

Issue # 135

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1-Aug-15 9:19am @*\$

My Back hurts! Why is this? Yesterday it was fine. I went to the Chiropractic and I felt great a day yesterday. This morning I am sorry. I decided to walk up here to Starbucks to see if I was just stiff. It didn't seem to help. I'll see how it is when I am ready to walk home.

I will work on the July issue in the meantime.

2-Aug-15 9:30am @*\$

My back hurts. Friday morning I went to the Chiropractic. And it felt fine all day. Yesterday it hurt a little I figured it was just left over from the treatment. Today it hurts just sitting here. In the morning I must call and get back in there. I hurt while hanging clothes on the line, when I sit down, and stand up. It hurts!

Maybe later I will get issue # 134 published for you. It hurts sitting too! Did I tell you it HURT!!!

7-Aug-15 6:06am @*\$

Tesla Power Wall

New Battery to run your home. Yes, Tesla is not just a car company any more. They are taking orders now and will be shipping in three months. They maybe shipping now. They claim

you can run a 10,000 watt house with it. You can just use a solar panel to charge it and there after you electricity could be free.

There are not too costly. I think \$3,500 for the 10,000 watt and \$3,000 for the 3,000 watt.

I priced Solar panels a while back. I think it was \$11,000 to 15,000. My problem is the sun is blocked too much by the house next door.

In my case there is another way to handle this. From about 11:00pm until 5:00am the energy is very cheap. I have seen it to -2¢ a kilowatt. Yes, minus 2 cents! Really! The other day it was 2.5¢ at midnight and it stayed below 3¢ until noon. Then as it heated up and by 2:00pm it was 7.5¢ then 10¢ at 4:00pm. Mostly because of the Air Conditioning usage. I have seen it as high as 20¢ when it is hot for a long time.

So here is how this could help you. You charge up the battery during the off hours and use the A/C when you need it. For a long time I have been washing clothes after midnight to save on energy and have dropped my bill quite a bit. My new washer has a delay time that allows me to postpone the start time unit after midnight. No my dryer died it will need a delay timer too!

Solar Panels

Quit a few years ago I installed a 22 watt solar panel then another 45 watt panel. Now it is 67 watts. This is if the sun shines. I use to have an electric mower and weed eater. The solar panels gave me a little extra electricity. So I bought a used electric meter and a low power grid tie.

Every once in a while I would turn on the grid tie to send the extra energy back to the house. It never got back to the power lines because I would use it up. It wasn't much.

Somewhere along the way I bought a 500 watt wind generator. I is setup back by the garage. And it is 20' foot in the air. But of course there is an 80' tree blocking most of the wind. Since all of my controls are manual I need to baby sit it a lot. I bought another grid tie and two more batteries.

Because of doing more of this manually I needed to feed the extra energy from the batteries instead of just of the device that makes the energy. Some where I bought a timer that would turn on the grid tie to drain the batteries. Well I had it all set and walked away from it.

Here it is a long time now and I looked at the electric meter and I still do not see a gain. I had been checking the charge in the batteries and they were always full. I just figured I was not making enough energy to send it back to the house.

This morning I checked and I see I have not been sending anything back onto the grid since I put the time into the works. You know if you want to send power through the timer you need it plug those thing into it. Nope! I missed that step.

When I saw that it explained why I had no power gain. When I did it all manually with the 67 watts I would gain about 1 kilowatt a month. With mower and string thing charging it would cost me a little. The wind generator hardly turns because the blocked wind and the grid tie device used a little energy just to plug it in.

So now the electric meter is spinning and the power is going back to house very fast. I wrote down the meter reading and will check

it when I return home. Then I will put the timer back on "Auto" and see how it goes. I am back in business!

Interruptions and Distractions

Ok messed up a couple times now. First it was my backup failed because I never got around to verify it was working. Now this solar panel system was not gaining anything.

Both of these are interruptions or distractions from working on too many projects at once. In most cases I can handle this but sometimes it just happens. One thing that helps it typing it into my newsletter. I never read it after it is published but I do remember most of what I typed.

My Back

My back is much better today but it is still sore. I have been taking it easy and it is helping. The Doctor told me to come back on Monday for another treatment. In the past I would just live with it until it gets better. I am not sure this way is better. Meaning "Time" or "Treatment"?

Water Barrels

I am setting up a rain harvesting system to catch some water from my roof. It is an easy process unless you are cheap like me. I am looking around for the cheapest way to do this. It takes time to find the cheapest stuff.

I have about 1,200 square feet of roof. If you get one inch of rain it would be about 750 gallon of water. If I harvest only off the south room I would get about 200 gallons for each inch or maybe 7,500 gallons a year. The whole roof would yield about 22,000 gallons during the nine warm months.

I think I could water my whole lawn and not just the garden.

