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### 1-May-18 10:16pm @home 75° Dark

I just finished publishing issue number 167 and I see it is dark and late in the evening, so I thought I should email you before I go to bed.

Good night!

### 2-May-18 9:12am @EWT 72° overcast

Here it is May already and I have not headed out on my Road Trip. Here are some of the reasons.

I need to finished putting down the new flooring at EWT. Yes, I know I really don't need to be here, but I did say I would help.

There is the dryer vent I need to figure out. We now have a washer & dryer to clean the towels. All Michelle needs is a stove, oven, and a kitchen sink and I can move in. ☺

My Camper is not ready yet and neither am I. I need to buy that new laptop too. I will get out of here one of these days!

#### Garden Boxes

I did get the garden boxes assembled and installed the other day. Now I need to find a bunch of dirt/soil to fill them.

I need to get off this computer and figure out the dryer vent!

#### Dryer Vent

Whole lot easier than I thought. Stopping and looking things over helps greatly after thinking about the hardest way. Easy is good!

### 3-May-18 10:09am @EWT 67° overcast

At Starbucks I spent time talking with Wendell. I enjoy talking to him. Marie, his wife

is up in Harvard doing rehab. I guess she is taking over for me up there.

Michelle said she has some glue coming for the floor. She is with a client, so I don't have any detail about it. I will be glad when this floor project is over. Things are not going the smoothest.

#### Mike Asked

- “Are we starting a war? :-) What is this picture? Who?”

That would be this picture:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10211671363966149&set=a.1917472023019.2093428.1428541497&type=3&theater> It is Jon who has been reading my newsletter for years.

- What does the chart about light bulbs tell me? The first column is old incandescent bulbs. But what is the second? Watts vs. Lumens: comparing eggs to apples? It doesn't compute.... and you are talking about *three* things: incandescent, CF, and LEDs. And another question: What are CFs.

When we grew up we used “incandescence bulbs” We would buy, says a 60-watt bulb and it gave off 60-watts of light. The new Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs would light up the street if they were 60-Watts. All my chart tells you is the equivalent amount of light a bulb gives off. Meaning an old 60-Watt gives off about 800-Lumens and LED bulb that gives off about 800-lumens only uses 9-Watts of energy. CF is Compact Fluorescent.

It is Bill and Kim that look like they are sleeping. They are old friends.

As for the price of gas, I don't know from that picture. This picture is a picture of Tim's dad from a very long time ago. I was hoping someone could tell me the price of gas back then. It is near \$2.98 again.

#### Mike Also Says

- Quebec is French speaking, but you can get by quite well with English. Most speak it, especially near the border.

*I guess I got is a little hurry to publish without answering all the pictures. Hope I cleared up some of them.*

#### **4-May-18 8:45am @EWT 59° cloudy**

It is Cold! Well, I got spoiled with it being in the 70s the last few days. I had to put a jacket on this morning. Putting on a jacket was a good thing. Now I have a place for my billfold! I guess the cool weather isn't so bad after all.

#### **6-May-18 4:34pm @home 69° Sunny**

After sitting around watching TV too much I decided to work a little more on my Road Trip.

#### Road Trip

Going to all 48 states without crossing any one of them twice can be a challenge. I thought I could go from IL through IA, MO, then KY TX and NC. While looking in to the path across the Mississippi River from MO into KY, I got stuck. Google Maps shows no bridge across the Mississippi from Mo to KY.

This means I will be catching KY when I come back from the eastern states. It will add a few hundred miles to the trip.

Today it looks Like I catch all 5 Great Lakes and all the Woodstock's without going too far out of my way. With Google I found 12 Woodstock's. The list is below. If I missed any let me know and I will add it to my list.

Woodstock's			
ID	City	State	Other
1	Woodstock	IL	Home
15	Woodstock	Georgia	
17	Woodstock	Alabama	
57	Woodstock	Minnesota	
67	Woodstock	ON	Canada

Woodstock's			
ID	City	State	Other
76	Woodstock	New Hampshire	
77	Woodstock	Vermont	
78	Woodstock	Connecticut	
79	Woodstock	New York	
84	Woodstock	Maryland	
87	Woodstock	Virginia	
91	Woodstock	Ohio	
95	Woodstock	IL	Back Home

The ID number is the order it comes in my current route.

