

The Cards of September and the end of the tea table

I kept the tea table going until Oct 15th. During those days (October days) I slowly removed a chair or a glass. As the rains came I moved most of the cards inside and the umbrella and it's stand- pulled out of the ground. The final week and on the last day I dismantled (sledgehammer) the table.

The table was a wooden box that was in the cottage when I moved in. I used a jigsaw to make cutouts for feet on each side and used it for years either as my table or the base for a larger table. It had truly fulfilled it's function and I felt it was time to discard it and either make or get/buy something better/newer (someday-probably).

Now at the tea table spot there is one green chair sitting above the top/surface of the table as though the table sank into the ground.

On sunny days one/I can still sit there and look out over the lake/forest/to the mountain, but honestly it's nearly winter here and often too wet and definitely too cool/cold for me to do it.

So below is the last series of cards left by people for those 6 weeks. As the weather turned and public schools began, passersby dwindled so there were fewer visits though up to the end the Teens would visit and drain the teapot.

Any thoughts that I have I will include after certain cards but generally it is what it is and it will be different if I do it again next spring. Heraclitus is said to have said 'you can't step into the same stream twice' he didn't really say that but the sentiment is a good one. If I do it again it will be different – different/new visitors attitudes- even the weather will be different and so will the tea and the table, in fact so will I.

All the best for your winter months- Thanks for reading.

1. Saturday the 5th 9:50AM Acts like this help to restore my faith in humanity. Thank you.
2. Thank you for being here. So simple and so kind. Helping to heal so much with the beautiful act. Inspiring!
3. 9/6/15 it's in your true/ afraid, vulnerable, weak/ moments that true strength/ is built- Laura Bicknell (this may be a quote I don't think 'she' wrote the card but then I don't know that either)
4. 9/12 One time I lived within a crow./ I learned things I did not know./ Tree tops and bramble bush forgotten/ wintered over, mold and rotten/ hopefully there is still time to grow.-m
5. Rico- you are 10,000 miles away but I still think about you every day. (*on the back* Queers +Beers)
6. If I was a dog I would eat a frog/ If I was a frog I would sit on log/ If I was a log I'd hide in the fog.
7. 9/16 How happy is the blameless vessel's lot/ the world forgetting, but the world forgot/ Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind/ Each prayer requested, each wish resigned./ I may forget the moment, but my delight in it is still real.
8. Sept 7 2105 summer at it's end/ the days are getting shorter/ our nights are but dreams./There once were 2 rappers named Mirapalot & Rap God they went on adventures that were often dangerous or odd they went for swims and climbed on top of lighthouses

- and did it ever so sneaky like two little mice
9. 9-12-15 Bicycle riding/ Disaster relief trails/ do it for doughnuts/ 3 names
 10. Oasis
 11. Jay where da trashat
 12. yo was good j. some fite ass tea (mush). We need that trash can tho. Yup *drawing*
 13. names 9/30/2015 Garfield highschool 016' (*most of the teens who came by attended this highschool from previous posts they're the 'skateboarders' 11-14 are definitely their messages*)
 14. *drawing of skateboard* everybody sucks assholes
 15. *drawing of teapot with a bicycle and rider inside the pot*
 16. Lots to think about these days/ stress from work, not enough play/ changes in life coming down soon/ unsure what I want for me & wifey & cats/ Everything will work out in it own way/ we'll accept and love what comes/ together will be easier./ I am glad to have a partner/ Thank you Victoria. I love you.- KFC *on back* Thanks for making & keeping this!/ 1st stop for my and VL 9-9-1015/ surprising reflective emotional moment!
 17. How lush the world is, how full of things that don't belong to me- Louise Glück
 18. 9/10/15 Tires on the bridge, birds in the trees/ boats on the water, squirrel in the grass/ you and me; majestic Tahoma/ watching over us always- VLG *on back* Thank you Jay! We've ridden past many times & finally stopped for a beautiful rest. Busy world, doesn't encourage enough moments like this- thank you for offering this moment. VLG
 19. *skateboard drawing on one side* morning crisp air, tea,/ indian running through/ the veins. My head is in/ the clouds, but my gravity is centered {*I have a lot to say about this young man but I'm not sure this is the time or place- he visited often and we talked a lot*}
 20. Jay- out for my morning run! Thx for the tea- *name*
 21. I can see earth/ resting on the clouds./ You can see stepping/ stones for he giants./ wish you were here/ (and I was there).
 22. *Drawing of a rocket or jet*
 23. *drawing of the teapot*
 24. September 22/15 I'm the begining of eternity./ the end of time and space./the beginning of every end,/ the end of every place./ what am I? (*spelling theirs and on the back*) hint: the power enrold./ what do these words/ have in common?
 25. 9-29 Tromendous/ Elegeant/ Awesome tea (*under each letter of 'tea' are the other three words- vertically- and then the three words written horizontally again at the bottom- spelling theirs-- on the back a drawing of the teapot with steam coming out of the spout and a name on the pot*)
 26. 9-30 glasses went from kitchen to sake. (*I began to put out taller glasses as the small ones I began with broke*) /more jars. More drinks to please Me./ don't like the cig butt under a foot dance/ mountain is hazy. Doesn't escape a glance/ dog is bouncing for another treat./ time to go on. Last day of the tea feast. (*on back drawings of glasses cig butts teapot tea jar chair dog and a heart*) I will be sad when its all over
 27. I've been riding up & down this hill for 3 years. As fast as I can. This is my 1st time stopping. I had no idea the view (and tea!) were so good!/ Thanks for both! A

- reminder I guess.... to slow down once and awhile...*peace sign and name*
28. I can hear your brakes/ from the top at the tea stand./ fix your goddamn bike.
 29. Just breathe.../Thanks for the tea/ and bunny/ and talk/ *name and date 9-7*
 30. Motorists are calling in sick to public holidays, boredom is inevitable in a room.

An experiment, a process has come to a conclusion. Makes me feel a bit poetic, definitely humbled. I didn't know, didn't really plan this out, how this would develop and it definitely did not go the way I could have expected.- - -

The heartbreak of someone destroying the set up.

There was one man who wanted to get into a fight with me 'your private office- it's OUR park too' who until then and never again actually stopped to see what was offered – a frightening moment but a week later no longer worried me.

Some neighbors who I had never met (I've lived in the neighborhood for more than 30 years and in the cottage for 25) came by- some more than once. The too few, to my mind, cyclists who paused and stopped or, at least because I was sitting there, for the first time noticed the view- in some ways (that I'm not really proud of- presumption/pride on my part) was a point I was trying to make – if in fact I was making any point at all.

As the project went on and I added the cards and the tea and then herbal tea and more chairs I found that sometimes this was more work than I had 'signed up for'. Then there was, more often, just the pleasure of doing it.

I got a fair amount of my own work done which was the reason why I set the table out there, so in that way this was a success.

Doing it made me feel good – not better than- good for myself. So I'm glad to have done it- think I'll try it again and if you have the urge to do something similar where you are please let me know how it goes for you.

Yours- **Jay**