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1-Oct-2008 1:20pm 55°

In The Past

The Model T was introduced on October 1, 1908 and so technically may be considered a 1909 model in line with the industry's practice of dating cars by model year. Over the next 18 years, the Model T would dominate US car sales, with half the industry's total output in 1918-1919 and 1921-1925. In 1911-15, 1918, and 1921, Ford earned more than all other automakers combined.

Source: <http://www.thehenryford.org/exhibits/showroom/1908/photos.html>



The Cubs and White Sox

I would like to see these two teams play in the World Series. The Cubs have come a long ways in the last 100 years. The Sox just made it to the playoffs this year. Personally I want the Cubs to go all the way. May the best team win!

GO Cubs, GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Electric Usage

I just read my electric meter because it is about time for the electric company to read it so I can see how I did this month. I haven't done any improvements this month but

I think I saved about \$5.00. If the rates went up then I saved little or no cash. Maybe 75 kWh were saved. I'll keep right on shaving until I am paying nothing.

02-Oct-2008 4:14pm 59°

The Cubs didn't do so well last night. Maybe they will do better today.

The 700 Billion dollars is going to get handed out.

How much food is 700 billion dollars?

When Wall Street Journal makes the pronouncement that Wall Street is dead, it is time that food writers take the crisis in the Western economy seriously. The 700 billion dollar amount pitched as a bailout is bound to bring out a food metaphor.



According to CNN, it is 2000 McDonald's apple pies for every single American.

I give you this that I found on the internet:

700 billion dollars buys an unimaginable amount of food, which is why the apple pie metaphor sticks. It breaks it down into a more manageable number. 2000 commercial pies brings forth an image of a man with a large but conceivable pile of steaming Americana. It brings it back to a human scale. As a small aside, America only produces around \$1.6 billion worth of apples every year, so it would take until the year 2445 for them to grow \$700 billion worth, all other things being equal.

It's too bad that finance writers never reach for the top end of the culinary spectrum. How many black truffles per American will that buy? (5 kilos) How much foie gras? (31lbs, whole lobes).

Chef Ferran Adria runs one of the most lauded restaurants in Spain, El Bulli. Their cuisine, based on a breaking down structure of classical dishes and uncovering new techniques, generally falls under the rubric of "molecular cuisine". Each menu takes his team six months of experimentation to perfect. For their set menu, a single sitting will leave your wallet 155 Euros a head lighter.

For 700 billion dollars, I could shout a meal at El Bulli for every person in the world's 5 most populous nations, 27 exquisite courses for all of China, India, USA, Indonesia and Brazil,. As El Bulli only takes 2000 bookings per annum, it would take 1.5 million years to feed them all.

At the other end of the food economy, the entirety of the UN costs around \$15 billion dollars a year to run. Of this, about \$3 billion goes to the World Food Programme which they use to assist 86.1 million people in 2007, a measly percentage of the 850 million undernourished people on earth.

Based on the sort of efficiency that the World Food Programme currently achieves, 700 billion dollars would feed the entirety of world's hungry for 23 years, provided that the leagues of the world's undernourished don't continue to expand (which they most certainly will). Especially with an economy in crisis.

Source: <http://www.sbs.com.au/blogarticle/108387/How-much-food-is-700-billion-dollars>

Wine Making

Today I started that pumpkin wine I was talking about last month. And I finally bottled the rice and dandelion wine I started last spring. Both of these wines need to age for about a year.

3-Oct-2008 7:39am 41°

I'm finishing up printing issue #40 of **Marty's Random Thoughts** this morning.

Later I will be going out and making sure I have every thing I need to put the siding on the garage tomorrow. Yes, Tomorrow is the day. Bill and Steve are coming over tomorrow to help. The three of us should be able to finish it off very easily. That is why I want to look things over and make sure I have every thing we need for the task.

The laser printer is just printing away over there without jamming or miss printing or anything bad. There are about 10 more sheets to print then I have to fold and staple it.

Maybe the answer to printing it is to wait until the one side had printed and is cool and dry. It does seem to give me more problems when I just turn the paper over and print on the other side right away. I printed the fronts last night just before I went to bed. This morning I am printing the other sides of the paper. Maybe that was part of the problem with the color printer too.

