

Marty's Random Thoughts

(C) 2007 MEM

WHATEVER'S ON MY MIND WHEN MY FINGERS HIT THE KEYBOARD

14th Year

Woodstock, Illinois, USA, Earth

Marty Metras

Issue 116 August 2013

Table of Content

What is Happiness	2	Better this time	9	Something from Nothing	
My Book.....	7	Tears!.....	9	11
Thinking about writing ..	7	Small Miracles.....	9	Follow Ups:	14
Un-Birthday	7	Life Stories	10	Camper A/C.....	14
Whoops	7	A Random Thought	10	Elephant / Clown.....	14
Anila is Back.....	7	Later at Home	11		
Random Thoughts.....	8				

1-Aug-12 7:58am *\$

I see there is a new month here. I am at a loss to know what to type so I will just give you a smiley face. :-)

Now I am at Town & Country thinking about cutting the grass at EWT a little latter. Yesterday it looked a little like it needed it. I was lucky because it was raining. I like when it rains so I don't have to do it. It isn't that I don't like cutting the grass. I just don't want to do it sometimes. Today I want to do it.

I was thinking since I am a Doer of Things I should do something. I have random thought and I also do random things to. I already have the website "DoerOfThings.com" I should start using it again. I could leave the thoughts to MartysRandomThoughts.com and the things to DoerOfThings.com.

Let me think on this a little. Hum...Ah I could just used Word Press and create blog. In that blog I could just post the random things I do and don't I would put

it on paper. That would be too much work. What to call it? How about MRT for Marty's Random Things? Wait, I use MRT for Marty's Random Thoughts. If you read "MRT" is sounds like "Marty", doesn't it? I well need to think on this some more.

Hay, did you go to the fair? I didn't get there and most likely won't this year.

3-Aug-13 8:33am *\$

Where did that time go? I have been sitting working on my book and the battery went dead on my lap top. That must be why I bring my iPad with me. The laptop will go about 3 hours if I leave the Wi-Fi radio turned off. The iPad will go 9 hours easy. Today was one of those long runs on the laptop.

I have to go get some breakfast and work on the camper. I have to figure out why the house battery is not getting the power it needs to charge it. There has to be something wired wrong. I had them check it out for me and they say it is fine. But why isn't charging? I will figure that out. I get frustrated when some tells me

something is working when it isn't. Is something broken or wired wrong. I will figure this out. Just not before breakfast!

What is Happiness

Asking for help to solve a problem and working together and making it work even if you are not sure what fixed it problem is fun.

I had my camper in Rockford to check out the charging system for the house battery that hasn't worked since Cork and I went to California in March. In Rockford they reconnected what was bypassed when the alternator failed and said it was working just fine. Yah right!

The other day it still was not charging yet. Today I started checking things out. First I wanted to double check that it was wired right. I opened up the hood and the engine cover and got everything exposed. Then I started to check things out and it kind of looked ok. There was some wire tracing I could not do easily alone so I ask for help from Cork. After he came over I asked if he had time, that I could remover each wire and checked to see both ends were hooked where they should be. The yellow wire seemed wrong and it was critical to the whole thing. We spent a lot of time on it to find out it was the wrong yellow wire we were checking out. ☺ Yes there were two side by side and we both missed it.

So we fixed that one and went back to check the right one. It seemed like it was the one that might have been causing the problem. I/we think it was a loose connection.

We think because it was the only thing we messed with that made any difference. All the wires were where they should have been hooked so the voltage was correct after messing with the two yellow wires. A weak connection we figured.

When Cork left everything was working. I ran the engine for a while and both the engine and the house batteries were charging. Cork had to leave and I finished closing up the engine so I could drive the camper again.

Before I left for lunch I turned on one of the house lights to drain the house battery so I could recheck the charging system when I returned home. After lunch the house battery was as dead as a door nail. I checked the state of charge with a volt meter and it confirmed is was dead. I fired up the engine and checked with a volt meter again and it was charging just fine. Fantastic!

Cork, Thanks for your help.

4-Aug-13 5:38am *\$

So I walked in to Starbucks wondering if this was leave your car running day and no one told me. All the cars parked out front had their engines running. When it is cold or very hot I would understand this but not today. Then the music is fixed. It has been broken for over a week. Then it was "Pick on Marty Day" too. I love coming up here early in the morning.