I think my route is about as short as it can be for now. I will be refining it and adding some sightseeing trips as time goes on. Right now, it is only 12,700 miles. Driving 300 miles-per-day or 5 hours-per-day it will take 42-43 days. It will consume about 1,000 gallons of fuel. I hope the prices come down a little.

As I said before this is the current plan. It could all change before I get finished typing. ☺

### **7-May-18 6:55pm @Home 76<sup>0</sup> Sunny**

Well I checked and there is nothing I can do for the plumbing in the bathroom I need to replace the steel pipes with copper. If my pressure gets any lower I will be able to walk up to Starbucks to get a glass of water and bring it home before I can fill one in the bathroom. Well not quite that slow, but it is slow!

I will call a plumber tomorrow.

I found this old picture of Saint Mary's. It looks like the time when I went to school there. The school is on the far left of the picture. The right side would have been the high school.

Does anyone else remember when it looked like this?



### **9-May-18 8:32am @\*\$ 57<sup>0</sup> Just rained**

#### **EWT Flooring**

Well Michelle hired a company to install the flooring. I am glad because it was a little more than we could handle. They have everything they need to get the job done. We would have to get new tools and struggle to learn how to do it just to not do it again for years and years.

Before the first of June it should be a done job.

#### **Road Trip**

I pretty much have my route mapped out for my Road Trip. The path is a general route and most likely the way I will head. I may change my mind at each intersection.

I am thinking I might head East first. I haven't been to the eastern states very often. I will head in the direction of Main then head back to Michigan via Canada. Then across the upper US to North Dakota. Then down through Kamas then north and back around to California. After that I can cover the southern states and head back to Illinois via Tennessee.

This is a rough idea. I don't have my map with me, so I am trying to remember it backwards. I was going to drive in the other direction, so I have my head screwed on the other way and I can't visualize the map right now.

If I head east first I can abort when I get to Wisconsin if needed. 13,000 miles is a long drive!

My plans are to stop in Sedona, Santa Fe, Iron Mountain, St Cloud, St. Johns, Hutchison and Maquoketa to visit and/or sight see.

Since I am still here, you must know I don't have a schedule just yet.

I need to check out my Camper and my other gear to make sure it is all working.

Do I need a new Camera and Laptop? I think I may need a camera or at least new batteries. The laptop I want now!

Other than that, I need to gather some funds. I need enough to pay for \$3000 for fuel. I need to get to Indiana or I will have to drive through Chicago to get back home. ☺

I am sure I may be over thinking this whole Road Trip.

### Plumbing

I have a plumber coming over Tuesday to check out the plumbing in the bathroom. The pressure is very, very low. I think the steel pipes have plugged up and it all needs to be replaced. The rest of the house is copper and working just fine.

The plumbing was installed in the 1950's when all they used was the galvanized steel pipes. I have seen the insides after 50 years of use. It isn't pretty.

Yes, it is something that is delaying my Road Trip. ☺

### 11-May-18 7:55a. @\*\$ 45° Overcast

### Flooring

Well today is the day they will be installing the new flooring at EWT. I will see how the big guys do it. I have been doing things for myself for so long I have got set in my ways. I may never install flooring again, but I can learn how it is done. Ooo, coffee is hot!

Michelle said that they will be there today after the last morning class at 9:30. We have a half hour to clear the area. There isn't much to

move, but it is heavy stuff. I figured I should have coffee and tell you all about it first. ☺

It will take all weekend to get this done. That means 48 hours not using it. So, the 8:30 class today will be the last class until Monday morning at 5:15am. Wait, I wonder if Sunday's Yoga class is off too.

Ok, I see Michelle cancelled Yoga too. That means we have until Monday at 5:15 to get things back together.

### Road Trip

Instead of watching TV all night, I worked on my trip plans. I started refining my route. I broke it down into smaller paths. Each day trip is near 300 to 400 miles and/or 5 to 6 hours driving.

I used Google Maps to plot the trip, so I could see how it looks. There a few places I need to put another stop into the route to stay in the state or drive miles out of the way.

I decided to route it to the east this time. It should make me get back from Canada. I should get to Iron Mountain Michigan about day 12 or 13. And in Sedona Arizona around day 27 or 28.

Remember this is only a rough plan. I have only got to Sedona and I was tired. 28 days on the road tired. ☺ Besides it was bed time.

