

Issue # 68 March 2010

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1-Mar-10 8:23am 28°

Birthdays & Anniversary

This morning at breakfast I found out eleven years ago today Anile came to the USA. I had pictures of the Anniversary party but Anila deleted them. Happy Anniversary Anila!

Jenae is having a birthday today. I haven't seen her in a long time but I keep in touch once in a while through the Internet. Happy Birthday Jenae!

Exercise

I haven't been out to the exercise place in a long time. With a new month starting today maybe I should start up again. It is hard to get up off of my bottom side and go out into the cold. I haven't found anyone that is willing to

exercise for me yet so I guess I have to do it myself.

As Seen in the News

5,200 nude people posed for a group picture at the Sydney Opera House. I looked at the picture and didn't see any I recognized so I am showing no pictures.

The Word for Today

Mycology; the study of fungi,
Mushrooms in other words.

Source: Marge

Marge and I both eat mushrooms and Aunt Annie does not. You know we order mushroom ever time we can when we eat out with Aunt Annie. It is in our nature to aggravate her. Sorry Aunt Annie!

Marge Asked

What is the difference between a creek and a river? About all I knew is a river is bigger so I checked.

Creek; A stream is a flowing body of water with a current, confined within a bed and stream banks. Depending on its locale or certain characteristics, a stream may be referred to as a branch, brook, beck, burn, creek, kill, lick, rill, river syke, bayou, rivulet, or run. ...

Source of definitions: Goggle.com

Note: This definition of the word *creek* kind of sums up the many definitions I found.

River; A river is a natural watercourse, usually freshwater, flowing toward an ocean, a lake, a sea or another river. ...

Source of definitions: Goggle.com

Note: Yup A creek is smaller than a river. I am kind of right.

Marge you were right, small creeks flow in to big rivers.

2-Mar-10 8:43am 25°

Today is the day. Three years ago this morning I fought a blizzard just so I could get for the last time. Yes I retired.

After thinking I would spend more time traveling the country or even the world I changed. I missed the routine that work brought me. Having a schedule was in my blood.

I started to work off some kind of internal schedule. I would get up early and have breakfast at one or another restaurant. Then around 9:30 it was time to have my morning coffee break. Last December on my birthday I thought I would add exercising to my schedule.

Most of my scheduled activities have fallen aside. I don't get up earlier enough to have breakfast with the guys and friends have changed their schedules so the restaurant stops have dropped off.

I find myself hanging out more than visiting. I watching TV with my eyes closed and am getting very soft.

It is time for a change. I have no idea what that means yet. It is just that I seem to be in a rut. I have been cranking lately. I even got

pissed at one of my friends yesterday and walked out saying it was over.

I need to take care of that today because I was mad at myself more than my friend. I should have walked out before I blew my cool.

Open Projects

I need to start working on projects that started over the last 20 or 30 years that never got finished. When I see one of these projects I need to give the project three chooses. Add it to the list that is will get finished some day, working on it today, or delete it from the list and get rid of all parts of it. Or not! ☺

Most all unfinished projects are there because something more interesting came along to change my attention. Sometimes I go back and work on then for a while and some have been in the works of for 20, 30, and 50 years and even longer.

This newsletter started out in 1998 and then stopped a year later and came back to life when I retired. It has become a place for me to vent. I have tried to keep it on the positive side but at the most it is not negative.

I started to clean up the clutter around the house and learned something. There clutter is mostly started projects that I need to let go of. I put down one project to start another. Purity soon I have projects all over the place. They get pushed together and it gets renamed as clutter.

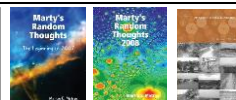
I'll bet if I start to drop projects and get rid of the parts of the projects the clutter will go with it. It will take some hard work on my part. I will have to schedule this and do it every day at the same time so I have a routine. Wait...I am starting another project. This is a project to end all projects. ☺

Well I have been retired for 3 years and I have to go back to work. I think I will start it with my 9:30 coffee break.

4-Mar-10 11:53am 39°

Nice Days

There are too many nice days in a row. I haven't proof read the last issue and this one is well on its way. And I can't do it now because I just got back from buying some gardening



supplies and they will have to wait too. Aunt Annie called and invited me to go to lunch with her and the girls.

