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### 3-Nov-17 9:11am @\*\$ 31<sup>o</sup>

Oh, that is why my windows were fogged over, 31<sup>o</sup>! Well, it is that time of the year. I need to start putting on a warmer coat. I have been proofing the last issue. There is a lot of stuff about my road trip in there.

I am having trouble navigating around this document. I forgot my mouse and I am having trouble with this touch pad. It is still at EWT from yesterday. It can wait until I get out there the next time. I can just slow down or learn to use the touch pad.

It is cool in here and I don't have my mouse. I think I will stop this and read a book.

### 9-Nov-17 9:09am @\*\$ 41<sup>o</sup>

There is a gap in the days since I last typed anything. Where have I been? Hum!

Anyway, the leave starting to fall in the yard and I may have to go out and remove them. Not today. Tonight, they are calling for 16<sup>o</sup>. I can wait until late this week. Sunday, they are saying it will be back up in the 40s and near 50s next week. The leaves can wait!

Do I procrastinate? Yes, I don't want to deal with the leaves. Maybe the wind will pick up and blow them to the fence. Once at the fence it is easy to get them to the curb for the City to pick them up.

This is making me tired just thinking about it. ☺

### Grant Surgery

Grant, Michelle's husband, will be off work for six weeks because of carpal tunnel surgery. I am going to

see how that goes. Grant like Michelle works all the time. Meaning they don't spend their days together. They are together in the evening. We'll see how it plays out.

Michelle didn't ask me to bring coffee this morning so maybe Grant got it for her. Maybe not! I better just take one. I can always just drink it myself. ☺

### 12-Nov-17 8:17am @\*\$ 33<sup>o</sup>

Happy Sunday! I have been talking about a new car for a long time. Well, I'm getting closer. I don't have \$35,000 to get what I want. I decided to look for the cheapest new car out there. They start about \$13,000. Nissan cost the least. Ford Fiesta is down near the low-price cars. I think the Smart for 2 was number 3. After finding out the cheap cars do not offer much. I stopped looking for cars and started looking for a service truck.

I thought because I am still a Doer of Things it would be a nice idea to have all my tools with me. Yup, it is a tool box on wheels. I added a boom to it, so I could lift my coffee into the cab if I wanted. ☺ Anyway, I could buy a used one for less than \$10,000. I gave up that idea because \$10,000 is too much to spend and then leave my one tool I needed at home.

So, I decided to look for a firetruck. Firetrucks aren't cheap either, but I could find one in the \$10,000 price range. The pictures told me it was a pumper and came with a ladder. After looking around, I noticed most of the prices were bids. One

used ladder-truck the bid was well over \$100,000. I think I will pass on a firetruck for now!

Next thing I looked at was a garbage truck. I decided I have a lot of garbage. I could buy a small one that holds 45 yards of garbage. That would last me a quite a while. The problem then I must find a place to empty it! I guess I could just sell it full. Let the next guy have to deal with it. Even though I could get one for less than \$8,000, I will pass on it too!

Back to a car. While I am typing here I was thinking, "Why do I need a new car?". I have had a lot of used cars in my life. It looks like I have had 38 used cars and only 4 new ones. I have had 3 trucks and 6 vans. And believe it or not, I had 4 motorhomes and a motorcycle.

Maybe with only 10% being new cars I should look for a used car. Maybe I could just install another new door switch on this car.

The headlights "are on" alert is wired to the door opened switch. The seat belt gets stuck on it and causes the alert buzzer to not go off and the lights get "left on" and the battery goes dead. Fixing the seat belt retractor did not help. Maybe I need to replace the seat belt system and the door switch. Or just buy a new car!

These are the things I think about while I sit at Starbucks. ☺

### **19-Nov-17 7:01am @\$ 26°**

Yesterday we got our first real snow fall. I call it "snow fall" because it didn't stick. I think this is the best kind until Christmas. It is all dry out there now!

I have been re-writing my book from when I tried to walk across Spain in 2007. I sent it off to the printer to get my first draft. I should have it in a week or so.

Now I am back reading Mike's book. This book is about his travels just after he got out of the army.

