

## ***Issue # 74 June 2010***

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## **1-Jun-10 1:19pm 88°**

### **After Lunch**

Well I have published issue # 73 and it is ready online for your review.

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Carol's Sister!

## **2-Jun-10 3:04pm 79°**

Today I received the proof copy of the book "Marty's Random Thoughts 2009." It is available as a printed book or as a download at [www.lulu.com/metras3](http://www.lulu.com/metras3).

You can get a CD from me and will be available before I publish this issue. If you would like one just let me know.

### **Don't Cry Over Spilt Coffee**

Today at Starbucks I was sitting there reading my book when I reached over to get my coffee to sip a little. I laid my book on the arm of the chair and then knocked it into my coffee and the book went to the floor followed by the coffee. I saved the scone because it was in the other hand. The book got soaked and that coffee blotch gave the book some character.

Now I know why they put those lids on those coffee cups. Maybe I will leave them on the next time.

I thanked them for cleaning up my mess and moved to a table where I would be a little safer from myself. I did fine after that.

While I finish reading this book I will be reminded of my sloppiness. Sorry no pictures!

## **3-Jun-10 11:47am 71°**

Wow! It is the third already! Enough of that you could have figured that out on your own.

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Clouse!

### **Lawn Work**

It is a nice day today. I think I am going to lunch then come home and then do some work outside until I get tired of doing it. I figure that might take 5 or 10 minutes. ☺ Lunch first!

## **4-Jun-10 9:07am 61°**

After returning from breakfast at about 7 o'clock I noticed that it was going to rain. Then I noticed the grass



was dry. An old wise tail says that if there is no dew in the morning it will rain. Or is it if there is some dew on the grass it isn't going to rain, one of them!

In any case I quickly mowed the back yard and trimmed the edges until the battery ran out.

After that I went over to see Bill. I haven't seen him at coffee for a while. Partly because I have been going later and partly because he has been busy.

So I sat there hand had coffee for a while. Bill was due for a meeting and I thought I might mow the front lawn before it got warmer and I didn't feel like it. Well I got lucky. It rained so I don't have to do it today.

I guess I am lucky because I see these bills lying here wait for me to pay them. Maybe if I hurry up I can get finished before it is time for another break.

### Woops Coffee First

So I went for coffee before paying bills. While there I looked thru the paper and I thought I would relay this thought I had while sitting there. "I wonder if I lost interest in the Northwest Herald.

I looked at it twice and nothing excites me. I even looked through the Sports & Front sections that I seldom look through. I found nothing!

And my pencil needs to be sharpened and the lead broke twice. Bad day! ☺ It is new pencil & notebook time...

Ok I sharpened my pencil with my Swiss Army Knife. It worked but now the pencil is only about 2" long and hard to use. I noticed that this is a #2 pencil so

it feels like I am taking a test. I have always liked a number 2-1/2 for these notes!

Whatever happened to my other pencil? The pencil I had with my notebook was the one I used when I walked in Spain. It has been missing for a month. It stayed sharp and was still about 4 inches long.

I guess after three years using the same pencil I could just use a new one. I have new # 2-1/2 pencil laying right here on the keyboard.

The problem with the new pencils is they are about 8" long. If I put it in the notebook ring binding it will stick up and I could poke my eye.

If I poke my eye I could go blind on that side and then I would have to make all right turns. That wouldn't be all that bad. I would get better gas mileage.

On Mythbuster's the other day they tested that. They checked the gas usage delivering 5 package taking the shortest route. Then they delivered the same packages and only made right turns. They drove twice as far to make only right turns but they used less than half the fuel.

I might try that right only driving some time. I know I can get all the way to Wall Drug Store in Wall SD from my house by only making right hand turns.

Leave my drive and turn right on Clay, right on Grove, Right at Route 47, right on Route 120, right on US 14. Then you get to Wall SD you will turn Right in to Wall Drug Store.

As for that long pencil in my eye, I don't think it will happen because I would just cut it in half and make two out of it. ☺

I know I should pay those bills and see if I have enough money left over to buy gas so I could drive to Wall Drug. It is 799 miles from here. They have free ice water there!

