

Issue # 58 July 2009

1-Jul-2009 12:26pm 61°

July has arrived! We are in to summer now and we have a break in the hot weather.

5-Jul-2009 4:32pm 81°

I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday weekend. I enjoyed my time with friends yesterday. Today I have been just been chilling.

6-Jul-2009 11:38am 81°

It has been an interesting morning. I got up early because I wanted to take the motor home in for an oil change. I had an appointment for 7:30. I got back in town around 10:30 when I remembered it needed to be filled with LP gas.

I remember running out in March when I returned from hanging with Mike and Petra. That is also when I needed the oil change. Since it was only parked all that time there was no rush.

I have been thing about going for a drive but do not really know where I want to go. I figured if I came up with an idea I could just jump in and go it is ready.

I will get one of those random ideas of mine and act on it one of these days.

Well I have to go to Wal-Mart now. Maybe something will come to mind.

7-Jul-2009 11:52am 80°

Ok it is summer now so it is time to make your own Ice Cream. I was thinking about this so I went looking on the internet to see what I could make without buying a machine.

I found a few ideas on how to make frozen custard and frozen yogurt in a pan in the freezer. It takes 3 to 4 hours and you have to stir it ever ½ hour or so. It sound easy enough but after the first 2 or 3 times you would forget and you might just have frozen block and not ice cream. So I went looking some more.

Well I found this and thought I would try it.

How to Make Plastic Bag Ice Cream

*1/2 cup half-and-half (if you don't have any, you can just use milk)
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 tablespoon sugar
4 cups crushed ice
4 tablespoons salt (preferably rock salt)
2 quart size zip bags
1 gallon size zip bag*

Put the milk, vanilla, and sugar into one of the quart size bags. Squeeze out as much air as possible and seal. Place this bag into the other quart size bag and squeeze out the air and seal again. (This is to prevent leaking.)

Put the ice and salt in the gallon size bag then place the filled quart bags on top of the ice. Squeeze out some of the air (but not all) and seal the bag. Shake and squeeze the bag so that the ice surrounds the smaller bag inside. Continue for at least five minutes until the ice cream is the desired consistency. You can make flavored ice cream by adding ingredients to the bag before shaking. Suggestions: chocolate syrup, strawberries, bananas, pineapple, peanut butter, etc.

You can eat it right out of the bag - a fun treat to make on those hot summer days.

Happy eating!

Source: <http://www.orble.com/fun-to-make-plastic-bag-ice-cream/>

8-Jul-2009 11:57am 64°

I didn't know it was only 64° outside. I thought it was much warmer that when I was out for coffee this morning.

Catching Up

I was think I have to get you caught up on things that have happened. I have started things and not told you how they have progressed. And there have been thing that others have done you might want to know. I will put these things in here and you didn't care please done read it. If I missed something through out the year remind me. Sometimes things slip my minds.

Use my web site to contact me. That way I am sure to receive it.
<http://www.martysrandomthoughts.com/>
Or just tell me when you seem me. Remind me to write it down then you will be sure I might remember it.

Well let's get started here.

Mike and Petra

They have been on vacation from all of that walking for the last week or so. They were going to start walking again

today. It sounds like they should be in Woodstock in 30 days or so. They are close enough that we could have a field trip and get to them in less than six hours.

I might do that. I could drive down and have coffee with them stay over night and come home in the morning.

This is an open invitation for a free ride if you want to go along. I can hold up to 4 more people in the motor home or 3 in the car.

Anila

Most you have me talk about Anila going to school to get into the nursing field. She received the results of another big test last Friday. She Passed! Hooray!

Garden

My grapes are growing but slowly. I don't if they are growing normally slow or it is just seems slow for me. I have to watch them for two years before I will have any grape to eat.

The radishes are all gone. I must have had a dozen or so. That is all I had planted so they came out fine.

I also planted cucumbers. Yesterday I saw some yellow flowers. This means that in a couple days I should start seeing some fruit start to develop.

When I start to see the cucumbers I have to watch them very close. If you let too many grow on the vines at one time it slows them all down.

Don't let them run out of water while the fruit is growing or they might stop.

