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3-Sep-17 9:00am @*\$ 62^o

Good morning and welcome to September.
Fall it in the air. We'll start having cooler nights and it won't be long before we start seeing that white stuff in the air.

Patio project

Yesterday I aligned the steps so the water should run off them when it rains or when the scary white stuff melts this winter.

I decided to not cement them into place. I had to lift them up and dig some on the sand out from underneath to get them where I needed them to make the stoop near level. I think it might have been easier to just pour steps. But what the hay, I needed the challenge!

For now, there are sitting where I want them.

I need to work on the landscaping now. I can plant some of the ground cover and maybe replace blacktop with a couple cement blocks where the drain goes through them. You know the place where I have been tripping for years.

Moving the black top remains to be an issue. I need to cut it loose from the driveway without making a mess of it. Today I am thinking of drilling a mess of small holes in a straight line and it should come right out. Won't it? I still have time to think on it.

Picnic table

I am now thinking my picnic table needs a couple friends. I am thinking of building a couple chairs in case I don't want to sit at the table.

They should look something like this.

It looks to be a lot more work than the picnic table. I will look around the Internet for plans. Plans made the table go easy so the chair may just take a little longer.



Adirondack Chair

Adirondack Chair

I went to the internet and downloaded 3-4 set of plans to for the chair. There could be a lot more cutting and drilling than I might want to do. I will look over the plans and see which looks best when finished and then go from there.

I think I might have to buy a new table saw if I keep this up. The one I am using is so far from accrete the I can saw better by hand. I need to see what is available.

10-Sep-17 9:28am @*\$ 58°

Good morning! It has been a long time. Where have I been? Well...

Family reunions is over but I have not finished the Family history. It is an ongoing process. I have entered nearly 4,400 people into it. And there is 1,430 photos and 150 stories in the Family Tree.

If you go to ancestry.com you can create a free account and look up yourself or anyone else to see where you came from. I don't know what you can see with the free version but the name of my tree is "Metras-Jansen Family". I am into it and I am sure you might find somebody interesting.

I am syncing my data with ancestry.com at the end of each day right after I back it up. After syncing with ancestry.com I look for photo and stories on ancestry.com and sync them up with my data. Too bad the camera wasn't invented until the early 1800s. Maybe later I will find a way to upload paintings and rock carvings. ☺

I will keep you updated from time to time on this project.

Projects

Since my picnic table is finished and it a nice place to sit with the laptop I was thinking I should make a chair or two to sit outside with a book.

I download a couple of different plans from the internet. They look to be a little more work than the table was. But the results should be good.

If I start making more things I will need to get a better table saw. The one I have been using has trouble cutting a straight line and/or square corners. Table saws are a lot better than they were 40 years ago when we gave this one to Dad. Maybe today I could go look at them.

14-Sep-17 11:35am @home 73°

I am out on my picnic table but am having trouble seeing the screen because the sun is bright! And for seeing the mouse arrow... well just forget that! Other than, it is nice out here.

Maybe I need an umbrella for my new table. Wait the sun is going behind the tree. Ah, much better!

I just looked at the solar panels and they are in the sun. I am getting energy for the laptop

too. Not directly but I will use it later in life. There, I just turned it on to feed the energy back out on the grid. Wait, I am running this off its battery. Oh well, I get it back when I go to Starbucks or EWT.

I thought about turning the table with my back to the sun. but the will make the sun reflect in the screen and in my eyes. With the sun in my face I would see my face in the screen.

Yes, I could move the picnic table as it has wheels. Then I would have to move it back over here because the Wi-Fi is just out of range and there would be leaves all over the top of the Table.

Now that the sun is behind the tree I think I will stay right here! ☺

You know I can sit here and drink my tea just as easy as going to Starbucks. But I would not get any people watching done. I can listen to the kids back in the playground.

Sitting here I can see the grass needs a little cutting. Leave look like they will need to be raked in a couple weeks too.

Maybe I should go change the van back in to Camper mode. Yes, it is full of tools again. I also should install the valve I bought to drain the water tank. When did I go to Minnesota, July? The new valve has been laying there since before I went to get those kettlebells.

I think I will go over a look inside and see what it looks like inside.

Not much in the way of tools in the van. I think in an hour or so I could make it in to a Camper.

