The Pioneer Spirit alive and well in the Highlands.

EDITED FOR LENGTH AND CLARITY · ILLUSTRATED FOR HUMOR

THE LAST FEW MONTHS, WE'VE FOUND OURSELVES IN THE UNEXPLORED WILDERNESS OF THE CORONAVIRUS. CUT OFF FROM CIVILIZATION, WE SHELTERED AT HOME, GRIEF-STRICKEN. THEN IN EARLY APRIL, SOMETHING HAPPENED: WE GOT SOME GRIT! WE REACHED DOWN, PULLED OURSELVES UP BY OUR BOOTSTRAPS AND CHANNELED THE SKILLS OF OUR PIONEER ANCESTORS. WE BECAME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

WHEN TOUGH TIMES ARE COMING, PIONEER LADIES GET COOKING. BECAUSE WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT WILL BE BEFORE YOU CAN BUILD A FIRE AGAIN.

I MADE SPAGHETTI CARBONARA, FLANK STEAK PIE, PASTA E FAGIOLI, TOMATO RICE SOUP, TUNA CASSEROLE, SPLIT PEA SOUP, KIDNEY BEANS WITH EVAPORATED MILK, CHIPPED BEEF ON TOAST, CHICKEN STEW...

HOLLY BOGDANFLY-KRIEGH

JENN OTTO MADE DINNER FROM WEEDS IN HER BACKYARD.

WEED PESTO
GARLIC MUSTARD (OR OTHER EDIBLE WEED)
OLIVE OIL
PARMESAN
LEMON

ANNA WEST PICKLED AN OVER-SIZED CUKE!

SHE ALSO ORGANIZED A SIX-DAY-LONG SOCIALLY-DISTANT PLANT SWAP.

VEGGIES
HERBS
BERRIES

GARDENING STARTED TO SEEM VITAL. FORMER BEACONITE NAOMI SACHS INSTALLED RAISED BEDS IN HER TINY BRICKED D.C. YARD.

MY MOTIVATION ISN'T SURVIVAL. I'M INTERESTED IN HAVING AN OLD SKILL REVIVED AND GETTING AS MUCH FOOD FROM THIS PROPERTY AS POSSIBLE. WE HAVE FRUIT TREES, PERENNIAL VEGETABLES, A MUSHROOM LOG, CHICKENS, AND A MICROSCOPIC FIELD OF WHEAT. LOOKING AROUND THE PLACE, I SEE THAT WE COULD HOLD OUT HERE FOR A WHILE.

JESSE STACHEN WAS PIONEERING BEFORE THE PANDEMIC.

SUSAN CORINNE AND BRYAN CONWAY TURNED INTO MR. AND MRS. FIX-IT. THEY WATCHED YOUTUBE, TOOK THEIR DISHWASHER APART, REASSEMBLED IT-- STILL WOULDN'T DRAIN! SUSAN'S SISTER ADVISED THEM TO DISCONNECT THE PIPES UNDER THE SINK. INSIDE THEY FOUND A BABY SPOON.

TRISTAN ELWELL FIXED THE DRYER.

MINDY JESEK PREVENTED A DROUGHT IN THE JESEK HOME BY FIXING THE WATER DISPENSER IN THE REFRIGERATOR. SHE DISCONNECTED THE WATER LINE, THEN UNCLOGGED AND REATTACHED IT.

WATER

REGINA WILLIAMS QUILTED. EACH SQUARE DOCUMENTS THE MOOD IN THE HOUSE.

I'VE BEEN HAVING MY THREE KIDS CHECK IN AT THE END OF THE DAY AND TELL ME HOW IT WENT.

THE FABRICS RANGE FROM ORDERLY TO COMFORTING TO CHAOTIC.

SAD
HAPPY

HEROIC HOME-SEWERS MADE MASKS! BEETLE AND FRED SOLD 932 YARDS OF FABRIC SPECIFICALLY FOR MASKS.

HOWLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTED A "TRENDY STITCHING WORKSHOP" ON MENDING, LED BY ELLEN LUMPKIN BROWN. STUDENTS ARE EAGER TO HAVE SKILLS IN CASE OF A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE.

KIT BURKE-SMITH AND NATE SMITH DECIDED TO TAKE THE SATELLITE DISH OFF THE ROOF.

THEY TURNED IT INTO A FIRE PIT.

FIONA BURKE-SMITH

FLORA STADLER CONFRONTED THE INEVITABLE -- AND GAVE HERSELF A HAIRCUT.

CHOP

MY METHOD IS: CHOP, PANIC, CHOP.

JUSTIN GOODHART'S HAIRCUT BECAME THE SUBJECT OF A SHORT FILM.

SNIP

KELLY GOODHART

CLARK THOMPSON DIY'D A NEW ROOF ON HIS GARDEN SHED.

IT TOOK ME A DAY AND A HALF TO STRIP THE ROOF AND TWO AND A HALF DAYS TO RESHINGLE.

TED AZARY BUILT A CHICKEN COOP. SO DID KIMBERLY SEVILLA, THE OTTOS, THE WILLIAMSES, AND NEARLY EVERYONE ELSE.

MYPET CHICKEN.COM SAYS APRIL'S SALES WERE UP BY 525%.

OBERT WOOD AND TATIANA KOTIK BUILT THEIR KIDS (AND CAT) A PLAYGROUND.

MIA
ELI
ORI

ADAM DYLAN BUILT A MOVEMENT. ECO-NECTAR ENCOURAGES DIY URBAN ECOLOGY. MEMBERS TURN THEIR LAWNS INTO FARMS, COMPOST SOIL, PLANT NATIVE TREES, AND ARE NICE TO BEES.

TAP TAP

MARGOT KINGDON MADE A DRESS FROM AN OLD SHEET.

I'M A REGULAR LAURA INGALLS WILDER/ SCARLET O'HARA/ DAUGHTER OF DEPRESSION-ERA PARENTS.

JENNIFER HANNA DID SOME HOME-DOCTORING. SHE POINTED HER PHONE AND A FLASHLIGHT DOWN HER KID'S THROAT FOR THE TELADOC.

AND MANY PARENTS HOME-SCHOOLED BY HAVING THEIR KIDS DO SUMS WITH A LUMP OF CHARCOAL ON THE BACK OF A SHOVEL -- JUST KIDDING!

ABE LINCOLN

©deblucke 2020

Congratulations, Pioneers!

THANK GOODNESS WE'RE OPENING UP BEFORE WE GET TO THE POINT OF HOME-DENTISTRY!

By Deb Lucke