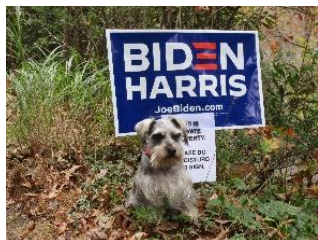


2021 included the leftovers of 2020:

It began, and ended, with Bone Spurs still not conceding. Even Moxie knows the election was fair. Biden won. On January 5, the US Senate runoff elections in Georgia gave the Democrats the Senate Vice President Kamala Harris' tie-breaking vote. (But for Manchin & Sinema.) At the fanatical urging of Bone Spurs, the next day saw a shameful insurrection with the US Capitol invaded and looted and vandalized. His party's senators shamefully let him off the hook for his instigating it and doing nothing to stop it. Clearly, Bone Spurs was promoting a coup.



On January 20, we celebrated as the USA pulled back from the brink of total fascism. We watched the inauguration, moved by what we saw and heard. We opened champagne!

The Covid-19 vaccination drive began badly under Bone Spurs. Over 75, I found the county system completely unresponsive, but got my first shot on January 15 at the VA hospital in Asheville, and booster on February 12. But by the time the county let Ruth register for vaccination her number was about 12,000. The county sent me a no-reply email some six days after Ruth had tried to register me. Because I couldn't reply to cancel or get through on the phone, I took Ruth to my scheduled county shot asked if she could have it. They said "OK". I got my booster on February 12, and Ruth got hers on the 16th. Both of us were ill with headache and chills for a day after the booster; fine a day later. We've both had the 3rd shot now.



Then 2021 began for us: We finally got our new 2021 Subaru Legacy Premium sedan on January 21, eight weeks and six days after ordering it after being told it would take six to eight weeks. No matter, with Covid-19 abroad where could we go? We love it for its myriad safety features. It comes very, very close to driving itself, and's comfortable as can be. Subaru cars hold value extremely well – we sold our 2012 Subaru Legacy Premium 2.5i for 90% of the asking price a matter of hours to the first person who viewed it, via the Black Mountain Exchange Facebook group.

February 8 was my 80th birthday. A year earlier I'd hoped to have a party for the occasion. Ruth gave me a Lee Oscar high G harmonica I'd been wanting and a membership in SPAH, the Society for the Preservation of American Harmonica. I'd hoped to attend the 2021 SPAH convention, which moves around the Continental USA from year to year and was slated for nearby Charlotte NC this year – but it was cancelled. Roger and Rita surprised me by sending a t-shirt that proclaims the wearer was built in 1941 but still has all original parts. And not only did I treat myself to an ice cream sundae lunch but also Ruth bought me a fine rib steak which I grilled to perfection – seared medium rare. Ruth also gave me a mug with photos of Moxie.





Ruth and I also had a nice Valentine's Day. Ruth made a waffle brunch. I gave her an adjustable silver miniature schnauzer ring she can wear on any finger she chooses and she gave me a t-shirt with a miniature schnauzer that looks like Moxie with the legend "I hear you, I'm just not listening". And a box of eight dark chocolate truffles to share.



We didn't feel safe going out to a restaurant for our 48th wedding anniversary on March 3. So, we had a romantic Italian dinner cooked and served to us in our home by a professional chef, our friend Nat. He started us with *antipasti* including salami, artichokes, cheeses and olives. There was a garden salad. The main course was chicken *rollatini*, *scallopini* of chicken with mushrooms, *prosciutto* and *mozzarella*. There were also roasted vegetables and potatoes. Before dinner I made white Russians for the two of us, and with dinner, we had a red *cotes du Rhone* wine. We brought our dessert in that afternoon from Old Europe, a dessert restaurant in Asheville. But here is the present that I gave Ruth, a "tangerine aura" stone wrapped

in 14K gold wire by Carl Coleman. She gave me a Martha's Vineyard t-shirt and some licorice.

Having finished remodels and upgrades to our dwelling, we're now working on the landscaping and small other jobs. Our downed trees, briars & bramble are now all cleared away and the entire yard is walkable woodland, lawn, or garden. And we had the carport cosmetically improved. Here's before (2 on left) & after (1 I have since painted it):



That landscaping included replacing narrow, ugly, unstable concrete steps from our basement-level "mid-yard" to the bottom yard, and making a walkway from Moxie's run in our mini rear yard down through the mini-yard to the bottom yard, replacing slopes with tiles set for footing. I've since made an enclosed gravel step footer and placed some stones to the garden border. And, I used large, thick tiles made available to extend the patio under our grill deck.



Below are the horrid steps and path that we replaced:



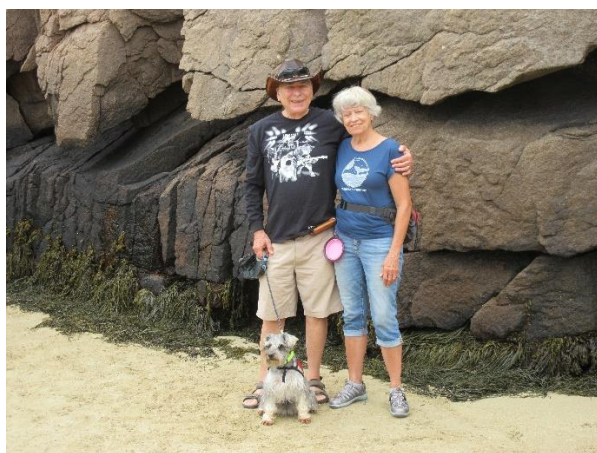
We made a path into our wooded lot portion, which we cleared last fall and this spring. We also replaced tottering, cracking terraces. The wooded lot looks nice with laurels blooming.