I think I will put this away and go give it a try. I am sure I won't get distracted by anything. ☺

17-Sep-17 10:50am @home 80°

Happy Birthday Dad!

Dad would be 106 years old today. Dad was Born in 1911, Married in 1942, had seven kids from 1943 to 1959 The he passed away in 1983 at the young age of 72.

Dad worked his whole life providing for his family. While younger I don't this realize what he did for us. Now I think I am starting to see that more and more every day. I am what I am because of Dad, Mom, and the environment I live. Thanks Dad and Happy Birthday!

Road Trip



Yes, "Road Trip"!

I am planning to take a road trip to see Mike & Petra in Santa Fe. I am leaving October 1st.

I was thinking I should schedule me some time. I am always doing things for others then being tired and then watching TV with my eyes closed.

I have been talking about it for way too long now. It is decided and will happen!



I have a few things to take care of before I leave that is where I came up with October first.

I have 13 days to get ready. I have no route planed or time schedule other leaving the first of the month. The only thing close to a plan is to be back on the 15th. That could change too!

It is time to get out of here!



Maybe I should look for this sign on my road trip?

18-Sep-17 10:51am @EWT 69°

Today is my sister, Edie's Birthday. If I figured this right she is now getting near the 70-mark. No not today but in a couple years. Happy 68th Edie!

Family History

I got past the 4,500 people mark with the family tree yesterday. Seems like this well be going on for a long time yet. Ancestry.com says they have over 12,500 hints for me. Here is what they say they do for me.

"The history of labor is filled with fascinating stories. Butchers and bakers to DIY makers—we all have relatives that made monumental contributions to our labor force in unique ways. In honor of their hard work, we've compiled some of the best sources on Ancestry for learning about trades and occupations. These details can help add to the portrait of a person's life and even inspire you with your own pursuits."

I have been using Ancestry's database to help me get a lot of new people. The last few month or so I have been looking for spouses and their parents. The other children those parents had and then their spouses and so on.

This slow me down somewhat. I have been working off my origin list for a while. I have 2 more pages to go. I am using this list to keep me going.

I still have a 120-page report of the Byers family. I have not even looked at this list yet.

I have been getting pictures and stories for Ancestry.com every day I sync my data with their database.

All in all, it is interesting where all my fore fathers & fore mothers have come from. I see we came from many places in the world. It is neat to look at the pictures and read the stories.

I will keep working on this between my other projects. Maybe in the next ten years I will be near the end. After all, I have 12,500 hints to check out! 😊

Projects

I was going to start working on that Adirondack Chair but have not bought the wood yet. I really think I need to get a new table saw first. It will make it much easier to cut the boards to size. A miter saw would help too. A router would almost make it complete.

I waited 40 years to buy drill press. Now I don't know how I went without one.

I have used these tools in the past, so I know they would be of value for me to do wood working.

I just not ready to put out the money to buy all the new tools and not use them very much.

My table saw is shot. It has trouble cutting a straight square line that are true.

()/\~-...just do not cut it! Should be ____.

I am shopping. I nice table saw is around \$600.00. One that works is around \$100.00. I want the \$600.00 one! I will wait for a while.

These Newsletters

Have I been writing this issue for 160 issues! Wow! I remember the first issue was small.

This is from Volume I Issue 1

First Issue of Nothing or Less

What's it all about

Marty Metras

Editor

Well this newsletter as the title say is about nothing. I will put almost anything in here. It is for fun stuff, dumb thing, and stupid things. Things that don't make sense or dollars. Things you may not care about. Just unimportant things. There will be no notes on World Peace or Who Killed JR. Just Nothing or Less

Here's our staff so far.

Editor/Publisher:

Marty Metras

Marty other job is at Knaack Mfg. Co.

Proof Reader:

Pam Nash

Pam's other job is at United Airlines

You can go to the web site and find the rest of the story if you so desire.

FoodShed.coop

The Annual Owners meeting is tonight. Since I signed up to go to the meeting and I am an owner I should go and see what the board of directors have to say.

I am getting hungry! Maybe I should go and get something to eat!

24-Sep-17 9:18am @\$ 78°

Yup almost 80° and is just past nine o'clock! Wednesday, it will start to cool down. For the last week, it has been very hot. I had to break down and turn the A/C back on. I usually just leave it off this time of the year.

