

Issue - 47 January 2009

1-Jan-2009 8:31am 20°

The year has started. As normal I was sleeping in the chair when it started. When I woke up the celebration was over so I went to bed.

Drive and Lunch

Aunt Annie and I drove around looking at the country side for a couple of hours before stopping at Kelly's for lunch. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

2-Jan-2009 8:43am 20°

3-Jan-2009 11:45am 31°

Today is Saturday not Friday, Monday, or even Sunday. Having a Holiday in the middle of the week can be confusing for some of us. And it didn't make it any easier having two holidays in the middle of the week back to back either. In a couple days it will be a real Monday and this should start getting back to normal.

Feedback from Readers

From Tim

Tim was saying this about the setting all of the clocks back to Day Light Saving time.

"I was just reading through some of your stuff. When you were talking about setting the clocks back I had a random thought. I'll share it with you..... Most of the clocks (well, many - maybe not most?) plug into the wall and operate at 120 volts that the power company sells us. We are on their system which (in a sense) is a kind of "dumb" network. Why doesn't the power company put a

harmonic carrier on the power line that corrects the time on everyone's plug-in clocks? Time would be correct and the same everywhere? Anyway, think about it."

Also he said it couldn't find the weather time machine for the on the Farmers Almanac web page. I think my link was wrong. If you go the to the main Farmers Almanac weather page you can find the historical weather form on the lower right hand of that page.

The link to that is

<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/weather>

Thank Tim.

From Mike

Mike said that he could not get to the newsletter (#46) on my web site. I guess I should put it out there before I send the emails saying it is available for you to read.

Sorry about that. It is fixed.

From Anila

Anila called and asked if my pickup was for sale. She said that someone saw the picture in the newsletter (#46) and thought it was for sale.

Maybe I could sell thing through the newsletter. I hadn't really thought much of selling my things.

Thanks for the idea Anila

04-Jan-2009 10:54am 32°

When I went outside this morning I noticed it was nice and warm. Well if

32° is warm. I knew it had rained a little over night but didn't think about the possibility of ice. I saw some ice crystals on the driveway and stopped and checked it out. There was a thin layer of black ice on the drive. I am glad I caught that or you might have visiting me in the hospital.

Clay Street

Last month was thinking about living on Clay Street. I have lived a few places on Clay Street since we moved to town in 1953. I have lived almost half of my life on Clay. I worked in a factory that was on Clay Street for quarter of my life. Oh I went to school here for a few years too.

Maybe I should rename the street "Marty's Place". All of these places are within few block of where I live on Clay Street now.

After I thought about that for a while I thought I would check with my brothers and sisters to see if they had out did me.

Mom lived down the street 3 or 4 blocks from here. My nephew, Jeremy, lived a block down the street. My sister, Marie worked up the street from here a while back. All of this happened in the 20 years I have lived here.

When we were kids we all lived together at "409". We all moved to the farm at the same time. Mike was away in school or the service when we moved. I don't even think he knew when we moved. I think most of us lived there 7 years.

My sister, Marcia, said she only lived there 2 years. So that means Jake

was about 3 and Edie would have been just one year old.

So let see Dad worked at Townsend's and Woodstock Die Casting (WDC). Really the WDC factory went from Clay to Wheeler streets and you entered on the Wheeler Street side. None the less it was on Clay Street.

Marie, Cork, and I all worked at WDC. That is the Auto-Lite for you old folks..

I know we spent some time at the Moose Lodge on Clay. There were a couple of bars where we had a beer or two on Clay St. I think many of us bought appliances from Thompson's, yes on Clay Street.

All of these places are just walking distance from where I live now.

I sure must be stuck here. They say many people never get more than 25 miles of where they were raised. I am thinking in my case it is five blocks.

Where Else

Where else have I lived that I remember?

Born in Watervliet, MI and may have lived in Sister Lakes, MI then Dowagiac, MI, I think. I was a little guy of less than six years old so I am not sure of the dates.

In 1952 we moved to Greenwood, IL and in 1953 to Woodstock, IL. I remember these moves a little.

I think it was in 1959 we mover to the farm about 5 miles south of Woodstock. I lived in Harvard, IL for month or two too.

So after the farm I lived on Clay St., Wheeler St., McHenry Av., East

Jackson St., Lawrence Av, and finally back on Clay St. where am today.

That funny after we moved to Woodstock, excluding the Farm and Harvard, I have lived within 10 block of here. I guess I don't get out much!