I am also re-reading my second book I wrote about Walking the Walk in 2012. I have learned a lot about spelling and grammar in the last 6 years. I know I still have a long way to go but I am much better.

After finishing up the 2007 book and starting on the 2012 book I know I have learned a lot. I don't think I even looked at "Walking the Walk, Camino de Santiago 2012" in five years. It is not even close to the look of the first one.

After looking at "My Projects" at LuLu.com, my printer, I see I published many books of "Marty's Random Thoughts." They never caught on. I think I will de-commission them. They are only place holders in "My Projects." I can do without the clutter.

I only need the books about subjects that sell from time to time.

I should have "My Camino de Santiago Adventure" ready before Christmas. Then may get "Walking the Walk, Camino de Santiago 2012" and have it ready in January.

If you would like a copy of them let me know. I will pick up a few copies. I am not pushing them on you. I am just letting you know. I am not sure what they will sell for right now. When I am finished I will let you know. Just let me know you are interested so I can get a good price for you. That is enough book selling for me.

I just looked on LuLu.com and I see Mike's book is listed there, [Wandering East Africa, Ethiopia, and Israel](#). ☺

I have only just started reading it so can't really review it. Let me get into it a little first.

### **Other stuff.**

I finally got out there and got rid of the leaves out of the yard. I have only done that once this year. It is done enough for this year.

I got one of those tables with the model airplane parts over it cleared off a couple weeks ago. I still haven't done much with it. I put boxes on it to hold the other things I found. It is a start on the de-cluttering.

I almost have the sewing table cleared off. I will work on that as time goes on.

Thinking about sewing. I need to put pockets on the right side of my shirts, so I can carry my phone in it. You know they told me I could not carry it in my left pocket over the pace maker. So, I need to put a pocket on all my shirts because I don't like carrying my phone in my pants pocket.

I ran the mower out of gas and moved it to the back of the garage. I moved the snow thrower to the front by the door. I almost tried to start it to make sure it ran ok. I say almost because I forgot it was electric. It worked good last year. I need to charge the battery the try it. ☺

I need to get out there and try to straighten that bumper on the Camper too. Maybe I could do that today. It is forecasted to be sunny today. I see it will only be 34° today. Tomorrow they say sunny and 49° and again on Friday. Maybe it can wait.

### Next Big Thing

I know I have been talking about driving to all 48 states in one trip. I am thinking about that again. Michelle asked me to go to Saint Paul to get some more kettlebells. I don't know when that will be, but I think it will be before the first of the year.

I am thinking I could leave here on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for my trip to the first 48 states. The plan was all in one trip without crossing any one state more than once. If memory serves it was 12,000 miles 48 days, at only about 250 miles a day. Without a road trip plan, it could be more than that.

Let's say I stop in each state and do a little sight-seeing. That could make it 96 days. If I drive around a little too, it could be 24,000 miles. Well, will my Camper hold up to 165,000 miles?

I need to fix the window, bumper, and the charge controller before I leave. I'll have to get on those things.

What about my bills while I'm gone. Yes, it is a money issue. What will it cost? What did it cost me on the trip to Santa Fe? I'll look... It cost me about \$250.00 a week for fuel. So, if I figure \$250.00 more a week for expenses that is \$500.00 a week for the road trip. I'm spending \$1500.00 a month at home.

I could do like Mike & Petra did. Sell the house which only cost me taxes, gas electric, and internet/phone. Well they sold their car so they did not have auto insurance either.

I will have to go home and see what those cost are to see if I really want to do that. I wonder if that is the way I want to go!

We'll see!

### 20-Nov-17 12:30pm @EWT 46°

It will be Thanksgiving Day shortly. My plans are to stay home and cook my own dinner. In the past I would spend time with Aunt Annie. I have chosen to stay home this year. It will be the first year I can remember that I did that. I want to do this this year. Really, I want to! I want to stay home and do nothing

this year. It may sound like I have a problem, but I do not. I just want to spend this Thanksgiving Day alone.

The first of the year I may be writing MRT online and not on paper. What I am saying here is that I am going to start my trip to the 48 states. I will be posting my trip notes on the Marty's Random Thoughts blog. It will not be a newsletter as I am doing it now.

