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3-Aug-17 1:26pm @*\$ 81^o

So, I am about to leave here. I just got done looking at the September issue and will go home to enter the corrections into it.

Cork helped me remove the holly bush the other day. I want to work on the patio a while before it rains too. I have cleaned it up after taking out those two bushes. I need to wait a couple days to see if those slabs stay put before I put the cement in. Then I can move the two steps back into place and cement them into place. Then it will be just some landscaping and it is ready for the snow. ☺

6-Aug-17 10:12am @*\$ 70^o

Patio Project

I finally started cementing my patio together yesterday. My first goal was to fill in the cracks.

I had bought a small bag of leveling crack filler. I quickly realized I need a lot. Before I went out and spend more money I looked around in the garage. I found a full bag and it looked only a little had been used. I have no idea when I bought it. Moisture had got to it but it was still usable. After breaking it up so I could use it I had all the cracks filled.

Today I think I might start filling in the spaces between the slabs. Then I can give it a few days

to cure. At that point, I will tackle the stoop. It is only two steps made of cement but will take a couple of days to get them put into place.

Since I moved those slabs I will have a big gap in the steps to the asphalt that I will need to fill. I want to fill that spot with something that will keep those steps from moving. It is nice I have the time to work on this at my pace.

The next step to this project will be to do a little landscaping to make it look purify. A few plants will take care of that.

After the cement has cured I may have to paint or coating to make it look better. I will have old cement and new cement. It is starting to become of those never-ending projects. Oh well, I started it! ☺

Family Tree Projects

I am still working on the Family Tree. I must put in some more pictures. I consulted with Mike about the names of the people in Granddad & Grandma's 25 wedding family photo and one the was from 1922 too! Mike said he did not know who all they were. Mike said; "You need to find an older Metras to help with this." I told Mike; "He was the old Metras I was using. ☺"

In any case I will have to work on those older photos. Remember to put names on all your pictures so 100 years later someone can identify them. Grandpa Metras was born in 1871 and died in 1938. That was eight years before I was

born. I know him from the pictures because I had seen pictures of him in the past. But my great Grandma Wilhelmine (Unruh) was born on August 14, 1854, in Germany. I saw the picture and didn't have a clue. I had to ask Aunt Annie. Thanks Aunt Annie and Mike!

Other members of the family have been helping and I thank you too!

Next Project

At EW Training, I need to put up a wall. I need to remove the sheet metal from the outside wall on the inside. Install studs and insulate it and cover it with plywood. Sounds easy. But I need to do it in stages because people will be exercising there all day. I need to do it in stages. I am thinking it will take a week or two.

I should open the wall and see what is behind it first. I need to cut one of the metal panels. I need to know what kind of insulation to use. Michelle said the frost was on that wall last winter. That means the it must be open to the outside behind the metal. It is a factory building. Who know what back there. Maybe the inside is the outside? ☺

It shouldn't be too hard after I get started. Wait the is some electrical stuff there that must go too. Maybe I should get started tomorrow.

No, I am not going to start any more projects!

13-Aug-17 8:36am @\$ 64@O

Good morning all! I have busy working on my projects, none of which are finished yet.

Patio Project

I have 99.44% of the cement put down on the first phase of the repair. That makes me feel good. After the rain, I see I need to use some leveling cement on part of it. The water sits where I need to walk. No, the water will not hurt me but the ice might! ☺

The next phase will be to lever the steps and cement them in place. I need to remove some of the black top and put in those paving blocks to replace it. The drain runs under it and mush have frozen and heaved. I have been tripping over that spot for too many years. And there is a little grass that I have been driving over will get some of those pavers too. Landscaping will follow that.

Family Tree Project

I have been busy adding pictures so my person count is not growing very fast. I'm up to over 3,900 people. This is good because I thought I would only have around 2,000 when I started. Now I am thinking I will get to 20,000 someday.

Pictures are fun. In many cases I have no idea who I have pictures of. It requires intervention of others to identify who is in the pictures. Being that camera only came around in the 1800s pictures before that will be drawings of carved out of rocks. It is hard to down load rocks into my database. ☺

Family Reunion.

Marcia's and Edie's families got here yesterday. I spent most of the day visiting with them. We are all going to Tammy's & Alex's for the reunion. I will be good to see everybody. I will post some picture, if I remember to take my camera.

Petra called yesterday and asked if I could FaceTime them into the gathering. They can't make it this time. They were here for Dad's 100th in 2011. Today we celebrate Mom's 100th. Mom's Birthday is Thursday the 17th. Most people can't make the party in the middle of the week.

I told Mike he has to be here for Aunt Annie's 100th, in 2030. Mikes will be in 2042. We'll see!

EWT Wall Project

I have been putting up a wall at the training center. Well, removing and replacing one. After opening the wall, I found that a forklift or something hit the outside wall and knocked it off the foundation. I had to fix that before covering up the inside. Thursday, I had it ready to the plywood that will cover it.

