convention we attended, we saw a wonderful slide show on various Eastern European cities including many that you have talked about in your zines. It made me want to visit them even more.

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette #76

Richard Dengrove

Throwing the book at Enron. A real problem is developing in the quest to punish someone for the Enron mess: They seem to have kept their unethical, greedy, activities strictly legal. Mind you they had a lot of help from Congress in the 90's.

CD media. You should certainly consider using the write once CDs instead of the RW type. Both the media and the CD writer software is much more stable and reliable for write once media.

Aspartame. I haven't seen any real evidence of serious side effects from aspartame usage. Where did the study you saw come from?

Family. You have all my sympathy with your problems visiting your family. It's really tough to watch your parents getting older and having problems. Someday we will all need someone to look out for us. We can make that easier by putting a good will in place and setting up the paper work necessary for someone else to look after us.

Murphy Makes a House Call

Shelia Strickland

I'm always amazed at how many people keep data on floppies. They are so unreliable compared to a hard drive. Of course when you lose a floppy you lose at most a meg or so of data. When you lose the hard drive you lose it all. I have a couple of 120gig drives on the Sony I use to play with video and I have no way of backing them up. Even DVDs only hold about 4gig so I would need over 60 of them to back up both drives.

probably Dow 4000-5000 and Nasdaq 700-800. About where they would be by now without the big gains caused by the InterNet stock bubble. Clinton got a free ride from the bubble; we are all paying for it now.

Enron. The same mailing this Oblio was in has my analysis of the Enron 401(k) mess so I won't specifically comment to you about it but I would really like to know your thoughts on one thing: Just how did the Enron execs profit from freezing the Enron 401(k) for 10 days. Yes, I've now seen testimony that makes it clear it was only a 10-day period. Keep in mind those same execs had stock in the 401(k) that was also frozen, that the stock had fallen to less than \$14 a share before the lock out and that the total number of employee shares in the 401(k) was trivial compared to the number of shares moved on a normal trading day during that time.

All The Mailing Comments That Fit In Print

Jeffery Copeland

Spiderman. We also loved this movie. Suzanne had never read a *Spiderman* comic so she didn't have any expectations for the movie. It was fun.

Eyes Wide Shut. The first time I saw this movie, I was not impressed. The second time I liked it a lot better. Watch it again; I think you missed the point. Why did I watch it more than once since I didn't like it the first time? I'm a cinema buff and the movie is beautifully shot and edited. It's like some of those paintings you see in a gallery and don't like until you spend a few minutes really looking at it. Of course if you really don't like Tom Cruise, I don't by the way, it makes it a lot harder.

"...you're not required to carry identification in this country." True as long as you don't want to fly on a plane, drive a car, get money from a bank or be a minority walking home from the grocery store. Even though I know ID is necessary and required to keep things going it drives me crazy to think I have to carry one. It all gets back to the old, "Do I want to be free or secure?" question. We are always trading off freedom for security.

Basic rights. Without picking out specific comments, I think you and I are in agreement about the way in which we are letting some critical part of our Constitutional rights evaporate in the name for fighting the "war" on terrorism. "Fighting for freedom by restricting personal freedom" sounds like something out of *1984*.

Things like a national travel ID are actually pretty silly ideas. We have no counterfeit proof ID systems, yes I know a lot about biometrics and they are only as good as the database the data comes from. The only real way to effectively fight terrorism is to cut off it's funding. You don't do that by tattooing ID numbers on passengers.

Offline Reader #29

Irv Koch

Sorry to see you leaving the APA. I hope your job search takes a better turn.

Cell Phones. There is a small card on all digital phones that holds the registration number and some other good stuff. I found out about all this when I moved that card from one phone to another and found I had service on the new phone. The cell phone company couldn't tell it was a different physical phone since they only see the chip. Those ID chips put an end to what used to be a very lucrative phone "cloning" business.

Finances. We continue to stay with boring but safe bonds. I took a huge hit on WorldCom and that's

all I can afford to lose for a while. Unfortunately as each bond roles out I have to reinvest it in lower interest bonds so our income is going steadily down. Not complaining though it does show what a misnomer "fixed income" is.

Guilty Pleasures 24

Eve Ackerman

Disneyworld. We recently went to Disneyland. It was Suzanne's first trip there and my second. I thought it would be a big let down after Disneyworld but it wasn't at all. Yes, it's smaller but it has it's own charm.

Writing. My own efforts are not going as well as I'd like. Mostly because I've been very hesitant to fully commit to the project. Why the hesitance? Well let's just say that when you look up fanatic in the business dictionary there's a picture of me.

Send Out the Pace Zamboni..

Mike Weber

Good luck with the new job! We'll probably be seeing you since that's the station I normally fill up at when I'm coming back from Atlanta.

Alien Cows Will Make US Know Everything Will Be All Right #1

Geroge H. Wells

If you can believe the work of current anthropologists and genetics, 100% of Americans have African ancestry. In fact 100% of the whole world's population has African ancestry.

Trivial Pursuits #102

Janice Gelb

Trans-Pacific travel. Early next year we are finally going to visit New Zealand and maybe Australia. Suzanne is planning the trip right now. I've wanted to go there for years and seeing the beautiful scenery in LOTR made up my mind.

