

Issue 120 December 2013

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29-Nov-13 7:11am *\$

I know it is not December, but I wanted to get started early. Did you see this is issue number one-hundred-twenty? Have I been doing this for that long? I think I have burnt this in to my conciseness because I just do it when I am thinking about things.

Sometime I just do not feel like writing anything and other days I just cannot wait until I get up in the morning to get started.

This morning at Starbucks, we have people standing outside the door collecting money for something. Well I think that is what they are doing. The person I can see has a full apron with big pocket that have bulges as if they are full of money and maybe treats. Funny he also has a big cup of Starbucks coffee pressed to his lips.

I think I should go shopping today. I mean go to the stores to see how many people are out. I do not think I really want to buy anything today or have to stand in line for an hour just to pay out money. I do not know if I really will do that but it is a thought.

I may go the Post Office to see if they can sell me some postage stamps. Yes, I mail things from time to time. I do not do

everything with the computer. I like using Christmassy stamps all year long. I should get a package of each kind of Christmassy stamp. Then they may last all year. The Post Office does not open for a while so I can spend time thinking about it for a while.

Book Sales

It has been a month since I got my eBook online for people to buy. I see I have sold four already. I wonder if it is me spreading the word or it is Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Lulu doing the marketing. I am just happy that others can enjoy my story. It is not as I will get rich. I have not made enough to pay for a cup of coffee yet. My goal is to break even or make enough for a cup of one of those fancy cups of coffee that they make down at the end of the counter here.

Well there are too many people coming in and leaving Starbucks now. Every time they open the door, I get blast of outside air. Therefore, I am getting warm, cold, warm, cold, and warm, cold. I would like warmer and less cold. I think I am going to find a warmed place to hang out.

30-Nov-13 7:42am *\$

Yesterday afternoon being it was Black Friday, I spent some time traveling around to see how busy things looked. No, I never entered any of the stores. I drove through a few parking lots and found all kinds of room. I do not know what was inside. If it was, as busy at news people said, all of the cars must have all been full of people. In addition, if that was the case, they put all that stuff. Maybe I will go see what the stores have to offer today. Alternatively, maybe I will not. I am still not in the shopping mood yet.

What do you want for Christmas? I think I just want people to be happy without making other people sad.

Around this time of the year I think about what I want, not need. Since my birthday is in a couple weeks and then Christmas in a couple more, I tend to make sure I have covered myself.

Therefore, what do I want me to buy for myself this year? All of a sudden I will think of something and BOOM it will be in my driveway. No not the driveway, I buy those things in nice weather. Nevertheless, I will see something or think about something and treat myself to it.

As for needing something, what would that be? Couple more shirts and pants so I do not need to do my laundry so often would be nice. Doing the laundry once a week is too often. My washer and dryer will handle 2 or three weeks of clothing with being over loaded. It is just a waste of resources to do it more often. Even the clothesline will hold more than a week at a time.

I think I will get some breakfast and see if pants and shirts are on sale. I am guessing I could spend one-hundred dollars or so. Maybe that is a dream but I will see.

3-Dec-13 8:31am *\$

I was sitting here searching Christmas Images on Google and it dawned on me I have not thought about my Christmas letter. Therefore, for now I will work on that.

5-Dec-13 6:37am *\$

So Christmas is coming! Hmmm... What to do, I am working on updating the Family Tree. Two years ago with Aunt Annie and Marie's help; we updated...Got to go...My friend needs a Mint Tea from Starbucks. :-)

I have relocated now. Where was I...oh yah, Christmas and the family tree? I think there are three new babies since I updated the family tree. I am in the works getting this information and will do my best to make it available by Christmas.

I think there were 42 of us from Mom & Dad to Sam's twins back then.

What happened to the weather? Yesterday it felt like 50 now it feels like 20 and it is getting colder. Brrr!

1:00pm EWT

I think it got colder since this morning. I did not dress for this coldness. I think I should look at the forecast before heading out for the day. I am just C-O-L-D, cold, cold, I tell you, I am cold!