Oh did tell you the camper battery is charging now. I drained the battery while I was at lunch yesterday. When I returned it was dead. I hopped for that. Then I started up the engine and it is charging. It is dead this morning but that is because I did not charge it I just made sure it would. I didn't drive it up here because someone put my car in the way so I drove it. Hay wait, this was leave you car running day so it I would have known. If I left it running nobody would have said anything. ☺

Thanks again Cork!

I think I will read this morning and leave this is sit.

So I read some more on my book about happiness I started way back. It is a 90 day workbook and I am on day 44. Maybe it should be called a 90 day workbook that could take 90 years. This is an interesting book. Many of the principles in this book are things I already do to make me happy. Other things are good reminders.

Are you happy? What makes you happy! Do you avoid the things that don't make you happy or do you try to change them? Hum....

6-Aug-13 6:53am *\$

This morning has been interesting. I woke up and it felt damp. I walked to the front window and looked out the window and saw how foggy it was. While standing there I saw something strange out of the corner of my eye and made a double take.

There was this elephant that was all white on one side and black on the other side. On the black side he had a circle around his eye. On the white side there has a black circle. His feet were yellow on the black side and royal blue on the white side. When he came closer he came out of the fog and I could see much better. The elephant was being lead by a clown, who was dressed the same as the big animal. The clown had one of those canes that are curved on one end that looked like a big candy cane. It was hooked over the pachyderm's ear leading him down the street.

Along beside the clown was this little dog about the size of a small kitten. I wasn't sure it was a dog at first because of the heavy fog until it barked. The dog looked like the elephant but it was the dog's natural color except for blue and yellow feet.

In a few minutes there were people following there were very tall. They all looked like people that were all over six feet high. At first I thought they might be

wearing stilts but some were in shorts and those looked like legs to me. There must have been a dozen of them all men.

I wasn't dressed yet or I would have gone out on the front porch to get a better look to see what was happening. Instead I went back in the bed room and got dressed quickly. When I returned they were gone. I went outside and looked up and down the street and nothing. So I guess I was just in the fog myself and maybe it didn't really happen. Sometimes when you first wake up you are still dreaming. It seemed so real!

After this I backed out of the driveway and looked both ways and still saw nothing strange. I even took to see it the big animal left any droppings in the in the street. You would have a tough time missing elephant droppings in the street even in the fog.

So I came up to Starbucks to have a cup of coffee and wake up a little more. I had to wait for them to make me a special coffee that would wait me. I sat down and was waiting when some more strange things started.

There were about six different people come into the store that were over 6'5. Yes really! One of them I even bend over to get through the entry door. Now I wonder where the elephant, clown, and dog went. Did anyone else see them?

Let me know at

<http://MartysRandomThought.com/>

7-Aug-13 5:27pm *\$

Hum it is 5:30 in the evening. What am I doing here at this evening? Maybe today is special. I sat down to finishing watching the movie I started yesterday and remember starting it to play. Then it was four o'clock. What's up with that?

Maybe I spent too much energy walking out to EWT this morning and walking

home after words. In any case today was a sleep day and I feel great. Sometimes you just need to sleep all days.

Tomorrow I think will be getting the cut grass day. I need to go out and get the mower that has been in for a checkup. I guess there wasn't really anything wrong. It was getting very noisy when in heavy grass and the blade needed to be sharpened. I forgot how much grass I had been cutting with it. When I was only cutting my grass I would only sharpen the blade once a year some time twice. That because mowing my lawn is a quite an easy task. I had forgotten how much more grass I am cutting now. Cutting that quarter of an acre of grass at EWT about every week it liken to cutting mine for a year. So I think maybe I need to tend to the maintenance a little more than I have in the past. Hum, maybe that is why I had trouble this spring cutting the grass with my old mower too. I hadn't sharpened the blade on it for quite some time.

So the mower is ready to be picked up and I have to ready myself to cut the grass.

I haven't heard from anyone about the charters that I saw yesterday morning going by my house. So I am guessing I may be just loosing it. Or it is like the elephant that used to live a couple blocks from me in the mid 1960's to the 1970's. Even walking by her home many days I didn't see her or remember seeing no elephant. But there she lived. How many things have I missed because walking around wearing blinders?

I always thought I didn't miss much. Many times I see thing other miss. On the other side of this I am very good at tuning things out not being aware of what is going on around me.

I think I am both aware and secluded when I am up here at Starbucks at times.

I come up here to be alone some times and though there may be hundreds people go through I am alone. I am never alone at home when I am there by myself.

I wonder what has brought this to mind this evening.

