

ISSUE # 151

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29-Nov-2016 7:27pm @home

Today I cleared of the patio moving all me garden pots to the back yard. Boy does that look empty! I used the mower to pick leaves until I ran to gas. I wanted to have all the gas out of it before the end of the year. Do you know it that a long time to use up all the gas? I used to mow about a fourth an acer at Michele's old gym and still had fuel to do my lawn. Then I got the snow blower out and put the mower in the back of the garage out of the way. I thought I should start the snow thrower. I could not get it started. I had trouble with it last year too. I shoveled most of the snow. So, I just loaded it up to take it to get services.

I hopped in the camper and it wouldn't start. The battery was near drained dead. I haven't been using it much lately. After putting on the charger I got the small solar panel out and hooked it up too. I have a small trickle solar charged that keeps the battery charged so it is ready when it sits for a long time. The CO, LP and Smoke detector things drain it when is sits too long without running. Then I took a break for a while it

charged. Later the snow thrower got to the Woodstock Power for a good servicing.

When I got back I decided to work on MRT Issue #150. This one is #151. I had forgotten about it being issue 150 until right now. Can you believe I have had 150 issues already! Wow!

I will work on the Christmas 2016 issue throughout this month. I wonder what happened this year. I will figure it out and put it in my annual Christmas letter.

2-Dec-16 8:53am @*\$

I have been working on my Christmas Letter. It will be a little different this year. I would like to see your, if you have one. Mail, email, post if on the MRT blog would work for me. Well you could just hand it to me if you see me!

I have the November issue sitting here to finish proofing. I think I will stop typing and get to it. So, I have nothing to say any way. Bye!

7-Dec-16 8:48am @*\$

What happened

- 1941: Pearl Harbor bombed,
- 1787: Delaware ratifies the Constitution,

- 1988: Earthquakes wreak havoc in Armenia,
- 1805: Lewis and Clark temporarily settle in Fort Clatsop,
- 1989: Sugar Ray Leonard fights Roberto Duran for the third and final time and many more things you see at <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>.

Pearl Harbor

I think that the bombing of Pearl Harbor will be "a date which will live in infamy." It was 1941 and I remember it even though it was five years before I was born. 75 years today! From all the coverage over the years it must have been bad. It seems to me that is when it all started. And it continues to this day. But I feel safe sitting here in Starbucks. We must make wars all the time. Why is this?

Remember

Yesterday I went to Menards to pick up some Velcro and something else. We looked at the Christmas stuff while there and from time to time we both tried to remember what that something was. We got back to the car and we had the Velcro. In the car, we thought we would remember. Both of us were drawing a blank. What was it?

We went to the bank, the post office, and stopped and for lunch. Still we remembered nothing of the other thing we need to pick up at Menards. ☺

Michelle dropped me off at my car at EW Training. I had parked where the water settles when it rains. I was kidding Michelle about swimming to get into my car. I opened the car to jump out in to the little puddle to be smart. I was very deep and my shoes got soaked. Yuck it was that deep. We laughed and I went home to change my shoes and socks.

About four hours Michelle texted and said it was very icy in the parking lot. I thought why doesn't someone spread some...just then I got another text "We needed to buy salt today!" Ah yes, that was it!

Make a list and check it twice! ☺

Later @ Home 1:01pm

I came home and as I drove in the drive I looked to see if the mail came and if the delivered my new snow blower yet. The say the new blower will be here today. Just not yet. In the mail box was a catalog. You know spring is near when you get a new seed catalog in the mail.

This seed catalog is from Backer Creek Heirloom Seeds. It is the 20th year they have sent out their seed books. It is 150 pages of all kinds of information and seed you can buy. I think I will sit down and read it until my new snow thrower gets here.



Me, December 6th, 2016.

9-Dec-16 7:49am @home

I had to be in Rockford this morning to find out that my pacemaker is still working just fine and the battery is good for 8 more years. Yup, all is good!