The Gladiolas have grown a lot. Many of the plants are over eighteen inches tall. Thought it is July I haven't seen any flowers as of yet. It may be early.



These are not mine!

The grass plant I planted by the porch have started to show some growth. I guess this means the roots have taking hold.

And the rock moss or what ever that was called has nice yellow blossoms all over it. Even the ones that still in those little plastic pots they came in.

What's in the Note Book

The note pad I carry around with me got full. I replaced it. Now I will go through it and see what's in there you might want to know.

So let's see what in there. Some of this is forgotten other just doesn't make sense but you get it anyway.

Apr 19th: *IHOP Coupons.*

You cannot get them online.

Apr 21st: *Fix Rain Gauge.*

I must have fixed it because it works.

Apr 22nd: *Make Web Calendar.*

That is done have you seen it?

Apr 24th: *TV on Demand.*

I was wanderings if you could get DirecTV or Dish and only the channels you watch and not all of those other channels. It might have been a way to save some money. You can get packages you want but not pick each channel you want.

Apr 26th: *Linda (Angelo's)*

Linda's birthday was May 4th.

May 1st: *What are those flowers that look like Grads?*

Those would be Irises.

May 1st #2: *Movie: Continental Divide*

It must be a movie I wanted to see. I will have to add to my list to check out.

May 6th: *The Gift*

What was today's gift?

May 6th #2: *Star Bucks*

My note says you get 10¢ off if you have your own cup. I don't know if it true so ask if you try it.

May 12th: *21st Anniversary of buying my house.*

May 12th #2: *LeRelais des Arts.*

Did any one find this?

May 12th #3: *Beer Garden.*

It says the beer garden is not part of Mike & Slam's. That is because it is part of the bowling alley.

May 12th #4: *Mary gave me a ride.*

This was the day I walked to Vaughn's and I was beat because of the heat and Mary brought me home. Thanks Mary!

May 14th: *Less stop signs, more yield sign, and more speed bumps.*

Here is an idea. With all the people not stopping at stop signs or rolling through the stop signs something has to be done. I was think yield-right-of-way then I thought that might make it worse.

Now a speed bump where the white line is might slow down some of the cars. I don't mean the white lines at stop lights but at stop sign might help.

May 15th: *Sign: "This car stops for traffic."*

I was thinking that I see signs cars, trucks, and busses that they stop for RR Crossing, small animals, and other things.

Maybe we all need a bumper sticker that says something like "I stop at red lights and stop signs."

May 24th: *Book of Goofiness.*

Is there a book about goofiness? I best check because I had this note in my notebook for some reason.

I went to Amazon.com to search for "Book of Goofiness" and got 33 hits. Maybe I was going to write one.

May 26th: *Westwood Nature area*

This is the day Bill and I placed the Geocache in the park.

May 27th: *Days with rain. Is this year different?*

I was wandering if there were more days this year than other years. I have data going back a few years. I could check to find how many days of rain we had back to 2004. I will have to add this to my "To Do" list.

May 30th: *Vaughan's web site.*

Did you know Vaughn's has the own web site now? It is

www.vaughansfamilyrestaurant.com/

May 30th: When did Dacy's burn out?

Dacy Electric used to be on the southeast corner of Judd and Benton. It burn out and the rebuilt.

We moved to the farm in August 1961 and it was before then. Does any one remember when that was?

May 30th #2: *Mower*

I show I use 1.97 kWh in 238 hours charging the new electric mower

Jun 1st: *Carol's Sister's Birthday*

Jun 2nd: *Mower power*

Electric mower used 0.28 kWh in 44 hours.

Jun 14th: *Flag Day*

I was trying to figure why the flags were out on the square. Da! It was Flag Day. I forgot!

Jun 16th: *52458 6*

I have no idea what this number is all about. Maybe you do?

Jun 18th: *There is a recipe how to make a fake rock.*

Jun 25th: *There is a list here*

Christmas in 6 months

Finding change

Mower Electric 0.37kWh 146 Hrs

Mower on DC 0.09Kwh 2 ½ Hrs

Jun 26th: Who died today?