That new printer I used would automatically print on both sides it had a setting you could set to let wait before it turn over and printed on the other side. After all these years maybe I learned something. It is finished printing now I need to fold and staple.

Birthday

Matt's birthday is today. Matt was my last boss before I retired from Knaack. He and a friend started their own business. While there were getting going he held down a part time job to get insurance. He says he is doing fine and likes what he is doing. Happy Birthday Matt!

Cubs, Sox, Brewers

These are the three teams I am watching. So far none of them have done very well. Well the White Sox play again tonight. Let's hope for the best.

04-Oct-2008 7:00pm 49°

Good evening. Bill came over today and we started to install the siding on the garage. Steve couldn't make be cause he was home with the flu. It took us an hour to get the first piece installed. It just would not go on like we thought it should. It seemed like nothing would let that pieces align. So we just walked away and started another piece in another side. That piece almost fell on the wall. The third piece was easy too. Hummm! So we went back to where we started and we just kept trying until it would install. I think we both said; "QUICK, NAIL IT!"

In the next hour I think we cut and nailed 20 to 30 pieces. After that every piece we install just fell onto the wall. The first piece on the bottom was only a little hard because we were standing on our heads because it was only a few inches off the ground. After lunch I was installing alone until I started to get tired.

It was that first piece that was just a pain to get started. Maybe we just needed the learning process.

06-Oct-2008 7:22am 50°

I'm up early today thinking about breakfast. I see I hadn't turned off the computer yesterday so I was eating on my electricity. I am guess I might get my electric bill today. I will be able to see how bad I did.

Yesterday I was out installing a few pieces of siding before the rains came. So I stopped. Bill called last night and said that if he didn't have to work so that he'd be over after work to help for a little while. I enjoy his help and the company. Things go better when you're not alone.

I think I will go have breakfast and then see what I can get done before the rains of tomorrow. When I come back I will have to check and see how the baseball teams are doing. On the street I heard bad news and I need to check it out.

Garage Project

This morning while working on the back of the garage, I noticed it was not going to be even on top. I removed all of what I had installed Saturday after Bill left and put it back on right. Then I hit my thumb with the hammer. OUCH!

Bill came over this evening and we worked together and got a lot more finished. We worked until the mosquitoes started to make us their dinner. Thanks for the help Bill.

7-Oct-2008 8:29am 52°

My thumb feels a little better this morning. I tried soaking in ice water last night but that made me thirsty. After a while it started to feel better all by itself. Today it just smarts when I squeeze it. So I just will not squeeze it and it will get better.

Garage Project

After I get the siding finished I need to get rain gutters installed. I would like to install seamless rain gutters. Does any one know where I can get some 25 foot pieces of rain gutters delivered? I thought about just having someone come over and doing it for me. I might do that anyway. First I want to get an idea of how much it would cost.

Rain Water

I want to catch to rain water from the roof and use it to water the grass. Every inch of rain that falls on the garage roof is a potential for about 300 gallons of water for the grass. I don't think I would get that much because it is under a big tree. But I could get 50 gallons.

The house is another story. It has about 1200 square feet of catching area. With an inch of rain I could catch as much as 750 gallons each time it rains.

You may ask; "Where am I going with this?" Well my lawn is about 5000 square feet. They a good healthy lawn needs about ½" of water a week during the growing season. If I capture some rain water and use it during the dry spells. It may help my lawn without wasting a lot of city water. That will leave a lot of nice clean water for you to drink.

I show we averaged 27 inches of rain in the last 4 years. Say the growing season is for 26 weeks. So the lawn would need about 13 inches of rain. That shows that we get

enough rain for the lawn but there are still dry spells. I could catch some of the rain that fall on the roof. It just goes down the storm drain and out to a creek some where anyway.