9-Aug-15 8:00am @*\$

Happy Birthday Tammy!

Hay Tammy, did you know what yesterday was? On August 8th, 1988 at 8:00pm the Lights Came on in Wrigley Field. Yup, and they said they would never have lights in Wrigley Field. Who are "They" any way?

Rain Gutters

I bought enough stuff to put new gutters on the house. I needed to take them down so I could change the flow direction so drain then on the other end. I want to collect the water and water the garden and lawn next year. Being I could get as much as 22,000 gallons a year I had to try this.

16-Aug-15 6:47am @*\$

Who am I

The other day this guy came up to me and asked if he knew me. I never saw him before so I asked him: "Who am I?" he left and went to the rest room and returning he said he knew me. Again I asked him;" Who do you think I am?" He was sitting at the other end of Starbucks and kept coming back and asking where he knew me from. I had never seen him before so I was play games with him.

I told him to join me and maybe he could figure out who I was. Hey was a very tall slim guy maybe in his eighties. He told me was a comedian and was going to tell me all about himself. And he did! He was born in 1928. He lived in Woodstock all his life. He is married and has a son. He wife lived across the street when the met and was surprised because he had lived there whole lives. I enjoyed Dan's company. I don't think he ever told him who I was. Who am I, anyway?

Checking the Email

So I am here checking my email and I got this in the mail. I thought you might like to see it.

Today I placed my S&W .357 Revolver on the table right next to my front door. I left 6 cartridges beside it, then left it alone and went about my business.

While I was gone, the mailman delivered my mail, the neighbor boy across the street mowed the yard, a girl walked her dog down the street, and quite a few cars stopped at the stop sign near the front of my house.

After about an hour, I checked on the gun. It was still sitting there, right where I had left it. It hadn't moved itself outside. It certainly hadn't killed anyone, even with the numerous opportunities it had presented to do so. In fact, it hadn't even loaded itself.

Well you can imagine my surprise, with all the hype by the Left and the Media about how dangerous guns are and how they kill people.

Either the media is wrong or I'm in possession of the laziest gun in the world.

The United States is 3rd in Murders throughout the World

But if you take out just 4 cities: Chicago, Detroit, Washington DC and **New Orleans**, the United States is 4th from the bottom, in the entire world, for Murders.

These 4 Cities also have the toughest Gun Control Laws in the U.S.

ALL 4 of these cities are controlled by **Democrats**.

It would be absurd to draw any conclusions from this data right?

Well, I'm off to check on my spoons.

I hear they're making people fat.

Source: Wendell Smith

Gantry Crane

Well Thursday Michelle and I took down the gantry crane and moved it out of the building. Most of that went smoothly. When we got to moving the I Beam across the top is another story. I have figured it to weight about 327 pounds. I had a 4,000 capacity Come-Along so that was not an issue. I was a little short so we set it on a couple big boxes. While sitting there we tried to lift one end. Holly crap! The two of us could not lift it. The end should have been around 150 pounds or 75 pounds each we could not move it!

This was a game plan changer. We rolled out to the door on casters and stood it up to get it through the door. From there we wheeled it to the back end of the parking lot with little efforts. This was plan for the I Beam too. This was not going to happen, way too heavy for those casters!

At this point I rethought how we would get it outside. Then I remembered that 10,000 years ago they built the pyramids with ropes and levers. Well, maybe. The back door was close enough so we turned it and pushed it through the back door. Set it on a box. Re-hooked the cable so the I Beam would re-centered itself and slowly move it outside. For the last move to get it all the way outside we used short pieces of conduct as rollers. The last push we just rolled it out of the building and let it fall in the grass.

I told Michelle when the guy comes to pick it up he can deal with it. She smiled and agreed.

Oh, if that was the heavier 4x8" I Beam it weighs 448 pounds! We needed 8 people! ☺ Well it is outside now!

22-Aug-15 9:04am @*\$

What a fantastic day! Why did I sleep late? Then I drove up here and the Farmer's Market it going on and they are playing Jamaican music. Music maybe left over from the Jazz Festival. Oh well I am here now and didn't park too far away. But so is everyone else. ☺

I think I need to seize the day when I finish my breakfast.

I just checked the Woodstock Weather Cam and check the weather and I saw it is fantastic out there! Check this link to see what it is like now.

<http://abc7chicago.com/weather/cams/woodstock-town-square/>

28-Aug-15 8:07am @*\$

I was working on my life stories this morning. I started working on it in July 2009. Well, I really started creating the stories on December 12, 1946 at 1:40pm. I started writing it down in 2009. It is amazing when you start writing it down how many things come to mind.