Jul 1st: *There is a message here.*

***Illegitimi
non
Carbrumdum***

I am not sure what this is. I have a sign with this on it out on the porch. I know about what it means but not what it says. Do any of you know?

That enough of that. I am going to take the rest of the day off. Good night.

From the INBOX

I now I was going to hang it up for the day. I had to check my email first. Arlene had to show me what the new paper money might look like soon.



10-Jul-2009 9:17am 66°

I tried to save more electricity. I didn't work out as well as I wanted. The weather got hot and humid. After all I do

have that A/C and it was too easy to turn it on. I saved some using the solar panel to charge the sting trimmer and the lawn mower.

I think I am getting a little more electricity off the than I am using the last few days. Most times it is just even. Maybe I need to add another storage battery to the system.

It hasn't been a year since I started to track my usage yet. In March and April I used the least at about only 450kWh each month. July last year was the big month at 1,168 kWh.

This is telling that early spring I use little heat and July is HOT.

Surprise

I had been inside all afternoon and I when I went outside to go to diner it was hot and humid. I didn't remember turning on the A/C today. Surprise!

When I walked out it was like hitting a wall. I got over it but I did not expect it. I'm inside home now and it is nice.

11-Jul-2009 12:24pm 80°

It's another nice day out there. I think I am going out on the front porch and read a book for a while.

Summer is here and it is time for Popsicles and Fudgesicles. Let's go make some.

Popsicle:

1 (3 oz.) pkg. Jello, any flavor

1 pkg. Kool-Aid, any flavor

1 c. sugar

2 c. hot water

2 c. cold water

Fudgesicles:

1 (3 oz.) pkg. chocolate instant pudding

1/2 c. sugar

1/2 c. cream

2 c. milk

Mix and pour into molds. Freeze. For sugar-free Popsicles just use sugar-free ingredients and omit sugar.

For creamier fudgesicles just add more cream and less milk.

More Fudgesicles:

1 (4 1/2 oz.) pkg. instant chocolate pudding

2 1/2 c. milk

2 qt. pitcher (or larger) with cover

Combine pudding mix and milk in pitcher.

Cover and shake well. Pour into 3 ounce paper cups. Insert craft sticks or plastic spoons.

Freeze at least 4 hours. To prevent spills, place filled cups into a baking pan. Yield: 6

fudgesicles.

Source: cooks.com

12-July-2009 2:50pm 79°

I have been getting the motor home stocked so I can be ready to go find Mike and Petra. Today it looks like if I leave here before noon on Tuesday I should catch with them around Hannibal IL. Being the way the weather has been going for them it might be some where else. They have been making changes refining their route to get to Woodstock.

I might get to Hannibal and call them and find them elsewhere.

Oh Hannibal is in MO. See I lost them already. Well I will find them some where down the road.

Motorhome Loading

When I came back from vacation this Spring I was going to write down the things I used and didn't use that were in the motorhome. That way I could decide what needed to be load and what didn't. Well if I did make the list I have no idea where it is. So I will just load it up with what ever comes to mind and over or under load it same as always.

Right now I think I will make some Popsicles and deal with it later.

13-Jul-2009 8:33pm 69°

Well I think I am about ready for my trip. There are only a few things I need to do like fill the water, fuel tanks. I need to load the frig too. I wait until the last minute for some of these things.

Wait is the camera battery and charger loaded and what about the cell phone and charger. What about ink for the printer and do I have the laptop?

And the toolbox, I have to take it. Things keep happening where I need tools.

I didn't get those Popsicles made either Maybe I am not ready yet!

14-Jul-2009 10:00pm 70°

Vacation Start Out

I am going to find Mike and Petra around [Hannibal, MO](#)

I reset the odometer and had 14,045 miles and 306.7 hours on the engine and filled the tank with 40.422 gallon of gas costing \$107.48.

I had planned on leaving at noon. About 11:55am I left the driveway to fill the gas tank and started down the road. I got as far as Wal-Mart when crash. All the stuff I had on the table crashed to the floor. I took a half hour to clean up the mess and make sure all other stuff was secure.

Now it is 12:45 so I finally got out of town about one o'clock.