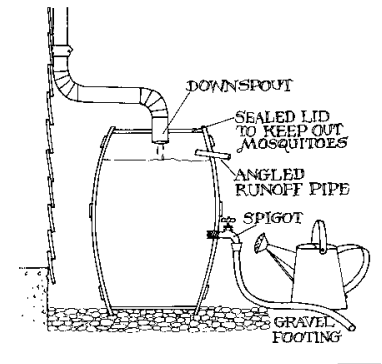
Pay Phone

On the way back from having coffee I saw a pay phone. I didn't think there were any of them around any more. I guess since I have a cell phone I never think about them any more. This one just caught my eye because of when I saw it. It was on Church Street in front of that restaurant by the bowling ally. Now that I made an issue about this I will be seeing pay phones and phone booths all over the place.

Rain Water Usage

Maybe you don't want to hear this but I am going to tell you any. I figured with the rain I record over the last 4 years if I to store half of what fall on the roof when it rains over ½" when it rains and only until my pond is full then put it on the lawn during the dry spell I would take care of half of the watering. There would be a few dry spells like August was this year.

Wait! I just looked at my calculations and I may be able to do this and have enough rain water without getting too carried away with this. But I have to go out and get the garage sided first.



Garage Project

Today I didn't put up any of the siding. Instead I put up that mine retaining wall in the back. Remember that is the on to keep the dirt off the side of the garage. I got that done just before the rains. Now I can just take it easy the rest of the day.

A Child's View

RETARDED GRANDPARENTS - (this was actually reported by a teacher)

After Christmas, a teacher asked her young pupils how they spent their holiday away from school.

One child wrote the following:

We always used to spend the holidays with Grandma and Grandpa. They used to live in a big brick house but Grandpa got retarded and they moved to Florida Now they live in a tin box and have rocks painted green to look like grass. They ride around on their bicycles and wear name tags because they don't know who they are anymore. They go to a building called a wreck center, but they must have got it fixed because it is all okay now, they do exercises there, but they don't do them very well. There is a swimming pool too, but they all jump up and down in it with hats on. At their gate, there is a doll house with a little old man sitting in it. He watches all day so nobody can escape. Sometimes they sneak out, and go cruising in their golf carts. Nobody there cooks, they just eat out. And, they eat the same thing every night --- early birds. Some of the people can't get out past the man in the doll house. The ones, who do get out, bring food back to the wrecked center for pot luck. My Grandma says that Grandpa worked all his life to earn his retardment and says I should work hard so I can be retarded someday too.

When I earn my retardment, I want to be the man in the doll house. Then I will let people out, so they can visit their grandchildren.

..... PRICELESS

Source: Email from Arlene

08-Oct-2008 9:42am 52°

Well it is raining this morning; I guess that stops the siding on the garage for now.

Rain Gauge

Thinking about rain, how is the rain gauge working? Hummm...it still looks like it is reading low. I think I will have to remove it off the roof and give a good cleaning and maybe do some repairs.

When it isn't raining you don't think about it. When it is you can't go up on the roof and service it. It is just like a leak in the roof. When it isn't raining it doesn't leak and you don't care. When it is raining you can't do any thing about it.

Motor Home

Many of you know I have a motor home sitting in the driveway. And that is what it had been doing since last spring. Today since it was raining instead of working on the garage I thought I should winterize it some what. One of these days it is going to get cold and freeze so I figured I should put antifreeze in the water lines. I had opened the valves to drain the water the other day. So the first thing I needed to do is blow the water out of the lines. After the second try with the drains closed it went well. Then I opened the drains to get the last little bits.

Then I disconnected the inlet hose for the pump and put on the hose and the other end in the jug of antifreeze. It should take only a gallon as long as you bypass the water heater. I did that. So I watched the hose to see the antifreeze flow when I turned on the pump. I figured it would take only a few seconds to pressure the system.

The pump never stopped. I figured I left one of the faucets open. I checked but all were closed. Hummm...Oh, the drain must be closed too. So, most of the first gallon went down the driveway. After closing the drain it only took a 3/4 gallon or so to flush the system of all of the water with antifreeze.

Now I can rest easy about the system freezing up this winter. Now I just have to wash it and move it to the edge of the driveway out of the way and cover it up.

Before I can do that I need to finish the garage because it will be in the way to finish that.

Tomorrow I will go back to working on the garage.

