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18-Dec-2008 6:35pm 18°

I don't like being sick. I have had a cold for 3 days now. I thought I could take care of myself. Today it the worse and it is time to go to the doctor. I am even having trouble typing. Yah I can't type three words without a cough. I am going to sterilize the keyboard if I don't stop soon.

After I went to the doctor last month I thought the cold was gone. If it was I got something else. It feels like something else. Nothing I am doing seems to make any difference. It is time to go to the doctor.

I think I will try to get to the doctor early before we get that 14 inches of snow they are calling for.

19-Dec-2008 7:29pm 28°

We didn't get 14 inches of snow but there was 12". I had to move a bunch of so could get out of the driveway to go to the doctor this morning. You know I am sick when I don't even go for coffee. Other than today I haven't for coffee since Sunday. The doctor gave me some stronger drugs today. So far I don't feel very much better.

20-Dec-2008 11:57am 29°

I feel a little better this morning. I had a good night sleep and that always helps. I got out of the house to go have breakfast and I removed that snow the plow always put in the end of the driveway. Now someone else can enter the drive with out getting stuck.

Mike and Petra in the News

I see Mike and Petra just got interviewed by another newspaper about there upcoming adventure when they will walk from California to Jerusalem. You'll find the whole interview at <http://walkingwithawareness.com/press.htm>.



I always like this picture of Mike and Petra. This is from 2003 and that was on the west coast of Spain. Note that they were carrying everything they needed to walk 500 miles.

Samantha Moved

You can't keep up with where people live even your relatives. I just found that my niece, Samantha, Marcia's daughter and her family move from Italy and now live in Colorado. That will make it a lot easier them to visit. Kansas is only down the road compared to Italy.

Welcome back to the USA!

21-Dec-2008 05:05pm -6°

Winter did get here today did it? It had been very cold and windy outside. I know because I almost left the house once. I opened the door and took one step then came back in and took off my coat off and have been in ever since.

End of the World

The Mayans calendar is said to run out on December 21, 2012. Some people say it is when the world will end.

Well last night on the radio they were saying that they are not sure the Mayans had it right. This was be our calendar was changed many years ago and is 4 year different than when the Mayans created their calendar. That would make today Dooms Day.

Nothing happened yet. that unless the fire in the sky burned out and we will start freezing. Wait...It is damn cold out there. Maybe it has started.

It is COLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

22-Dec-2008 10:56am. -2°

It isn't even up to very cold outside yet and the world is still here. Enough of that!

Plug-in Hybrid

I was reading one of a newsletters and I saw this. I am waiting for one.

For you that do not know what a plug-in hybrid is, it is a hybrid that you

can plug in to charge at night to charge the battery or just drive it and charge it of the gas engine. You have an electric car that you could drive to save on gas for the short trips that you could charge an night when electricity is cheaper. And you have a gas car for those long trips. I drive a Hybrid it runs on gas. The electric part is charged from the gas engines. What the electric part dose is help the car get off to a fast start much better then the gas engine can by itself. Electric motors are much better at short power burst like starting from a dead stop than gas engines. Here is what is coming soon.



The Chinese firm BYD (Build Your Dream) has leapt dramatically into the electric car market with the introduction of the F3DM, a commercially available plug-in hybrid that can travel for 60 miles without using its gasoline engine.

*Source: The TerraPass Footprint
<http://www.terrapass.com/>*

23-Dec-2008 11:36am 23°

23°! Heat wave! I have been out running errands this morning and stopping for coffee off and on while doing so. I went to Jewel and picked up enough supplies. I hoping they last until spring. With a forecast of 4-6" of snow today and another 4" tomorrow, I don't think I going any where soon.

The drive is full of snow from all that blowing the last couple of days. And

with this cold I have I just don't feel like going outside. I generally like going outside and moving the snow. It is like a great big Zen garden. You get to make these nice piles of snow with the snow blower and the refreshing blast of fresh snow in your face when you miss read the wind. It is a lot of fun. I also love driving through the snow at the end of the driveway from the city snow plow. Sometimes it is a game to see if I get back to house before they drive by again.

As I said before I am not leaving the house until spring!

Clothesline

In weather like this I am glad I kept the dryer. They tell me that I could still dry my clothes outside in the winter. They just get a little stiff and when you bring them in to thaw the dry air sucks the wetness right off them. Boom, dry clothes! My problem it there is so much snow under the clothes line that I would have to bend over to use it. We have had a lot of snow all ready this season, haven't we?

24-Dec-2008 9:49am 33°

More snow. Maybe Mike and Petra have the right idea. Leave there sunny home in California and walk here to see some snow. Maybe in July it will still be snowing.

Run America

Mike just sent me a link to Dan Popp's web site. He is running across America. He started in September 2008. He started in on the east coast and is going to the west coast. Maybe they will meet in the middle for coffee.

Link: www.runusa.org

25-Dec-2008 8:27am -2°

MERRY CHRISTMAS

I'm looking forward to going out and shoveling the end of the driveway in this nice sunny weather. I have to shovel the end where the snow plow likes to store the snow when he drives by. The snow blower just can cut it when it snowed at 35° then the temperature drops below zero. It just sticks tight. At least I didn't get a lump of coal.

Snowy Driveway

I got the ice and snow moved that was blocking the drive. I took about 45 minutes to clear the drive of snow and another 2-1/2 hours to open the end so I could get out on the street with the car.

You knew I had to go for a ride then. I went out to see what was open on this Christmas day. I found one coffee shop, one liquor mart, one gas station, and one restaurant that was open. There was another gas station that might have been open. I wasn't sure on that one.

26-Dec-2008 6:37pm 44°

Yes I said 44°! What up with this weather. It has been raining and misting all day. And they say it will be up to 52° tomorrow. Almost like last year.