All seemed to be fine and I only was an hour behind my plan. I headed down US-14 to Dean then to IL-176, IL-23 to US-20 to meet up with I-39 to go south. I took a few back roads just to get

the feel of driving the motor home again. After a while I got to I39 and was on my way.

I was driving for a couple hours and I noticed I had lost about 15 minutes from the short cut cross country earlier. When the first got to a rest area came along I stopped to take a mini break. A quick cup of coffee helps. After another hour another rest area was there asking me to take another break. This I usual do that when I first start out until I get use to the over the road driving.

Now I am another 30 minutes behind my planned time to meet Mike and Petra. No big deal yet the six hour trip will be seven. I'll get there! By now I am on I-57. This is when I started do slow down. I ran into some construction and traffic slow for a half hour putting me back some more time. The slow driving made me start dragging and I needed to stop and get a cup of coffee. I called Mike and told him the ETA would be around 7:40pm.

Now I was somewhere on I-72 traveling west. I finished my coffee and started down the road. After about tem minutes I saw some black smoke drifting across the field and thought little of it at the time. I just thought some one was burning something like tires then and then I saw it had stopped. About two minutes later every



Behind me

one was switching to the left lane, shortly the traffic stopped!

We stopped moving for a long time. Fire trucks and rescue truck past by while we waited. I put the motor home in park and got out and looked down the road and could see of down the road a mile or so. I had no idea what had happened but I could see all the flashing lights.

A few minutes we started moving again and in a while I got down to the cause and saw a semi tractor all burnt out.



It didn't look as if any one hurt because the rescue trucks were still sitting there and no one seemed to be rushing around. The traffic slowly moved by this and then got back up to highway speeds.

I was way behind my planned arrival time so I decided to driver a little faster. I didn't want to drive too fast the motor home uses a lot more gas when you drive fast and besides the speed limit for motor home is 55 MPH.

I figured I wouldn't get to meet those guys until almost 8:45 so around eight o'clock I decided to exit the interstate to pull off and call to let them I wouldn't meet them until morning. I pulled onto the off ramp at US-54/IL-107 from I-72 and stopped to turn left and started to turn and BOOM nothing! The engine would not move the motor home and soon the engine would not run.

OK, I am in the middle of the intersection blocking all four lanes of traffic along with the off ramp. Scary!

I called 911 to help. I wasn't sure at the time where I was so I asked the guy in the pickup behind me to tell the 911 operator our location. I asked them to send the police and maybe a tow truck. After that was done the man help me push it out of the intersection to let traffic pass by.

The Pike County Sheriff showed up, Forest I think was his name, and then within an hour Greg show up from Allen's Towing from Pittsfield, IL arrives. This tow truck was almost as big at the motor home. After he had the tow truck hooked up he had to remove the drive shaft for safety before towing. Greg towed me to Pittsfield where I spent the night hooked to a tow truck. It was ten o'clock at night and we were not going to do anything until morning anyway.

Well, I took a picture of the motor home hooked to the tow truck. I had two pictures get corrupted this is the one I salvaged.



You see this yellow tow truck is bigger than the motor home

This day was an adventure all on its own. Fire along the road, blocking a 4 lane highway, a ride in a big truck, and sleeping while still died down to a tow truck.

15-Jul-2009 Greenfield, IL

You may ask; “How did I get to Greenfield?” Well read on.

Last night I got to Pittsfield just before ten o'clock. I was sitting behind Hardies. I looked over there and Greg told me I could even eat breakfast there. By the time I was settled in it was closed for the night. So I ate a can of beans and then fired up the generator to run the A/C to cool things down.

Around 7:30 this morning I was up and over to Hardies eating breakfast. While sitting there eating I was looking around trying to figure out where to go to find Greg to find about fixing my motor home. Allen's Tow and Tire was right next door. Not really hard to find.

After I finished eating I headed over there to see what was up. Yesterday we were guessing it might just be a fuel filter. That was the first thing he would have tried if the phone hadn't rang. It was Freedom Care my RV road service people.

