August 3, 2014

Hello everyone,

     Wow, what a busy 10 days since the last newsletter.  We had a wonderful time on our vacation.  we swam and hiked and did white water inner tubing which is a bit scary.  I still have the bruises to show for that adventure.  We had a very competitive, no holds barred, euchre tournament and played a lot of music.  It was a great time.  Then yesterday we dropped Veronica off at college.  This is the 3rd one we have sent to college, so we know the drill.  It shouldn't be a day of sadness.  We raise these kids to be independent, adventurous adults who can make their own way and develop their own relationships in the world.  But still, while I am excited for her,  my dominant feeling is that I miss her terribly.  I remember when she was born and I was afraid of trying to raise a little girl, because we had a "boys" house up to that point.  One of my co-workers told me, "What you don't know yet is that little girls love their dads."   That has been so true.  For 18 years she has been a joy every day to have in our home and I will miss her.
     On to the garden.  I hope you enjoy your sweet corn this week.  We have been eating it for a couple days now and it is still my favorite vegetable to grow and to eat.    We also have basil now, which I meant to give you, but the boxes were so full, that I didn't think it would fit.  Anyway, I like it when you get something new every week, so next week you will get basil.  You may also get a tomato or two, but I am not sure about these.  I picked my first tomato last night.  Your boxes will soon be overflowing with tomatoes.   I am just not sure when they will start.  The boxes are finally getting full enough to make me happy.
     I also turned on the irrigation for the first time last night.   I can irrigate each row individually, but I have to lay the irrigation tape for most of them, because I wasn't going to irrigate if I didn't have to.  I started picking the second planting of green beans on Friday.  I think I will try to harvest the rest of the first planting as dry beans.  I have never done this yet, but I want to grow my own dry beans, and we eat a lot of dry beans, especially in the winter.
     The rumored sauerkraut festival is now officially scheduled for Aug 16.  We will start picking cabbage and preparing  in the late afternoon, 3 or 4,  then we can have a potluck supper and perhaps play music after that.  More precise times will be in the next newsletter.  Certainly everyone is welcome whether you want to make sauerkraut or not.  My friend Steve, who has been making sauerkraut for 25 years, will be here for the big day.  He calls himself the "sauerkraut gigolo".  I think that means he is an expert or something.   He also plays the banjo, which I am hoping he brings along, and he insists on German beer and German music.  These sauerkraut artists are demanding, but it is worth it, I hope.    Have a great week.  Brett
P.S.  Lederhosen are optional.