I need to go over the first 28 days and make sure each day is not too long or too many miles. I went through the route very fast and did not look too close to the hours or miles. There were a few times when I had very low miles but long on hours. Either long hours or lots of miles will do me in! I need to go over my route when I get to the end.

### 12-May-18 11:39am @home 45° overcast

### 30-Year Owned

Today I have owned my house for 30 years!



## Almost 60-Years

Mike is working on his life story. He asked Cork and me what we remembered of our trip around Lake Michigan. I remembered little parts and Cork remembered other little parts. It was in the early 1960s when we made that trip.

It is amazing how much stuff I remembered because it was over 55 years ago.

I remember sleeping on the shore of Lake Superior in Canada and it was cold and I moved into the car. When we were driving through Wisconsin the radio wouldn't work. Mike told us something about the iron in the ground was absorbing all the radio signals.

I remembered other things after Cork and Mike said something about the trip. I just remembered it was 2013 when Mike, Cork, and I did our next road trip. I guess a fifty-year gap isn't that bad.

## Road Trip

Now that I have pretty much figured out my route, I need to start getting ready. I wonder if I can find someone to tag along. I don't know if I can stand myself. Wonder if there is someone else out there I could get along with for that long. I can be a pain sometimes! ☺

## EWT Flooring

I was there when they arrived, and they seemed to have things in control. I hung around for a while but was just in the way.

Michelle said they were breaking for lunch when she left yesterday. I will check it out after lunch and see what it looks like.

## Apple TV

My Apple TV says that it cannot get connected to the network. In the years I have had it I have reloaded the software 3 times. Today I need to try again. I need to find out how that show ends. Funny, by the time I get this fixed I would have forgotten and must watch the whole thing. ☺

## 16-May-18 8:24am @ Starbucks, 59° Sunny

Oh, that is not how I spell \*\$. Oh well!

## Plumber

Yesterday the Plumber came over to look at my problem in the bathroom. He told me what the problem was, and I think I can fix it. It will save me a bunch of money. I started working on it a little but most of the tools I needed were in my toolbox out at EWT. I didn't feel like driving out and getting them. After all I will be there again today. Never do today what you can put off until tomorrow! ☺

## Road Trip

My general route is plotted. That part is ready. Now I can start working on the Camper. I asked Marie, my sister, if she wanted to ride along. I am not sure she wants to go the two months. She did sound like she was interested.

Many people think, I should not go alone. When I walked across Spain I went alone, but I was never alone. This trail is about the same amount of time, but I will be alone in the Camper most of the time 48 states in 48 days doesn't sound so bad. It is about 14,000 miles in the metal box! It would be nice to have someone to talk to.

On the Camino there were 178,000 other people walking the same walk in 2012. I never was alone.

Am I having second thoughts. Well, maybe. Being that I am getting ready and it is getting near reality Yes, I am thinking about it. It is one of those "Fears" that may or may not have power over the reality. Today it will be a concern more than anything.

## Garden

The Radishes have just come out of the ground. The Strawberries have flowers. The Rhubarb has started to get flowers. This is not good! This is the green Rhubarb it may grow different than

the red kind. I don't remember seeing flowers on the red Rhubarb ever.

In any case I need to harvest the Rhubarb today and work on my plumbing afterwards.

### Wet Basement

When I started working on the plumbing I found the cellar was wet. I hooked up and turned on the dehumidifier to start drying the floor.

This water was from the hose was lose just outside the window and spraying on it and running inside.

Finally got it almost dry and it rained. I guess the rain gutter is plugged too. The rain gutter over the bathroom window has always been a problem. It must be the gutter.

### Cause & Effect

Electric bill is higher. This is because I am running the humidifier. This is because the floor is wet in the basement. This is because the hose connection is loose. This is because I didn't have my pipe plyers. This was because my tool box was at EWT. This was because I was helping Michelle. So, you see, it was Michelle's fault my electric bill is going up. :☺

Or I could have just turned off the water in the first place. I better take Michelle some coffee.

### 17-May-18 7:44am @\*\$ 63° Sunny

Looks to be a great day coming out this morning.

### Plumbing

Shower plumbing is fixed. I could use it as a car wash now. I have a couple things to change and it will be all done for another twenty years.

The shower head that came with the unit dumps too much water. And I need to use a shorter pipe on the spout. The new one is different.