There is another thing too. I just got the last of my tax information in the mail. They should have had that out before the end of January but the government gave them a waver until the first of March. Oh well I'll work on it later.

I have lunch to do first then the newsletter and maybe some gardening. Then I will look in to doing the taxes.



Back from Lunch

Now home I have entered some more bills in to Where's George and I see my Where's George score is up to 627.90. I thought I should see what the highest score Illinois is 1,420.34. And of the entire Where's George group the score is 1,636.94. This user is from Wattsburg, PA. He claimed to have entered 1.4 million bills since 2002. Yes I said million. He must have help.

Now I go on to proofing the newsletter.

5-Mar-10 8:58am 27°

I think I may need a keeper or least a proof reader. Yesterday I agreed to give Bill a ride to get his car. And easy task for me but I made it hard for Bill.

He tried calling me at home when he was ready and kept getting a busy signal. So he tried to get me on the cell phone and kept getting the wrong number. I had also given him my MagicJack number that you can leave a message and it is emailed to me so I will get it anywhere in the world. Yup I had that number wrong too.

Well here is the rest of the story. I had just printed up some business cards with my contact information on it. You know you can

print just 10 at a time on the computer. They make this card stock that breaks apart very easy just for that.

I had my main number right. I have been using that since Townsend's car dealership was down the street a couple of blocks. It became Reichert's after that and then many other things before the removed the building. That is a whole other story. Anyway the home was not hung up right so I did not hear to sound it was making while it was off the hook. Sorry Bill I was home.

On these cards I printed for the mobile phone it was hard to tell that the letter "O" was an "O" and the number zero was a "0". In fact I even could tell the difference until now. Yes the Zero looks like this: "0" and the letter look like this "Oo". Typo both were zeros and Bill read then as letters. There is one of each. Sorry again Bill!

And for the MagicJack number I just put it on wrong. Sorry Bill!

So I printed 10 of these cards. Five of them I still have. This means I have to do like Toyota and have a recall. If I gave you one of my news business cards in the last month or so, please return it and I will give you a brand new one. I will do even one better. Just destroy the one that is wrong and ask me for a new one. Even better just ask for one and it is yours. If I run out I will make more.

Ok car makers; let's see you do a recall like that.

Oh to know if you have a bad card look at the Message number. If it ends with "3743" it is wrong. It should be "8743". See you can even fix it you self if you want.

Remember with my recall you just need to ask. :-)

S-L-O-O-O-o-o-w

I have been trying to get some things done that require the internet and it is very, very slow today. At first I thought it was my computer so I tried another other and it was slow too. Then one more and it was slow too. I

tried the Wi-Fi through the cell phone and it seems to have a very weak signal today too.

Now I am thinking about going uptown to one of the hot spots and see what happens.

Thinking it might be a virus I am doing a full scan on the PC while I am typing this. I hope it is not that again. They are a pain to stop.

I think I will go for lunch and check it out later. Maybe the Wi-Fi gods are on a break today.

6-Mar-10 8:03pm 22°

Birthdays

Happy Birthday Marie! It was good talking to you. Too bad you don't live a little closer we could go for coffee once in a while. I forget you are still my younger sister?

7-Mar-10 10:32am 46°

This morning I decided to walk out and have breakfast. I got to the corner of the block and noticed it was still cold out there. I turned the corner and just walked around the block. I was cold when I got home. Maybe it is a good thing I didn't walk the whole two miles this time.

Even though it is 46° now I have to wait. There is rain about 30 minutes away. It is in the southwest corner of the county and heading this way. I am guessing it is about a half hour from here.

I guess I could drive out for coffee. I am not getting anything done around here with the internet so slow.

9-Mar-10 12:50pm 46°

Birthdays

Sandi is having a birthday today. If you see her at the Three Brother tell her I said; "Happy Birthday Sandy!"

Taxes

Wow, that's done! I finally finished my income taxes. I started it a month ago and couldn't finish because I did not have the tax statements sent to me. I received the last one about a week ago. After doing a go through

yesterday I thought I did something wrong. I started over this morning and by mid morning I was depressed.

Last year (2008) I didn't have any taxes taking out when I got money from my IRA so I had to estimate my taxes and pay over 3 months. That wasn't too bad until I figured my taxes for 2009. Boy did I blow it. My income was a little higher and my medical expenses and donation were a little lower. Without have health insurance I didn't go the doctor so often because I didn't get sick. Those were big deduction that I had last time.

