

Personal Journal

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3/19/18

MON

Stomach still a little weak but I'm better today. Goat at least 10 lbs, maybe a lot more, I couldn't even keep water down for a couple of days. Jimmy's going to go over today to see how he did on the tube test - if he gets out of bed he was up and down most of the night, mostly up. I finished up a pencil drawing of John Albayne and did another drawing for Jimmy's mother, Marilyn.

3/20/18

TUES

Dreams of riding the bus home at three or four in the morning - the in-between hour just before dawn with the lost, the homeless, the confused, who am I? I feel like a child. I live in an imaginary world, I fear ~~the~~ the real world. How did I end up here? I stayed on the yard until noon yesterday it was a nice sunny day. Stayed in the dayroom until 3:30. My brain stopped working AGAIN got lost for a minute. Jimmy past his TABE test 9.9 except math 8.5 so he can finish up high school now! I've got a pass for CTC telemed at 8:50 today not sure if it's for arthritis or my lungs. I was supposed to see the lung doctor in Feb but he wanted new x-rays and an Ultra Sound of my lung first to see what kind of treatment he wants me on.

3/21/18

WED

It started raining yesterday afternoon and it's still going this morning - not raining that hard right now but everything's wet. I like it when everything is wet - makes it look and smell so clean. I don't know if I'm going out walking in it today or not. I saw the Rheumatologist yesterday and he's putting

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WED

on a medication called prednisone. It's a steroid medication that weakens the immune system, making it easier to get infection and I can't even start if I have a cold. I have to see my primary care doctor before I can start so two to three week there and then he only wants me on it for three week to see how it works for me while he does blood tests and x-rays.

3/22/18

THURS

They moved me to the first tier yesterday. I'm still in shock. The cell is set opposite of the old one. I lived in the old one for more than ten years so everything is backward for me - it's going to take some getting use to. I had friends help me pack and they carried everything down. I didn't realize I ~~had~~ ^{had} accumulated so much - now I have to see what I can get rid of. This cell is a lot brighter with a better view at ground level. It was a surprise for Jimmy when he came back from school - he'll get use to it he only has a few months left on his time - It's still raining today - looks real nice and close hitting on the ground from here - think I stay inside today. Some days are just long especially those spent alone.

3/23/18

FRIDAY

They say your brain is full of synapses and neurons to bad there's not much room for anything else - It takes me about an hour in the morning to work the stiffness (soreness) out of my hands + finger so I can close them some and use them. Put up hooks for clothes yesterday. Today I'll put some up to hang my pictures on and maybe a shelf or two. Don't

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3/23/18 want to do to much - these people will think I'm able to work again. Fight the good fight - take a deep breath - live + love in each moment - hold on to gratitude try to be happy - here in the midst of turmoil.

3/24/18 Thinkers, takers, tankers, haters, dunkers, mail dogers. SAT
If the weather didn't change once in awhile 90% of us wouldn't be able to start a conversation. It looks nice outside this morning - still cloudy but it's not raining at the moment. I enjoy the rain, in my new cell I enjoy watching it out the window more. I did manage to do a little painting yesterday. I'm working on this motel at night with the sign lite up. Isn't it funny how time just slips right on away. (E.P.)

3/25/18 When to bed late - got up late - still don't have a damn thing to write about - the only thing changing here is the time of day. You're young and full of vigor one day you look in the mirror the next morning there's an old man staring back at you. You ask yourself what ever happened to so-n-so?, who was your best friend once, and that woman she love, you know the one that said she would always be there, you wonder where she is now and if she ever dreams about you the way you still dream about her and you fight back the tears and begin another day.

Steve J. Burkett # B-14364 New Cell #

C-11-120^{LOW} M.C.S.P.

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I have smelled
the fresh fragrances
of the first blooms
of Spring

I have felt
the cool wind of fall
blowing in the trees
on lovely days

I have seen ~~to~~
the first rain drops
of winter
on city sidewalks

I have tasted
the sweetness
of warm wine
on summer days

I have held you
in a loving embrace
where just for a moment
I felt you thinking of me

Steve Burkett
3/27/18