8-Aug-13 7:02am *\$

Yesterday I checked and my mower is ready to pickup. I had my car so I didn't pick it up then and forgot later. I guess I didn't want to cut any grass yesterday anyway. So this morning I am must be ready to cut grass because I will go and get it after I leave here. They don't open until eight o'clock so I can take some more breaks.

Last week I did some lawn art in the grass by mowing two big kettle-bells in the front lawn of E.W. Training. Everyone thought it was great. Thanks! I set the mower as low as I could and to etch them and then set it a little higher than norm for the rest. They looked good. Yesterday I looked and the grass, where I cut it shorter needed mowing again. I looked at my grass at home and it too looks like a hay field. It looks like the weather is just right for grass growing. I don't think it has been a week since I cut the grass either place.

So I wonder how I can carve a rope in the grass so it looks like a rope. I will use the bagger this time because I can use the clippings as mulch and make whatever I etch in the grass stand out more if the clippings are removed. I can take care of two things at once. Hum...I wander what I should carve this time.

Lucia has heard me talking about walking in Spain so many time she gave me a book to read, "Toledo ...It's Art ...It's History." Many of you know for the most part I am not into art and/or History that

much. Well I like this book and am half way through it already. If I didn't have to cut grass today I even finish it. I didn't think I would get into art or history very much. In this case, I liked both.

The book is about art and history for the last 2000 years in Toledo Spain. I thought some of the buildings I saw while I walked the Camino looked like these. I didn't know those buildings were art and had history. There were just big fancy churches. When I go back I might even look at some of those more than just a glance.

Well I have to go get my mower.

10-Aug-13 12:56pm Home

Got to go here comes Aunt Annie!

11-Aug-13 11:15am Home

So here I sit again on the front porch doing nothing but cooling down after cutting the grass. I see they are finally cutting the grass in that big empty lot across the street. I think it is the first time this year. They cut it near the street but not the whole lot. The guy that is cutting it is using a front end loader with a mower in the back running from the back on the power take off. He drives too fast and the tractor stalls every once in a while. I remember from living on the farm that if you use the power take off to power a piece of machinery you needed to use a lower gear to drive the wheels. On some tractors there isn't enough to drive both. This guy must not be used to this tractor but he learned quickly. He is on his third pass now and seems to have under control. Yup, he is cutting non-stop now without slowing down except for turning around at the ends. I think I might just sit here and see how long it takes to cut that much grass that is a foot tall. The mower deck looks to be about 8 foot wide from

here. If I had one of them it would only take about 4 passes to cut my grass. Well it would still take a long time because there isn't enough room to turn it around. :-)

There was a circus in town Fri and Sat. I wonder if that was what I thought I saw the other day was part of it, so I decide to go. I can't remember when I went to the circus so I went to the final showing at 7:30 last night. It was held at the Fair Grounds. I arrived about seven so I had time to look things over. First I noticed there was no tent. I thought, "What is a Circus without a big top?" I looked around and saw only one ring and a couple quarter circles that didn't look like anything but directions. There was a narrow ramp and a wide ramp. I guessed they do some kind of bicycle or motorcycle jumping. There was also a see-saw, trampoline, and a high bar. I guessed I would see some acrobats but not any swinging on high trapezes.

What I got for my \$20.00 was some horses running in a circle, a little bit of acrobatics, and a guy fly through the air on a motor bike. I enjoyed the guy on the trampoline as he was wearing a microphone and was entraining us while he was doing his act. Near the end of the performances they had 6-7 camels running around in the small ring circle. If you think I didn't care for this...well let's just say I was not really impressed. I am glad I went...but I think I won't return for a very long time.

Did any of you go to the circus? If so how did you like it? Maybe it was because it was the last showing before they left town is why I thought the performance was so bad.

I am not saying it was bad. I am saying I didn't care for what I saw.

Oh, no elephants, clowns, or dogs either!

13-Aug-13 8:27am *\$

This is my second trip up here already today. Since I missed my Monday morning work-out at E.W. Training I decided to get out here today. Yes I know it is rare for me to be there on a Tuesday morning at 6:30 but I decided to show with a hot cup of Starbucks coffee because it was cold and I know how much Michelle dislikes the cold in the morning. It made her smile. I like the way Michelle smiles.

So I did my work-out and headed home to change close and then came up here to read that book on happiness I started reading some many months ago. I will be happy when I am finished with it. :-) I finished 2 more chapters. I am on page 179 of 364. The Kindle thing says I am at 49%. No I am not quite half way yet. I am at a point in this book that I am thinking about setting it aside and starting another book. It is starting to drag on me.

I have read another book. Just last week Lucia gave me that book on art of history. I enjoyed it.