**5-Jun-10 3:27pm 80°**

#### **Book on CD**

I have a few copies of Marty's Random Thoughts 2009 on CDs. This is the same as the book only in color and it is on a CD. I did this because some people like the idea of not cutting down trees to make paper for books. If you have one of those electronic book readers or a PC I think it should be easy to get it uploaded.

Remember this if you don't need in color and still want to have it on paper it is a log easier to just get the book.

#### **Next Project**

I think while reading this book about writing my life story I have jotted of notes that have come to mind. Since I started to put a lot of my thoughts on papers I am going to begin to work on it more.

Sometimes it is hard to keep all of these projects going at one time. I might have to start making list of what I want to do. One thing I should do that helps is get rid of that chair I watch TV in with my eyes closed. I need to find a chair I can sit in with my eyes opened. ☺

I like putting the smiley faces in at the end so someone don't take me too serious.

Well off to do some of my life story.

**6-Jun-10 7:07pm 69°**

#### **Anniversary**

Today I saw Bob and Shirley. I didn't know that yesterday was Shirley & Bob's 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Wow!



45 Years! Congratulations Bob & Shirley!

In the last few weeks I missed some other events too. I have just updated my calendars to so these. Check them out if you get time. There are two calendars I try to keep updated. The first one jumps to the current month: [MartysRandomThoughts.com/calendar/Calendar.html](http://MartysRandomThoughts.com/calendar/Calendar.html)

And this one just has a list of the birthdays as I enter them: [MartysRandomThoughts.com/Birthdays.html](http://MartysRandomThoughts.com/Birthdays.html)

Some day I will get these birthdays in one database so I don't have to enter them both manually. Too many chances for errors doing it the way I do now.

Ok on May 28<sup>th</sup> I have Kevin C. birthday in the newsletter. He is really Kevin K. Sorry Kevin and Annette and Dave and Hanna to!

### My Note Book

Being that I had all those new events/birthdays I missed I think I better go through my note book and see what else I have missed. You may need to know some of this. This notebook goes all the way back to Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. Wasn't that Chelli's birthday?

#### Feb 1<sup>st</sup>:

I see that on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> they put in that new Electric Meter so I could pay the rate for the hour I use the electricity instead of what they want to charge me for the month. Since February 1<sup>st</sup> I have used 2152 kWh. It looks like my Electric cost is down somewhat. It looks like at least 1¢ per kWh so far. I am still working on habits. My goal is to get my

Electric bill to average less than \$50.00 a month. My Average is \$69 for the last 12 months. It was \$82 a year ago.

#### Feb 4<sup>th</sup>:

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> I have a note here to put a remote in the car. I wonder what I was thinking. Was that a remote starter or a remote so I could driver it closer to the door in bad weather? Neither of them do I really need. Both would be nice to have.

Wait I remember what that was. I have one of those Marque LED signs. The remote for it work on most of those LED signs. I was going to change one of those signs on the Square if it worked. I didn't!

#### Feb 22<sup>th</sup>:

Here is a good one I don't think I ever told you. Sorry Anila, you say never say I put you in the newsletter. Here you go!

Anila was stopped twice on the way to work. The first was for bouncing off the white lines and once for going too slow. I'll let her give you the details.

No ticket was issued!

#### Mar 28<sup>th</sup>:

I have test on this page testing that fountain pen. It works fine but it out of ink now. I have to find the other ink thing I have for it. I wonder where that is.

#### Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Here is another funny Anila story. While I was having coffee at Town & Country Anila was out talking to the guys in the kitchen. I couldn't understand what she was saying but I could see that she seemed to be telling them her mind. At one time I noticed that she had a



couple table knives in here hand. I thought it would be funny if I walked out in the kitchen and disarmed her. Instead I just removed the knives from her hand so she didn't hurt herself. We all had a good laugh about it.

Jun 4<sup>th</sup> :

I find less and less in the newspaper that interest me. It is getting down the want ads, Frank & Earnest, and the horoscope. Sometimes something catches my eye other than an ad or two.

