

## Issue # 125

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**14-Sep-14 12:07pm TC**

**19-Sep-14 7:57am, Fri, \*\$**

#### MS Office 365

MS Office 1013. Yes I decided to get Office 2013, well it is Office 365. It is a one contract for \$99.00. It made more sense to buy it than learn all the INS and OUTS of Open Office at this time. I use too many of the features and apps in Microsoft Office that I didn't remember until I started using Open Office. The learning curve was too long and I could just open MS Office and start using it. Yes I have been hooked on this.

#### My Leg

So my leg is doing quite well today. It got a little sore near the end of the Yoga Class on Sunday but recovered quickly.

I went to class on Tuesday and yesterday. Tuesday I also struggled as the class went on. Partly because of my leg but mostly because I have been doing nothing for a month and a half. Yesterday's class was kettlebells and I am sore! My gluts, thighs, upper back, shoulders ack. I kind of expected this on the first day working with weights. That is why I am only exercising every other day for a while.

#### Newsletter

I just finished editing issue 124. I need to enter it into the computer then it is yours to read. You are reading it aren't you?

**25-Sep-14 11:04am EWT****26-Sep-14 8:02am @\*\$****@\*\$**

Petra says "...why not '@\*\$' instead or just '\*\$'..." Well, I think it is a good idea. So I am now at Starbucks (@\*\$).

**Driveway**

Last July or so I bought driveway sealant. I figures in August would be a good hot day to do it in a day. The August 5th I hurt my leg and for six weeks it had to wait. A couple days ago I tripped over those 7 pales of black stuff. No I didn't really trip. I just bump into them because they are in the way.

About Monday I parked in the end of the driveway and started to hose down the driveway from the garage end. The two days ago I started the seal coating. I rolled the pails to pre-mix the stuff then opened the pales. When I dumped the first pale to get started I splatted it all over my shoes. You need to learn how to pour just a little when the pale is full. It got better as I went along.

The first pail got applied a little thick while I learned how to put it down. I needed to be thicker where I park, doesn't it. The second pale was a thinner coat. That was enough for the first day.

Yesterday I rinsed off the next section in the morning before I went out to exercise. I final got home around 3:00pm and decided to put down the next two pails. I backed the Van up to the garage and put the car in the schools parking lot. Then I got started. I remembered how to apply the sealant. It covered much better and quite a lot thinner. I did not wash down enough driveway to use the two full pales. I went form 24 feet to about 30 foot coverage and it looks much better.

There are some big cracks I need to reseal this morning. The cracks are why you seal the black top. The water gets in then and then when it freezes tiff heaves and it opens the crack more.

Yesterday I cleaned the end of the drive and in a couple hours I should get back to finishing it. I will have some sealant left over. I am thinking of just spilling it in the street by accident then spreading it around. I will do some tough up in the drive way. Then I think I will just spill the left over in the roadway. :-)

I may even have a pale left over to take back for a credit. I hope I can find the receipt!

**PC Problems**

Yesterday I notices my new laptop is not receiving any email. I have it restoring and I am warning if it have finished. Oh this is Friday not Saturday. Hmmm, how did that happen? Anyway I still have to go check on my laptop.

**Noon**

I got my driveway sealed! And the clothes with the tar are washing! And I have showered! I am sitting on the front porch watching the sealcoat dry. Today I'm blessed!

I will sit here and read a book until Aunt Annie shows up to get her plastic bags. Ever since Monday she has asked me about them. Either I wasn't home or I did not have them with me. She stopped while I was still sealcoating so I told her to stop back later.

I will sit here until I have a need to go for coffee or something. :-)

**5-Oct-14 12:46pm @\*\$**

Fall or is it winter has arrived. Last week it was 95° one day and 60° the next. Now yesterday I was told that there was frost and snow. What's up with that? I didn't see either of them. I have always said that the first snow would arrive October 22nd or 23rd. Well we have a couple of weeks yet.

In any case it felt cold and damp the last few days! And winter does not start until the 21st or so of December.

**Resting**

I came up to Starbucks because I thought it might be quite and slow up here. It is not the

case! There is not a lot of traffic but people are hanging around. I am sitting at the big table and there are other people sitting here too. I usually sit here alone.

