

## Issue # 71 May 2010

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### 1-May-10 10:36am 67°

It rained yesterday but I only show an eighth of an inch. I guess that means I might have to water the garden. I know, I have to use some water on my car because of the birds too. I am going out to do that now.

After I am finished I will ask the birds to use that tree in the front yard. I don't have to clean up after them there.

I also have to talk to the squirrels about digging in my flower pots. There are no walnuts hiding in there for them. I thought they understood that when I took the chicken wire off so the plants could grow without having to weave themselves through that wire. Maybe not!

I am sure I will have to have a long talk with the bugs later.

#### **May Day**

Happy May Day!

#### **Birthdays for May**

To view the May birthdays your will need to go online at

[MartysRandomThoughts.com/calendar](http://MartysRandomThoughts.com/calendar)

#### **Garden**

Today I pulled a couple of radishes to see how they were doing and found them to be too small yet.

The seedlings I put in my green house some froze and other over heated. Maybe that is why they call it a hot house. And still others dehydrated. I guess I must watch more closely.

### 2-May-10 8:41am 58°

After having an early breakfast and listening to the local gossip I figured it was time to get issue #70 ready to publish. Before I start I thought I should give you some updates on restaurants.

#### **Restaurants**

I think *Fastacos* is closed now. The building looks empty and there are big white signs on the windows. Driving I have gone by there and couldn't look long enough to read the signs. I do not want to be the cause of a crash. I'll read them one of these days even if I have to pull into the parking lot to do so.

*McDonald's* closed yesterday. They are going to demolish the building and then rebuild it. The story I got was that they are going to reconfigure by making it easier to get in and out of the parking lot and drive through. I always thought that coming out of the drive through on to the highway right at the intersection was unsafe. Maybe they did too.

It sounds like they will be closed until September. It will be good to see the new configuration.

*Bella's Inc* at the south end of Main Street on the east side is also closed. There is a "For Sale" or "For Lease" sign on their window too. There have been many restaurants in there since it first opened as a restaurant so many years ago. I wonder who will be in there next.

### **3-May-10 11:14am 67°**

Well I had good intension this morning to get the newsletter published but I got detoured, I was editing the newsletter and I saw I had typed Marty's Random Thoughts and it did not look right. I wanted to change the font to look like it had in the past with the Ransom font. I guess I had never reinstalled it when I rebuilt the hard drive on this PC. So I went looking for it. And down loaded it but it looked different so I did some searching and found a place of \$9.95 I could create my own font. It is not a custom font but unique to me. It is my handwriting. I have it installed but I have not tested it yet. I will show you later. Right now I have to finish editing the previous issue or I might never get finished.

Anyway I can make it look like this "Marty's Random Thoughts" using the Ransom font again. It is not the same as the old one but I didn't use much time searching. The logo on the

cover page was made with the one I had before. Back to editing!

### **Publishing**

Ok I just starting printing my proof copy of issue # 70 so I thought I would tryout this new font. I called the font "MartM\_hadn1" and this is what it looks like. It kind of looks like the way my hand writing looks. And it also looks kind of sloppy and a little hard to read.

I didn't spend very much time on it because I had no idea at the time how it would look. I already see what I need to do to clean it up a little.

When I write I use uppercase almost all of the time. The Quotes are too big. The zero (0) does not need the dot inside it. I don't do that much unless I want to make sure you know it is a zero and not the letter oh "O". Boy the quotes look funny!

I guess the lowercase "Q" looks like a lowercase "A".

If I use my hand writing font I can had write my newsletter and people might not know if I spell badly or write badly. Or they will know I can't spell or write even though I am typing this right now.

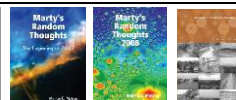
I see the built in spell checker still finds the words and tells me to fix a lot of them.

I did this just for the heck of it to see how it works. I like that is made the font just the way I summated it. It another computer thing called "Garbage in Garbage out."

Even though I spent \$9.95 for this I might do it again and make the sample letters a little better. I would make sure the Characters are evenly spaced and little cleared. The heights widths of the character should be more consistent with each other.

The template is very clear about this but you have to handwrite the letters one at a time. I think I just went too quickly just to see what you get for under \$10.

If you want to try this for yourself check out <http://www.yourfonts.com/>. You do not



have to pay until you are ready to down the font. They show you samples just before you pay.

I will repeat this part so you can read it.

If you want to try this for yourself check out <http://www.yourfonts.com/>. You do not have to pay until you are ready to down the font. They show you samples just before you pay.

Oh there is one other thing I can do with "MartyM\_Hand1" font. I can hold the shift key and press "6" and Sign my names like this ^. Woops I have to change the font first. ^ Neat, yes? My signature is not the same as typing Marty or MARTY it the way I write "^". That is enough of the playing with this for now.