Know I can go get a new notebook.

### **7-Jun-10 11:22am 71°**

The other day I took one of my Tomatoes out of the green house and put outside because it had flowers and the bees need to get to it. I forgot that you need to do this over a few days so it gets use to the wind and the sun. Woops, it stormed and the rain and wind was very heavy. Well two days later it looks just fine.

### **Shopping Trip**

Today I went to Menards and got that piece of rain gutter for over the bathroom window to try to keep it out of the basement. I also picked up some of the parts I need to get the windmill on the antenna tower and priced a boom to get me up there. The tower is stable enough to climb and work on but Marty isn't. I am so much out of shape. Besides it would be much safer and more fun to work with one of those booms. Bucket truck, cherry picker or whatever you know them by.

They have two of them next door at the school today. They are working on the windows with them today.

The price is right the rent the boom so I just have to get my parts ready so I don't have to make any parts runs while I am paying rent.

### **Life Story**

I have been working on my live stories. As I edit what I wrote in the last year I think of other stories. It is only about 30 pages now. I don't want to make it too long. I am thinking one-hundred pages or less. If it is more than that it would like watching family home movies. Though they are nice to see they tend to drag on until everyone is sleeping. I want to make this fun to read.

I don't have a wife and kids to write about so that leaved two or three-hundred pages out right there. I am just writing some of my life stories as I remember them.

This book I am reading is about how to right you life story. I like the examples that are in the book. They are real storing that real people wrote.

### **My Books**

I have been struggling with how much to charge for my books. I do not have a best seller on the New York Times list so I know I can't charge a lot of money for my books. I was thinking I do not even one to make a lot of money on them. It would be nice to do that but I would have to spend a lot of money to advertize to do that. Here are my random thoughts about this.



If you buy one of these from me you can have it at my cost. I have 3 each in stock today.

#### First "Marty's Random Thoughts"

Book 1, the early years	199 Pages	\$15.00
All of year 2008	322 Pages	\$18.00
All of year 2009	254 Pages	\$16.00

These books are printed with black ink and are 8-1/2x 11".

I also have 3 copies of "My Camino de Santiago Adventure." This book is 199 pages and is a 6x9" paper back and also printed in black ink. And my price is \$15.00.

These prices are if you get it from me. If you want it shipped to you it will cost you a little more because of the cost of shipping.

#### A Better Deal for You

If you are willing to write a short review I will let you read my copy of my books. I will limit you to having one book at a time and ask that you return it to me within a year.

If you want a copy of any of these books on a CD I charge \$5.00. The CD is the Color version. The book printed in color is well over \$50.00 so the CD is a good price.

To see what the books look like go to: <http://stores.lulu.com/metras3>.

It is all up to you!

~~10-Jun-10 11:17am 77°~~

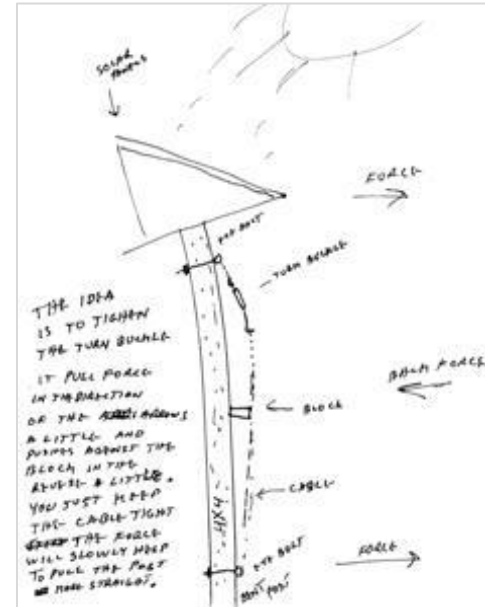
9-Jun-10 11:17am 77°

Where was I yesterday? Wait, where was I the day before yesterday? Hummm, no thoughts!

Yesterday I went over and visited with Steve and Pat. I had a nice visit. Thank for have me over!