Today I am going to Menards for supplies to build another book self for all the books sitting on the floor in the living room. I have a big pile sitting the way and last night I thought,"There is an empty space in the corner on the wall clear to the window. I could put up a shelving unit and fill it with those books. Not only will it look better it will give me some room and insulate the outside wall. So last night I measures it up and I have the camper, wait it is a toolbox/truck today, to go and get my supplies.

When I get to Menards I will decide if I want to buy prefab shelving or buy boards and cut them myself. It all depends on cost and my ambition. If the cost is too much I will get the ambition. The shelf will be five foot wide and seven or eight feet

high. I am thinking nine or ten inches deep.

If I buy the prefab shelving boards they have the holes for the shelves and they are all finished. All I will have to do is cut them to length and screw them together. But that comes at a cost. On the other hand if I buy 1x10s I need to add things to hang the shelves unless I decide they will be fixed size and just screw them together. Then will I sand and coat the boards with paint or varnish. Lumber is easier to cut because the prefab boards tend to chip. I will need extra hardware if I use boards because the prefab stuff is pre drilled. Well talking about is not getting me out there to check out my options.

I'm finished my coffee so I will go now.

14-Aug-13 2:44am *\$

I was at home finishing up the shelving unit I started building yesterday when I remembered I had not has any coffee all day. I got up at 5:00am and had a quick protein shake and started out walking out to EWT for my morning work-out. It was very cool so it was good walking. As normal I got there just in time. Others were there so I decided to use a heavier rope for some reason. Showing off I guess! Well it was too much so I just slowed down a little. Some time I try to show off a little for the ladies and shouldn't. I was a little tired from walking out there then I tried to push it too. Bad idea! But I understand I was doing it to myself. Even Michelle was telling me I was pushing it. I was determined. So when the session was over I was going to walk over to TC for breakfast. When I just about got there I decided to go the Three Brothers instead. When I got there I decided to head to Starbucks. When it was time to turn in that direction I headed home. I was tires. I walked in the house went to the bedroom sat on the edge and removed my shoes

and fell back and went to sleep. I was spent! In a couple hours I woke and then started my day all over again. I had lunch with Aunt Annie and Nancy then went to Menards to pegs I needed to finish my shelving unit.

I installed all the shelves and put stuff and books that I made it for and headed here for coffee. So here I am!

My Book

Cork has been going through my book check for Martyizums that might not belong in the finished product. Cork did a great job early on in my writing. He told me was quit a way through it I can't wait to get it back in my hands. I want to get it published so I can go on another adventure so I can write another.

Thinking about writing

I have 3 books I put on my new shelf that are about writing and/or editing your own manuscript. Maybe I should read them. Right now that who shelf is full of books waiting for me to read. I want to finish the one on happiness...

...I lost my thought. Julie, Michelle's sister, came in and said;"Hi!" so I talked to her for a while. The kids were over watching the Smurfs movie and she didn't want to watch purple people. She was checking out the stores and stopped for coffee and saw me.

Now I will read a little of my book after I get another cup of coffee.

15-Aug-13 6:28am *\$

Good morning people. I am sorry! In the last couple of years I have not been remembering people's birthday the way I used to. When I was putting them in the newsletter I would remember. Then I started to just put in a list and that would help somewhat. Remembering birthday was me in the past. Have I gotten so busy

that I forget you? No I still remember most of them but it seems to be a few days late then I don't see you and then something comes up to distract me and then it seems too late to say something.

Today I will try harder to remember to wish you a happy event.

Un-Birthday

Today is Cork's un-Birthday. I can remember Cork has two birth dates. One is his birthday and the other one is just the date on his one of his birth document.

Happy un-Birthday Cork!

Also today I think is Kim & Bill's Wedding Anniversary. Wow, number 21 I think!

Whoops

I just looked to see what events were coming up next month on the 15th so we would all be ready and nothing. Not no events, no calendar page for September. This means I haven't updated my calendar for six months. Now I will have to decide if I want to update that calendar or do the new one. We know Corks real birthday is Sep-15th and there are many other things... hum, it goes from November 2012 to August 2013. I must be losing it. I would have thought I would have published more than a year so I could have looked at last year.

I have to re-think my Event Calendar. I may just right a program that used a database that I have complete control over. Something that is easy to maintain. It is the display part that I need to work on. I think I will add this to my list right now. Done!

Anila is Back

Anila is home from Albania and back to work at Town & Country today. I have to go see if Michelle wants to go for breakfast

with me and see if Anila is her same funny self.