What has the temperature been today anyway? From a high of 35° down to 21° with winds up to 32 MPH and humidity of 70%, No wonder I am cold!

6-Dec-13 10:25am *\$

In addition, things were going so well too. I fired up the camper to take it for a

drive. It has been sitting too long and I wanted to make sure it would start ok in this cold. I had no reason to think not but I needed to exercise it any way. All seemed fine other than the furnace does not light up. I can live with that because from the engine heater works just fine. I decided to back it in the driveway so the furnace was next to the door so I could check it out when the weather got a little warmer. I started backing it off the street and I got over too far and was backing over the tree bank a normal thing some times. This time I bottomed out and broke something and I left a path down the driveway of some kind of liquid. I am not 100% sure but I think is antifreeze for the house water system. Once stopped I see it running out under from about the transmission is but I still think it is from the house water system. It is too cold to mess with it today. It is too cold! I decided to let it go for a warmer day. Bummer!

Christmas at EWT

Tomorrow night is the E.W. Training Christmas party. I still have a car to get me there. I see many people have said there were coming. I think it interesting when you see people you know and don't recognize them because they are dressed different than you normally see them. That happened all the time when I walked across Spain last year. It happens at EWT from time to time too.

The Weather

I am already tired of this cold weather. Moreover, it is not even winter for a couple weeks. I guess I need to get over it because winter brings cold. :-)

15-Dec-13 3:42pm Home

I just got back from the Fresh Market and on the way home; I got behind a couple of the drivers. Before I tell you about them, I have to tell you I am sure from time to time, someone could talk about my driving too. I only tell these things because it seems that the bunch up from time to time and it makes me laugh.

I was returning home, heading up Main Street Crystal Lake, and planning to turn on that cut off street that goes over to Walkup. I am following someone that was driving a little slow. Not too slow, just a little. I just figured they would turn there too. I thought I would see the turn signal any second. I did, just after they were already making the turn.

This same person did not even stop at the sign at Walkup. No, there were no cars, what the hey! At least slow down a pretend you might stop.

Okay, I turned on 176 then the light at US 14 was red. The car in front of me was a driving school car and looked like no one was in it. I looked in the review mirror and saw there was a very short driver. You know someone that the headrest blocks the head. I thought this was funny because it really looked like the car had no one in it.

When the light turned green and the two cars left in front of that car and the driver training car just sat there. To myself I laughed thinking: "Maybe they are taking a nap or on the phone. Good thing to do in a driver training car." I think 3 seconds went by before the car behind me blew his horn and started to pull around us. Yes that quick! Just then, the guy in front started moving.

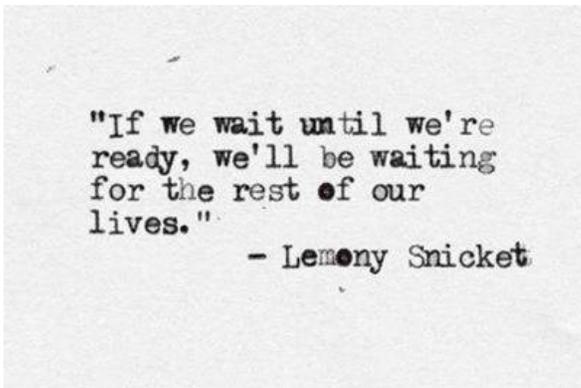
It is fun to watch the other people drive. I just hope I not one of them. :-)

I will put away my groceries now. :-)

19-Dec-13 7:25am *\$

Here it is only 7:25am and I am already bored. I think I need to get over this and find something to do. I have eaten breakfast and still hungry and it is only 7:25am on a Thursday. Now because someone just opened the door I am cold too. I think I need to find something to do. I do not want to try to figure out why I am bored because it is boring. I think I will put a picture in this newsletter, then head out of here, and do something else.

How about this picture?