Don't get me wrong I earned the money and it was my fare share of the taxes. It is just that it through me for a loop.

I guess for a while I am going to be drinking bread and water instead of steak and eggs. I guess I should adjust and learn how to make my money last another 90 years.

Anyway I have filed the taxes and set up the payments and I have to go about my life.

This Computer

For the last week I have been trying to make this computer run a little faster. All aspects of it are just dragging. Internet is slow the internal processes are slow. The refresh rates on the screens are slow. And it is this PC not the other ones I have tried.

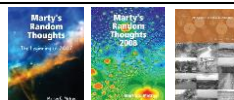
It is time to rebuild this one. I know I have told you I was going to do this a few times in the last couple of years. Well it is going to be my primary project for the next few days.

That means that I most likely won't be updating things on the newsletter much for a while. I may because I could use one of the older PC or even one of the Linux servers. We'll see how it goes.

10-Mar-10 11:20am 48°

Anniversary

Six years ago Sandi stopped smoking. Many of us wished her the best but we wondered how long she would go. She made it and this is great. Happy Anniversary Sandy!



PC Rebuild

I spent most of yesterday working on rebuilding this PC after I finished my taxes.

I noticed the hard drive was very noisy and thinking it might be part of the problem I decided to make a clone of everything that was on it before it failed and I lost all of it. After getting it setup to do a bit by bit copy it was way after six o'clock last night. I know it would take a long time to do that. It took way longer than I thought. Well it wasn't finished when I go up this morning.

And that was just the first partition. I had two of them to copy. The second one was only 5% the size so it only took an hour.

I tried booting it on the PC I used to do the cloning and found out that I couldn't use it because I need a new license key because it was on the wrong PC. I tried the right key and it wouldn't let me use an OEM key on the wrong machine. So I couldn't test it until I put it back in the PC it belonged.

During the Idle Time

During this time I was without a compute to work with. I had one down without a drive and the other one tied up cloning the drive.

Since it was kind of dry outside I thought I would take that big star off the roof. I forgot that my ladder was unstable. I had to be very careful. I am careful most of the time anyway. But with an unstable ladder I have to be extra careful. Anyway the star is off the roof.

The star is funny. It is solar powered so last night I keep seeing it out the kitchen window and said "What's that? Oh!" I still have to put it away somewhere. Maybe I'll get that done before next Christmas."

In the Meantime

Knowing it would take all night to clone that drive I decided to do a full restore on the PC while I waited. After all it may only take an hour. Yah, right!

I had a new hard I was going to use for something else that I could use. That is another thing I forgot takes so long. It took 3 hours to reload the hard drive from scratch using the

original recovery disk. I didn't have to do much. I just put in the disk and click on "OK" once in a while.

Right now that disk is the way I had it three or four years ago when I bought the PC. I still have to load all my tools and the program I use all the time. I am guessing another day to finish.

When I would do this at work I would tell everyone it takes about a day to build a PC. That was if you were setting them up right out of the box. So I am going to find out how long it is going to take to set this one up from scratch.

Right now I am using the clone copy of the hard drive to make sure the cloning went fine. I am going the start building then new drive.

The new drive has five times the storage space of the one old one, much faster, uses less energy, and makes no noise. It should last until I have to replace this PC in three to four years.

Well I should put this newsletter away and get working on it.

11-Mar-10 11:20am 45°

° € ¢

Yes those are three more things I had to set my computer to do while rebuilding it. It needs to know my name and address too.

I forgot about these until I open this document. Now it is done. These keys are not on my keyboard so I had to make them happen with a little trickery.

Rain

Rain is nice for a while it washes the streets and melts the snow. Now as long as it does not fill up your basements or mine either

No more Salt

Did you hear that they are talking about banning salt in restaurants in New York? I guess they don't want them to use any salt in the food they cook in any restaurant in New York City. If they are going to keep banning this we can eat we will all be able to hide behind a pencil after a while. What next?

Computer Rebuild Project

I looked out the kitchen window and saw I haven't put that star away yet. I have been working on this PC trying to get it back to the way I want it. I am getting there though it is taking a while.