17-Aug-13 7:01am *\$

Today is Mom's birthday she would be...wait you should not tell a ladies age. Happy Birthday Mom!

I haven't finished reading my book on happiness yet but I have started reading a new book. I am happy enough for now. :-)

This new book is titled;"Following the Yellow Arrow, Younger Pilgrims on the Camino" by Lynn K Talbot & Andrew Talbot Squires. It is collection of short stories about younger people who walked the Camino. The first story is about when Lynn first walked the Camino in 1974. The Camino was a lot different forty year ago. Wait I was there 6 years ago and last year was much different than before. Imagine what forty years might change.

I received two books when I attended the American Pilgrims on the Camino Gathering in Santa Barbara in March. Both authors were there and signed books for me. I want to honor them by reading their books.

It just amazes me how I let things get in my way that keeps me from enjoying reading from a book. I am also amazed how I can say this after remembering that I only read about a dozen books when I went to school. I am not talking about text or technical books but stories. Or is this literature? In any case I am adding books to my list that I want to read some day. I Lynn & Andrew's book there is a reference to a titled "The Road to Santiago, The Pilgrims of St. James (1957)" by Walter Strike. I looked it up and saw it is hard cover book with a hefty price tag, \$150. But the price means nothing because it is un-available on amazon.com. I don't think I would pay \$150 anyway.

The reason I might want to read this is many. Lynn met him in Spain in 1974, it

is 60 years old, and I think it is in Spanish so I would have to learn to read it.

I have two books in my book reader that are in Spanish that I have to read now.

Random Thoughts

I was thinking about going back to Spain and walk the Camino to see the entire thing I might have missed. I also thought I miss things in my home town that I have lived for 60 years. Yes, we moved here in June of 1953. There are signs on the parking spots in front of Starbucks saying I can't park there tonight but not why. I found out there is a car show I didn't know about. I live about 6 blocks from here and I know nothing!

18-Aug-13 7:16am *\$

Yesterday after going to the Tammy's party I headed to the car show on the square. Wow, there were about 250 oldies cars there. Some of them looked like I might have had at one time. My first car was a 1947 Chevy. I didn't see that one of them there. I did see a '64 Mustang, 1954 VW bug, 1927 Ford, a bunch of Corvettes, and a LOT of others.

I even saw some people that I knew and some of them saw me too. I only saw one car with a "For Sale" sign on it. I think it was a 1937 something for \$20,750.00. I decided to pass on it. Most of the cars were there just to show off. I am glad I was not in a buying mood. I may have a new car or two by now.

What will today bring? Will the sun shine all day? Will it rain? Will I enjoy being full of energy or just sit around doing nothing. So far I have sat here at Starbucks reading a book and visiting with Walter, Gary, Roy, Linda, Peggy, and Sharron. I checked and I have no

birthdays to tend to today. Maybe I could get in the car and go for a ride. But where? Well I have some laundry to do. I could head out to TC and say "Hi!" to Anila.

I can already tell this is going to be one of those days. It'll changed directions like the wind. I will do many things and/or nothing randomly. So I think I just get started and see where the mood of the minute takes me.

Better this time

So I didn't get out for breakfast this morning. I did a few little jobs and found the keys to the Camper that has missing since yesterday. I must have been listing to the radio in the Camper and left the keys in it. Yup, I left it on and the engine battery was as dead as a door nail. Funny thing the house battery was just fine this time. So I put the charger on it and headed out to do some shopping.

I bought stuff to make beef stew again. The last time I forgot something and it was flat. This time I think I have all the good stuff in the Crockpot. It should be ready around ten o'clock tonight. It is in a slow cooker so it may be midnight. If not then maybe I can have some for breakfast or lunch tomorrow. I made enough for a week.

I saved some of the celery so I have some snack food until it is ready. Oh, there are some potatoes left too.

So my beef stew should be better this time.

I wonder how Michelle is doing today. She has been working on her RKC re-certification this weekend it Fond la Lac. She made it through Friday and Saturday but there was more training and testing today. I am sure she will be back on Monday with a lot of new things to teach us.

20-Aug-13 6:44am *\$

Tears!

I brought my book with me this morning. The new one I started to read the other day. I am reading it and a part of it was making me tear up a little. It is a group of stories by people who walked the Camino while they were younger. Part of the story told by Dave Whitson was about some of the miracles. I had forgotten about the miracles I experienced on the Camino. There were many. Miracles are not always breaking your leg and having healed before morning. Many of the miracles in life are little ones. You are lonely and someone walks around the corner and say "Hi!" You drop something along the trail and didn't know it until someone taps you on the shoulder and says it this yours. You turned left and you should have had turned right and someone call out to you saying;"Hay, it's this way!" You car breaks down and no one is on this road but you, except for the guy that never takes this route but does this day.