Mike hasn't posted anything on is blog for a while. I was wondering where they were. Yesterday I got and email from Mike. It said in part "...internet desert here but I have found an oasis..." They are doing fine.

As for Monday, other than going to Kelley's for lunch with Aunt Annie,



Marge, and Cassie I don't know what I did.

Oh Monday I had another salad from my garden. I had lettuce and I think it was Collard. Maybe it was Swiss chard or both. One you should cook and the other you can eat raw. It was a little bitter so it may have should have been cooked.

I just chopped it up and put some vinegar & oil on it and eat it. Wait...if it should have been cooked may be that is while I don't remember yesterday and Monday so much: ☺

#### Today I Remember

I walked up to Starbucks for coffee and on the way home I saw Cork was at

the barber shop. I went in and let him take me out for breakfast. Thanks Cork!

### **Bent Post**

After watering the garden I remembered I had to straighten that post that holds up my solar panels.

The post that holds up solar panels is also one of the clothes poles. With the clotheslines pulling on those two clothes poles all the time they do tend to pull together. The solar panels sit on top of the one and it seems too bent over more than the other one.

I bought parts to try and pull this one back up. The top of these posts are seven feet. I made them that tall so most people could walk under the clothes line without running into the line and getting hurt. (Clothes lined)

Well the one was pulled over 2 inches. That is 2 inched in 2 feet. That makes it bent over 7 inches top to bottom.

So I used a cable and brace to try to pull it back near straight. This is a trick I learned a long time ago for strength a long straight pipe or in this case a 4x4.

I can't believe I can't find a picture on the internet how you do this! So I had to draw you one. I forgot I could draw one and scan it. Wait I could have taken a picture too. Oh well, It's done now.

### **Another Monday Thing**

I have had on my list to take a picture of all the stores on and around the square from the other side of the street. I did one side of Main and one side of Benton the Monday.

This idea is to make a long photo of the whole street. I think I should look at these to see how they turned out.

### **10-Jun-10 8:13am 65°**

Let's start over here! Today is the 10<sup>th</sup> not yesterday. I had to go back and change yesterdays date on everything. Now I need to put yesterday's notes on today's notes.

Aunt Annie put me straight when we had dinner last night. I had told her that I was missing something, a birthday or something but couldn't look it up because I didn't have my cell phone with me. I can look up birthdays at [MartysRandomThoughts.com](http://MartysRandomThoughts.com) when I don't remember them. You do know I post them out there for you too?

Anyway she told me it Jim's birthday and said that it was yesterday. Well I was talking about yesterday's yesterday and not today's yesterday. Today's yesterday was Jim's birthday but Yesterday's yesterday I had no birthdays listed. If I have confused you I am sorry because I know what I am talking about today. Yesterday was a different story! ☺

### **Yesterday's Birthdays**

I mean Jun 9th's birthdays.

Jim, my cousin, Aunt Annie's son's birthday was yesterday. I am guess he spent his birthday out building roads somewhere. Happy Birthday Jim!

Nora S. Is also having a birthday today. She works at the Public House If you see here say; "Hi!" Happy Birthday Nora a day late to you too! The 9<sup>th</sup>!





## Other Yesterday Stuff

### Credit Card

Yesterday the Credit Card Company called me and asked me about a couple of charges made yesterday morning. Nope not mine! They cancelled my card and I should have a new one in a couple days. It was a small charge so it could have just been a mistake. In any case the card was stopped and no charges can go on it any more.

I liked that card it was a nice shade of blue. I have had it so long that I was starting to remember the number on it. Oh well better safe than sorry.

I told a couple of people about this and the first thing they said; "You aren't using it on the internet are you?" Well of course I am! The internet is safe for the most part. You don't buy things from places you don't trust any more than you would use it in a store you don't trust.

I feel just as safe using my credit card on the internet as I do when I hand it over to a clerk at a store.

I worry more about walking across the street using a crosswalk on a busy street with a stop sign. People are still not stopping for those signs.