Campaign for Office

I have new running mate. Voviollca has agreed to run with me. Remember we are running for office. That is any office we can get elected into.



Now all I have to do is get Voviollca to approve this and I can print some bumper stickers for you.

09-Oct-2008 3:49pm 65°

I have been working on the garage today. I just stopped for the day and I found this email.

I have the Investment answer

*If you had purchased \$1,000.00 of Delta Air Lines stock one year ago you would have \$49.00 left.
With Enron, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000.00.
With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.*

*But, if you had purchased \$1,000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all of the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have \$214.00 cash.
Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle.
It's called the 401-Keg*

*A recent study found the average American walks about 900 miles a year.
Another study found Americans drink, on the average, 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon.*

*Makes You Proud To Be An American!
Source: Email from Arlene*

Garage Project

I have to put the top piece of siding on 3 sides and then the finishing strip on the top then the siding if done. All of those pieces need to be special cut and installed using a step ladder.

After the siding is finished I have to paint the fascia and put up rain gutters. And I want to have a rain barrel too.

Pumpkin

When I bought those pumpkins to make wine I didn't how much work it was going to get the pumpkins ready. This morning I took one of the pumpkins apart made it in the in the kind of pumpkin you get in a can. One pumpkin made three pounds. That is 3 of those small cans. I also have a bunch of seeds that I saved. If I plant those seeds and the average one pumpkin per seed, we are going to have a lot of pumpkins next year.



10-Oct-2008 8:16am 39°

It is cold this morning. Some one said there was frost the other day. I didn't record any temperatures below freezing here. And that is just fine with me. There could have been some colder areas other than my house. They can have it if they want.

Venting

I was wondering why we pay taxes. If I remember correctly our form of government should be *of the people by the people and for the people*. And all of us are created equal. So the taxes we pay are to be used for the common good.

Keeping up the roads is a common good. Police and fire protection is common. The military is a common good. How is bailing out some businesses a common good? The way I see it even is we bailout all businesses it still isn't for the common good.

I don't know if this is good economics to do this. I know I have away just bought things if I had the cash. And if the wasn't cash I would use plastic money. Some time I would rent money from the bank like when I bought my house and the RV and a couple cases in the past.

We will have to wait and see how this works out now.

I would love to have to pay a million dollars in taxes some day. Being single that would have meant I would have to earn about 3 millions dollars. 1/3 Taxes!

11-Oct-2008 12:49pm 73°

Garage Project

Yesterday Bill came over and helped me with the siding. We just about got finished. As I recall 3 things kept us from finishing. First was the Lady bugs were attacking us. Then there was the shade. Yes, the shade. It was just cool enough that when we were cutting the siding it was shattering. Not really braking like glass but it was cracking while I was cutting. We moved to the sun and that was just enough to solve that. Then we were both dragging. Tired that is. At least I was. I figured I could finish on Saturday. Oh, that is today! Well I haven't got started yet. Maybe I'll start after lunch.

Electric Bill

I got my electric bill in the mail today I only used 637 kWh at a cost of \$78.73 that is only a dollar away from what I was hoping for.

The Siding

It's 5:21pm and I just installed the last piece of siding. That doesn't mean I am finished. It just mean that that piece is installed. Tomorrow I will give it a once over and see if there is any adjustments I need to do. I think it is ok, but I will check it again after a good nights sleep.

I do have to wash it because there some dirty hand prints on it because I did not always have clean hands.

Then I can work on the fascia painting and the rain gutters. And the landscaping in the back and that fence has to be to reinstall. And tomorrow is another day.

12-Oct-2008 8:12pm 67°

Good evening. Today I got paint on the fascia and paint off the windows. Yes, I got paint off the windows. When I paint around the windows I always get it on the glass I

had to scrape that off. I need to clean the windows but if I wait long enough it might rain and it may do a better job than me.

Tomorrow I will check on rain gutters. I have no idea what those will cost. I know with out them the rain splats the mud up on my new siding. And if I have rain gutters I can have a rain barrel and save the water. So I will have to get some prices.