Oh, Oh, I found that other font I was looking for. I could only find the Ransom font under the name "RansomNote". Marty's Random Thoughts can again look like "Marty's Random Thoughts." Now I can move on to other things.

### Garden Update

Yesterday I put some of those seedling I was telling you about out into get Earth Box gardens. I think we are finished with the frost until fall so it was time.

I planters some Peppers, Cabbage and Cauliflower plants yesterday. There are two to four plants each and they look fine today.

I planted a dozen Lettuce seedlings that were no more than an inch tall. They look fine.

Also I planted a whole mess of new Radish seeds. They are not up yet! ☺

### Woops

Cork just emailed me and told me I sent out the notice that the previous newsletter was published and ready to read but it wasn't there. The program should have moved them from my computer to the internet automatically. It was stuck. I unstuck it and restarted it. Sorry for the inconvenience. Thanks Cork for the heads up!

### Sad Note

Laurie passed away last Saturday after a fight with cancer. We will miss her.

### 4-May 8:03am 56°

#### Birthdays

Linda at Angelo's is having a birthday. Happy Birthday Linda

### 5-May-10 12:09pm 69°

Yesterday I bought a small greenhouse and though it said four hours to set it up it only took two. In an hour and a half I figured out where I wanted and had over three-quarters setup when Aunt Annie called and made me go for lunch. Well she didn't make me go, but I was hungry.

The wind picked up while I was gone and blew the half ready greenhouse across the driveway and up tight against the pickup. If the wind was more out of the east it could cross the street.

I thought for a while and decided I wanted in on the south side of the driveway for now and drug it back over there while thinking about how I was going to anchor it down to the driveway.

In a short time I figured I could just nail it down. I meant **NAIL** it down that is. I had a lot of landscaping nail left over from another project. I figured if I could drive then through the blacktop they would hold it down. While I was in getting the big nails and a hammer the wind blew the green house over against the pickup again.

These nails are 3/8" in diameter and about a foot long and look just like a big nail. I guess they are **BIG** nails.

I pulled the greenhouse back where I want it and then put it back together. Yes I pulled the wrong side and pulled it apart. The screws only hold it together a little. The plastic tarp holds it together after you tighten all of the ropes and straps. It is made to be setup on a nice cool windless day with a helper,

Well after getting it about where I want it to be anchored I started to hammer on those big spikes. While I was pounding away the wind

was telling me move it. After a while I drove the spike through the black top and I got one corner fastened down. I squared the greenhouse to look kind of square with the drive and quickly anchored the other corner on the same side.

Things went a little better without it moving around so much in the wind. I made sure nothing else came apart and tightened the other assembly screws and then hammered in the other 4 nails.

At this point it was anchored and I could go back and install the end panel with the door. That done it was just a case of make sure the tarp was kind of even and straight on the two ends so I could tighten the straps that hold the whole thing. The door panel with windows opened installed without any issues and the wind stopped making things difficult. It was done.

So here is what it looks like after I put some of my garden inside.



*To start with this is what is in the greenhouse.*



*This is looking out the door at the rest of the garden.*



**This picture gives you an idea of how big it really is. Oh, you can see my solar panels in the upper right.**

That is enough about the greenhouse for now because the green grass is calling me tell me it wants a haircut.

**6-May-10 8:28am 50°**

Well yesterday got away from me. I started doing something and the thing I noticed



it was dark outside and the grass didn't get mowed. Maybe I will get out there today.

I checked out the greenhouse and with the wind blowing so hard and it held up great.

Mike and Petra are moving right along on their pilgrimage. They sound like they are in good health and enjoying the journey.

### **8-May-10 8:52am 39°**

Boy is it cold in here! I turned the furnace off a couple weeks ago and thought it would be off until fall. I figured I could be tough through this cold spell. WRONG! I had to fire up the heat a little to take the edge off the chill. And now "they" say 'Frost advisory in effect from 3 am to 8 am CDT Sunday...' Maybe we missed summer and fall and it is the start of winter. Wait...we can blame this on the volcano in Iceland. Yup, let's do that!

#### **Greenhouse**

I think I will go move my corn in the greenhouse so it does not freeze tonight. I remember Dad not planting corn before Memorial Day. He said it was to be sure it wouldn't freeze. And it worked for him. So why did I plant mine on May 1<sup>st</sup>?

Maybe I will have Maple trees instead of Popcorn. The pots that were in the open were all covered with Maple tree seeds. ☺

Anyway the corn is in the greenhouse now. The Radishes, Onions, Peas, and Spanish should be ok out in the weather everything else in inside the greenhouse.

I could jam more in the greenhouse but then I could not get to everything without moving things to do so. If I decide I need more in there I will have to build shelving. Right now I am only using the bottom foot or so of the six and a half feet of height I have available. I'll save that project for a warmer day.