27-Dec-2008 10:56am 51°

51°! Is that right? Yup, looks like it is correct.

Our Weather

We have the strangest weather in the Midwest. One day the sun shines and it is snowing and the next day it is dry and raining. Was there a song ...Yup "Oh Susanna." Part of it went "... the sun was so hot I froze to death..."

I sent Mike a picture of the snow in the driveway yesterday morning so He could see what he was missing.



Snow in the Driveway 12/26/08 at 8:00am

When I was leaving the house this morning I noticed something looked different. You know I had to email him a picture showing how much better it looked this morning.



What a difference a day makes.

So you see Mike things are getting better. Spring is only about 12 weeks away. Well, I guess that all depends if the Groundhog sees his shadow.

Dry Cough

The people I hang around know I have been fighting a cold along with a dry cough. I don't have too much dealing with most of the cold symptom.

This dry cough is getting to me. I have tried many over-the counter drugs. I have found nothing that makes difference. I seem to not cough when I am outside moving snow. I seem the start coughing right away when I come in form outside. This tells me that outside is better. Why?

When I start talking a lot I start coughing. That tells me that if I stop talking I might stop coughing. Stop talking probable won't ever happen for me because I never shut up.

I searched the internet and I find there are fifty different things that can cause a dry cough. They range from Asbestos to Whooping Cough.

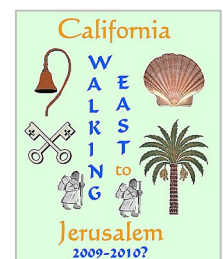
I think another trip to the doctor is in order. He has had more training on this matter than me and may be able to guess better than me.

In the mean time I will just have to deal with it and spend more time out of doors. Oh, I love moving snow. ☺

Mike and Petra

WalkingEast.com is the web site Mike and Petra will be using to report there travels when to walk form California to Jerusalem. They even have a flag.

If they have as



good as a time as when they walked from Germany to Rome, it will be a great adventure. Have you seen their book yet, *Germany to Rome in 64 days: Our Pilgrimage*? Find it at WorksAndWords.com/bookindex.htm

Cell Phone

Has anyone seen my cell phone? I haven't seen it in about two weeks now. I am running out of places to look.

What I am thinking now is it was in my jacket pocket when I changed the starter on the pickup. If that was the case and it fell out of my pocket and remained on the ground then the snow blower sent it over in the yard some where. That is the last time I remember seeing it.

So if you have seen my cell phone please let me know.

20 Minutes Later

Maybe it helps to relook for things that are lost. While writing about the cell phone I remembered that if you lay something on the seat in the pickup to disappears right away to be under the seat. That isn't the case in the car.

Any way I went back out to the pickup now that the snow was out of the way. Well, no phone but I found a nice fish scales under the seat. Maybe I should take up fishing now. I then thought I would search the car again. Nothing ever falls under the seat in the car. Never ever say "never!"

Yup, there was the cell phone. Thank you all who have been helping.

28-Dec-2008 9:50am 21°

I'm sitting here and I got nothing! That is nothing to write. I think I will just walk away from the computer and go do something else.

Well here is 9:15pm and I still got nothing.

29-Dec-2008 10:21am 34°

I wonder if any thoughts will come to mind today. It has been a long time since I went blank like yesterday.

Spam

This morning I turned on the computer and I received about 400 emails at were all sent to me by other servers that say some email I sent could not be delivered. That is funny because I didn't send them in the first place. I had this happen once a couple of years ago. That time there was about a thousand of them before it stopped. This time there isn't much I can do about it because I am not hosting my own email. I just have to let it run its course and see what happens.

I just checked and I didn't get a second batch of them. Maybe it has already stopped. The last time it seemed to go on and on all day.

30-Dec-2008 8:36am 27°

"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." – Joseph Campbell

Social Security

Wow! Yesterday I applied for Social Security on the internet. I figured I would take weeks for all of this to be processed. Today they called me and asked me one question. I guess I Put down the wrong date when I last worked. Did you know it was only last March when I retired? Anyway, I am all signed up and I will get a check some time in February. It is a done deal.

I guess I am now retired!

Vacation

Now that I am retired I guess I need to go on vacation. I will have a little more to spend.

My Book

I have been letting my book just sit there not doing any thing. I need to get ready so it can be published. I messed up on the last proof copy I had printed. I have to resubmit it to be printed because it has no pictures. I guess I will have to just do it to get it done. This time I will look at he proof before I have it printed.

I need to come up with a name for it. Right I am calling it *Marty's Adventure Spring 2007, Visit Germany and Walk Spain, My Journal*. I haven't thought of any thing different yet. Maybe something will come to mind before I publish.

31-Dec-2008 10:35am 11°

Well the year is winding down in about 13-1/2 hours it will be over. Are your ready to start over and learn to writer 2009?

Ad**Marty's Random Thoughts book 1**

I hear some of you have been passing copies of my newsletter on to friends and



relatives. You can now get Marty's Random Thoughts as a book. Marty's Random Thoughts book 1 is all issues through 2007

To learn more go to

<http://www.martysrandomthoughts.com/store/index.html>

You will see other **R**and**o**m **T**h**o**ugh**t** stuff you can buy.

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year

The Year at a Glance



Water heater failed in January



We had a lot of snow in February



Most of the snow was gone in March



I touched the Pacific Ocean in April



I cut the grass for the 1st time in 10 years in May



Guys need a pickup so in June I got one.



I installed a solar panel and a clothesline in July and saw how bad the garage looked.



I really did use the clothesline in August.



Squirrels were storing nuts in September.



It looks better with new siding in October.



Santa started watching me in November.



We did get snow in December for Christmas.

See you next year