05-Jan-2009 12:06am 22°

I'm cold. Maybe I should turn the heat up a little. It's not really cold in here. It is just me. I turned up the heat 2° to make it a little warmer for a while.

That is better already. Maybe the wind is blowing the wrong way and it found a hole in the house to blow through.

New Year

By now we have all started 2009. Today is the first Monday of the year. This makes it rough on many of us.

We all have to learn to write "09" instead of "08". I have been doing very well at that so far.

I have resolute to not make too many resolutions. I am just going to do things I normally do. I am sure it will be random just like my newsletter.

I have my book to get it published. And I think I want to sell the motorhome. These two things will help to my money flow. But these are goals not resolutions.

6-Jan-2009 9:16am 26°

Today is the 12 day of Christmas. Do you know where your Drummers are Drumming?

Social Security

It has started now. I have received paper work in the mail today. It says something like this "...this information will make sense to you after you receive that other paper work we are sending

you..." It is the pass code for me to change my password. And it expires on February 9th. So I haven't received that other paper work yet.

That reminds me of work. Matt would send me an email than come over to my desk and ask me if I received it yet. I would send him a voice mail once in a while that says to read his email. The email would say look at your door way because I am standing there I want to ask you a question. ☺

Take it away

I see next door at the school there age getting that portable building ready to move. I think it got put on hold during the holidays. Maybe soon it will be gone and I will be able see down the street again.



I went in the other room for something when I heard some noise outside. I went in to the window and looked out and there was this machine chewing up that building. They were not moving it they were tearing it down. Yes destroying it.

I got the movie camera out to tape it and the battery was dead. By the time I got the power cable out and got it setup

the building was flat on the ground.
Look!



I guess no one wanted to pay to move the building and they needed the parking room or something. That is one thing we do is to build thing the tare them down and start over.



It is gone to the dumpster now!

07-Jan-2009 10:55am 25°

I haven't been out yet today. This is mostly because I don't want to deal with that snow. But I guess I have to go do it anyway because I don't think any one else is going to do it for me. I see Diane, the mail carrier just dropped off the mail so I guess I best check it out first. Maybe the sun will come out and melt the snow while I am reading the mail.

Snow

After having a nice hot cup of tea with honey and lemon I went out and moved that snow. I still have a thin layer of ice in the drive from the other day. I hope it hurries up and warms enough to melt that before I have to go buy some ice melt or sand or something.

08-Jan-2009 3:32pm 25°

Now that the sun is shining on the solar panel I hope it starts charging the batteries in the garage. It hasn't been to sunny lately.

Pumpkin Wine

Tonight I bottled the Pumpkin wine I started last year. I have other wine to check on too. It might be time to bottle that too.

Some one told they had some empty bottles. I will have to pick them up. It takes a while to clean them before you can use them for home made wine.

10-Jan-2008 12:23pm 22°

It is snowing again. It did that yesterday too and more is coming tomorrow.

Now I am determined to stay home until April. Well not that determined that I won't go for coffee once in a while just not today. Maybe I will pack my bags and move down south for the winter. I wonder if Huntley would be far enough south to get away from this snow. Maybe not!

I think I will send some emails out to my friends and see if they could send me a picture of there weather. Maybe somewhere it is better then here. After all they say the grass is greener on the other

side of the fence. Maybe on the other side of the country its greener?

Out the Front Door

I have received some pictures from out the front doors.



Paso Robles, CA

I have been wanting to do that before we leave. Now was the best time so here it is from the front, garage, and back doors. It is scheduled for 65 today and 72 tomorrow. Though it is only a sunny 46, I expect 75 before the day is over today. Mike

This is facing east-northeast and it is about noon today. There looks to be very little snow here. Thanks Mike



East side of Woodstock, IL

This picture was pulled from a snow storm on Dec 19th, 2008. This looks to be facing northwest. The snow today would have been much the same. Thanks Tammy



Midtown Woodstock, IL

This is outside my front door this was taking about 1:00pm today. I just removed all that snow from the walk a couple of hours ago.



Lake Saint Louis, MO

I am getting snow flurries now that you can't see on the picture but they say it's not going to get to bad. Going to get cold!!!! Steve

I can't see any Snow in the picture. I think this is facing east. Thanks Steve

11-Jan-2009 9:22am 16°

The Cold and Snow is still out there. Maybe If I have some breakfast I will go out and clear that white stuff from the driveway.

More Out of the Door Pictures

More pictures from out the front out the front doors.