#### **Knaack's 50<sup>th</sup>**

Today I went to Knaack for its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House in Crystal Lake. I retired from there over 3 years ago and thought it would



be nice to see what had changed.

It was nice see the people and the changes they made in the factory. As with other factories they have less people working there than many years ago.

I saw many new machines and product then before. Oh and I won some prizes.

All in all it was good to see the people.

#### **Petra Needed New Shoes**

Petra had ordered new shoes online and shipped to me. I mailed them to her friend's house in France and they should get there in a few days. Let's have a race!

I figure Mike and Petra have about a 100 km (63 miles) walk to where the shoes are headed. The shoes have about 2100 miles (3400 km) by car and how ever far it is to get across the ocean to Europe. It is a long ways! Wait I can look at Mikes map will have the distance!

It is about 7000 miles (about 11 300 km) the way Mike & Petra traveled to where the shoes will be delivered. The shoes should be there by May 14<sup>th</sup>.

I wonder who will get there first.

#### **Garden / Weather**

I heard that some of the farmers have corn planted. I hope it does not freeze. The temperature only got up to 50° today then it rained a little.

Cork said he saw some snow early this morning. Come on Cork, it's May!

I am going out and check my stuff and pull a couple Radishes and come in and cross my fingers. ☺

**9-May 10 8:45am 42°**



**10-May-10 10:44am 60°**

I still am reading those RV Travel newsletters once in a while. Here is something I saw today.

**Random RV Thought**

Here is the definition of freedom to an RVer: "A full gas tank, a full propane tank, a full water tank and empty holding tanks." Add to that full cupboards, a full refrigerator, a map, lots of free time, and an RVer's life is approaching a perfect state.

**Bumper Snicker**

Marriage is grand. Divorce is 100 grand.

**Worth Pondering**

"I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors, and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be new views." --President Abraham Lincoln

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/issue428.shtml>

After reading the RV Travel newsletter I checked and they haven't sold my motor home yet. The RV season is just beginning so I am waiting to see what happens.

**License Plates**

Thinking about the cost of running the RV reminded me that I just ordered the license plates for my car. Did you know it cost \$99.00 for the car plate now?

Maybe it is time to put air in the tires of the bicycle and use it. Do I need license plates

for that now? I just love giving the government my money! ☹

**Staples**

I went shopping of food this afternoon and when I got finished I had 8 bags of stuff and it cost me less than sixty bucks. I remembered when I use to figure cost 10 to 20 dollars a bag and I thought things were getting cheaper.

Well 3 of the bags had only one item in them and could have been combined in to the others. There were 2 that were double bagged that for me didn't need to be. So I had 10 bags and it could have been put in 5. When I unpacked these bags I figured maybe only 3 were full and it could have gone in to 3 paper bags. That would have made it about \$20.00 a bag. I guess the price is about the same as it uses to be after all.

One of these days I will take my own shopping bags to the store with me then a bag full will be a bag full. Some day!

Now I am hungry and I wonder what I am going to eat. ☺

**11-May-10 2:39PM 46°**

I think it might be time to move to Arizona or at least a trip down there to see if it is a little warmer. What up with this weather? I don't remembering it being this cool in May. Even my garden doesn't like it.

**Farmers' Almanac**

*Midwest/Great Lakes U.S. Long Range Weather Forecast for May 8th - July 7th, Includes Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin*

**May 2010**

*8th-11th. Fair Great Lakes east.*

*12th-15th. Squally weather Wisconsin east.*

*16th-19th. Clearing skies.*

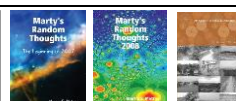
*20th-23rd. Showers Great Lakes, then fair.*

*24th-27th. Unsettled weather Ohio River Valley.*

*28th-31st. Turning fair. No weather problems for Indy 500.*

**June 2010**

*1st-3rd. Pleasant, then scattered showers Ohio River Valley.*



4th-7th. Pleasant Great Lakes.  
 8th-11th. Unsettled weather.  
 12th-15th. Pleasant conditions.  
 16th-19th. Showery, then fair.  
 20th-23rd. Dangerous thunderstorms moves east into Great Lakes.  
 24th-27th. Thunderstorms from Ohio River Valley north and east, then fair.  
 28th-30th. More scattered thunderstorms.

### July 2010

1st-3rd. Hot.  
 4th-7th. Severe thunderstorms may threaten Fourth of July holiday.

Source: [www.farmersalmanac.com](http://www.farmersalmanac.com)

## 12-May-10 10:55am 46°

### The Great Shoe Race

Mike told me that they knew he would beat the shoes to Bizanos, FRANCE so they were going to take a couple days off.