13-Oct-2008 12:14pm 69°

Yesterday in 1492 Columbus arrives in Bahamas [real Columbus Day]

Today is Monday and a lot of places are closed for yesterday's holiday. But I get to go shopping for rain gutters and taking out the trash.

Electric usages

I am looking at my energy usage again. Today 11 days in to the billing cycle I am guessing it will be between \$44.85 and \$51.15. Yes I am trying to figure that close.

Average cost went from \$0.1175 to \$0.1236 per kWh on this last bill. That is an increase of 5% over last month. Since I have been working on this I went from 1168 kWh down to 637 kWh used in a month. At the same time the price went up from 11-1/2 cents to almost 12-1/2 a kWh. So I cut my usage by 45% but only lowered my bill by 42%.

The biggest change I did was to use the solar clothes drier. I did changes some other things too that helped. Fixed the A/C and took all the TV stuff off of standby. Oh, I am turning off my PC most of the time when I am not using it. I still have a lot I can do. The whole house is drawing 500 watts on average and right now it is 600 watts. I wonder what is running now. Hummm... 500 watts time 24 hours time 30 days equals 360 kWh or \$45.00. I need to find where that power is going!

Pumpkins

Wine

Remember back on the second of the month I started some pumpkin wine. Well today I remembered that I forgot. It should ferment about 5 days with the fruit in the must. "Must" is what you call it when it when you first start it. So I racked it off to start making wine. I was very cloudy. That isn't too bad because the will settle out in a few weeks. I will have to let it sit there and rest now.



Canning Pumpkin

I only used 2 of the 9 pie pumpkin I bought to make the wine. The other day I took one of took pumpkin and to make pumpkin like you by in a can from Libby. I made about 3 lbs of pumpkin to freeze. It was a lot more work that I thought it would be. But I got it done.

Learning

Today I took what I learned and took two more pumpkins and froze them in vacuum bags at about one pound. One pound is what is in one of the small Libby cans. I think I have canned (frozen) 8 pounds so far.

In case you didn't know I like pumpkin! I had to try to make my own using the melons. It was not very hard. It was time consuming.

Prep

What you do is cut a hole in the top like you would to make a Jack-O-Lander, remove the seeds first and save them. Now take a heavy spoon or as I did use an ice-cream scoop and get all of the string junk out of there. **Yuk!** After you get as much of that yucky stuff out then cut a hole in the bottom of your pumpkin. You won't use that part so just cut it out and trash it. Well, put it in your compost pile.

Now with the hole in the bottom you can see in side to scrape the rest of the stringy stuff. Now cut the pumpkin in half making 2 bowls with a hole in the bottom. Meaning cut it around the center. I did it this way because it would fit in my pressure cooker being 2 pieces. If there is any more of the stringy stuff, after you cut it in half you can get it out.



You did save those seeded didn't you? We can use them too. I tell you later what to do with them.

Now you have two bowls with holes in then. Rinse them off in cold water.

Cooking

I cooked mine using a pressure cooker because I have one and it was big enough to put both pieces in there at once. I used a pint of water and stacked the two bowl pieces one on top of the other so the small hole was down. This way the steam and water could drain out of the pumpkin while it is cooking. I cooked it 10 minutes. My manual says 8-10 pounds should take 10 minutes. The third one I wasn't watching the clock and it went 15 minutes. It was ok.

If you are very careful you can remove one of the halves without it falling apart. I set it on a cutting board and put a mixing bowl over then flipped it over so it pumpkin was upside down with the skin side up. Then I just removed the skin. It almost falls off. Do the same with other half.

Now just mash the cooked pumpkin link you would mash potatoes. This is what I froze after it in vacuum sealed bags.

Another Way to Cook Pumpkin

In the Microwave

My microwave is very old and isn't very big. The one in the motor home would have been fine but I'm working in the house.

I haven't tried this but it sounds easy enough. If you try it let me know how it works. Basically you still gut the pumpkin as I did above. Put the pumpkin in a large cooking bowl that you have a lid with. Only cut is so you can get it in the bowl. Too many pieces make it cook uneven and it is a little messy. Put about an inch of water in the bowl. Cook it just until the pumpkin starts to get soft. They say it normally takes 20 or 30 minutes. If you need a little more time just do a minute at a time.