Feedback from #150

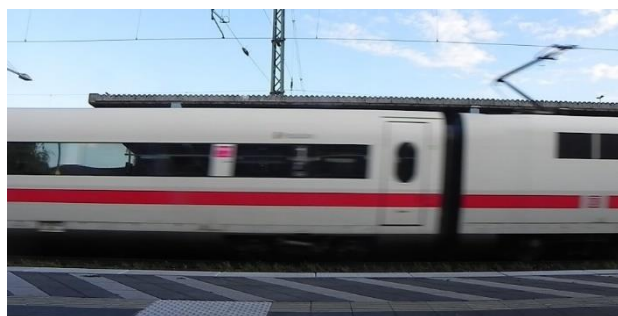
So it is time to read MRT again—this time for November 2016—time moves on.

First, I have my own story, maybe for your next MRT:



N11963ICEinGutersloh

You seemed surprised at the fact that we were traveling at 280 kph (168 mpg) on the train as we arrived in Germany and were traveling north from the Frankfurt airport. Such trains are non-existent in the US (well maybe there are some now on the east coast corridor). But they have been in Europe for many years. The original, I believe, was the TGV ('Tres Grand Vie' – 'very fast moving'). It came in the early 70s or late 60s. Japan had one in the 60s. Spain and Germany also have these very fast trains that travel at 200 miles an hour and above. Germany's is called the ICE—the inter-city Express (not frozen water). The trains require special rail beds and suspension to assure that they stay on track. I have



1N11949ICEinGutersloh

included two pictures of an ICE train speeding through Gutersloh, Germany last year:

The train is in sections made up with a front (engine car) and back car with three to five cars between. The normal train has three to five sections like that. In these pictures the train is speeding from right to left. N11963 shows the back (left) of one section and the front (right) of another. This train had three sections.

N11949 shows two to the center cars of one section. Yes, it is electric.

I am sure you can find much more online. Just Google ICE trains or TGV. They are fascinating.

I just checked my existing pictures. If you are interested I can go down to the depot and get a picture of the engine alone or even the whole train—several go through Gutersloh every day.

So now I will begin to read November's MRT. Here are my observations:

**Yes, the Cubs won.
Wow I have only
waited since 1954. But I
think there are few who
waited 108 years.**

There is more than the screen condensation when you bring in your computer from the cold. Everything inside if it was not running and warm will get condensation also. It can be more than a little bad for some of the things inside.

For the Camino, April is often rainy. You have much less chance of it in May. I went in May. The prices were a bit higher but not too high yet. For that time you should be able to find a round trip ticket in the range of 500 to 600 if shop around.

Ah! My train was going at your Porsche's top speed.

I like your walk through the 50s and 60s to EWT. I couldn't think of a place you missed. Thanks for the memories.

Internet service before I left. I had a MiFi by Verizon. Most of the time it was very slow. I could have bought an antenna for it so I would have a better pickup from the towers down town. But I did now.

I guess I should make a Christmas letter this year too.

So that seems to be it. Thanks for the thoughts. I'll send this when I get to the 'net at the library tomorrow.

Peace and Joy

Mike Metras

10-Dec-16 4:12pm @home

Christmas Letter

I just finished my annual Christmas Letter. I saved the backup and proofed it an am about to publish it on my blog. You can always see them online, if I don't send out in the mail. I don't have every bodies current address. I am kind of lazy about keeping me address book up to date. Most of you I don't even know where you are any more.

Wait, here is an idea! How about right now you send me your current contact information. Send me your names, address, phone number, email address and I'll sent mine back to you. Send it to Thoughts@MartysRandonThoughts.com. I will not pass it to any one unless you tell me It's okay.

Right now, I will publish my Christmas Letter and then I will need to see if I can fold a few into envelopes end get them mailed on Monday.

Oh, then snow just started!

11-Dec-16 10:45am @*\$

I used my new snow thrower twice now. Once last night and again this morning. The lights worked great last night. The battery lasted about 45 minutes as they said. This morning it was about the same. That is just enough time to do my whole driveway, sidewalks, and my patio. And the is a little left to do some of Bob's sidewalk. I did about 3" to 4" last night and another 3" this morning.