Road trip

I am still planning to be on my road trip next week. I have a plan! I am really going to go. I will start getting the Camper ready tomorrow. The LP and Water tanks are empty and there is no Food

or Clothes loaded in the Camper. I need to get the house ready and stop the mail too. What else? Oh well it will come to me.

My plan is to leave in the morning on October 1st. I am thinking it will be more like noon.

I want to publish my newsletter before I leave but I can do that on the road. Oh, oh, I must pack the laptop too.

The plan it to head to Santa Fe to visit with Mike and Petra. The plan to get there is still sketchy.

This means I may head down Route 66 or go to Rockford and jump on the Interstate. Maybe as I told Marie I could just make right turn until I get there.

I could say in camp grounds or parking lots at night. I could do some sight-seeing or just do a quick get to Mike's route. This all remains to be determined.

Route 66

I found that Route 66 starts in Chicago. The Internet says "There are a couple of official "BEGIN" US 66 signs, high on poles to thwart theft."

It looks like it may start at the corner of W. Adams Street and Michigan Avenue in Chicago. If Google is true there a Starbucks just two blocks West on W. Adams Street. ☺

I could drive route 14 almost right to Route 66. It is about 2 hours. Or take the Interstate in an hour and a half.

From there I could start heading to Santa Fe.

Wait, there 63 things to see on Route 66 without getting out of Illinois. That is in the 265 miles. From there is about 1,050 more miles to Santa Fe. It says it is also 15-1/2 hours. That means about 3 days from Woodstock.

I think after checking out 63 things in Illinois I will get tired of Route 66 and I will be ready of the Interstate.

I'm going home and work of that Swiss ball rack. Yup, I am working on one of my projects!

Fire Pit

Well, that is what it is called even though it is 18" above ground and on wheels. Do you know how much holly bushed smoke? I always wait until the wind is right before I start a fire. I don't want anyone to call the Fire Department on me.

I use my Fire Pit like an incinerator. It is a cage to burn brush. Open fires are not allowed.

1-Oct-17 8:18am @home 51°

Yesterday was the end of Woodstock. I was finishing up something after the Open House at EW Training and thought I could pack up the Camper and be on the road by now.

Well you know how plans go!

I wanted to print up some new badges so Michelle would have to figure that out. Normally it would be a 5-minute project not an hour and half. The printer ate one. It took a long to find that bug Before that I put the badges in wrong and printed on the good side. By then I started to get unhappy and wanted to leave. As most times I stuck it out and got it fixed.

Then I was the greeter all day so I had to clear out my work area.

I texted Michelle that I was leaving and packed up the laptop. I grab the phone and headed out to the van.

That is when I remembered that I had parked at the other end of the country so the people who came to the open house could have a better place to park.

I grabbed the phone to text Michelle a "☹" face for not bring my van up to the door. That was when I found a black screen on my phone.

When I got home, my home phone had so much static I could use it.

I plugged my cell phone thinking it might just have a dead battery. After two hours, nothing!

I changed cable before I went to bed to sleep on it.

Telling you this it does sound that bad. I must have been in the panic mode yesterday.

I have so much to do before I get in the Camper and go to Santa Fe.

This morning I got the cell phone and it is working just fine. Must just be a bad cable and the battery was just deader than dead. It takes a long time to recover from that.

Finishing Up

I have a few loose ends to do before I get out of here so I have get going. Oh! I must stop the mail...Ok Mail is stopped. You know you can do that online.

Aunt Annie is not doing very well. I want to stop and see her before I head down the road. I will proof this newsletter on the rood.

Bye

**M
A
R
T
Y**

What is not done, Will Wait!

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

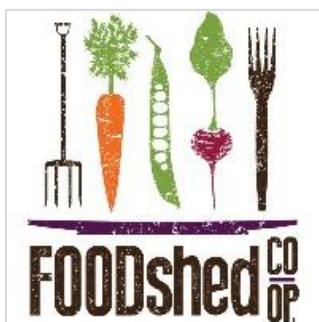
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FoodShed.coop

We are a group of regular folks working hard to open a community-owned grocery store in McHenry County, IL and we hope you will join us!

Check out our mission and become an owner.
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