

Lots of stuff!

by Norbert Gleisner

We carry it around; guys in their pockets, women stuff their purses full of stuff. Some guys even have purses, that's ok - if you're that kind of guy.

There's all that stuff you have in your car. In your trunk - spare tire, jack, old horse blanket to keep the floor clean, sorta like seat covers used to be for seats(remember?)so they'd be clean when you traded the crate in on a new mobile stuff holder.

And in the glove box, stuff for ready reference: maps of where you've been (worthless), sunglasses, an automatic pistol - just in case you need to shoot someone in accordance with the new law in Florida which authorizes meeting force with force, rather than having to retreat non-violently. Good stuff!

So we need our stuff, it's important. You gotta take care of and have a place for your stuff. That's what life is allabout, trying to find a place for your stuff. That's what your house is: a place to keep your stuff. If you didn't have all that stuff you wouldn't need a house, you could just walk around outside all the time.

A house is really nothing other than a bunch of stuff under cover. As an ex-pilot, I've looked down and seen all those little piles of stuff, everyone's got his own littlepile of stuff, different color covers, but otherwise boringly alike.

And you gotta lock it up when you leave. Somebody might come by and steal some of your stuff, especially the good stuff. They wouldn't bother with the crap you're saving like your high school diploma, pile of National Geographic magazines, or pictures of your dead dog.

So, your house is a stuff place-nothing much more. It's a place from which to go forth and get more stuff. That's what it's all about, isn't it? Getting more stuff you don't need or want and most likely can't afford because it's overpriced. But - gotta keep getting more stuff or "they" might end up with more stuff. Can't let that happen.

So, finally the closets, basements, attic, garage and every

nook-n-cranny are stuffed full of stuff, and even though you like your house you gotta move; too much stuff. Need a bigger house, so gotta move all your stuff. Might consider selling some of your stuff - garage sale. That should work and make it a bit easier - move a little less. After all, there are people who drive around all weekend looking for garage sales so they can buy other people's stuff to add to their not *enuf* stuff.

Enuf about your stuff. When you go visiting someone else's house, have you ever wondered what crummy stuff they have? "God! Where'd they get this stuff?" And you know how it is when you go somewhere - maybe up North on vacation - and are invited to stay overnight and they put you in a bedroom they don't use much....maybe Grandma died in it eight years ago and her stuff is still there all over the place, even the hot water bottle? There's no room on the dresser for your stuff, someone else's stuff is in the drawers! "Get this junk out of here so I can put my stuff down." Obviously at that point, their stuff is crap and your crap is stuff.

And so, alas, one fine day, back home, it dawns on you that all your stuff creates lots of problems and you're pretty fed up. You decide to clean out the closets, the attic, the basement, the garage, the storage shed in the back yard, and all your other secret hiding places, and keep only manageable proportions of stuff. Just the right amount of crap to lead an uncomplicated life.

And that's when the phone rings. It's a freaking lawyer calling to tell you a long lost uncle has died and left you a bunch of stuff. Oh no! Now what?

You tell the lawyer to STUFF IT!