



MARTY'S CHRISTMAS

NEWSLETTER

2011

This year started out with green grass on January 2nd, but it did not last. After a 24 inch snowfall on February 2nd even the groundhog couldn't get out to see his shadow. The weather seemed to be purity much normal the rest of the year.

I continued reading books this year, finishing twelve more books. I thought that would diminish my pile of unread books. Somehow the pile got larger after a couple trips to book stores.

In March I set up a web site for the family to upload family pictures getting ready for a family reunion in September. There are about 2,000 photos now and I still am going through Mom's albums and movies. I have become a sort of historian.

In the middle of the year my sister, Marie and I went on a field trip. The trip was to Michigan to check the Tri-City Record in Watervliet. Three of us were born there and we wanted to see if we had made the newspaper. Even with back issues going back over 128 years we had not found our names. Later we went to Elwood Iowa where Mom grew up to check out that area. Both places we drove around checking area we lived and visited in the last 60 years. We had a couple of fun trips.

While in Michigan we were pleased to find Aunt Margaret, my Dad's youngest sister, and had a visit. Sadly she passed away in September. Aunt Margaret at the age of 93 was the last of Dad's brothers and sisters. We will miss you Aunt Margaret.

Twenty of use made it to the family reunion in September. We held it on what would have been my Dad's 100th birthday. We had family from all over the world. It was great to see everyone.

Two new ladies, Michelle and Ardeen came into my life this year. The three of have turned in to good friends. Michelle is the owner of a training center and somehow got me to start exercising. I have been working out three days a week. I am getting stronger, more flexible and I have dropped about 15 pounds. After my workout Ardeen, Michelle, and I enjoy some lively conversation while having breakfast. Thanks ladies for letting be part of your life.

As for the rest of the family and friends, Mike and Petra have settled into New Mexico after walking half way around the world. They just finished writing a book about the adventure. I can't wait to read it. Anila and her family headed off the Albania for a long visit after being in Woodstock for over 13 years. Aunt Annie is still sewing. Jeremy & Tonya are still electricianing & teaching. Everyone else is doing what they do too. I am running out of room. Please tell your own stories.

My plans for next year are to keep exercising, finish archiving Mom's pictures and I am thinking about taking a very long road trip. Maybe the Camino de Santiago or drive to all 48 states. I'm not sure yet

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year