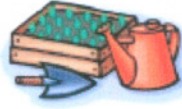


The Aardsma Weekly

May 6, 2007

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In The Garden



Since the weather has been so nice lately, everything has been coming up in the garden. The lettuce is up, as well as the spinach and radishes. The potatoes are doing very well so far, and most of them are up as well. With the strawberries already blooming away, we're in for a pretty good garden year.

Not much work is required this time of year. All the major planting is done, and so all that remains for a while is just the weeding and cultivating. Beka and I do that by hand with hoes. Even though Dad goes over the whole garden with his tiller, it is really our job to get all the weeds. It's really not as bad as it sounds. We always work at night, when everything has cooled down a little. The weeding isn't too hard on our backs, because we can do almost everything with our hoes. I actually enjoy it. It's fun to get out of the house for an hour or two, and enjoy the dirt between my toes and the earthy 'chop-chop-chop' of the hoes for a while. Beka and I usually work side by side, so we can chat while we work. (You'd think we'd run out of things to say after a while, but we have about 30 million topics still un-discussed.)

Our greenhouse has worked out quite well for us so far. Every day I run out to the little building with a salad bowl, and fill it up with fresh lettuce for Dad's lunch. Both Mom and Dad love the fresh vegetables, and I *really* love not having to wash the fresh vegetables. (In the garden, the lettuce is usually dirty. Every time it rains, mud is splashed all over the leaves. But in the greenhouse, the lettuce is almost always clean.) We also have had radishes from our greenhouse, but everything else is still growing. Dad likes the work of caring for the plants, and since a greenhouse has always been a dream of his, he's enjoying seeing it come true.

We had our first customers this week. So far we're only selling asparagus, rhubarb, and green onions, as well as the eggs Timmy sells to Mom every day. Mom usually takes care of the people who wander down Mulberry Lane to our little stand, but whenever she is unavailable, the task falls to me. Beka hates serving the people, but I don't mind too much.

So we work at night, and serve customers during the day, and enjoy our big garden. And during the rest of the time we plan for the summer, and talk about strawberries and potato digging and all those other summer activities nobody likes. And before we know it, the garden will be done, and we can all sit back and relax...until next year.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Ephesians 4:29: Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.



Bits and Pieces

This week the private lakes near us held their annual garage-sales. As usual, Mom went early on Friday morning, with Beka, Timmy, Caleb, and me in tow. There were lots and lots of garage-sales, and lots of great bargains. There was hardly a sale where somebody didn't find something they "*really* need, Mom." I found a few nice things myself. A stuffed cat, some cake-decorating stuff, some books, even a ring with my birthstone! Timmy found a B-B gun scope, Caleb found a NEW compound bow, and Beka got some cowboy boots. So, I guess we are all satisfied.

Now, while I was writing the above a few minutes ago, Caleb came in and asked me if I would put in the story of the 'bump' on his leg. I told him I would, so here it goes:

One morning this week, a parcel came for Beka, bringing the astronomy binoculars she had ordered. Caleb, as he ran into the house to tell her, tripped on the stairs by the front door and bruised his leg. According to Caleb, his 'bump' grew and grew. Then, while he was trying to let out Timmy's bird, something quite dramatic happened. While trying to hold up the door of the cage, grab the bird, and keep the cage from falling off the shelf all at the same time, Caleb tripped on the trash-can, bumped his leg again, and collapsed onto the floor. According to Caleb, he's 'never been the same again!' 😊



A Word About The Weather



For the first few days of this week the sun was out and shining like crazy. But lately it's cooled down again and even rained a little bit. It isn't very good growing weather, but it's been nice weather for baking, and we can all be assured it will warm up soon.



A Word Of Wisdom



If you have trouble with runny rhubarb pies, try adding two teaspoons of cornstarch to the uncooked rhubarb mixture.