It is slow when you are working alone. I must stage things and clean it up because they need to use that space for exercising. It is setup to do the work, work for an hour or two, break the setup and clean up the mess. All in all, it works fine. I work slow to do it as right as I can.

I like helping because I keeps my mind and body going. This also keeps my spirt going because I work at my pace.

Next week I will be starting to dig the ply wood out of the storage room then setting up an area to saw some of it. I need to saw where the sawdust does not get tracked back into the gym floor. Sawdust is a pain to get of the rubber floor.



It will take a day or two to get the first piece of plywood anchored to the wall. I have a lot of other small things to do besides the wall project next week too.

Oh, I need different tools for this. Maybe it is a different set from building the wall. Maybe Monday I will just think upon it! 😊

Next Projects

Wait, let's get these done first!

19-Aug-17 11:55am @home 75°

Been Sick

Well, it has been a week since the family reunion for Mom's 100th. I have been sick since then. It started about Monday. I am starting to feel a little better now.

I went out to EWT yesterday to say "Hi!" and pickup my tools. Michelle quickly ran me off. She didn't want to catch it. Whatever IT is! So, after I got my tools loaded in the van I headed home. I don't need her to get sick because of me.

Family Reunion

Tammy & Alex hosted the Mom's 100th Family Reunion. There were a lot of people I haven't seen for a while. I had a great time seeing everyone. At the end of the day we all took pictures. I think this is what you do at family reunions don't you? I think everybody is it the first picture. Thanks Tammy & Alex for hosting!

Did you Ever Wonder

◆ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

◆ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom until they are flashing behind you.

◆ When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body... men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

◆ Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

◆ America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

◆ You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

◆ Did you know that dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand on the very edge of the pool and throw them fish?

◆ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

◆ I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

◆ Money talks ...but all mine ever says is good-bye.

◆ You're not fat, you're just... easier to see.

◆ If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

◆ I can't understand why women are okay that JC Penny has an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor."

◆ My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.

◆ My 60-year kindergarten reunion is coming up soon and I'm worried about the 150 pounds I've gained since then.

◆ Denny's has a slogan, "If it's your birthday, the meal is on us." If you're in Denny's and it's your birthday, your life sucks!

◆ The pharmacist asked me my birth date again today. I'm pretty sure she's going to get me something.

◆ The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can be in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.

◆ I think it's cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

◆ Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch!

◆ The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis, and he stayed drunk.

Source: Email from Wendel



Mom's 100th Family Reunion

While I was standing in line to get my picture taking, I decided to take a picture of everyone else. I remembered that my cell phone camera

to take real wide pictures if I pushed the right button. Here are the results.



I count 22 in this picture so there must have been 23 of us at mom's 100th.

Maybe you would like some pictures of the families.



Eddie's Family



Marie's whole family



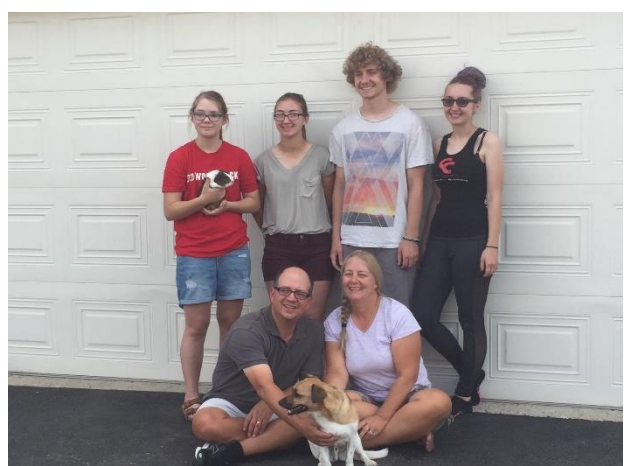
Erik & his girlfriend



Cork's family



Marie and her Kids



Tammy's Family

I think that might all the families that were at
Moms 100th If I missed someone, you will have to

let me know. I did not take many pictures this time.

Michelle Wall

Oh, Did I tell you I finished the wall at EWT. Well I still must put up the rope hook and other hardware. That can wait until I feel better. Michelle doesn't want me around while I'm sick. That gives me an idea.

I really don't feel the greatest but I feel I can drive. I think I my drive south and see the solar eclipse. It is about 350 miles to Carbondale. It should take any longer that it took to get to Little Canada a few week ago. Wasn't that 5-1/2 hours? I looked at Google's Maps and it says about 6 hours.

I best get packed and head out now. I need to clear out the camper because it is full of tools.

I really must go because the next total solar eclipse will not be until April 8th, 2024. I will still have to driver to Carbondale to see it. I might as well go now.

Bye!