It does a good job removing the snow. You need to push it and once it a while you need to lift it when you hit the edge or where the pavement has heaved of the sidewalk. All in all, it works good

Weather Underground forecast 1-3" more snow today and another 6" next Friday. It just started snowing again.

Christmas Letter

I forgot to publish my Christmas Letter last night. I did fold one and mailed it to see how it goes through the postrostral-system. It is not

in an envelope I just folded it into an envelope to see how it goes.

Airplane

I got the Charger back yesterday. I need to discharge those LiPo batteries to store them for the winter. The charge still is giving me the same problem it was when I sent it in the be repaired. I traced it down to one of the battery power cables will try to fix it. It looks like it is soldered badly.

Oh, I plugged in the soldering iron before I went out to move the snow. Not a good thing to leave that sit there when I am not. I will finish my tea and go and try to fix it before the house burns down.

I need to rest up for my big day tomorrow. Should I walk to EWT tomorrow? Where are my boots? Do my feet still fit in them? Michelle wants to take me to lunch tomorrow. I need to take Aunt Annie to her appointment. And she wants to take me to lunch too.

I wonder what else will happen to me? There are a bunch of things I need to get done just because the counted goes up a notch. ☺

Let me check on that snow. Nothing has changed. I think we'll get about 1" more. It does look like that is anywhere near 3" inches left in the clouds. That is the part that will be passing us here in Woodstock. Time will tell for sure.

17-Dec-16 7:09am @Home

I was just going to Starbucks for coffee when I remembered that I had just cooked some oatmeal. I'm eating is as I type. One line one bite, one line one bite...etc. ☺

While sitting here, I hear the snow plow drive by. Guess I should get the snow thrower out before I go to Starbucks too. It is going to be a while before I get to Starbucks. It is getting harder and harder to get to Starbucks in the mornings after these snows. I may have to start making my own drinks in the morning.

Facebook

This morning I was checking out Facebook and I figured people take too many things for granted so I posted this statement:

People, People, people don't you know when you are, meaning everybody, when you are on the internet, you are connected to every other computer that is also connected to the internet. It is dangerous or fun. Think about it! It is a little scary.

Need I say more?

Since I have not entered anything in my newsletter since the 11th, I figure I do this here at home while my oatmeal is getting cold.

Monday I went to my cardiologist. They checked me out and said I seem to be doing good but he wants me to do a stress test next month. I told him I would study up for it. He smiled. ☺

Yesterday I saw my regular doctor for my annual checkup. I am only one year late. ☺ I usually only go see him when something is broken or I am leaking too much blood. He asked me what meds I was taking and took a gallon of blood to test. Then I was giving this card to put some human waste on for them to look at. That is one of my favorite things to do. ☺

I won't have the results of the blood test until next week. I think all should be well.

Then I went to the other end of the hall to visit Mark. Mark is my chiropractor. I like Mark. He almost out talks me while he is working. My back has been hurting since last month when I stepped in that hole while walking to EWT in the dark and my nose ended up ¼" from the blacktop. It didn't get better so I thought I must have knocked something out of whack. Anyway, my back feels better and he screwed my head back on a little straighter. I must go back in a week for a follow up.

Wow, it was November 14th when I stepped in that hole. That means it has been a month since I walked to EWT the last time. I was going to walk every day. Well, that lasted two weeks. The slop on the ground does not

bother me too much. The bitter cold and the wind bother the most.

Thinking about wind...it isn't blowing right now. I am going out and clear the drive and sidewalk before the wind picks up and the next batch of snow around 3:00pm. Bye!

21-Dec-16 8:33am @home

Happy first day of winter

I have started this day well. ☺ First thing lets go back to Monday. I thought the under cartridge one the car was packed with ice and snow. After looking under the car it looks like the plastic shield that goes across between the bumper and engine had fallen loose and is dragging. It is a big project to remove it.

I decided the drive the camper until I figure out what to do. Well, the battery was dead. I jumped it and it started right away. I drove it around to charge it and pulled it back into the driveway where I could easily get in it this morning. Everything seems well, right?