This is going to be HOT, so be careful! As before remove the skin and mash it. This is it.

Stovetop Steaming

As before put in a steaming pot and put enough water for the steamed can steam for 20 minutes without going dry. Add more water as needed.

When it is tender remove it from the steamed and remove the skin.

The Basics

Gut the pumpkin first. Then steam it with a microwave, stovetop steamer, or a pressure cooker. Remove from the heat and then skin and mash it.

I learned most of this from a web sit called "PickYourOwn.org". Thanks!

Pumpkin Seeds

I forgot to tell you about the seeds. Here is the easy way to do these. I will try both and others later.

Drying seeds and roasting seeds are two different processes. To dry, carefully wash pumpkin seeds to remove the clinging fibrous pumpkin tissue. Pumpkin seeds can be dried in the sun, in a dehydrator at 115 to 120 °F for one to two hours, or in an oven on warm for three to four hours. Stir them frequently to avoid scorching. To roast, take dried pumpkin seeds, toss with oil and/or salt and roast in a preheated oven at 250 °F for 10 to 15 minutes.

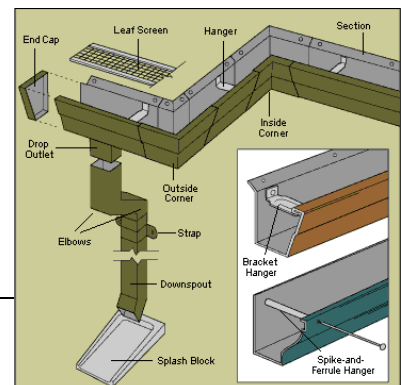
Source: <http://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheets/HGIC3086.htm>

14-Oct-2008 5:59pm 56°

This morning I woke up at 5:00am remembering I never turned off the oven and the pumpkin seeds were still in there drying. They were dry! It was only set on 120° so nothing burnt up. I had set the time for one hour and I turned them over but forgot to turn the timer back on for the second hour. Well they got good and dry!

Garage Project

I finished the landscaping in the back. I measured up for the rain gutters and the shutters. I have figured an aluminum gutter system is the best buy. I installed the vinyl cutters on the house and I have a few pieces left from that project but I have to drive to Canada to get parts to match them. Like the siding the gutter parts are



different that they were 14 years ago. And I don't really like those plastic one anyway. The metal ones will work just fine. I was going to wait until spring before it did them but I think I will just get them up now.

Shutters should dress it up a little.

Tomorrow I should see if the truck still works and go get the gutters and the shutters. The truck has been just sitting there since I picked up the siding. I hope it starts. Well, I best rest up for tomorrow.

15-Oct-2008 11:29am 50°

Rainy Day projects

Nice damp morning we have going here. It was good day to buy rain gutter parts and shutters. I could catch the rain or close the shutters if I had them installed. ☺

Rain Barrel and Gutters

I think this is the end of the buying for the garage project. Wait, I still need a rain barrel. I wonder what is out there that I can use. One day I was at Ace Hardware in McHenry and they had one setup in the garden section and it was catching rain from the roof. If I remember right they were \$110.00. I think that is a little high for a barrel with a screen on top and a valve on the bottom. But I haven't priced any yet so I don't what you get for that price.

I will be only catching half the rain from the garage for now. The back half in under the tree and I will only get leaves so I am not going to even put on a gutter on this half.

If I had caught all of the rain that fell so far today I would have caught very little from the garage roof. It looks like less than a gallon. And that is most likely stuck in the shingles yet.

Heard on the Radio

I heard this on WGN and just have to tell you because I think it is a sign of the times we are living in.

A lady was in a finger nail shop getting her nails done. Another lady came in with a white duck under her arm, yellow beak and all. They told her that she could not bring a duck into the shop with her. She told then she could because it was a "Service Animal." They let her in and she had her nails done. Other complained, but it still happened.



My Thoughts

Now I ask you: "Can I bring in my 'Service Frog' when I go to the restaurant?" You may ask; "What service can a frog do for me?" Well if they have flies the my frog can zap them off my food before I eat. Or I could remove him from his leash to help you too.