Miracles happen all the times. They just happen but we don't realize them when they do.

Small Miracles

Now that my book is written I think about the things I have not written about. I walked about 600 miles in 48 days with only 3 days off. That's 13 miles a day. How did I do that, miracles? I got only 2 blisters. How come, miracles? Daniel and I were in the right place to help Marvin. Why was this, miracles? I turned left and walked almost a mile. What made me stop and take a break? No one passed me. I needed that break away from people. Before my break was over I saw the other

pilgrims looking like ants back where I turn the wrong way. Was this a miracle too?

Oh when I missed the last bus from Fisterra to Santiago was it a miracle I found Iain and the other friends when I had about 600 other places they could have been. I spent the evening on the west coast of Europe watching the beach at Iain's birthday party and watching the sunset set. Yes, all of these are miracles!

Life Stories

I started to write my life stories a few years back. I just started writing what came to mind back then and there was little order to it. I was more technical list of where I was and when. I called it "Life Stories" because there are stories as I remembered them. I am thinking over the years the story has changed in to stories and legions. As many of the things I have read about the Camino, there and many different stories told different about the same things. Even those few time I read history about the past. It all depends which side of the border you lived how the story plays out. If you felt you won the war you won no matter what they said.

So my life stories will be as I remember the way it went. So I think it might be my next part time project. One thing about writing your life story is you know how it will end. So far all life stories have ended the same even if not written.

A Random Thought

Something I hear years ago was "...you become what you resist the most..." I am kind of starting to realize what that meant. If you attention to something is so strong that you think about it all the time you are drawn to it. It works both ways. If you hate people who spit after a while because you think them so much that all you see is

people spit and you dwell on it over time you will become a spitter.

Another example of dwelling on something; You look for a new car and end up buying a pink car because you never ever have seen a pink car and you know it is going to be the only one on the road. So you drive out of the dealership with pride you have the only one. On your way home you see another pink car. You discount it because it is not the same brand. Over the next few weeks you start seeing pink cars all over the place. Did you start a trend or were they always there and you just didn't see them?

When I bought my car 11 years ago I thought I would never see another Honda Civic Hybrid let alone a white one. I have seen many 2003s and have even tried to get into the wrong one a few times.

When Mike and Petra moved back to the USA they looked for a Yellow car and had no luck finding what they wanted. After they bought a car I started looking to see if there were any yellow vehicles even on the road. I took pictures in a week I had pictures of 50 different yellow vehicles. It is kind of amazed me because I figures I would have seen a couple.

Even now I am amazed how the white Honda Civics jumps into my view.

21-Aug-13 12:37pm *\$

I couldn't least any longer without a cup of coffee so here I am. I was thinking after breakfast I would be able to go until tomorrow without it. Guess not! :-)

I read another short story from my book. This one was another college student who walked the Camino in May of 2004. Nicholas tells about his frustrations with people treating him different just because he is blind. He has troubled because he is a very independent person

and he was the strongest of 16 in his group. Neat story!

For a while now I have been bored. If you don't see me for a while just think I decided to get away for a while. I don't know where and I don't know when, but I can feel that urge to be somewhere else for a while. I think it is the restlessness Sagittarius part of me the always had ants in my pants to go somewhere or do something else.

Later at Home

I decide that I have had my Camper two years and the A/C has not worked since the third day. I figured since I have ants in my pants to get out of town for a while and it has been too hot to go anywhere with the Camper without an air conditioner, I should get it fixed. I don't know when I can go anywhere but when I do I would like to have things ready so I can just go when it is time.

I had to go around and find a service company that wanted to work on my Camper. Some are not setup to service tall campers, A/C, and/or just don't wanted want to work on campers. I wanted someone I might be able to trust too.

Now that I have the Camper in getting fixed, I will let you know it works out.

Now I can like think harder about a road trip somewhere. Tonight I am thinking North Dakota. One of my pilgrim friends from the Camino lives there. I could take a few days and go out there and have some coffee with Marvin.

22-Aug-13 6:43am *\$

Something from Nothing

I was thinking this morning, "How do you make something from nothing?" So I

headed to the internet to find out. Well there is a web site about that.