Philadelphia, PA

There is a whole lot less snow in Marie's side of the country. I think this picture is looking south-southwest. Thanks Marie



Rochester, NY

This looks like a place with a bunch of snow. I hope that dog moved. Thanks Marie



Iron Mountain, MI

Ok, here's the view from my front porch this morning. I love it but if you're trying to hide from snow, this is not the place. Good luck on your search!/, Tim

12-Jan-2009 8:41pm 24°

After moving the rest of yesterday's snow this morning I figured I could take a couple of days off without moving snow. Well, I just looked outside. It looks I won't be getting out of the driveway very earlier in the morning.

13-Jan-2009 7:58am 6°

I think I have been dwelling too much on the weather. It is not bad weather. It is winter weather and it is just the way it should be.

I guess it is just like in July when it is too hot and you have to keep cutting the grass. You can let the grass grow and go in side and turn on the A/C.

It is time to live in the Now and here are other thing.

I have my book I can work on. I have Mike's book I am reading one day at a time. There is that web server I have been trying to phase out to save all that electricity. And of coarse there that decluttering I want to do some day

And I see there is a new update for my firewall.

Calendar of Events

This issue I have a 2009 calendar that has the days **hi-lited** that have an event. Most of these events are birthdays and the list is getting longer and longer. I have 91 birthdays on my list. The link is on the calendar. Is your on the list?

There 14 events in March, August, and December, but only 3 in November. If you have more birthdays or other

events, let me know so I can fill up the list.

I think I will setup a reminder service to remind people by email of an upcoming event. If you are interested send me an email from the website. Go to MartysRandomThoughts.com and click on "Contact Marty". If enough people would like it I will see what I can do.

The idea is to automatically email about a week or so before the event so you could get ready. This would be good for you married folks who forget your husband or wives birthday. Sometimes it is great being single. No wife's birthday to remember. ☺

14-Jan-2009 11:25am -7°

All I can say this morning is that it is C-O-L-D!

Much Later

Even my thoughts are frozen up today. With no temperature right now (zero°) I just can't think of any thing to write. Tomorrow will be another day if it doesn't freeze.

WalkingEast.com

Tomorrow Mike and Petra start their journal walking east from California to Jerusalem. They will be posting their progress from time to time. You can read their journal posting at WalkingEast.com



15-Jan-2009 11:44am - 6°

It is warmer than when I got up. I don't want to tell you that my thermometer showed minus 16.9°. But things are looking up. Mary sent me the recipe that I think you will like. I am going to try it just as soon as I put it in here.

Microwave brownie in a mug

4T flour
4T sugar
2T cocoa
a dash of salt
2T veggy oil
2T water
1/4 t vanilla

*Whisk together the dry ingredients in a large mug.
Add oil water and vanilla and mix thoroughly.
Microwave on high for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes
It should not be quite set in the center.
Cool a couple of minutes and eat right out of the cup
or dump on a plate with ice cream. Yummy!*
Source: Email from Mary

I am going to try this right now.
Mary, you are right about the Yummy!

Winters Back Home

Mary got his from a friend back in here home state of Michigan. I too am from Michigan thought I have lived here for almost forever.

Dear Diary: Michigan Winters:

Aug. 12 - Moved into our new home in Michigan. It is so beautiful here. The hills and river valleys are so picturesque. I have a beautiful old oak tree in my front yard. Can hardly wait to see the change in the seasons. This is truly God's Country.

Oct. 14 - Michigan is such a gorgeous place to live, one of the real special places on Earth. The leaves are turning a multitude of different colors. I love all of the shades of reds, oranges and yellows, they are so bright. I want to walk through all of the beautiful hills and spot some white tail deer. They are so graceful; certainly they must be the most peaceful creatures on Earth. This must be paradise.

Nov. 11 - Deer season opens this week. I can't imagine why anyone would want to shoot these elegant animals. They are the very symbol of peace and tranquility here in Michigan. I hope it snows soon. I love it here!

Dec. 2 - It snowed last night. I woke to the wonderful sight: everything covered in a beautiful blanket of white. The oak tree is magnificent. It looks like a postcard. We went out and swept the snow from the steps and driveway. The air is so crisp, clean and refreshing. We had a snowball fight. I won, and the snowplow came down the street. He must have gotten too close to the driveway because we had to go out and shovel the end of the driveway again. What a beautiful place. Nature in harmony. I love it here!

Dec. 12 - More snow last night. I love it! The plow did his cute little trick again. What a rascal. A winter wonderland. I love it here!

Dec. 19 - More snow - couldn't get out of the driveway to get to work in time. I'm exhausted from all of the shoveling. And that snowplow!

