

Grampa's Browns Corner *Daily Blab 4-9-20*

Hello again, Campers. It's me again, filling your life with amazing (or amusing) anecdotes. Today must be rated as a Very Good Day.

This morning it was brisk and raining outside which suited me fine because my first task was setting up planting trays and planting impatiens and petunia seeds. I have some tomato and zucchini seeds to plant but the rain was an impediment. About the time I finished planting seeds the sun came out so I went outside to Build a Bridge.

In the previous edition I told you about pressure washing and painting the steel. Today I was eager to begin assembly of Bridge #3, aka Tyler Bridge.

(you may skip the technical stuff in Blue if it is boring or confusing.) The technical stuff:

- Using the chop saw I cut a PT 4x4 to 4', my chosen spacing for the 12" C section girders.
- I drilled the web of the C to install a 6" Timberlock self-drilling timer fastener into the center of the timber end.
- I installed 45° knee braces from 2x4 to stabilize the beams against rotation, i.e., tipping over.
- I attached top flange "nailers" of 2x4 using carriage bolts. Put bituminous flashing tape between PT 2x4 and top flange to protect against corrosion.
- I put on five deck boards spaced equally to stabilize for lifting and transport.

- 2-1/2" stainless self-drilling deck screws.
- Put in a PT 2x4 diagonal (on edge) below the boards for sway bracing.
- For the image analysts, I left this picture with maximum resolution so that you can see most of these details.
- Lifted bridge assembly with the loader.



- I carried the bridge across the side yard and out to the woods.



- It was a little sketchy trying to land the bridge in its proper place. Had to put it down and go back to mount the weight box on the three point hitch.
- Then finished installing deck boards.
- And voila!! The first steel bridge ever installed by the Browns Corner Bridge Authority.
- Dr. Toughlove approves.



There is still a bit of work to do on grading the bridge approaches for tractor transit but with the weight box in place the tractor is more like a bulldozer.

So there you have it. The story of BCBA Bridge #3, Tyler Bridge. As seen from the Bunk Room:



