08/24/2021

Just back from the UP—smooth over the waters of the Escanaba River white sun on the blue water, heavy lily pads to suction to our paddle in the river and white lily flowers like Ophelia left to drown with lips just below the surface. A half mile across the flat of the lake to the raised horizon of the dam. We portage over the mound where there is an orange caution sign instructing us to portage here.

Caleb’s boss was at Yale Law School with Hunter Biden and Corey Booker. Hans says something disparaging about Corey Booker. Caleb consceds that he had a reputation for being ruthlessly ambitions. My brother weirdly close to power in his humble way. Humbly trying to get close to power.

Nick, Hans’s 15 year-old-son has an almost aspi personsonality, obsessed with history, finding himself defending the accidents of history, seemingly blaming them for the ills of our past, washing our hands of the tarnish that our current perspective gives our past positions. Our past configurations of power. We didn’t like it so we, collectively, pushed, we the people, collectively pushed.

Marcus finds the full skin of a pine snake, at least 4 feet long. I have never seen a snake that long in the wild. The snakes had crawled out to the edge of the land where the embankment connects to the cement dam. There were several snake skins at the edge of the embankment. Marcus had the thought that the noise of the damn might keep predators away making it a good place to settle in and molt. Its good to have a safe place when you are molting.

The limestone cliffs. Fragile, exposing the land beneath the pines and the dirt. No bedrock, but crumbling limestone. Rock that washes away layer by layer in a hard rain or a spring run off.

The Dams were built by the mill—the area’s biggest employer. Everyone has an application in at the mill. You get in at the mill and you are set is the mindset. Work 10 years and then retire. My friend Casey’s old lady has been trying to get in there. Curretnly she cleans homes and works at an assisted living facility. Here and Casey are rasiting 4 kids in a small house with a big lot—they fish and play in the yard and do sports and watch TV and eat frozen pizzas and fry ups from the short-order-cook-grill that Casey keeps in the garage. There is a workroom off the garage that Casey has decorated up like an 18-year-old’s bedroom—jersey’s and clippings and banners—in one of the clippings our senior year basketball team beat a rival school 76 to 35. We had a regionally pretty strong team. There’s a woodstove in there and he burns all the paper and whatnot they get year round and he burns wood in the winter for warmth and brings the TV out to watch football games.

He was suspended from Facebook several times fro talking trash to Trumpers.

He says Greg is a Trumper now—I here that Greg is a Trucker. And I am surprised by this, but whatever, I have heard truckers can make pretty good money. He is still a surveyor, but he is now also an aggressive Trumper, Casey feels like he has probably offended by his posts and his anti-trump signage in his yard and so hasn’t talked with him in over a year.

His friends with trucks that cost more than his house. Why? He wonders? Why?

Had just been thinking about Noah and the move to the Northwest. Had recently been talking with Bob who moved to the southwest. Tarantual killing wasps, Cicada killing wasps, who pooped in the park.

Wondering how your theological study is going. The problem of words. Organizing them. Getting them all in there. Leaving out the right ones. A Japanese inspired Calvin and Hobbes panel. Minimal objects, very intentionally and exactly placed. I found *Life of Pi* on a walk to Trader Joes. I purchase greens and lemons and cheese and raw almonds and unsweetened yogurt. Trying to eat better and exercise less. Have experimented with cutting out coffee and cutting out caffeine.

A chacuteri board of a letter. Attractively displayed meats and cheeses and fruits. Bit sized. Able to be contained and connected with. Sampled in time. Trying to screw down on time—coding, writing, Chinese,