Freedom Care wanted him to tow the motor home over 50 miles away to Morrow Brothers Ford to be serviced in Greenfield. Both Greg and I questioned; “Why so far away when there was a Ford dealer near by?” Freedom Care said that they were paying for the tow and Morrow Brothers Ford were waiting for it.

While waiting for Greg to get caught up with other business another customer came in who was also towed in Tuesday evening. Jerry, the other customer, and I entertained each other to take some of the pressure off of Greg and the other guys then seemed to be very

busy fixing other vehicles. Other customers came and left, and there were many phone calls and deliveries. This was a busy place! When Greg was ready I got up and we were on the way out the door and the phone rang. Yup, it was for Greg. We finally left around 9:30

By 11:30 or so we were here. Oh I am at Morrow Ford now. They were very busy when Greg dropped off the motor home. I thanked him and he left as soon as he was sure I had what I needed.

Larry, the service manager at the Ford dealer, got my name and asked what happened and told me it might be an hour before they would start on it. The shop was full and it looked like everybody was working on something. So I went up to the waiting room and waited.

Just after noon they had the drive shaft installed and had been trying to finding the cause of the failure. By one-thirty, two o'clock Larry told me it was the fuel pump and they had to get one. He thought he could get one today but no one had one locally. So tomorrow around 9 o'clock in the morning they should have the pump.

Now you know why I am in Greenfield, IL for the night.

Side Note

Some people would be teed off at all of this. I was doing fine until I settled in for the night and went to eat some of the ice cream I brought along. This is when I got very unhappy. My ice cream was a brand new unopened box and it was upside and empty and froze to the bottom of the freezer. This made me very, very mad to loose a whole box of Breyer's Ice Cream! I cleaned up the mess and watched it go down the drain! I

almost cried. ☹. I went right next door and bought another box. I am going to eat right now! ☺ ☺ ☺

16-Jul-2009 7:20am 76°

Morrow Brothers Ford, Greenfield, IL

I got up about an hour ago and went over next door to the IGA to get some breakfast food. They were closed until 8:00. After I got back I scrambled some eggs and had some yogurt, milk, and a cup of coffee. I guess that is why I have all of that food in the motor home anyway.

So now I wait. ☺

17-jul-2009 6:20am 55°

Quincy, IL, Microtel Inns & Suites

Around 10:30 yesterday morning they had my motor home fixed.

One of the people there asked if I was going to the big picnic. I kind of said no. A little later one of the owners told me; "Yes, I was and they were going to buy me lunch and they would enjoy to having me join them." At least two cars full of us went.

This was a fund raiser for the Union cemetery ever year at union hall. I wasn't sure what to expect. On the way there they me I had to be careful where I stepped because it was a cow pasture. It was and I did!

We drove out to the middle of no where and it looked like someone's farm. I found out it was the civil war baric for the union soldiers. When we got there around 11:15 the must have been over 200 people there and about 150 sitting and eating.

I head some say they had been doing the fund raiser ever year for about 75 years. Stott Morrow the dad of the guys who own the Ford dealership said that people take the day off and go to this picnic ever year.

I have to go now Mike and Petra are in the hotel waiting for me.

5:22pm Canton, MO campgrounds

After breakfast I took Mike and Petra across the bridge from IL into MO. The signs on the bridge and the locals said you can't walk across. When we were diving across I saw the shoulder was very narrow. I dropped them off just after crossing the Mississippi river.

They were heading up to Canton with a stop in La Grange for a break. I drove up La Grange and got some fuel then up here to find this RV Park, City of Canton Mississippi Park." After I found it I drove back to La Grange and to find a spot to meet them for lunch. I parked in a big parking lot on highway 61 across from the casino.

I figured they would be coming down the road in an hour or so. I decided to walk back and meet them and rather than just waiting at the motor home. I called to make sure I had the right path and then started walking south on the same road.



After a mile or so the road was straight and I could see 2 or 3 miles. I couldn't see them so I called again. Mike said they were resting under a couple of trees. The only trees I saw were at the horizon and they were not there yet. So I

didn't know for sure how far I had to go to meet up with them.

I think it was about then when my battery gave up on the cell phone. I had just verified I was on the right road, 344th Ave, and that I would keep going until I met them.