**25-Dec-13 7:46am *\$**

Good morning and Merry Christmas from downtown Woodstock! The snow gods were good to us this Christmas morning. We received just enough snow. I like a white Christmas. I will accept it with thanks.

I spent Christmas Eve with Cork and his family. I had a good time with them. Tradition has been that the Metras family gathers on Christmas Eve at someone's house as long as I can remember. It is getting harder every year; the family is all over the world this year. The wintery weather keeps some away too.

It is nice to think of everybody even if they away from the rest of us. It brings tears to my eyes just thinking about all of you.

I think it is time for me to go see if I can wake up Aunt Annie and ask here to join me for Christmas lunch. We have not been out much because of the weather but it is a holiday and we need to celebrate.

28-Dec-13 6:10am *\$

Here I am sitting here at Starbucks again having a cup of coffee. It may be my last coffee of the year. Yes I decided to have coffee because after all this is the last Saturday of 2013.

Being it is so near to the end of the year I thought I would let you see some of the pictures I have seen of Woodstock this year.

Year in Pictures

I will share some of the pictures with you.



I spent a lot of time at E.W. Training working-out and helping out





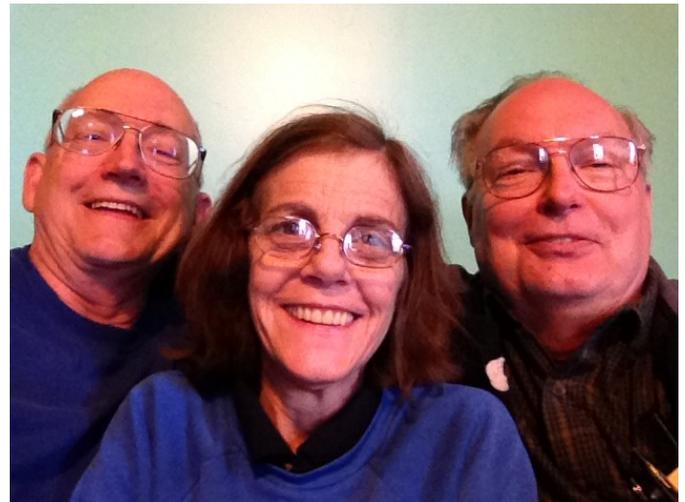
I have been found a Starbucks from time to time



(Mike, Petra, me, and Cork) Cork and I went to California and spent with Mike & Petra in Santa Fe



You find my car parked in front of Town and Country



On our way home from Mike's we stopped to see Marcia (Cork, Marcia, Marty)

Whoops, some pictures got lost. We stopped and visited Edie and her family in our trip in March. It looks like the pictures are missing. It is like the camera used the same filenames over. Meaning the pictures may have been written over. That is another thing to add to my list to resolve, not today.

MRT



Vaughan's closed their doors while I was on a trip



I spent a few days in Bismarck with Marvin



I finally sold my big motor home early this year



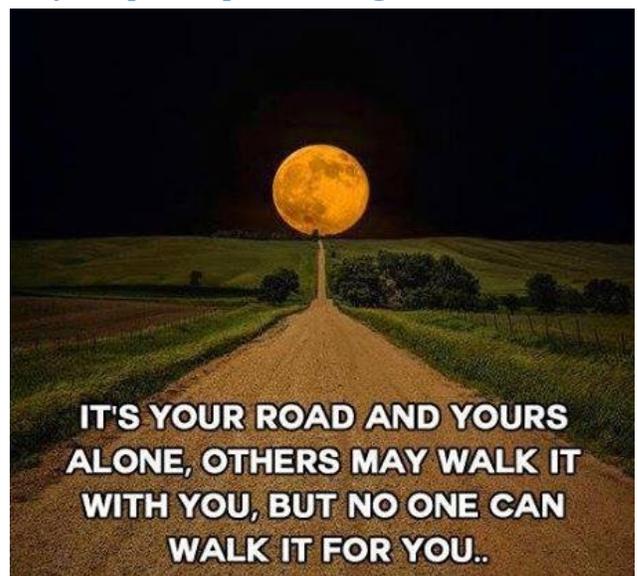
I dreamt a little about a new car that is a convertible, pickup, and electric



Then winter came to Woodstock



They lit up the Square with lights for Christmas



IT'S YOUR ROAD AND YOURS ALONE, OTHERS MAY WALK IT WITH YOU, BUT NO ONE CAN WALK IT FOR YOU..