Dec. 21 - More of that white shit coming down. I've got blisters on my hands and a kink in my back. I think that the snowplow driver waits around the

corner until I'm done shoveling the driveway. Asshole.

Dec. 25 - White Christmas? More freakin' snow. If I ever get my hands on the sonofabitch who drives that snowplow, I swear I'll castrate him. And why don't they use more salt on these roads to melt this crap??

Dec. 28 - It hasn't stopped snowing since Christmas. I have been inside since then, except of course when that SOB "Snowplow Harry" comes by. Can't go anywhere, cars are buried up to the windows. Weather man says to expect another 10 inches. Do you have any idea how many shovelfuls 10 inches is??

Jan. 1 - Happy New Year? The way it's coming down it won't melt until the 4th of July! The snowplow got stuck down the road and the shithead actually had the balls to come and ask to borrow a shovel! I told him I'd broken 6 already this season.

Jan. 4 - Finally got out of the house. We went to the store to get some food and a goddamn deer ran out in front of my car and I hit the bastard. It did \$3,000 in damage to the car. Those beasts ought to be killed. The hunters should have a longer season if you ask me.

Jan. 27 - Warmed up a little and rained today. The rain turned the snow into ice and the weight of it broke the main limb of the oak tree in the front yard and it went through the roof. I should have cut that old piece of shit into fireplace wood when I had the chance.

May 23 - Took my car to the local garage. Would you believe the whole underside of the car is rusted away from all of that damn salt they dump on the road? Car looks like a bashed up, heap of rusted cow shit.

May 10 - Sold the car, the house, and moved to Florida. I can't imagine why anyone in their right freakin' mind would ever want to live in the God forsaken State of Michigan.

Source: email from Mary

Mike & Petra's Journey

Mike called me from the bus stop. He told me they were all done in Paso Robles. They were headed to where they left off on the walk at, I think Solvang CA. They will be continuing the journey from there. I won't be seeing them until some time in July when they get here. Well, that is unless I decide to go looking for them on the road. Anyone want to go on a road trip?

Buen Comino!

16-Jan-2009 8:23am -19°

What minus 19°, I hope my car starts. I got up too late to have coffee with the guys. I thought I would go have breakfast with Kim. My car has been sitting out there for over 20 hours in this cold. I hope it is ok.

Maybe I should bring it inside and place it by the fire to warm up. ☺

How Cold is It

The data from my weather station shows minus 19.9° at 7:00 and 7:30 this morning. The sun is up now so it is starting to warm up now. It shows minus 15.4° right now. A half hour ago it was minus 19.4°.

I have to go have breakfast now. Maybe!

15 Minutes Later





My car laughed at me. It turned over but it just clicked when it should have fired up. I tried enough to know it was futile. Being that my car is a hybrid it need more than a C-O-L-D battery. I put the charge on the battery and came in and...I just heard the bell on the microwave. My oatmeal is ready.

10:30am -4°

I went out and tried the car again and it started. So, I took it for a drive and it drove like it was cold. I had some lunch and said "Hi!" to Kim and I think I will stay home until it gets up to only being cold.

With the sun out it helps it to feel warmer. With no clouds the heat just goes up and then in to outer space. Clouds are your friend when it is this cold. Even as little heat as there is the clouds hold in some of the heat.

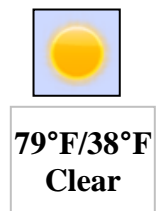
Weather Forecast

Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
			
4°F 2°F	25°F 13°F	20°F 9°F	25°F 14°F

Source: Google Search; "Weather 60098"

Mike and Petra

I am glad those guys didn't start their walk from here. Last I heard was that they were going to start walking from Solvang today and this is what the weather looks like. We can only hope they will have some nice weather in the next couple of days.



17-Jan-2009 2:51pm 21°

Today I made sure I was ready to handle Mike & Petra's mail while they are on there pilgrimage. I have done this in the past. It is just that I haven't done it in over a year and I need to make sure I had thing in place like I did before.

All is well. You are in good hands with Marty watching your stuff.

Remember if you want to contact Mike or Petra to use email or call them on the phone. They will get the message

much faster than asking me to contact them for you.

Server Shutdown

Remember a while back I sent my web site and email to a hosting service to handle? I did this to save electricity. I haven't shutdown those servers yet because I was waiting to get something in place. I think I have that all figured out now so I can start working it this week. I have all the web sites being hosted now.

I have only one email account that I am hosting. I use that one for me and no one even knows it exist at this time.