I just kept walking and walking, and walking and I caught up to them when my GPS said 3.81 miles and 54 minutes. I hadn't thought I would have had to go that far but I did. It was then when I remembered I had to walk 3.81 miles back to the motor home.

I had about 2 miles to go when I started to hurt. The balls of feet are still sore. I haven't been walking at all for the last couple of months so I am not surprised that my feet are sore. I know they will be fine in the morning. Won't they?

Anyway we got back to the RV we went across the road to the casino and had lunch. We all ate chili and it was good.

After lunch Mike and Petra headed



Mike is out there taking a picture of the river and I'm taking one of my shoes. ☺

down the road for Canton and I got in the motor home to this RV Park in Canton

about fifty feet off the west bank of the Mississippi River.

I think they said they will get into town around six o'clock so I should be seeing them soon or they will call me and let me know where they are.

There is a ferry boat about a block down the street and Mike said he would like to take it across the Mississippi to get back to the Illinois side of the river. If I remember right Mike said it was the oldest Ferry crossing on the Mississippi the still being used.



Just two blocks north of here is the locks. I was going to walk down there and check that out too but my feet hurt too much. I will let them rest until morning.

18-Jul-2009 1:00pm 74°

Warsaw, IL Campgrounds

I just got to this camp site in Warsaw and decided to stay for the night. This morning I spent some time talking with the guy next door at the Canton RV Park so I didn't anything much else. I drove north to Iowa on the west side of then Mississippi and then crossed the bridge into Illinois then to Warsaw. I found this Park right along the river. This one is about 200 feet from the east bank.

After looking for a place to pay to stay here I ran into Frank who is parked at the other end. He said some time they

drive around collecting and they also have a place up at City Hall. I think I will walk back into town and look for City Hall. I have time before Mike and Petra find me.

I found City Hall and it was closed. Bob a guy getting ready to cut grass said they come around and get the money for camping. On the way back to the camp grounds I picked up two gallons of water but forgot I had to carry over a mile back to the camp. I made it with little effort.

Curty, the Camp money taker, came along just as Bob had told me back at City Hall. Then Randy and Millie parked next to me inviting me over for a beer. So I went over and visited with them until Mike and Petra arrived.

After that I went back to my RV where Petra cooked one of her great meals. After visiting and watching the river flow by for a long time long time we retired to sleep time.

19-Jul-2009 7:39am 65°

Oh, it's Sunday! Mike and Petra just took off to Hamilton, IL up Road # 32 or some road. We regrouped there to drive to Iowa to have breakfast. That was across the bridge. I drove them back to Illinois to get their cart on the other side of the bridge and we parted ways for a while.

I headed back to Iowa to get supplies and then back to Illinois and head north up the east side on the Mississippi to find them.

Later I went up the path Mike and Petra traveled and stopped and said; "Hi!" then went to the next rest area and waited for then sleeping in the grass for

an hour or so. Then I walked back to meet them about a mile and a half hike.



My Rest area at the Ripley Rest Area



Mike and Petra had there rest area a mile before the Ripley Park

4:13pm Ripley Rest Area

Mike and Petra rest as I find camp spot. It looks to be 2 miles to Camp Nauvoo.

8:00pm Nauvoo, IL

We are in Camp Nauvoo. Wi-Fi works down by the lodge. I guess lightening zapped the remote antenna and they are waiting for parts.

Mike and Petra are inside planning tomorrow's day and I am sitting outside plugged in the electric on the out side of the RV typing my notes.

20-Jul-2009 7:40am around 60°

Nice morning! I woke up and Petra had breakfast on the table. After breakfast Mike & Petra headed off to walk to Dallas City. Just like kids they left me home to do house work.

I have to do laundry, dishes, and clean the floors. I guess even when you are on vacation you have house work. First I have to finish my coffee.

Mike says there is a campground in Dallas City on First Street. After I get my house work finished I will just drive up there and take the rest of day off. I want to wait until the people next door are up before I start running the vacuum cleaner. By 8:00 they should be up.