Once that is done I can start working on the sink water. It has the same problem as the shower did.

I had Community Plumbing come over and look at my water flow problem. He told me the problem wasn't as bad as I thought. He thought it was most likely the mixing valve in the center of the faucet. He was right! The shower faucet was plugged. I could see it. Being it was so old I could not find a new part. I could have had fixed it, but I could not get it apart. I decided to just replace the whole faucet. Thanks Community Plumbing!

### EWT Flooring

The floor is in and it looks great. Stop in and look at it when you get some time.

Today I will start putting in the baseboard. There is 2-300 feet of it to install. Michelle is already doing her thing to make everything look good!

### 19-May-18 9:11am @\*\$ 7° overcast

### Bad Days

Well, the days are not so bad as they are getting frustrated. A bunch of frustratingness!

I installed a new faucet in the shower and it went ok. Not great but ok. I need to make some adjustments because the new one was a little different size. I could not find the same faucet after 20 years. I kind of expected that. I had to change piping because it needed to be shorter. All in all, it went as well as I thought it might.

Job done! Well you would think so. I still have the sink faucet to change.

The sink is mostly open so There wasn't much to do to get at the plumbing to replace.

I looked it all over and saw the packing on one of the shutoff valves had lime on it. That means it had been leaking. Ok, I'll change it to.

It was a little harder unhooking all the old plumbing because I had the stand on my head to get to it under the sink. All in all, thing seemed to go just fine. Well that is until I tried to remove the nuts that hold the faucet itself.

I could not get under the cabinet enough to get a good reach on the nut to loosen it. I tried and tried, and it wasn't working.

Ok they make a Special Tool for that and I don't have one. I looked up on Menards web side and there a few different kinds ranging from six to thirty-nine-ninety-five. I thought Cork might have one I could use. He did, and I went over and got it.

Later I decided to get it apart. Ok I didn't tell you I tried removing the cabinet to make it easier to get at those nuts on the faucet. It was open when I installed in in 1989! Anyway, after removing all the screws that held the cabinet it would not move! It would not move! Not even a little.

I didn't want to break it. I thought about just taking a hammer and busting it up and replacing it. First, I looked up the replacement cost. A cheap vanity cost almost \$600.00 and I would still need a top for it. Probably \$1000 before I was done. Let's not break anything!

So Special Tool in hand I went in and removed the hoses and the first nut that hold the faucet. Then I removed the other hose and remove the other nut.

After working with the special tool at many different angles one of the ears broke off the nut. These nuts are plastic and plastic gets brittle over the years. It is almost 30 years since I installed it.

Anyway, I tried and tried and I'm frustrated right now!

I quit for the day after looking up another kind of Special Tool for those plastic nuts. I was on the way out to Menards when I ended up here.

I went by EWT to pick up the salt spreader. It need to be cleaned out. Then I forgot those plastic nuts to make sure I get the right special tool. I must go back home and grab the pictures for the Special Tool I think I want. So, I have made 3-4 trips back home because I am frustrated. I am here now!

I just don't bend like I used to for crawling under that sink. Maybe this new Special Tool will help.

I guess that is enough venting my frustrating-ness. I will go home and then to Menards. ☺

## **22-May-18 11:35am @EWT**

### **Road Trip**

I have been searching for more Woodstock's to add to my route. I thought my route might be done enough, but no! I found 8 more places called Woodstock. I need to research them before I get out of here. I don't want to make this trip and find out when I get home that I almost got to all the places I was heading.

I made a route to the 14 Woodstock's I found. Today I found 22. I must research them when I get home. They maybe schools or roads and not cities or towns. I don't need to visit Woodstock's that are not a village of sorts. Woodstock also could just be a stock of wood.

I need to cut the grass first thing when I get home.

## **23-May-18 8:46am @\*\$ 61° Partly Cloudy**

Here it the 23<sup>rd</sup> and I am no closer to heading out on my Road Trip. I looked those 22 Woodstocks and two of them are off the list. One looks to just be a School and the other one looks to be a crossing of Woodstock street and Woodstock road. I will look at them again later.

I plotted most of the rest of them into my plan. There are twenty Woodstock's to see. I might have added another thousand miles to the trip.

This 48-State Road Trip is getting longer and longer. Someone here at Starbucks said that I should stop at all the Starbucks I can find too. Today there are 13,930 in the US. That is about one every mile of my Road Trip. I think I will pass on that!