So Far I have AVG, Zone Alarm, Microsoft Office Suite, the Printer drivers, Adobe Reader, and MS Media suit work along with a lot of plug-ins that were needed to make some things work.

I have to setup my email accounts up so I don't miss your letters. I should do that now.

I have been trying to make a list so if I have to do this again it would be a little easier.

Next step it the email accounts. I'll be back....

Where's George

Some of you may know I have been trying to track where my money goes after it leaves my billfold. I had a dollar bill get to Portage, WI some 99 miles. Then I had another go 128 miles to Normal, IL. When I had another bill go 755 miles I thought I was doing great. It was spotted in Chesapeake, VA. I thought I couldn't beat that. Then a month later I had another dollar end up in New York, NY. That is only 754 miles but I was surprised any way.

I thought it would be a long time before those bill would be topped I had a much bigger surprise yesterday. I even had to look twice before I would believe this one. This bill left my pocket on January 2nd and was spotted again on March 10th in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam some 8,641 miles away.

Wow! Yes Wow! I wonder how it got there. It may take a long, long time to top that. Today my George Score is 640.65.

PC Rebuild Project

I thought I would be finished with my PC rebuild by now but I am not there yet, maybe tomorrow. I have one more major program to install and may more minor ones as I need them. I will load one now and see if I can finish it he morning. Oh it is 9:42am and I am tired. Maybe I will give it up for the night. Good night.

12-Feb-10 11:46am 50°

Whoops I missed a few birthdays while I have been rebuilding the PC. I'll go back and insert them on the dates where they belong and no one will be the wiser.

See I got them in there and no will know now. Don't tell anyone I missed a couple.

My PC Project

I think I have this all back together now. I should be able to move on to other things now. There may be a few things that are not ready right, but I can do them later. I think since it is so nice outside I will go out and do something there for a while. Wait...I need to put the covers back on the PC first.

Pilgrims

I see from Mike's blog the travel is happening again. Check out the progress at WalkingEast.com

13-Mar-10 9:50am 42°

Whoops, I mist my go for coffee time. Yes I said "mist" It is raining. I'll be back...

...I'm back from lunch now and ready to do some newsletter stuff.

I went out in that mist earlier and picked up some of the litter left over from the fall and winter litter bugs. They must be big bugs because there was a lot. That done, I noticed the pickup is full of recycle stuff. I need to take some of that to Office Depot and some to Baar's to drop it off. That stuff has been in there since last fall so it will keep for Monday.

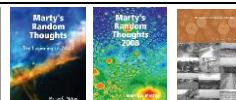
Birthdays

Steve is having a birthday. Since he lives near St. Louis it is going harder to go and have a beer with him. I think I will just wish him a happy birthday from here. Happy Birthday Steve!

Anniversary

Today is Sandi's 33rd anniversary of when she stopped drinking. Happy Anniversary Sandi!

My Web Site Change



I have a new calendar to put out on the web site. I was using a calendar called Web Calendar. It is free but hard to user and maintain. Free is ok but I like this to be easy to use.

The new program is not free but cost only a little. It is much easier to use and is very easy to maintain. I will have it out there and I can keep the birthdays in a spread sheet and merge them in to the calendar program at will. In a few days I should have it installed and you can see how it looks. I'll have more on this later.

14-Mar-10 9:44am 39°

Out for a Walk

After returning from walking up town for breakfast I realize that 40° is a little cool for the second day. I don't think Mike & Petra would agree. On the other hand I am a little out of shape.

The air was damp and the wind was blowing and my ears got cold.

The snow on ground had just melted away and the grass is pushed flat to the ground. This let me see all the trash on the ground. In the beer garden up the street there were a lot of beer seeds. Well maybe they were cans and bottles. On the way home on the other side of the street there were even more of those kinds same kind of beer seeds.

The walk and curb side in front of the bar on the corner looked like a big ash tray. Not an ash from a furnace but one of those for smokers. To me it looked to be ten-thousand cigarette butts lying there about twenty feet each way from the corner.

I am sure that they will get cleaned up soon. After all they were camouflaged when they were cover with slush and snow.

Now that I am home I was thinking when it dries up a little I might walk up there and get their broom, dustpan, and trash can then suggest a butt station outside the door.

Bars and cigarette go together so that will keep happening. It would just look a little better if the butts had a home.