12:30pm about 85°

Dallas City, IL, River View RV park

I got here this morning around 9:30. It is a rustic park. It is older and had been flooded out not too long ago. The owner said that it was about six inches over his bar. That would have made it over the top of my motor home. I just hope for now the Mississippi keeps going down river.

He said that he had just got it all cleaned up when the levee broke and flooded it again. Some of the time you just can't win.

I walked up town and didn't find any place to eat tonight. I guess we will be eating camper food again. We have some ice cream but not much. At least we won't starve. I'm hungry now so I think I should put down the keyboard and see what I can eat.

Ritz crackers and cheese didn't work out so well! I had eleven crackers and only had cut ten pieces of cheese. I

guess that was the reason I went down and had that beer. ☺

21-Jul-2009 7:30am 65°

This morning it rained quite heavy before five. Now it is cool and damp. I had the awing out and it looked like it had a hundred gallon of water sitting in it like when I camped in my back yard. This time I worried about until Petra went out and looked at it. It was just air. Yes it just sagged and she fixed it with one finger.

Mike and Petra took off about 6:30 so they could get there miles in before it got too hot. If it weather gets too much they can take more breaks. Me, I was left here to do house work again. ☺

Mike and Petra will be staying in Burlington, IA tonight and maybe for two nights. I am going else where if they stay two nights. I am not sure just where I will be going yet. You know me it is random. I will figure that later.

22-Jul-2009 7:35am 64°

Burlington, IA

I'm sitting here eating some Ritz crackers with cheese and drinking a mug of milk while typing some notes. The travelers are at a bed and breakfast around the corner.

Yesterday I met Mike and Petra in Lomax, IL the next town after Dallas City for the late morning snack. I had driven up and checked it out and found a restaurant called "The Pink". I parked next to the old jail across the street and looked down the street and could see them coming. I sat on a bench in front of the fire department. Then they would see

me when they got closer. Well I sat there until it started to sprinkle.

I went to into the restaurant to wait where it was dry. I waited and waited and no show. Finally I called and found they were sitting under a try waiting for the rain to stop. Eventually they showed up. I was still raining when they arrived. All most all the time we were there it was raining. We visited with the owner for a very log time while mike and Petra were deciding if they were going to try to walk in the rain to Burlington.

In the end I gave then a ride to this Bed & Breakfast in Burlington.

On the way Petra saw this wet spot on the ceiling. Yes, I had a roof leak. I spend a lot of the rest of the day in the rain on the roof figuring the cause and patching it. I think the leak has stopped because it rained off and on all day and even last night some more and the spot on the ceiling seems to be dry.

I didn't spend the whole day out in the rain. We went for dinner and Mike had to get some new shoes. I think he said that this was the third or forth pair on his trip.

After diner we walked around town a little. We saw this nice house on the corned down the street in the old part of town. It was built 101 years before I was born. I hope I look that good when I am 163 years old. Petra was trying to get me to buy it. They were asking only \$155,000. If you are looking for nice old



house in Burlington, IA its number is MLS-111699.

Well I have to call Mike and see if they need any thing before I leave. I am heading for Woodstock this morning. I have to get that roof checked out before I get any more damage.

23-Jul-2009 12:33pm 80°, Home

I arrived home around 3:45pm yesterday. After getting the car out I went and got my mail the Post Office was holding for me and got something to eat. Then I settled in for the night here at home.

I also washed a load of laundry so I could walk around with my birthday suit covered up. ☺.

I am still going through my mail and also Mike and Petra's. I take care of their mail while they are traveling.

Once the paper work is finished then I need to empty the motor home and check on the roof leak. I did tell you about the wet ceiling, didn't I?

24-Jul-2009 7:25am 60°

The vacation is over for now. After doing almost nothing yesterday my back hurts. I guess I should do nothings again today.

My lower back has been sore for the last few days. I started after climbing up on the roof to patch that leak. I still have to fix that. I don't want to have to replace the whole roof if the leak is not fixed.

This morning at the Three Brother Restaurant a plumber was cleaning a plugged drain and flooded a big part of one of the rooms. No one was happy with

this guy. I didn't find out his name so I can't tell you to call some one else. It should be dried out soon.

7:34pm

I mowed the grass in the front and cleared out most of the stuff in the motor home. Tomorrow I will do more of the same.