*This is going to be race like the Tortes and the Heir. The Shoes will be like the Tortes and Mike & Petra the Heirs.*

Remember that race the Heir rested a lot and didn't think he had to rush because the Tortes are so slow.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Mike said they were going to take a couple of days off.

Here is how the package of shoes has been doing:

05/08 Woodstock, Post Office  
 Later Palatine, Sorting Facility  
 05/09 Chicago International Dispatch  
 05/10 France, Arrived Abroad  
 Later France, Into Foreign Customs  
 05/11 France, Out of Foreign Customs  
 05/12 France, Foreign Delivery Unit

There are 2 days left in this race. Who will be in Bizanos first? I guess we will find out in a couple days.

### Historical Event

Back in 1988 I bought my house now 22 years later I still live here.

Is it time for a change? I think often it would be nice to live in a different house somewhere else then the thought leaves me.

This house has served me well and I am not so ready to move on. I don't think I am going anywhere too soon.

## 13-May-10 12:33pm 58°

It is still very damp outside. "They" say that that it will be mostly sunny tomorrow. Tomorrow I will check and see if "They" have it right or "They" are just trying to make us feel good.

### Windy

I need to mow my lawn. The wind may dry it out so I can do it tomorrow. It didn't happen yet today.

## 14-May-10 7:36am 50 °

### The Great Shoe Race

I know you all have been waiting for the results of the Great Show Race. First a little background.

The shoes needed to go from Woodstock, IL, USA to Bizanos, France some about 7,000 miles (about 11,300 km). The Pilgrims had to go only about 63 miles (about 100 km). The goal was to see who got to Bizanos, France first.

The Pilgrims were 2 experienced walkers who walk about 15 miles a day so it should have took them less than 5 days. On the other hand I used the US Postal Service to ship the shoes.

Well the results are in and here is what Mike wrote on Fri 5/14/2010 at 4:43 AM

*Hi Marty,*

*The shoes were here waiting for Petra when we arrived. The post office did not know where Michel lives so they had to call him to pick up the package. It seems the house is so new (two years!) that the new street is not in the Post office's computer yet! Anyway, the shoes won. We'll stay here today and leave tomorrow. Still walking but some days am ready to rest for a few months. Peace. Mike*

Here is the last entry on the tracking information after two fail delivery attempts:

*Delivered Abroad, May 12, 2010, 7:30 pm, FRANCE*

So I guess the US Postal Service isn't so slow after all.

Congratulation Shoes and the US Postal Service!

### **Pilgrims**

You must know that Mike & Petra are in Bizanos, France today.

### **Laundry**

I just remembered I have a load of laundry in the washer that needs to dry and I have not used the clothesline yet this year. Well it has been raining. "They" say sunny and winds out of the west. I will hang out these clothes!

### **Cut the Grass**

It is 10:30 now and the front lawn look like it is dry but it does not need the grass cut but the dandelions do. The back year needs to be cut twice because it is very long.

I am going out and try to cut the front. I may have to wait in the back because I have the laundry drying on the clothesline and since it is white stuff I do not want to get grass all over them.

I guess in the back I can bag the grass so it may not be a problem. I suppose if I stop typing and stand up and head outside it will happen much faster. Ok, I'm going!!!!

### **15-May-10 11:54am 65°**

I finally finished cutting all the grass. It took 3 days this time. No my lawn is not that big it is charging the mower.

I forgot that I need a couple good charges the first couple of times in the spring. The batteries are kind of like me. If I sit around too much it takes me a while to get my energy flowing too.

It was too long because of all that rain we had. I thought the rain gauge was empty until I saw it was full. It showed 4-1/2 inches before I emptied it.

So the grass is cut and now I can go out after lunch and do some trimming.

### **My Weather Report**

Again I am not sure how much rain has fallen. My rain gauge that sits in the back yard had 4-1/2 inches in it but my Weather station measured on 3-1/3 inches this month. Is there that much different between the roof and the yard, some 50 feet or so?

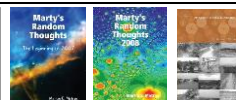
### **Garden Report**

I have been eating Radishes from my garden the last week or so. I didn't think to take pictures to show you until today.

The ones I have been eating were mostly the red or longer ones with the white tips. Though smaller eat them! I have eater 3 or 4 every day for the last week or so. You see I am eating some veggies. ☺

I also there were 3 of the bigger white globe Radishes in the pot where I planted the Lettuce that never came up and I replanted more Radishes in that Earth Box™.

I took a picture of one of them. I eat one last week and one today and I have one left to grow for now. You will see from the picture the size and the little guys that are growing in the pot next to them.





Lunch time is near so I have to go sit on the porch and read some of the words in my book. Maybe I will get finished before the year ends.

This issue ends here.