The rest of my walk was fine. You may think I am dwelling on the bad things. It was a nice cool day for a walk. I walked through the square and noticed the grass getting ready to start growing and many stores showing their wares. I zipped up my jacket and kept warm and dry and now I am here.

Marijuana Seeds

The other day there was a thing in the newspaper saying they seized forty-six hundred marijuana plants from 2 houses. There were manufacturing them so they had to be plants that were in bots a little bigger than peat pots. I was wondering if you could buy the seeds on the internet. No one I talked could even tell me what the plants looked like. So I thought I would show you.



Source: Google search; marijuana image

I didn't look very long before I found that there are male and female marijuana plant and there over 50 different kinds of plants to choose from. I decided to show you what it looks like and leave it go with that.

Oh I was looking for seeds. Wow, let's just say you can easily buy almost anything online. I think I will just leave this sleeping dog lye.

Flax Plants

Mary and I were talking one day about Flax seeds. Both of us eat them because there a lot of good things in them that we don't normally get in other foods. For you that don't know what they look like they look like black sesame seeds.

I thought the plant looked like some kind of grass but didn't know for sure so I put it on my list to check out. Here is the quick answer about Flax.



Flax is grown both for its seeds and for its fibers. Various parts of the plant have been used to make fabric, dye, paper, medicines, fishing nets, hair gels, and soap. It is also grown as an ornamental plant in gardens.

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flax>

Sesame Plant

After missing on the Flax plant thinking it was a grass I also figured that Sesame seeds came a grass too. Wrong!



Source: Google.com image search

Get Over It Day

Did you know that March 9th is "National Get Over It Day?" Mary told me that and I forgot to tell you. I will add it to my event calendar so we don't forget it. They have a web site too would you know it is getoveritday.com/.

Wi-Fi, What is it

Someone asked what "Wi Fi stood for. Even though I am a geek I wasn't sure I had the right answer.

WiFi (a local area network that uses high frequency radio signals to transmit and receive data over distances of a few hundred feet; uses ethernet protocol)

Source: Google search "Define: Wi Fi"

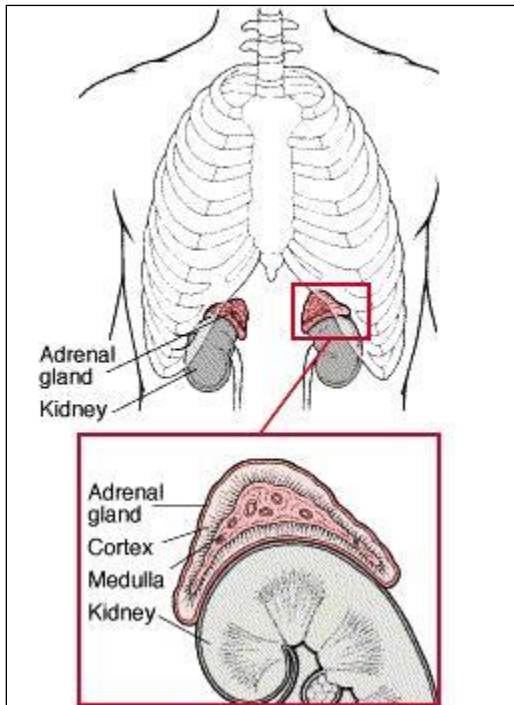
Sick People

I have two people in my life that have cancer one is very sick. I have been told it is stage four. The other one should be just fine. If you pray please say pray for them. At least wish them well. Get Well Soon!

I am being vague because they do not need the public invade their privacy.

Because of this I was asked what the Adrenal Gland was. First the picture;





Source: www.cushings-help.com/the_body.htm

And you say what do they do? Here is what I found.

*In mammals, the **adrenal glands** (also known as **suprarenal glands**) are the triangular-shaped endocrine glands that sit on top of the kidneys. They are chiefly responsible for releasing hormones in conjunction with stress through the synthesis of corticosteroids and catecholamines, including cortisol and adrenaline (epinephrine), respectively.*

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adrenal_gland

I am not sure what that means but it can't be good when they are not working correctly.

Page full

After lunch I am going to cut this newsletter off. It is much easier to when there are fewer pages. After all it is almost the Ides of March

Bye, Marty