I suggest you sign up for the news-feed, so you know when I post something. It would be the easiest way to know. If you go to [Join IN] tab on the menu bar. Then Click on "Get notified when someone [post something new](#)" Item. And answer the questions.

You will be emailed [every time someone post something, me](#). You can also be notified when somebody makes a comment by clicking on "Get notified when someone [post a new comment](#)."

These will email you when there are new postings or comments. If you start getting too many alerts you can delete the RSS (newsfeed) I use this for other newsletters I receive alerts and it comes in handy.

I am going to try this after the first of the year. The newsfeed (RSS) works now. "RSS" and has many meaning. I like "**Really Simple Syndication**."

As for what you do to setup your RSS news-feed. Well I can't answer that. I can say "it depends." Mine goes to my INBOX. Just follow the instructions, it isn't very hard to figure out. Just answer the questions.

I am starting to make plans for my road trip to start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### The Old Man and a Bucket of Shrimp

*It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange and was starting to dip into the blue ocean.*

*Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier.*

*Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.*

*Everybody's gone, except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier,*

Ed is alone with his thoughts...and his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching and squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering and flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave. He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time and place.

When he finally turns around and begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, and then they, too, fly away. And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach and on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say. Or, to onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant ...maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folks often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers and Busters.

Most of them would probably write Old Ed off ... That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero in World War I, and then he was in

WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he and his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, and climbed into a life raft.

Captain Rickenbacker and his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger and thirst. By the eighth day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land and no one knew where they were or even if they were alive.

Every day across America millions wondered and prayed that Eddie Rickenbacker might somehow be found alive.

The men adrift needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service and prayed for a miracle.

They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back and pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged on. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft...suddenly Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand and a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it and wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, and he and his starving crew made a meal of it - a very slight meal for eight men. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food and more bait....and the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigors of the sea until they were found and rescued after 24 days at sea.

Eddie Rickenbacker lived many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first life-saving seagull... And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp and a heart full of gratitude



Reference: (Max Lucado, "In The Eye of the Storm", pp...221, 225-226)

*PS: Eddie Rickenbacker was the founder of Eastern Airlines. Before WWI he was race car driver. In WWI he was a pilot and became America's first ace. In WWII he was an instructor and military adviser, and he flew missions with the combat pilots. Eddie Rickenbacker is a true American hero. And now you know another story about the trials and sacrifices that brave men have endured for your freedom.*

*As you can see, I chose to pass it on. It is a great story that many don't know... You've got to be careful with old guys, you just never know what they have done during their lifetime.*

Email from Wendell

**23-Nov-17 8:50am @\$ 33<sup>o</sup>**

### Happy Thanksgiving Day

Here it is late November already. This year is slipping by very fast. The next thing it will be Christmas. That is not too bad as I am planning on getting out of here for a while after the first of the year.

### Road Trip

My plan is to get out of here in early January. I am thinking I won't get out of here on January 1<sup>st</sup>. One reason is there will be too many crazies on the road. Many people are doing too much celebrating and the others are in a hurry to get home after the holidays. I can wait a week or so for the traffic to let up.

Next week I am going to Little Canada (St. Paul) to pick up another bunch of kettlebells for Michelle. I am not sure which day they will be ready. I just know it will be next week. I may not try to go the whole round trip in one day like the last time. That was a little too much.

Later today or tomorrow I will work on the Camper. I pulled the bumper away from leaning on the A/C radiator, but I still need to pull the sheet metal back too. Driving it 700 miles could cause it to damage the radiator and those are expensive. I can

live with the bends as it gives my Camper a little character.

### New Camper

I looked at Sunny Island's ads yesterday and they have a used 1994 Camper that looks much better than mine. Mine is a 1995. But the asking price is less than \$12,000. I paid \$13,500 for mine in 2011. I have fixed a lot of my Camper's problems. Besides it is a Dodge!

I looked at the Dodge again. It looked a little cleaner than mine, but. It has sloppy seat covers in the front. Meaning that the front seats may be bad. It has a wide door in the back with no spare mounted on it. I wonder where they hid that. It has 166,134 miles on it. I only have 137,270 miles on mine.