25-Jul-2009 8:37pm 71°

After catching up this morning I went to lunch with Cork & Diane. This afternoon I finished up some more laundry and looked at the lawn in the back of the house. No, I thought it would wait to be cut until tomorrow. I have been watching TV tonight.

I was thinking about making a Dairy Queen run when I remembered I had not made those Fudgesicles yet. I opened up this newsletter to get the instructions. I think I will put this newsletter away and go make them now.

26-Jul-2009 4:32pm 83°

I just returned from having lunch with Aunt Annie at Isabella's. We had a good visit. I hadn't seen her since I took off to see the Pilgrims. We had a nice visit.

Geocaching

I was going to do a little Geocaching while I was on the road with Mike & Petra and never got to it. I was having other things happened that took up my time. Things like roof leak and fuel pump gets you thinking about other things and not about having fun.

I am home and settling in and was checking the logs and I see that people are finding my caches.

I have caches in four of the twenty-two parks in Woodstock. The first one I placed was easy for me to place and not too hard to find. 27 people have located it since the beginning of May.

The last cache I placed out there was a little more difficult to locate. The one the Bill and I placed in the Westwood Nature area was placed at the end of May and only eight have located it so far.

The other two have 15 and 18 finds. The hungry mosquitoes are keeping these caches protected for now.

I have also placed three traveling objects. These are called "Travel Bugs" most of the time. When some one find one of the travel bugs they grab it and log that they have them then place it in a other cache and log where it is.

Most of these objects have a goal. The first one I started I asked that it went to a nice place for me to go visit. It hasn't traveled very far only 31 miles so far since mid May.

On the other hand the other two have traveled 225 miles and 665 miles.

One of these is in a cache waiting to be moved along. The other two are in other procession a waiting to be put into another cache. OH, the Travel Bug that traveled 665 is in Maryland!

If you want to play the game go to www.geocaching.com to learn more.

Mike & Petra

I left the Pilgrims in Burlington, IA at a Bed & Breakfast. Mike said that he figured they would be here in Woodstock on the eighth of August. Yesterday they were in Aledo, IL. That is

40 to 50 miles from where I left them three days ago. They might just make it here on the 8th.

28-Jul-2009 8:45am 71°

That explains it...My horoscope starts off by saying; "*One more day of hiding out from the world...*"

I have been dragging since I returned for the Big Muddy. I just can't get motivated to do anything. I have done a few things but I had to force myself to do them. I just have a case of the Ho-Hum's. I feel like I am getting over it but it is still hanging in there. Maybe the horoscope is on the right track and I will be over it tomorrow.

The Pilgrims

Mike called and left me a message that they were at the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park. And also they had two TV interviews while in the Quad City area. He said they were aired Sunday and Monday. He said it was CBS channel 4. I can't find them online. I am pretty sure this would be WHBF-TV which is www.cbs4qc.com. I sent them an email to find the link.

Ho Hum

Why do I not want to do anything? Well, I am typing in the newsletter.

29-Jul-2009 8:27am 60°

I woke up this morning and the Ho-Hums are gone. I wonder what changed. I noticed this before I had my coffee at Star Bucks. I noticed it when I rolled over to get out of bed. Maybe it was the brownies I made and ate last night. Well what ever it was I'm over the draggys and seem to want to go out and do something. I am off!

6:23pm

I did get a boost of energy today. I cut the front and back grass, washed some of the road off the motor home, made 3 trips out for coffee and did mess small projects. What ever was causing my to not want to do any thing seems to be gone for now. I don't know what it was but for now it is not here.

Now I am going to rest up for tomorrow.

30-Jan-2009 2:14pm 71°

I just got back from having lunch with Aunt Annie and Marge. Today is Aunt Annie's birthday so I took her to lunch.



Marge, Aunt Annie, and me on Aunt Annie's birthday

31-Jul-2009 9:00am 63°

I have been updating the event/calendar on my web site. Is anyone using that? It is a lot of work to maintain so if you are using it please let me know. It is something I could let go if no one else is looking at it.

Today is the end of July. Bam! Where did it go?

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