There is a gal across from me is doing some math with a pencil. I thought I was the only person left in this world that still used paper and pencil. She has a laptop in front her but she is still figuring out her math. She wears earplugs and I am sure she is doing anything but listening to music. I need to quit eves dropping on what she is doing. Her friend looks up once in a while to see what is happening. She is using a smartphone a lot. Oh well the gal is still working on her math problem. Maybe on the laptop and listening to music.

### May-2017

I am thinking of going to Spain and walking the Camino when I am 70 year old. Right now it is only a thought so don't think it is going to happen. But it could! I went in 2007 and again in 2012. That every 5 years. Twice does not a pattern make, but it is a thought.

If I spend too much time planning I will feel like I have already walked it again. I think I started thinking of walking the Camino in the summer of 2011 and committed around Christmas and didn't leave Woodstock until May 1st 2012.

Maybe I could get a group of people to go along the next time. Just a small group. Do you know anyone that might be interested? I don't want to scare anyone but it is a lot of walking. There are around 790 km to walk. Oh that is about 500 miles. That is what the road sign says just outside of Roncesvalles. Of course you could start at St. Jean Pier-de-Port France and wall all the way to the Atlantic Ocean it is something like 600 miles.

The trek from St. Jean to Roncesvalles was the hardest part of my walk. You go over the mountain the first day. It is tough. Very, very tough.

You do not need to walk the whole thing. Many people only walk a week or two. I

walked the whole thing in 2012 for me. I wanted to finish something at least once.

It took me 48 days start to finish. I took 3 rest days. I took the 3rd, 5th, and another day at about 2/3 the way across Spain. And I never had a bad day.

Yes there days when the weather wasn't the best but I did never had a bad day. It was great!

So are you interested? I think the spring is a good time. It is cool and little rain and it is summery when you get to Santiago. The summers are hot like here. Fall or late summer may also be good. You walk through a lot of farm land so a lot of food ready for you to harvest. In the winters in northern Spain there is snow you need warmer clothes which means you need to carry more.

Wait, I am getting ahead of myself here. I am only feeding my thought at this point.

### **10-Oct-14 8:14 @\*\$**

#### 48 Years Ago

Wow, Today it when I started working at the Auto-Lite (Woodstock Die Casting). Well it was in 1966 some 48 years ago. That job and the building are long gone. I should move on to something else now.

#### No Place to Sleep

Last Monday I gave away my chair I watch TV with my eyes closed. I think I must have had that chair for 15 or 20 years. I would turn on the TV and sit into the chair and fall asleep. Some time I would wake up at 4:00 am and go to bed for an hour or so before starting my day.

Now I need to break the habit of falling asleep in the chair. The one I sit in now I fall out of if I go to sleep. Well there is a lot of room on the floor to fall on now. :-)

#### New Car

So the "IMA" light is on in my car. This is mostly telling I need to replace the hybrid battery. I stretched it out over a year now. I also need new tires and some rust fixed. It may

be time for a new vehicle. With 4 - 5000 dollar worth of repairs, it makes sense to me to just go get a new car.

Now it is a case of what do I want? Should I buy a 100% electric? But what if I want to go to Iowa or North Dakota. I would have to stop many place to charge it. For my normal driving that would be fine because I almost never drive more than 50 miles in a day. Most of the Electrics get about 100 mile range. Of course I could buy a \$65,000 electric car that would go 500 miles on a full charge. I think not!

Now there are many Hybrids out here that get good gas mileage and don't cost a whole lot. I am driving one now. I get around 45 MPG on the road. But there are non-hybrids that can get good mileage and are 2-4000 dollars less costly.

The next option is what is called a Plug-In Hybrid. These you plug in at night and you can drive those short distances on the battery. If you start getting out of range they automatically start the gas engine and charge the battery while you drive. I is really a chargeable hybrid. You just plug it in at night.

As for electrics they are expensive. A Honda Civic cost about \$20,000 the Hybrid is around \$26,000. And for a Plug-In Hybrid you add a few thousand more. A 100% Electric are in the 32 to 38,000 price range.

I really want an electric convertible pickup that gets about a 300 mile range. I don't think there is one out there, yet.

So it is an electric or a plug-in hybrid for me. Maybe!

### Being Practicable

I use my camper for a truck/van. It is 20 years old and I can still use it as a camper and I can go anywhere I can get gas. I get 10 to 16 mile to the gallon. I could serve very well if I need to leave the town. Say go to Rockford, Elgin or other long distance driving.