Air-dry your laundry

If it's too cold outside, you can still hang the clothes inside. It's cheaper than the dryer. by GreenYour.com – October 14, 2008

Drying clothes on a line can take a little longer than throwing clothes into a dryer, but it doesn't have to be an unpleasant task. In addition to cutting down on energy use, other benefits can include enjoying the outdoors or humidifying the air in your house (when clothes line-dry indoors).

How this helps

Air-drying some or all of your wet laundry could save you \$135 in energy costs every year, prevent tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere, and result in less wear-and-tear on clothes.

Source : <http://www.terrapass.com/blog/>

Solar Clothes Dryer

I stopped using the clothes dryer about the same time the weather changed and I got the A/C fixed and used it a whole lot less. I did save over \$50 dollars on two electric bills in a row. Even now 3 months later I don't know for sure which one of those three saved me the \$50. I do not plan on drying clothes in the dryer just to find out how much electricity it uses to dry a load of laundry. I do plan on trying to dry clothes outside this winter. If it doesn't work I can always go back to the dryer. We'll see how it goes.

The Weather

It looks as though it is going to rain all day so I think I will not plan of doing of the garage project. Maybe I will cook some more of those pumpkins. Maybe I should save one for Halloween. Maybe I should do something today.

Not so Much Fun

Well I started cooking on the last of the pumpkins because it was rainy outside and I could do much outside. All started ok. I had the first Pumpkin in the pressure cooker and had started on the second one. Then I noticed that I was getting steam but it was coming out of the relief valve and I was not getting any pressures.

After letting the little pressure off so I could open the lid I cleaned out the valve because I figured it must just have some gunk in it. After putting it all back together I heated it up and saw no signs of any steam. Woops, no water left from before!

So I cooled it down opened it up and added water. After heating it up again the valve was still not holding in the steam. It was starting to get old!

I opened it up again and disassembled the whole thing and inspected it very closely. It looked like it may have needed a new "O" ring. After checking on the internet it looked like Ace Hardware may have parts of the pressure cooker.

So I headed down the road to Ace. They had "O" rings but were too big. Then I went to NAPA and got their smallest. I came home changed the ring. After putting more water in this time it seemed to work ok. I think I found that the valve was loose and the "O" ring might have been ok. But it worked fine after messing around it and I learned how to disassemble and reassemble it. All of that messing around only took 4-1/2 hours.

Other than fixing the pressure cooker it would have only taken two hours to complete process three pumpkins for start to have them packed in one pound package in the freezer. So I think I have processed all but one of the pumpkins. I think that needs to be a Jack-O-Lantern. Now that is done now and I have pumpkin to eat this winter.

Summary 4-1/2 hours to do one pumpkin and 1 hour more to do 2 more and cleanup all the dishes, pots, pan, all the tools, and put the scraps in the compost pile. Job done!

Tomorrow's Projects

Install rain gutters if weather is ok. Install shutters if time permit. Proof and print this issue of the newsletter. And I think I should go for coffee a few time no matter what happens.

16-Oct-2008 8:36am 38°

I woke up with a sore arm this morning. It took me a while to figure out what that was all about. I thought about it for a while and I wasn't working outside yesterday. I only picked up the gutters at Menards. Then Ah! I was cleaning out pumpkins all afternoon yesterday. I was all of that scraping. I guess I need to be more active if I don't want my muscles to be sore when I do something. On the other hand if I just don't do anything would solve that too. ☺

When I went out to get in the car to go to breakfast this morning and I ran into ice on my windshield. What's up with that? I'm not ready to start scraping windows in the morning.