Maybe I'll stop at one per state. That would be about one a day. I could handle that! If I keep adding scheduled stops to this Road Trip I will be driving and stopping, driving and stopping, driving and stopping, etc. I will be on the road for the next 20 years. I started out with 48-states in 48-days. I am up to 51 states in 55 days.

I need to get out of here for a while. The walls are closing in on me.

### **29-May-18 5:56am @home 87° clear**

We are finally over this holiday weekend. It was in the 90s making it hot! Then there were the brakes on the Camper were acting up. Well, the dishwasher smoked itself. And all the other stuff from before had to be put back together. Don't you just feel sorry for me☺

Well don't! The bathroom is back together for now. I still need to replace those old pipes, but it can wait for now. It will have to because I have spent most of my funding. I have the brakes on the camper fixed. They say it was just rust in the drums. The controller on the dishwasher cost about half the price of a new machine. Yep, it should be here tomorrow. I bought this a very long time ago. The service manual was printed in 1989. I don't remember how long ago I bought but \$360 is more than I want to pay for a part when I can buy a whole new dishwasher for a \$597.34.

I thought the brakes were going to be a major job, so it was only about \$80. But I need shocks and they will cost over \$600. They can wait for now.

I bought a new laptop to replace the other one with the little hard drive. 32gb is nowhere near enough storage for the things I use it for. I have been fighting with it too long. Anyway, I picked up a \$233.00 HP with a 64GB SSD (Solid State) drive in it. No that is big enough, but I had plans to upgrade it.

I got it home and plugged it in and registered it and left it sit over night while the battery got fully charged.

In the morning I looked to find a larger SSD drive to install later. No one had one in there listing that could work. Bummer! Then I unplugged it and found out that the Battery was dead. Yup, it had a bad battery! I took it back and got my money back.

With a bad battery and I couldn't find a new SSD to fit in it I didn't want it.

Yesterday I ordered a new laptop from NewEgg.com and an SSD drive to replace the HDD that comes with it. Ye they all make a replaceable SSD drive to replace the HDD that comes with it.

The SSD drives are so much faster and use less energy too.

My new dishwasher has a delay start that will save me even more energy. At this rate I will soon be able to run the whole house on two "D" batteries for a month.

How much energy did I use last month? Where is that electric bill...

Here is 2017 electric usage. They say I used 5043 kWh. That is about 420 kWh a month. Let's see how this year does.

Wait I could shut down this computer to save a bunch. Bye!

### **30-May18 9:41am @EWT 74° overcast**

I wonder if I stared looking at the weather every time I post it with the date if I would find a pattern? I could make my own forecast.

It looks and feels like it is going to rain. That's is all you get of this.

I must go do something at EWT!

#### **Laptop**

The new Laptop & SSD drive should be here tomorrow. I need to work on that, but I also have the new dishwasher coming later today or tomorrow too. I guess I'm going to be busy for a couple days.



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## Family Tree

I have been working on the Family Tree and have the people count to 6,700 now. I have been using FamilySearch.com. There are people in both FamilySearch.com and Ancestry.com. I need both. Some people are in both and some in one or the other.

Maybe I will get up to 21,000 like Tim soon! ☺

### **31-May-18 10:36pm @Home 73° Dark**

So, it is getting late and I thought I could write something before this day and issue is ended. Well I got nothing. Maybe tomorrow I'll think of something. For now, Good night

### **4-Jun-18 7:21pm @home 79° Sun is setting**

I just proofed this newsletter and I notices the is some space left on this page. I though I might post a couple of pictures

## Milk Day

Do You remember?



Marty's Random Thoughts

Well I remember the milk bottles!

## MY BOOKS



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

2<sup>ND</sup> EDITIONS

*My books are available online from [Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and from me personally.*

### Mike's and Petra's Books

#### Pilgrimage Creations

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

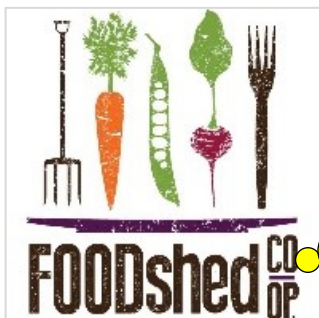
## EW Training

### 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!*

Randomly Published on Wednesday, June 06, 2018 2:54 PM