

Morning dawns bright with a late-April sun highlighting the dogwoods and azaleas.



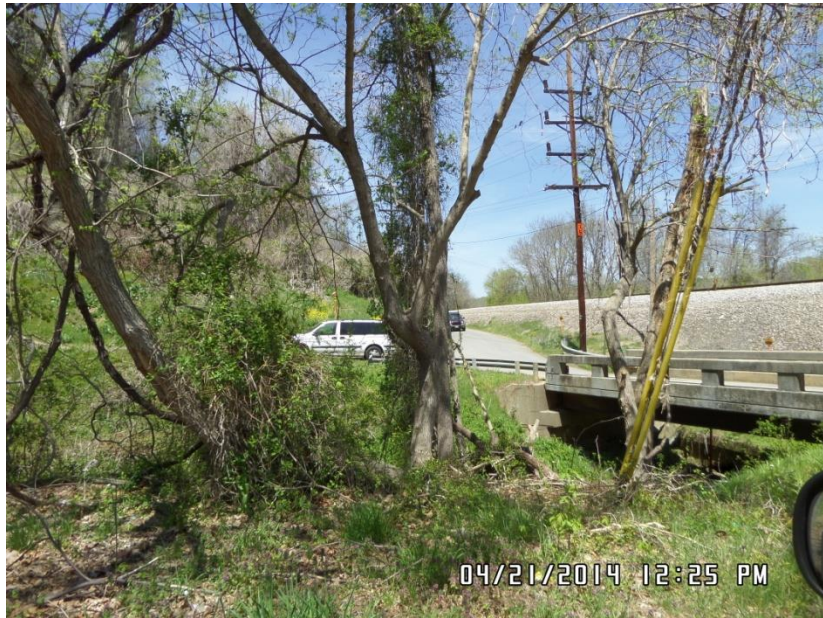
Jim suggests it is too pretty a day to stay home so we whiz through breakfast as a stir-fry dish sizzles on the stovetop. Ah, that mixture will be yummy in our cute little crock pot for our lunch this noon.

The drive along Langhorn Road never fails to satisfy our senses. All those beautiful houses and manicured lawns speak of a gentle and easy lifestyle. A new house is coming along nicely and will soon be home to some happy family.

Here we are at one of our favorite haunts, Reusens, Virginia. This is a fairly remote community within Lynchburg where the C&O railroad tracks follow the James River.



It is the perfect spot for Jim to indulge in his love of train-watching.



I can inhale the beauty around us. The little creek is happily gurgling its way to the James River..



I can also make headways on my latest plastic canvas project. Jim trots up the road to a good vantage point.

Don't you just know you are going to get subjected to a history lesson again so here goes.....Just after the Civil War the Lynchburg Iron Works began production with a large blast furnace at the east end of the area. After a number of ownership changes, the facility was closed down in 1962. Now the large stove towers are gone and Buncher Rail uses the area to repair train cars.

At the west end of Hydro Street is the dam, originally named Judith Dam, built in 1851. In 1904 two 750 kilowatt generators were installed. At the time, these were the world's largest generators. Water wheels on the dam were connected to ropes which turned the generators

to create power. Elvis owned stock in the company. Naah! The part about Elvis isn't true...I just wondered if you were paying attention. Today water rushes wildly over the dam and, I'm told, it is no longer used to generate power.

Spring is in full force here this morning as the plants put on a glorious show:



Even common old weeds put their best foot forward today:



Alrightythen! Aren't you glad we are through the history part? Let's get back to 2014. The dark green Allied Taxi Cab rolls to a stop at the intersection ahead of me and an elderly gentleman hops out. He pulls a healthy amount of fishing gear...plus a folding chair...from the trunk. Then he disappears over the tracks for a pleasurable day of fishing. Now that is one dedicated fisherman. The game warden drives by, making sure everybody is behaving.

Hooray! The eastbound signal turns green and Garland Harper, who lives in the white house high up on the bluff, joins Jim, camera in hand. Soon eastbound oil train K08823, led by two Canadian Pacific locomotives, cruises by, heading for the Yorktown refinery with its cargo of crude oil from the North Dakota oil fields.

The engineer toots at me and the folks on the front porch of the house to my right. All is good in their world today. Their lawn has been freshly mowed and they can relax now, just enjoying this peaceful place.

A green SUV parks behind me and yields a young dad and his son. Sonny is very happy about their anticipated day of fishing and they climb the steep grade and cross the tracks. This where the dedicated fisherman crossed about an hour ago so they should find some good company today. Contented laughter of the porch-sitters dances across the river and our lunch is bubbling in the crock pot.

As we munch down our lunch Garland rolls by in his '84 white Ford pick-em-up truck with his side-kick Trudy, her nose into the wind. You can almost hear that dog grinning.

The Balcony Falls local eases westward with its payload of fifteen tank cars. They will be back later this afternoon. Isn't this a wonderful day for the crew to be ambling along this beautiful river?



You can still see deep into the lacy-green woods across the river but the bears must be in hiding. Authorities rescued one of the critters from a tree in Lynchburg yesterday. Yikes!

The tree trimmer is due at our house soon so we must pack up and leave this restful spot until next time.

P.S. That tree trimmer never showed up so we could have stayed longer. Bummer!