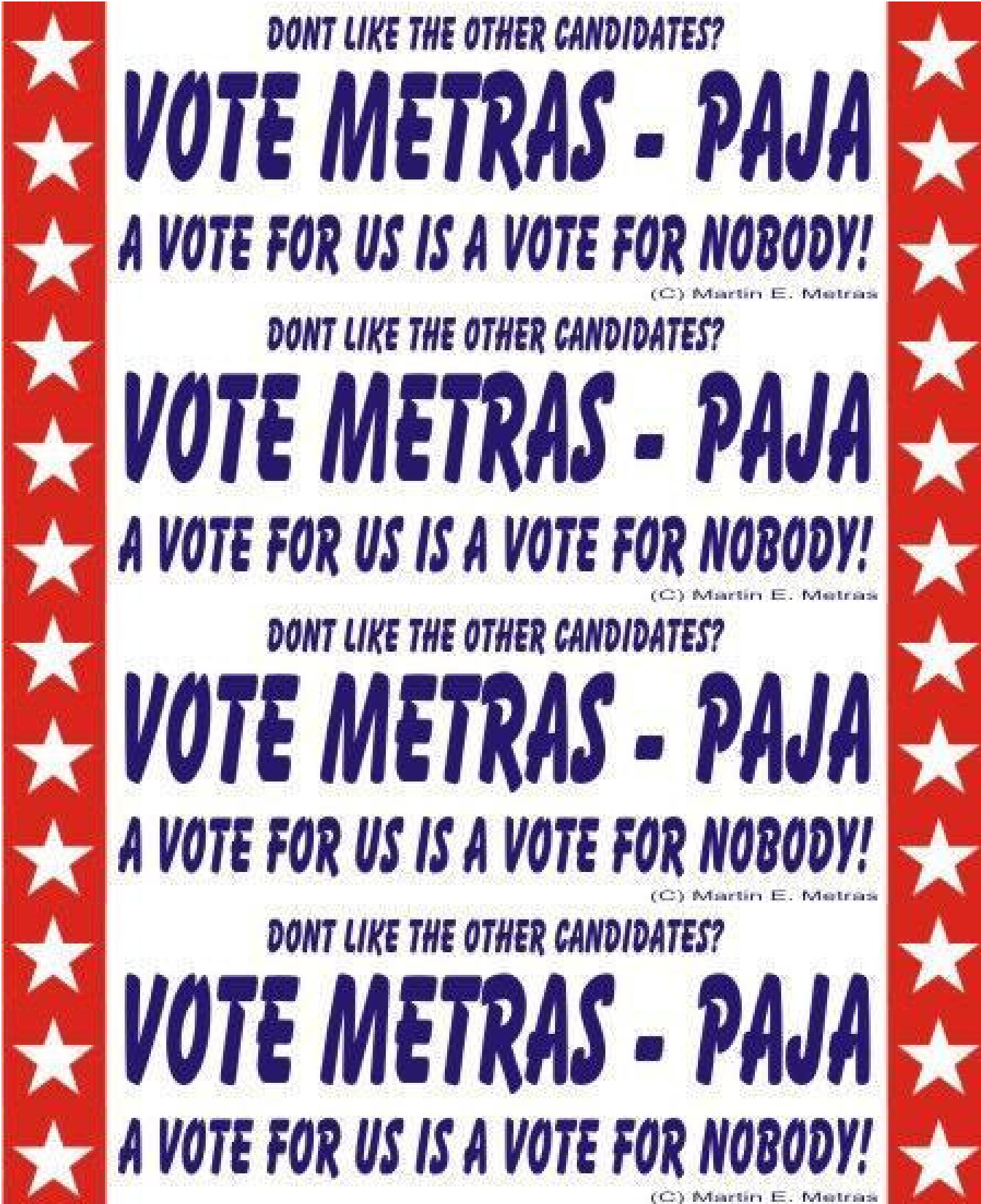
It looks like it is going to be cool and partly sunny today. Maybe it will dry off enough that I might get it setup to install the rain gutters.

Birthdays

Oct 3	Matt M	Nov 1	Tristan P
Oct 18	David P	Nov 2	Erik T
Oct 22	Tristan and David's Anniversary	Nov 12	Olivia
Oct 23	Annette C		
Oct 23	Tom P		

If you don't see you birthday or you want to make sure I have then let me know. My master list is at <http://www.martysthoughts.info/randomthoughts/html/Birthdays.html>





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Ad

Remember you can get the beginning years of Marty's Random Thoughts by ordering it online. Start by going to <http://www.martysthoughts.info/store/index.html>. If you have any problems then just contact me.