I have been thinking why I might be doing this and I came up with a couple thoughts. Someday somebody might want to know "Who was Marty?" Maybe someday I may lose it and I might want to know "Who am I?" If I had kids I could leave my life story so they could tell the grand kids. Since I have none I guess I am writing it for any for the great nieces and nephews. If that don't work then I am just writing it for me.

Anyway here are one of the short stories I have written. This is one of the projects I worked while I was on the farm.

Hay Hooks

I was thinking about some of the projects I took on while I was on the farm. It wasn't that I was assigned the project. It was more like there is a fun thing to do.

We had been living on the farm for a while and every time we needed to unload hay we used the grain conveyor to move the hay into the barn. It was a pain to back it up and get the end through that little hole in the side of the barn wall. We had to wait for Dad to do that. I don't think he was very good at allocating. Either that or he did not trust us kid to not knock a new hole in the side of the barn.

Way up on the top of the barn was this steel rail and some kind of thing that had these great big hooks hanging from it. After helping another farmer load hay I knew it was a system for loading hay into the barn. I could lift as many as sixteen bales at a time. All I need to do is see if it still worked.

After we had the hay mow full of hay I could get to it with a ladder and started checking it out. Soon I figured out it still worked. I could find no reason they didn't not use any more. I had to by a 100 foot rope because I didn't know how old that one was. I found a few pulleys to get the rope out to the front of the barn. You used the tractor to pull the hay up from the wagon and across to the other end.

It was time to try this thing out and see if it really worked. Cork or Jake was helping me set this up. I decided to try it without any hay. We put a load of hay in the barn. We tied the rope to the front of the tractor and pulled the trip lowering the forks down to the top of the hay. The next thing was to back up the tractor pulling the rope and raising the fork up. Once the forks locked up top the forks and conveyer started going to the east end of the barn. I wasn't sure that was what should have happened. It was! The next thing was how you would get it to drop it load. In this case there was no load!

Oh maybe that is what that little rope was for. I made sure I knew where my helper was and I pulled the little rope and down came the forks. You must remember they were empty so they got tangled and we untangled them and said;" Now what!" It seemed it has to be easy but what should we do now. Well after we untangled the fork chain we just backed up the tractor and the rope tightened and the fork started to go up. At first I did not know why the conveyer did not go back to the center of the barn. I soon realized that if there was a device in the cart the road the rail that controlled that. If it hit the center it would stay put. You pull the trip rope and the forks came down instead of moving to the side. When you pulled the big rope with the tractor the forks go up and it locks and release to roll down the trolley in the other direction. When you pull the trip rope the forks release and come down. Then the next pull on the tractor rope it all reverses. Neat!

So now we are going to try to move 4 bales of hay at once. We stuck the forks into the hay, back up the tractor, the forks go up and the trolley rolls to the back of the barn. When we pull the trip rope the hay kind of just fell. I say kind of because we did not have the fork stuck in the bales correctly. After a few time we could move 16 bails at once. It was so much easier than messing with the grain elevator. There were a few bale that broke when they fell but it was no more than when using the elevator.

We did all of this without telling my Dad. Later in life I realized Dad like thing to be his idea. We did most everything my Dad said but I always had idea time and was a thinker. I am still a "What if" person.

The first time my Dad want us to unload the wagons of hay I just pushed the wagon in to the barn and started unloading it with the forks. My Dad had told us he would back the grain elevator up to the barn when he got home. He got home and the wagon were all empty. He wanted to know why we had not baled the hay. I said;" The hay is baled and put away!" he said;" Bull Shit!" We showed him and he had a fit. Yes again, it wasn't his idea.

The next cutting of hay he backed the grain elevator in the barn and I told him I was not going to use it. After a while we convinced him it was much faster. After that grain elevator remained in the corn crib until were finished with the corn. Thanks Dad!

Source: the draft of "Life & Times of Marty Metras"

Oh, that is a lot longer than I thought. Sometimes when I travel through time I forgot I am there. It is time to come back to 2015. ☺

1-Sep-15 12:32pm @*\$

I decided to go out to EWT and cut the grass. Well when I got outside I decided to see if there was a parking spot up here. I it hot! My body had got used to the cool weather or I missed my corner. ☺

I planned on ordering an iced tea and got banana cake and hot tea. Guess I need to just sit here and type something.

Dan is here today. He did not see me and I am sitting right behind me. It's busy writing so I did not disturb him. When he gets distracted I will bump him and say "Hi!"

Oh, is September! Time to start another newsletter.

BYE,
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 German. Mike and his wife, Petra 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.

Mike and Petra told him he could walk across Spain while in Europe. Never being in a different country and not really being able to speak her 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 (500 miles)

After a few days visiting 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 for 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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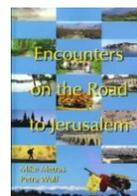
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E

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Mike has written the second edition to
"Encounters on the Road to Jerusalem"