This morning I went out and the battery seemed dead again! I tried jumping it in the dark with no luck. The battery is in a hard place to jump when you can't see. I figured I would just put the charger on the battery and go to the 8:30 class I gave it an hour and tried again. Nothing! It still acted like a dead battery.

It is daylight now and I could see now. I gave it a boost and jumped in the van and turned the key. Still it turned over slowly. This is when I decided to clean the battery post. They were clean. Woe, what now?

I called my insurance to check for towing service. Nope, not the camper. Bomber!

Well I can't go for parts because the Camper is blocking the car. The Van is too heavy to push it up hill. Guess I need to call someone. I called Auto Tech to see if I had it towed to them if they could service it. They could not because of the roof clearance. I called DeCraene's.

DeCraene's can tow it and if they can't service it they can push it up to the garage if not. It will be out of my way and I can get my car out to get it fixed. I can change my own starter later.

Wait, I don't want to crawl under vehicles anymore! Maybe I will just have them tow it in and fix it. Yup, they can fix it. I am getting too soft and it is cold and it is the first day of winter. It needs a nice warm dry place to be operated on. Yup I done!

24-Dec-16 7:51am @*\$

Today I should go out and do my annual Christmas shopping. Yup I know today is the 24th. I never have been very early at Christmas time. Though one year I started in July.

I asked people what they wanted for Christmas. Asking that that early I find out what they would might really like. One year I was almost finished shopping by Halloween. So, some time I can get out there much early than others.

This year will be no different than most of the other years. I have been busy, well lazy this year. Both my vehicles broke down and that cost me a day not to take about my budget. Then I had a checkup at the doctor yesterday. Today I must go to Chrystal Lake so they can finish fixing my car. They didn't have the parts the other day.

Hmmm, the spell check keeps telling me that "have to" should be "must" or "should". I don't talk that way. Oh well, Word does a much better job with spelling and grammar than I do! ☺

I should leave to go to Crystal Lake in a short while to get my car fixed. I will do a little shopping while I am there. Whoops there is another "have to's" that Word don't like! ☺

In the Car

I have noticed that many people like to direct traffic. Come up to an all way stop and you are the last one there. To me that means you wait until the others pull through the intersection. Usually there one person that is

motioning you to go first. Many times, there is a glare on the window and it hard for you to see them. If you pull out, the others might not have seen her directing traffic. This could cause an accident.

And then when you walking and want to cross at an intersection that has a stop sign. You do know most drivers do not stop at many stop signs. Don't just cross the road because you may mess that driver's day. It may take all day to remover you blood from the front of their car.

The walkers are no better. If you want to cross the road where the traffic is busy, look for a cross walk. Many people just walk across the road without looking. Either that or they need a new hip and they want the driver to pay for it. If a car runs over you, you are in a crosswalk you will have a better chance to get reimbursed.

Well I ~~have to~~ must go and take my car in to get the new seat belt switch.

I'll see you next year.

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year,**

Marty



Christmas Eve at Cork and Diane's. Picture by Cork



Marcia's Family

End of this Issue report

- I finally fixed the page numbers on the top. The odd numbers should be on the right, even on the left. How long has this been wrong? ☹
- The shield, seat belt switch, and the oil is chanced on the car and back home.
- I have a new started on the Camper and it is home too.
- The Christmas Letter is published. You can find it on my blog.
- The sample letter I folded into an envelope failed to make it intact. It went from the Post Office to the post office box in just under two weeks. ☺
- I got another seed catalog. Come on spring!
- Lastly, have you checked your smoke detector battery lately?

The MRT Backer Page

**WALKING THE WALK
CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012
BY MARTY METRAS**

ISBN# 978-1-304-42330-6



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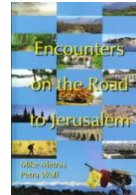
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Rev. 09/27/16



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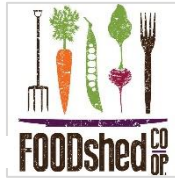
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FoodShed.coop Local food store startup

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

This is a test: if you see this send me an email at mc@doerofthings.com

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 being able to speak her languages there was a lot of fear. 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

Randomly Published on Tuesday, December 27, 2016