

My Move to Bend (or my beautiful first winter) Kip Payne

December 8 - 6:00 pm – It started to snow. The first snow of the season and Cathy and I took our glass of wine and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven. It looked like a Grandma Moses Print. So romantic, we felt like newlyweds again. **I love Snow.**

December 9 – We woke up to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape. What a fantastic sight! Can there be a more lovely place, than Bend, in the Whole World? Moving here was the best idea we ever had. Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again. I did our long driveway and this afternoon the snowplow came along and covered up the driveway, so I got to shovel again, **What a perfect life!**

December 12 – The sun has melted all our lovely snow. Such a disappointment, my neighbor tells me not to worry, we'll definitely have a white Christmas. No snow on Christmas would be awful! Bill Barlow says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter, that I'll never want to see snow again. I am sure he is joking, Bill is such a nice man, I am glad he is our neighbor.

December 14 - Snow lovely snow, 8 inches last night. The temperature dropped to -20, the cold makes everything sparkle so. The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway. This is the life! The snowplow came by and buried everything again. I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, but I'll certainly get back in shape this way. I wish I wouldn't huff and puff so.

December 15 – 20 inches forecast. Sold my van and bought a 4x4 Jeep, bought snow tires for the wife's car and 2 extra shovels, and stocked the freezer. Cathy wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out. I think that's silly, we aren't in Alaska, after all.

December 16 – Ice storm this morning, fell on my ass on the ice in the driveway. Hurt like hell, and the wife laughed for an hour, which I think was very cruel.

December 17 – Still way below freezing, roads are too icy to go anywhere. Electricity was off for 5 hours and I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm. Nothing to but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her, I guess I should've bought a wood stove, but I won't admit it to her. God I hate it when she's right. I can't believe I'm freezing to death in my own living room.

December 20 – Electricity's back on, but had another 14" of the damn stuff last night, more shoveling, took all day. Damn snowplow came by twice. Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy snow boarding. I think their lying. Called all the hardware stores to find a snow blower and they are all out, might have another shipment in March. I think their lying. Bill says I will have to shovel my sidewalks or the city will have it done and bill me. I think he is lying.

December 22 – Bill was right about a white Christmas because 13 of the white shit fell today, and it's so cold it probably won't melt until August. Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to ho out to shovel and then I had to piss. By the time I got undressed, and dressed again, I was too tired to shovel. Tried to hire Mike Stenkamp, who has a plow, for the rest of the winter, but he says he's too busy. I think he is lying.

December 23 – Only 2” of snow today, and it warmed up to 0. The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning, what is she: NUTS!!! Why didn’t she tell me to do that a month ago? She says she did but I think she is lying.

December 24 - Another 6” of snow, packed so hard by the snowplow, I broke the shovel. Thought I was having a heart attack. If I ever catch that bum who drives the snowplow I’ll drag him through the snow by his privates and beat him to death with my broken shovel. I know he hides around the corner and waits for me to finish shoveling and then he comes down the street at 100 miles an hour and throws snow all over my driveway. Tonight the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the damn snowplow.

December 25 – Merry blanky-blank Christmas! 20 more inches of the damn slop tonight. Snowed –in, the idea of shoveling makes my blood boil. God I hate the snow, then the snow plow driver came by asking for a donation and I hit him over the head with my broken shovel. The wife says I have a bad attitude. I think she’s an idiot. If I have to watch “It’s A Wonderful Life “, one more time, I’m going to stuff her into the microwave.

December 26 – Still snowed in, why the hell did I ever move here? It was all HER idea, she’s really getting on my nerves.

December 27 – Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze, plumber came, after waiting 14 hours, he only charged me \$5000 to replace all my pipes.

December 28 – 10 more inches, Bill says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in! That’s the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?

December 30 – Roof caved in, I beat-up the snowplow driver and he is now suing me for a million dollars, not only the beating I gave him, but also for trying to shove the broken snow shovel up his rear. The wife went home to her mother, 9 more inches predicted.

December 31 – I set fire to what’s left of the house, no more shoveling!

January 8 – Feel so good. I just love these little white pills they keep giving me. I wonder why I am tied to the bed?