<http://www.stacymakescents.com/making-something-from-nothing>

Here is the summary:

- Start small, but dream big
- Don't forget simple math
- Don't try to be fancy
- Be realistic
- Be grateful

23-Aug-13 2:37pm *\$

I had a good day going until... I had to go get the lumber in my A/Ced Camper. Yes it is working quit well. The only thing they found wrong was a presser switch. Long ways from what I was quoted 2 years ago. These guys told me to let them know if it stops working but they were thinking it is ok now. No signs of any leak. See today was going good yet.

I couldn't find my measurements for the wood I needed to cut. Not so bad because it was nice and cool and I just re-measured the things. Then I went home and got setup to start cutting. When I got most of the pieces cut it was lunch time so I joined Aunt Annie, Nancy, and Linda for lunch. We had a nice visit then Aunt Annie dropped me at home. See all is still going good.

I decided to get some more of the lumber before I setup to cut some more. I headed out to Menards again in my nice A/Ced Camper again. Boy is that nice to have cool air blowing in your face. So I picked up most of what I will need to get a good start on this project. We are doing a little more remodeling at EWT and I am the main guy so I am only working in sequence so I do not have too many material sitting around in the way as I work. Some things I do so I can use the space to get stuff out of the way for the next part of the project. So I got my parts and headed home to start cutting what I

could. See I still think all is going well until I get home.

I backed in the drive, move the car over and go into the house...Whoops what that noise. Ah no electricity. You know you always flip a couple light switches in disbelief. I think we all do that. Like when you pick up the phone and there is no dial tone. We click the thingy a few times to see if that will help. Anyway I had no electricity so I decided to head up here and have coffee. So not it isn't quite as a good day as before.

Wait; yes it is I just got to start a coffee break!

24-Aug-13 6:17am *\$

I like A/C in the Camper. I have had the A/C working for just a couple days now and I think I am spoiled. In a week I will start thinking about that road trip I keep talking about. I keep having people ask;"When did you say you were leaving?" Well it is like my news letter. It is random.

Today's random thought for a road trip is some time in the middle of September. Maybe it will be North Dakota to have coffee with Marvin before he goes to France in October. Maybe from there I might go to Idaho and have coffee with Daniel if he is home from Norway. These are the two guys I walked with on the Camino last year.

Wow that worked! I asked Peggy is she would love to give me another coffee and she said;"Yes." So I thought I would push my luck and asked;" Would you also love to put some cream in it so I didn't have to get up at all?" She said;"Sure!" Now you know why I don't drink coffee at home. I would have to wait on myself. Boy I may be spoiled! ☺

Thanks Peggy!

Yesterday I was working on a remodel project at EWT. This morning I woke up at three and felt something was wrong. I heard water running in the bathroom. Yup, the thing was stuck and it ran all night. Well maybe the drains needed to be flushed. So I went back to bed.

You may wonder what this has to do with the EWT remodel job. Well, I woke again with the same feeling. I could not put a pin what was wrong. I felt like I did some that was not right. I figured it must have been something to do with the remodel. So about 4:30 I was awake and I drove out there to see what I might have missed. I say it when I turned on the light. I measures wrong! After I kicked myself a few time I said I could cut it a few more times and it would still be too shot. ☹

So part of this project is a re-due. I spent time figuring out how I measured where the center should have been about 3 times. I cut it at 70" and it really should have been 75" for the center. Wait...that is not right either. $15\frac{1}{2}" \div 2 = 7\frac{1}{4}$ but then measure where the edge of the 15" box would will start when it is built not at the $7\frac{1}{2}"$ because the post is not the edge of the box. It is the center of the post it where the $7\frac{1}{2}"$ starts. So the $15\frac{1}{2}$ minus $7\frac{1}{2}$ then divided by 2 = 75" and not 70"!

That is still not right yet. The $7\frac{1}{2}"$ has to be adjusted for the center of the post. Anyway I messed up!

All of this would have been a lot easier if I would have spent a little more time measuring in the first time before plugging in the saw. Good thing is I can use most of the sheet of plywood I cut short. Bad news I have to go and get another sheet and the time to cut it and remove the short one and start over. Grrrrr!!!! ☹

First breakfast then unload the tool box (Camper) trip to Menards then disassemble and start over. Rrrrrrrrrr!

27-Aug-13 6:19am *\$

What a difference a day makes. Sunday was a short day. Not the day but me. It seemed like I was short with myself. And it was from cutting the boards short. I even cut the day short so I could get over my shortness. I guess that was Saturday no Sunday. Hummmm.