20-Aug-17 8:33am @*\$ 70°

Well, I decided yesterday to head south to see the eclipse. I got as far as Menards and could not find a welder's lens. I was looking for a "Shade 12" and only found clear. I need something to block the sun's dangerous rays. Like a condom you need protection for the sun too. From there I headed to Farm & Fleet. Nothing but clear lens there too.

From there I decided that maybe Walmart might have some of those solar eclipse glasses everybody says to have. At this point when I ended up at the ice cream freezer. Yes, I needed some Chocolate Chip Mint ice cream. I took it home and went to the internet and looked up how to make a s solar eclipse viewer. It is kind of easy. You just need a cereal box with a pin hole and a bigger hole to view what shines through the pin hole. Sounded easy so I made one. Not the best thing but it works.

At that point, I needed some of the ice cream. I had already made and tested my solar eclipse viewing box. And I had modified it a little because the image was a little fuzzy on the edges. I think a piece of foil would be better

around the pin hole. I think I will change it to foil when I return home. It should help with the fuzzy edges. If not, it is because of the focus of my glasses. In which case, I need to start over and rethink this. You do know that looking the sun is BAD!

The other reason I am not driving south it that I have been sick for near a week. Do I really need to put my body through the stress of a 6-hour drive with no place to go? Yes, I know I am heading it towards Carbondale but I have no real destination. When you don't feel that great it is stressful.

They say I could see a 90% solar eclipse right I my back yard. I would really like to feel better traveling than I do today. This morning I and sneezing and my nose runs. My throat is a little sore yet. And I cough and sound congested too. Maybe I will stay in Woodstock this time. I need to get healthy! I do!

I have one of those welder's lens somewhere from a long time ago. Maybe it is time to start the de-cluttering I have been talking about for years. Either my memory is slipping or it has got to the point that my stuff is getting out of hand.

21-Aug-17 724am @home 70°

Solar Eclipse

Today is the big day! I'm not ready, still coughing, nose still running! And the sun looks to blocked by the clouds during the eclipse. We'll have to wait and see.

Here is when it will happen near me.

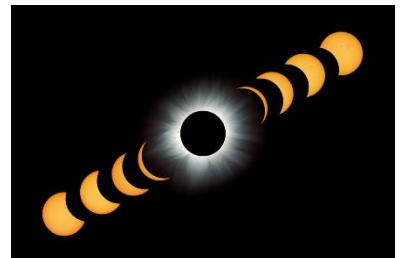
Arlington Heights: 89%, start 11:53 a.m., max 1:18 p.m., ends 2:41 p.m. Per NBC

This means around 1:00pm I must be ready to watch. I hope you get to see it from where you are too!

I should get ready now.

It Came and Went

I got home in time to watch the Solar Eclipse. I got my Solar Eclipse watching box and head out to see the sky was overcast. After a while it



cleared a little so I checked out my viewing box and it seemed to be working. About the time the eclipse was going to start it was only a little hazy.

Watching in the box was hard. I decided to use the iPhone. It was much better. I was pleased how well it worked. It wasn't the best thing in the world but it worked quite well.

I could not really tell if it eclipsed. It may been too overcast when it happened. There was only a short time when it happened. Below is my picture inside my viewer. The sky was hazy! ☺



Best I could get with my box camera

27-Aug-17 8:24am @home 63°

Menards had another one of their 11% rebate sales so I bought the wood to build a picnic table. I cut all the wood yesterday before it started to rain. I move all the pieces into the garage to keep them dry. They are forecasting rain for the next three days. That should give me time to drill all the holes. It will be cool and dry in there.

Maybe before next Friday I will have my first Picnic table. I have always wanted a picnic table to sit on in the back yard. On nice days, I

can take my laptop out and enjoy the weather. On rainy days, I can climb up on to top and dance and sing in the rain. ☺

It will look something like this:

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With that note, I think I will close this issue and go work on it.

30-Aug-17 2:50pm @home on my picnic table 77°

Yes! My Picnic table is complete and I am writing on it.

While assembling it the other day it rained on me! I only had a couple braces left to install. Yesterday I finished it before it rained some more. Every day it rained but it is finished now. ☺



Note the wheel on the Picnic Table for easier moving.

You may also see the bag of cement waiting for me to use on the steps.

That is enough for this issue,

MARTY

MARTY'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

The Backer Page

MY BOOKS

← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →



My books are available online from Lulu.com, Amazon.com, BarnesAndNoble.com, and from me personally.

Mike's and Petra's Books Pilgrimage Creations

<http://www.walkingwithawareness.com/ourbooks.htm>

EW Training

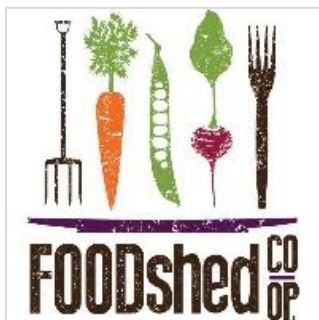
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