In Joyce Kilmer Memorial Park (about a 2-hour drive from our home) in June, we saw the only old growth trees east of the Mississippi. This one is a “tulip poplar” with a circumference of about 20 feet (6 meters). Slide show at the link below.

<https://ialbum.net/en/browse/user/album/2014409;jsessionid=1gyqnebz35w70vnlm6pdcpb>

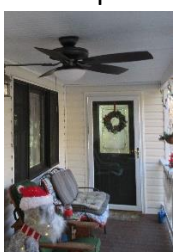
We’d pushed the European vacation we’d planned for 2020 to 2021. The pandemic’s persistence and slow vaccine rollout further delayed it to 2022. So, we drove 1200 mi. with Moxie from our Western North Carolina home to Acadia National Park for a 5-night stay, including over Ruth’s birthday. Northbound we saw Dan’s cousin Suzanna & her husband Wyn in Roanoke VA; our friends from Dominica, Harvey & Margaret near Philadelphia PA; we passed through the part of MA where we’d lived for 30 years, seeing our former house & yard (thanks to a gracious tour by the present owner, who bought it from us), former neighbor Ron, and friends Raymond and Jenny. Southbound we visited friend and former co-worker David. We visited Dan’s sister Naomi & her husband Larry Sr. & their son Steven, his wife Lindsey & their children Haley, Cameron & Kendall in NJ. And son Larry Jr. and new (expecting, Feb.!) wife Tina, and visited friends Roger & Rita all on our way home.



Us with Moxie on Sand Beach, Acadia National Park. Ruth took the family photo on the right: (l-r) me, Naomi, Larry Sr., Cameron (standing), Stephen, Lindsey (holding Kendall), Haley; and the newlyweds Tina, and Larry Jr. Our slide show, Acadia National Park & Bar Harbor:

<https://dantanner.jalbum.net/Acadia%20National%20Park/>

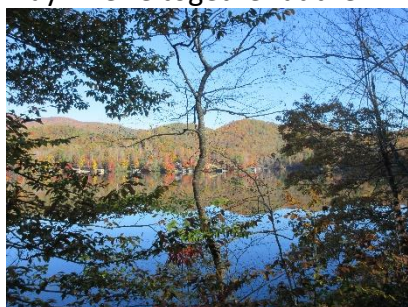
After Acadia we got the terraces done (Ruth with the crew), put full-view storm doors on the front porch doors, a light & fan on the porch ceiling, and had a picnic area made.



I smuggled my Hohner Little Lady into the Asheville Second Line appreciation dinner and was asked to play "When the Saints Come Marchin' In" on it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ve1BJeacko>

On November 9 we took a long ride up to the Blue Ridge Parkway at Little Switzerland and then back down the Parkway some 50 miles to the Asheville exit to enjoy lunch at the Little Switzerland Inn and view and photograph the lovely autumn foliage. The lake photo was on the way. We're together at the Inn. We made a stop at Mount Mitchell, too.





I'm in two bands: [The Flying Cloud Band](#) (left photo; link is to our Facebook page) and [Asheville Second Line](#) (link is to its Facebook page) which is a New Orleans style brass band. On November 18 The Flying Cloud Band did a benefit for Root Cause, a co-op food farming for the needy group, and on November 20 Asheville Second Line was in Asheville's 2021 Holiday Parade. (Control + click to follow those links to their Facebook Group pages. The Flying Cloud Band is a public group, and if you join the group, you'll be helping with our publicity. Thanks!)



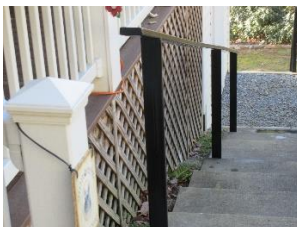
We had a quiet Thanksgiving at home, just us two. That was for the best, because Ruth wasn't feeling tip-top. Still, she bravely made a great dinner – about all she did was peel the potatoes. Fortunately, Ruth felt fine by Friday.

On Thanksgiving weekend Saturday, Ruth began to learn how to print leaves and flowers on silk fabric, using only natural dyes. Her teacher was Gina Wilde, who has been renting the art studio we finished building on our property two years ago. Below, she displays and models it.



I did lots of open mics at The Flood Gallery in Black Mountain. Here's the YouTube page for them: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=anson+d+pantz
 Moxie also does open mic performances: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY5HXiQRAhg>.
 And more of mine, also from the Dec. 16, 2021 open mic at Flood Gallery, Black Mountain NC. The D/K/T Trio doing [Tennessee Waltz](#), [Folsom Prison Blues](#), and [Red River Valley](#). And me with Jack Dawson doing Moonglow <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApzcFWIkVII> and *La Vie en Rose* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPr3VxAYrV0> and my Monologue "A Favor" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwXAHDmr7Y>

We sold our old, too small SoFTub spa and squeezed in a larger one that we can enjoy together. (But Ruth sinks my boats.) We had yard handrails made for comfort and safety.



We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas at home dinner by Ruth on Christmas Eve, with our friends Jack (he and I and James are the DKT Trio) and his sweetheart Nancy, who took this photo of us with calico Coco and Moxie. Coco wouldn't be still. Scientific fact: The difficulty of taking photos of animals or children is directly proportional to the square of their number.

'Till next year, unless we're done in by random gun violence or fascist election wins, there are some neat cartoons on the final page.