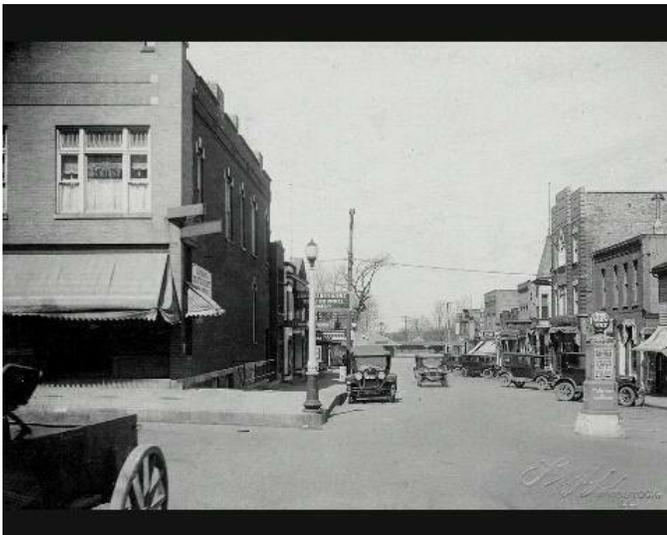
I found this on Facebook just after I lost those pictures. It says a lot



I was waiting too. Here it is



Woodstock, Van Buren Street 1950's



Woodstock, Looking north on Main Street, 1920's



Woodstock, Main Street looking at the Square, 1950's



Woodstock theater way before there was a me. There is a new one now.

Many of the pictures that are not mine came from Facebook. The Woodstock picture came from "I grew up in Woodstock" on Facebook. There a lot of oldies on there. Thanks Face book!

Happy New Year

MARTY

The MRT Backer Page



Marty Metras

Marty has always been a doer of things. For the last 50 years has lived within a mile of the same place. When he retired in 2007

decided it was time to travel and see the world. His brother was living in Germany and he and his wife were planning to move back to the USA in a few months. Since Marty had only been out of the United States once in the 1960s on a trip around Lake Michigan it would be a new adventure.

Marty's brother Mike and his wife Petra told him he could walk across Spain while in Europe. Never being in a different country and not really being able to speak other languages there was a lot of fear. So he tried to learn a little German and Spanish. Then he committed to 5 days walking in Spain after Mike said he would walk with him for the first week. Even after Petra & Mike said it would take 10 to 12 days walking on the Camino to decide if you are going the whole 790 kilometers.

After a few days visit with Mike & Petra, Marty and Mike headed off to Spain and started walking the Camino de Santiago from Roncesvalles. This trip was Marty's first book, My Camino de Santiago Adventure. Many things did not work out the best so Marty gave up and came home.

Then in 2012 Marty decided that he needed to finish something in his life. He booked a plane ride to France and walked down to the train station from home and headed to the airport. On the walk to the train he decided he would not turn back unless someone was injured. In the next 7 weeks he did not have a bad day.

This book is all about Marty Walking the Walk in the spring of 2012

**WALKING THE WALK
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012
BY MARTY METRAS
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Marty's book is available in two media, paperback and eBook. Paper books are available online from Lulu.com, Amazon.com, and from him personally.

You can download the eBook vision for Nook and Kindle from BarnesAndNoble.com and Amazon.com.



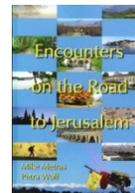
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