The only good thing I like about it is that it has cup holders in the front. Mine does not! That is not a good enough reason to go look at it. It looks nice, but I will pass.

### More about the Road Trip

My initial plan for my trip has changed. It will be January and wintery out there. Since my trip will be partly in the snow country I need to re-plan my route. I am still looking at going through all 48 states without passing through any one twice.

When I started this route, I thought I needed to go through New Hampshire and New York twice. This was because they go from Canada to the ocean and block Maine. If I change my route just a little I can drive from Maine through Canada and return to the US at Pennsylvania. I would be able to say I went to Canada too.

Here is the first 10 states I would go through.

Illinois  
Iowa  
Missouri  
Arkansas  
Tennessee  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Georgia  
Florida

I could go the other way too.

Illinois  
Kentucky  
West Virginia  
Virginia  
US Capital  
Maryland  
Delaware  
New Jersey  
New York  
Connecticut  
Rhode Island

I will have to look it over some more, as there are many ways to get from here to there and back again. At one point it was 48 days at 250 miles per day for 12,000 miles. I am not sure now. Maybe I should look at it like 48 days at \$100.00 per day for \$4,800. ☺ We'll see.

### **3-Dec-17 10:21pm @home50°**

Well it has been a while here!

Last Tuesday I headed up to Saint Paul to pick up some kettlebells for Michelle with the Camper. She only had 8 for me to get this time.

I like these trips occasionally, because I get some time to be alone with my thoughts. I don't even have the radio turned on. Just the GPS.

It took about 7 hours to get up there. On the way home it started to get dark. Since my heater is working in the Camper I pulled into a truck stop and filled up with fuel and then parked for a few hours. I woke up around 10:00pm because I could not sleep, so I started driving. Around Millston or Warrens I felt like I had been sitting too long. At Tomah it started hurting but at Tomah there was a lot of construction, so I drove to the next exit at Oakdale. That was it!

My chest hurt so bad, I had to stop. I parked my Camper and walked in to the Love's truck stop and asked them to call the rescue to take me to the hospital. At that point my pain level was a 6-7-8 or

something. One person sat me down and another one got some aspirin. When the Rescue squad got there, they took me back to the Tomah hospital. After they checked me out, they moved me to Gundersen Hospital in La Crosse. I spent 4 days there!

I thought I was having another heart attack. I felt like what I remembered from 2006. They did all kinds of test, but it wasn't what they called a heart attack. I was having chest pains from a couple of heart blood vessels that were blocked. They scheduled me for test to look inside Thursday at 10:00am to what was happening.

Hospital's ORs get busy some time. I was low risk, so it was my turn to wait. There were three, yes 3, emergencies that got in after I was scheduled. Finally, it must have been 6:00pm when they transported me down to the operating room. After 2 hours, they were taking me back to the room.

I had 2 arteries that were blocked, and they put stents in both. Thank you Gundersen!

Michelle and Grant drove up to get me and drove my Camper home. Thanks Michelle & Grant!

It was nice having someone take care of me for a week. ☺

This tells me I need to start working on my health again.

It is December now and I have enough other things to do so I am out of here for now.

### **6-Dec-17 5:00pm @home 30°**

This is proofed a little better than other newsletters. Being that I am recovering from my ordeal last week, I have a little time to work on it. Let me know how it sounds.

I need to get working on me Christmas newsletter. I hope I receive one from you.

Later, 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](http://Lulu.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), [BarnesAndNoble.com](http://BarnesAndNoble.com), and from me personally.*

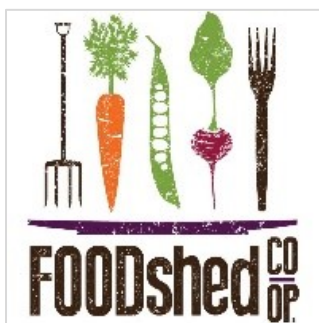
### Mike's and Petra's Books Pilgrimage Creations

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

### EW Training

#### Functional Strength 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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