Sunday I went back and made mends to the things that needed my attention. All was better. I finished up the part I was working on and salvaged my mess up with almost no waste. I measured and measured and measured to over ride the chance that I would cut myself short like Saturday. This made the day a little longer than I would have wanted but it the long run it saved me redoing it. I have said some many times;"Do it right the first time because you don't know when you will have to do it over and over and over again!" Sometime when things don't go right you just need to stop and regroup. Meaning THINK!!!!!!

Yesterday, Monday, I started working on part two. This was the scaffolding for removing the wall. It was much cheaper to build my own scaffolding than buying or renting a scissors lift. A scissors lift would be nice to play with but wasn't really needed. Most of the wall it in one place so nailing boards to the wall would do the job and most of the lumber can be reused again in another time and place. This will recover most of the cost. Besides I like building things.

The disadvantage of have it there is half through the teardown it needed to be removed. That is about 50 screw have to come out. And it needed to be stored somewhere. Oh well, that is part of the project.

Today I will be removing all the stuff that is anchored to the wall. There are shelves, white boards, phone wire, and electric outlets that I recall right now. And

I need to mow the lawn so we do not trip over the long grass this weekend when we are hauling the leftovers from the wall.

I also need to take the camper to have the A/C checked out. It stopped working. Those 3 days I was testing spoiled me. Mark told me it could have had a leak that they could find and I should know in a few days. Well that was Monday. So after I am finished with the mower and don't have to haul anything to my job site I will drop the camper off for them to check again.

Thinking about the mower I think I will go cut it now. Yup, I done here for now.

31-Aug-13 8:01am *\$

I'm having trouble typing this morning so some of my words could be typos unlike my normal misspellings. I hands are stiff and a little sore. I was running a Sawsall(R) most of the day yesterday. I will be back at it again in a couple hours too.

I have be doing de-construction the last couple of days. The main part of the wall we are taking down it a foot thick and 20 feet tall with two layers of drywall on each side. Yesterday we removed the top half leaving about 8' from the floor. I am glad I was smart enough to wear a dust mask. I would rather sniff drugs than plaster dust all day. Plaster dust turns to cement when mixed with water. On the other hand drugs turn your brain to mush while making you happy you are doing it. ☺

I decided since I was going to be working 20 feet in the air I would wear my shirt with all the planet on it. I figured if the planets could float with almost nothing around them I could too. ☺ I washed it after I got home last night and it weighs about two pounds less. This is one of the shirts I made while I went through that phase in my life. This was #14 and it was made in 2001. Yes it is twelve years old and it fits again. Some of the earlier

shirts I made were a little small after while they got smaller. Yes, they shrank. Yes they did! They are almost 100% cotton and it shrinks! And I have shrunk a little in twelve years.

Oh, I have to go have breakfast. "V" is back from her vacation and I couldn't go see here for fish fry last night us because I was removing that wall. I best get out there and see her so she doesn't think I am avoiding her. She was gone a whole month!

I have to finish this cup of coffee first. They gave me a big cup this morning. I must have looked like I needed it. I did!

MARTY

Now let's get this published now!

5-Sep-13 5:55am *\$

Follow Ups:

Camper A/C.

Since the A/C stopped working on the Camper I took it back and they have been working on it. It seems in the past someone worked on it and messed it up. So far they found it had the wrong seals in the compressor and since it is a Van it is a pain to work on. Then they are short on help because of the holiday and vacations.

Elephant / Clown.

Well I thought I best tell you what this was all about. I was watching a movie the other day and there was an 80+ year old man trying to teach a 9 year old girl how be a creative writer. He basically told her to look down the street and write about what is not there. I want to try that and...yup that is my first of not so real stuff.

The MRT Backer Page



TRAINING

Functional Strength Training Center

E.W. Training

11820A Catalpa lane
Woodstock, IL 60098
(815) 308-5021

info@EWTrainingWoodstock.com
EWTrainingWoodstock.com

F



Starbucks Woodstock Square

129 Van Buren Street Unit B
Woodstock, IL 60098-3249
815-334-1325

starbucks.com/store/13617

F

Pilgrimage Creations

Mike Metras and Petra Wolf

mikem@worksandwords.com

PilgrimageCreations.com

F

Town & Country Family Restaurant #2

Great Food, Great Prices

Best of all, Great People

1674 S. Eastwood Drive
Woodstock, IL 60098

(815) 334-0486

F

If you want to be on my backer page let me know

Sent your comments to:

Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com

View *Marty's Random Thoughts* website
at:

<http://MartysRandonThoughts.com>

Read my online blog at:

<http://MartysRandomThoughts.com/blog>

F