I just have to move some files to my backup server and I can shutdown all of the unused hardware.

18-Jan-2009 6:35pm 12°

Off and on all day I have been working on my computer hardware so I have only one or two computers running instead of ten as I did last year. It has been a fun day because some of the old hardware I have been using will not work with the newer stuff.

So what I am doing is trying to get this all together so I can keep this running with out having to do too much of it manually.

19-Jan-2009 11:23am 15°

I went to the Post Office this morning to find it closed. Then I remembered this is a holiday.

Mike called to tell me that they were ok. Remember you can keep up on where they are by going to *WalkingEast.com*.

20-Jan-2009 11:40am 15°

We now have a new President. Welcome a board Barack Obama!

It is time for a new beginning.

21-Jan-2009 10:01am 19°

Newspaper

I am in the Northwest Harold. Well I am mentioned in the story when Tim Kane interviewed Mike. It is on page 6C -Wed, Jan, 21, 2009. If you can get the paper or its also online at <http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2009/01/21/51952186/index.xml>. I am sure you can learn more from Mike's blog, *WalkingEast.com*

Wine

Last night I bottled some Merlot wine. No, it isn't ready to drink yet. Since I have been making (brewing) wine I have learned that red wines need to age for a year and a half to two years before drinking. Wait, I mean the taste much better if you let wine age. I try my wine when it only a couple month old and it is a little harsh. The term is it is a young wine. Some would call it green. I have been using green bottles so I guess all my wine is green.

Well I have to print some labels so I know what in the bottles. Then I have to put it in my wine basement. I don't have a "wine cellar" yet.

Spoof Emails

I just resent an email that was a hoax. For those how received it I am sorry. Steve reminded me of a web site <http://www.snopes.com> where you can look those thing. I had forgotten about this. So I am sorry I send you some SPAM.

22-Jan-2009 9:39am 16°

The sun is out and it is starting to warm up outside. Mike and Petra are in

Ventura where it is 58° and overcast this morning.

Wine Bottles

I was clean up some used wine bottles while I was waiting for the computer to update. I always soak then in hot soapy water to loosen the labels aid in the removal. Sometimes the labels fell off when they get wet. This time I think was welded on. There were two that were etched into the glass or are some kind of paint that just laughed at me when I tried to remove it.

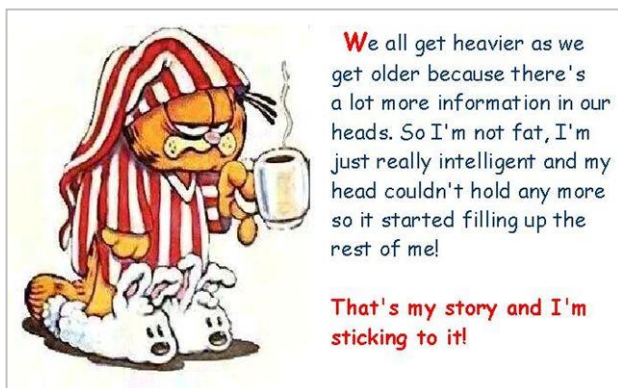
Out of these bottles there were not even two that matched. How many different wine bottles are they? I have received fourteen different kind of used bottles so far..

Did I ever thank you for the used bottles? If not then thank you now. When you are ready ask me for a bottle or two. I am sure I will be glad to give you some.

Wait...I have to proof read the last issue so I can make it available for you. The wine bottles can wait for now.

23-Jan-2009 9:48am 22°

From the INBOX



Source: Email From Arelene

January's Birthdays



I wish Happy Birthday to all of you with birthdays this month.


1 st	Ned H
6 th	Kim M
15 th	Tonya M
15 th	Robert L. R.
16 th	Mike M
23 rd	Ethan H
24 th	Ina
26 th	Chelli M
31 st	Steve B

February's Birthdays

2 nd	Josh H
16 th	Devyn J
19 th	Chad P
20 th	Jessica Mc
26 th	Shirley M

AD



I have written the following books and video
For more details go to
www.worksandwords.com/bookindex.htm


Marty's Random Thoughts Book 1
I have just lowered the price of the black and white version on the book to \$12.95 plus shipping & handling. You can buy it online or ask me if I have a copy.
Marty
The online store is at:
www.MartysRandomThoughts.com/store

2009

January							February							March						
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April							May							June							
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July							August							September						
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October							November							December						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Marty's Random Thoughts

Calendar of Events

www.martysrandomthoughts.com/randomthoughts/html/Birthdays.html