For this reason I need a car for around town. A full electric car would handle the other driving. Maybe with a 100 mile range. It would still be nice to be able to drive to Iowa for coffee once in a while without spending \$200

for fuel. Yes it gets about 300 miles for \$100.00 of gas using the Camper.

A hybrid or plug-in hybrid would solve that. Now what do I do?

### Pricing New Vehicles

I didn't look much yet. The prices of what I am think I want are around \$25,000. Mu

*Note: I must have gotten interrupted here, I have no idea where I was going.*

### 11-Oct-14 9:06am @\*\$

So I am sitting here again. I came in a little later so I get to sit alone. I like sitting alone with my thoughts and read a book. I read another chapter today. That isn't much but is something.

It is very busy here today. Just after I came in there has been a line to the door. Every time I look up there are different people standing in the line. It is moving and busy in here!

### New Car Looking

So yesterday I started looking online for a new car. I looked to see what was out there and available. Many of the new electric cars are only concepts. Meaning they are only an idea and we may never see them. The Smart electric shows the price starts at about \$13,000 but when you start looking they are \$26,000. For that price I can get a new Honda Civic Hybrid That is what I am driving now. And I get a better ride and better gas mileage.

The Ford Fusion Hybrid looks nice but it is a bigger car. I don't think I want a bigger car. The Honda Fit Electric is not available around here. I think I need a dealer around here so if it needs service there a place to get it done. The Smart is a very small car and I think I would not like is for very long. Meaning after a few weeks I will be thinking about trading it in for something else.

Even a two year car is too long to wait if you don't like it.

I have had my Honda for 13+ years and it is a boring car. Not bad! I have replace the front breaks twice and it needs its second set of

tires. Oh yes. I replaced the transmission a couple month ago and it needs a new hybrid battery. Maybe I should just go get a new one.

I think I will go price then online right now. Please standby...

## **15-Oct-14 9:56am @EWT**

### **Thanks Honda**

So Honda just called me and told me I NEED to replace my hybrid battery. You may remember from last year they told me it was bad and would not last too long. It lasted another year. So this time I cried a little about the \$2,800 cost. The price is down to about \$2,500 now. I cried a little more. The contacted Honda Corp. to see if they would pick up some of the cost because I am a loyal customer and they did not want to lose me.

Well they called back and the price I got means I won't be buying a new car for a while. I got a fantastic price!

I will have to wait another day for then to get a battery. I can wait!

Thank you Brilliant Honda of Crystal Lake!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **Cold**

I have a cold. My head is all stuffed up and I have had a slight sore throat since yesterday. No fever so I think it should be gone by tomorrow. Getting my car fixed makes me feel better!

My nose is running! :-)

## **17-Oct-14 8:07am @\*\$**

Thanks Petra! That was a good idea to at "@" because it just makes sense.

### **My Car**

I picked up my car yesterday and the air may stay in that tire now. I had Honda check out the leak that I paid twice to get it fixed at Goodyear. I am finished with them. I have never had to take my car back to Honda to get the same thing fixed.

I now I have a new hybrid battery. The total bill was about \$850. I am so happy. The original had a 10 year/100,000 warranty. This one only 1 year/12,000 miles. That is all they will give you on replacement parts. I think it will be all rusted out at 180,000 miles. So I will be just a seat, engine and the new battery anyway. ☺

I stopped looking for a new car when I found out I could get this one fixed for less than \$900. New cars are around \$30,000 and last about 6 years. Yes I have had mine for 13+ but generally I think it is about six years. And I do not really need a new car. I just wanted a new one. I am over that for now.

### **Camper is next**

I have my camper that will go in and get the furnace and water leak fixed next Friday. A new furnace will be the big cost if I really need a new one. Well I'll find out next Friday.

I think this is the end of the infrastructure repairs I will have to fix or replaces for the year. I sure got hit with a bunch at once. Oh well, if not now then later. It would have been nice to be driving around a nice shiny new car. Not today!

### **Being Sick**

So I slept 12 hours and came up here to Starbucks to have a Pumpkin Spice Latte and a country donut. Yes I wanted some sweets for breakfast, and I did. Now I have that sweet tease in my mouth. I forgot that was going to happen. Once you stop eating that sweet stuff you forget about is side effects. I am not talking about the pounds of fat it converts to. It is the little side effects. Like this after tease. I my need to go up and get a mint tea to clean my pallet.