Sun stock. Sorry about the stock! At least you guys are in good company. I saw a note the other day that United Airline's market cap was less then the price of two jets! Of course there is all that debt.

Trans-Pacific Tales

Janice Gelb

Very interesting zine! My sister has made several business trips to Australia for Unisys. She even flew back from one to attend our wedding then flew back two days later. I told her I wouldn't have done it for her.

Avatar Press Vol 2 Number 22

Randy B. Cleary

Nice zine! It was a good art show and I wish I been able to make the auction so I could have picked up a few more of the things I wanted.

Peter Pan and Merry #44

David Schlosser

Guaranteed fixed returns. Personally I've never seen a guaranteed return fund. Case in point, the Treasury recently called a whole series of 30-year bonds. That means that one minute the people who held them had a *guaranteed* return on their investment then suddenly they had their principle and no income. Most guaranteed income funds work by drawing on the principle when income won't cover the required income payments. In many cases people don't understand this until the money stops.

I'm not trying to pick on you about this. It's one of my hot buttons that people don't understand the risks they run when they invest their money. Even things like insurance company annuities are not guaranteed.

Oh, the most common cause of financial institution failure, be it a bank or an investment fund, is misuse of funds. Everything from bank presidents using savings accounts to play the market to 401(k) managers using new deposits to cover redemptions.

Methods for taking over an airliner. You'd lose that bet. Most of the ways I came up with to take over a modern airliner do not require access to the cockpit. Ever hear of something called "fly by wire"? All you need is access to the planes data bus.

Frequent Flyer

Tom Feller

Corporate scandals. Nice to hear someone talk about this who actually understands the conflicts of interest that exist inside a company. Allocation of expenses between capital and expenses is not at all straightforward. I almost got in trouble with the auditors for wanting to classify computer purchases as expense since I figured they had a useful life of less than 2 years.

Oblivion No. 141

Gary Brown

Baseball. Well at least the players and owners weren't quite stupid enough to pull another strike. We were visiting with Suzanne's family just before the strike was called off and I thought the opinions of her two grade school age nephews were pretty interesting. They are part of about as sports crazy a family as you could possibly find and they were totally fed up with the players. When kids that age get disillusioned it's pretty much over for the game.

Retirement. We seem to be living in radically different universes. In mine Bush not only gave the SEC everything they asked for in the Harken investigation but released his lawyers to cooperate with the SEC waving attorney-client privileges. Where are you getting your information?

And what around-the-corner move? He filed the normal paper work to sell shares with the SEC, it's public record and you can find it on *Edgar*, and did so. In fact had he held the stock another 12 months, he would have made almost twice the profit on the sale.

Fixing the economy. While you're asking why Bush doesn't wave his magic wand and fix all the problems with our economy, maybe you should ask why Clinton allowed the whole stock market bubble to happen to start with? I'll answer both questions for you: because we live in a country that has a relatively free economy and it's very hard for anyone to control it.

Things never were as good as everyone wanted to believe. Realistic numbers for the stock market are

Spiritus Mundi 190

Guy H. Lillian III

It was good seeing you guys in New Orleans! Suzanne and I really enjoyed the visit. We didn't make it to the Confederate Museum but we did spend some time at the D-Day Museum. New Orleans remains one of my favorite cities and I expect we will be back before long.

I loved your picture of Hank with Mib on his head! It was a good convention.

Passages #14

Janet Larson

Business people suffer from the same "stop and die" syndrome that doctors do on retirement. It hasn't been much of a problem for me since the house(s) have kept us so busy. Now I'm fighting with the "fear of commitment" on starting another project. I know I need something to focus on to keep myself going but I hesitate to do it. You're very wise to start putting a new obsession in place well before you need it.

Congrats on your success in competition! Doesn't that feel good? I finally had one of my slides take first place in a local stereo photo competition and I felt good about it for days.

Tennessee Trash #47

Gary R. Robe

The space museum. The boys have good taste in aircraft. The SR-71 is one of the most fascinating planes ever built. It shares that sense of not belonging in our universe with the Concord. Both planes look out of place when you see them among other aircraft.

Martial arts. If the worst you get out of training is a sprained ankle, you're doing pretty good. My personal best was breaking all the toes on my right foot. I was doing a spinning kick and hit the other person's foot in mid air. He was also doing a spinning kick. If I saw it in a movie I wouldn't have believed it.

Dremel tools and gems. The next time you go by an outlet mall with a Black and Decker store look for a diamond coated cutting wheel or sanding disk. They do a pretty good job on most gems and are quite cheap at the outlet mall. I picked some up there for under \$5 a few weeks ago.

Home With The Armadillo

Liz Copeland

Emergency rooms and teenage boys. I had to go to the hospital when my cousin was in a bad wreck. He was out with a carload of kids and the driver, who was killed in the accident, ran off the road at an estimated 120 miles an hour while trying to open a beer bottle. His parents, and mine, were off at a weekend car auction and didn't get back until the next day. The rest of the kids survived with various major injuries. I will say it slowed him down but not by much.

Fireworks. We watched the local firework show here in Ellijay by pure chance. It was a rainy day and I didn't want to spend time sitting in the car waiting for a show that probably wouldn't happen so we went to eat instead. On the way back, the show started just as we were driving by a bank parking lot with a good view. So we parked the truck and watched the show.

