



ROBINETTE Farms

MARTELL • NEBRASKA



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Farming? No, but you gotta dig El Capitan! 3200 vertical feet is hard to argue with. Each of the “stars” are lights from climbers in their portaledges. I’m off to Yosemite this weekend for some big wall time.

ON TO THE NEXT ADVENTURE

Today is the last pickup for our 2016 CSA so thank you for joining us on this adventure! I usually take this time to provide a State of the CSA newsletter, but as I began writing this morning an old friend walked through our door mid-motorcycle journey from New Hampshire to Colorado, and he put me in a different spot, so I thought I’d take you on an adventure that has less fresh vegetables.

Chloe and I met Jeff Chapman in Boulder in 2007 and saw him once since moving here in 2010. I cycled and welded with Jeff, but I didn’t know much of his past or interests beyond that. After my spinal cord injury, when I started climbing

again, I came across the story of the first ascent of [The Great and Secret Show](#), a 4400’ granite face in Greenland. It’s a wonderful read about three men who spent 39 days climbing, sleeping and living on the side of an arctic rock face. Jeff Chapman was listed in the group, but every furious googling attempt at connecting “our” Jeff with the Big Wall Jeff failed, and the texts I sent him were never returned.

So the first question I asked Jeff after not seeing him for 4 1/2 years was “Did you put up The Great and Secret Show?”.....”...Yes,” he said with his usual blank expression.

We caught up on all the details in each other’s lives over the next two

October 12th, 2016

Farm News

This Week’s Share

Chard or Kale

Potatoes

Garlic

Braising Mix

Head Lettuce

Hot Peppers

Winter Squash

Sweet Peppers

Bok Choy

Chickens for Sale!

Today is your last opportunity of fresh chickens from us this year — don’t miss out!

We have chickens for sale at pickup! They are **FRESH**, and you can reserve yours by following this link:

<http://www.robinettefarms.com/store/3112>

10% Off At Market!

CSA members enjoy 10% off our products at the [Old Cheney Road Farmers’ Market](#) every Sunday in October, plus there are 3 [Holiday Harvest Markets!](#)

Ramblings

hours, occasionally dipping into climbing, and then we finally reached The Great and Secret Show.

What struck me the most was the sense of time that developed during their time in the far north. The sun never set during all those days living vertically, and they were climbing a north-facing wall with no real awareness of where the sun was, and so time became irrelevant. They didn't worry about darkness or schedules, they just climbed to a certain objective — usually one “pitch,” which is roughly the length of the rope, or about 150 feet — and then they would sleep.

Time was marked by progress and exhaustion, not the hands of a clock or the coming and going of days. Jeff said he had no idea the time, let alone day or date, and he talked of the timeless week they spent exploring the frozen fjords for other possible big walls. They were towed by Inuit hunters on snowmobile who also marked time only by progress and distance, and after reaching the base of the Polar Sun Spire, Jeff really just wanted to keep exploring with these natives who clearly saw a different world than

he had ever experienced.

I think the world, and perhaps American culture in particular, needs a dose of this sort of timelessness. We seem particularly bound to time and its passage, but I've come to wonder how much time matters to the *quality* of the lives we lead. If the sun never set, would you work all the time or would you slow down? If rest only came after reaching an objective as opposed to “quitting time,” would you work harder, or engage enough to notice the world happening around you?

Climbing has always focused me in on the moment; it has allowed me to be present, which truly is a timeless place. Each day I struggle to be present for the minutiae of everyday life, but someday I'll learn to apply the big wall to life. Enjoy your winter!

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Jeff Chapman (left), and Warren Hollinger during the first ascent of the Polar Sun Spire on Baffin Island, Greenland.

Jeff, Warren and Mark Synott spent 39 days on this monstrous arctic big wall in May and June of 1996.

Life should be experienced, and these guys have certainly dabbled.



Agriculture in the News

The dream of perennial agriculture is moving closer each year to reality as the [Land Institute in Kansas](#) works to improve its breed of perennial grain crop, called Kernza. [The Washington Post recently reported](#) on ongoing efforts to integrate perennial wheat into our food system.

So what's so great about perennial agriculture? In a word: Sustainability. Perennial plants need far fewer inputs, and establish deep, healthy root ecosystems that sequester massive amounts of carbon and are able to thrive during droughty periods. Imagine intact “prairie” as far as you can see that also happens to produce an edible crop. No planting, no cultivating, no soil erosion — lots of wins there to tally!