So I am not up to par yet but I feel a little better today. I may just go home and make my own tea. Besides the like is too long for me.

I think I will publish this newsletter so I don't feel I am getting so far behind.

## 21-Oct-14 3:36pm @Home

### Cold, Maybe

So I am sitting around home trying to get over this cold. I have had it since about the 15<sup>th</sup>. It is hanging on. Yes, I know it is a cold because I do not have a fever. Well it least is isn't the Flu.

It go from a stuffy nose, to a cough, to running nose, sore throat then it throws in a sneeze once in a while. It a cold.

It is just hanging on. Most of the time these thing only last about 48 hours with me doing nothing. I am taking DayQuil® and NYQuil® because on the package list most of the things I got. I tried a few other things. Nothing I have done has made me feel much better. I am guessing whatever it is, it has its own time table and I should just let it run is coarse.

### This Newsletter

Since I am just hanging around the house anyway I thought I would finish of this newsletter and get it out to you.

### From the INBOX

I received some feedback/comments from Mike and Petra. I thought I might share some of it with you.

Hi,

Some questions concerning MRT:

1. Petra asks, and I do too, why not @\*\$ rather than \*\$? The former is clearer.
2. How are the new server and computer *working* now that you have most of the installation done? Did you say you are going with Linux on the computer? Do you then have a way to run old DOS programs? I am not happy that I cannot do so with Windows 7.
3. Has your leg gotten betterer enough so you can walk more steps with your step counter?
4. Your key cost you \$6.95. Did that include installation? My whole keyboard and

installation in a restaurant where I was eating cost only 1,000 rupees (\$16.67).

5. Why is your back page called your "Backer" page?

Looks like that is it for this time. It is getting close to lunch time here so will stop. After lunch it is time to lie under the fan for two hours until it gets cooler. Then I can do my next task.

Peace and Joy,

Mike

### My Responses

#1 I like the idea of using the "@" symbol. I will start right away. I am @Home now.

#2 My new server is back together and running. I do use DOS but not to run apps. I use it to run a command once in a while. I am trying the keep up to the changes is isn't easy. I am using Windows 8.1 now. I was happy with Windows XP and 7 but XP is out of support and Windows 10 will be out soon. I don't know what to tell you.

#3 My leg seems to be back to normal. My step counter (pedometer) did not show many steps because I was dragging my steps or walking so softly it recoded little or nothing. Wow, that was August 5<sup>th</sup> when I hurt it!

#4 I'm not going to India to get a whole key board when I only need one key. ☺

#5 I call my back page for the ads the "Backer Page" because these are my backers and it is the back page. They support me and I support them.

If you want to be a backer, contact me.

Enough for this issue.

Bye,

Marty

**25-Oct-14 5:00 pm @Home**

**Late News**

**Dump my house phone**

I have decided to get rid of my home telephone. Maybe you call it a POTS line. POTS stands for Plain Old Telephone Service.

I have had this number for many, many, many years.

It was Corks when we lived at 406 Clay Street. When I moved to Wheeler Street I took over the phone number. From then it went with me to the McHenry Avenue apartment. Then to East Jackson, Lawrence Ave and finally here on Clay Street.

Wait, for a while in 1999 I had it hooked at Mom's and here at the same time. This when I lived with her while I was recovering from the heart surgery.

How long ago has that number been in the family? I was driving the 1965 Opel around then. It was my third car. If I had that car in '65 my phone number is 50 years old.

Wait maybe I could keep then number and dump the service.

**For you to do**

Anyway, at the end of the year my home telephone service will be gone. If you need to contact me call me on my mobile phone.

Most of you have it. If not send me an email or call me on my home phone before the end of the year and I will see that you get it.

**Why**

I almost never get any call on my home phone so I do not really need it any more.

Out of the last 30 or so calls, twenty were junk calls. 4 were for other people and then other 5 could have gone to my mobile phone. It isn't needed any more!

I thought I would start telling everyone and by December 31<sup>st</sup>. I can just have it stopped.

**Feedback**

If you have any reason why this might not be a good idea, please let me know.

I have been thinking about this for a very long time but may not have thought of something.

## THE RANDOM 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 German. Mike and his wife were planning to move back to the USA in a few months. Since he 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. He then 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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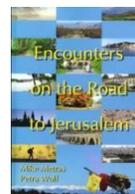


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### **Pilgrimage Creations**

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