### Do you know...?

Town & Country Restaurant #II

*Family Style*

*Breakfast - Lunch - Diner*

1674 S. Eastwood Drive

Woodstock, IL 60098

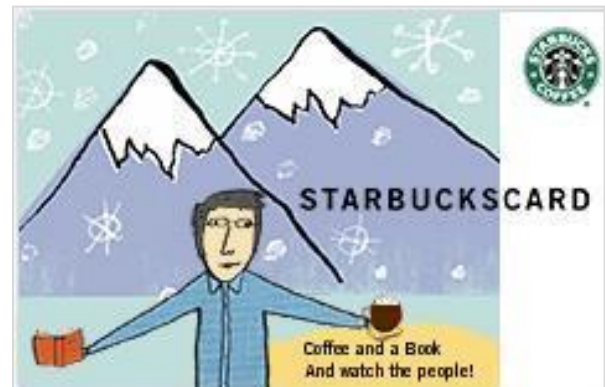
Open daily 6:00am - 9:00pm

Except Sundays 6:00am – 8:00pm



*Stop signs mean the same thing in China*

Please try to stop at the red lights and the stop signs. I wore sneakers and not steel toed shoes.



**11-Jun-10 9:00am 76°**

Off and on for month I have been taking my own cup with me to Starbucks. I am using one of my cups. It is a little bigger than the "Tall" paper cups and you get a 10¢ discount.

Today for the first time they read what it said on the side. She smiled as I said; "You never know what is going to come out of there." It made feel good when it was noticed.

You know you could get one of these cups too. I have a whole of “I have Random Thoughts” things for sale. You can see them at



[MartysRandomThoughts.com/store/](http://MartysRandomThoughts.com/store/) and scroll down the page past the books.

That reminds me I haven't put the “Marty's Random Thought 2009” book on this page yet. I should do that now.

Ok I you can see the 2009 book on this page too. That link above shows all the stuff I am trying to sell. Some of those things I have now other I can get for you if you want. I haven't been watching how my supplier has been pricing things. I am guessing they think I should make some money. I think if you want something I might be able to get it from me for less.

I see the pictures of the calendar showed you get 2008 you get the current year but I updated the picture anyway.

You know I haven't been out to see Mary yet and I'm later for my break so I will see you later.

### **Why a Pencil**

I carry a pencil and a pad paper with me almost all the time. I never know when one of my random thoughts will pop into my brain and leak down my arm and into my hand. At that point I need a place to store that thought.

Though I carry a pen most of time I use the pencil for my notes. The ink of a pen seems to dry and not rub off like a

pencil. If I only had a pen it could run out of ink. If I leave them in my pocket when doing the laundry either the ink leaks out and makes a mess or the heat from the dryer melts the clicker thing and I must trash the pen.

On the other hand a pencil cost all most nothing and last for years and years with very little maintenance. I call it my antique word process. People have been writing with stick almost since the beginning of time. My writing stick/word processor tool (pencil) has a backspace key on that you may call an eraser. I have added a bigger eraser on it because my keyboard has a bigger key labeled “Backspace.” They must have had me in mind when they designed the computer keyboards. They knew that I would be using that key a lot.

When I went to Spain I took a large pad of paper and 2 pencils with big erasers. Up until a month ago I was still using the first pencil. I missed placed it or I would still have it.

Today while I was at Vaughan's I remembered this new pencil I am using need to be sharpened. I found my sharpener was very dull and thought I should retire it and use another.

I went into a store in Santo Domingo, Spain three years ago called “Euro 100” to see what was in there. It was like out Dollar stores in the US. I bought three metal pencil sharpeners. Almost every day I have one in my pocket.

This one is very dull. I think it has been that since I first got it. The second



one I notice the blade fell out. The screw and blade lays there so I can fix it. The third one I think I put into the back pack with the other pencil I had in Spain. You never know when you might need a sharp stick in the forest.

While sitting there in Vaughan's I remember I had a backup pencil sharpener in my pocket. I call it a Swiss Army Knife.

You may remember this Swiss Army Knife from an early story in my newsletter. I sit here for 10 or 15 years waiting for me to send it in to get fixed. It had a loose blade. I sent it off along with \$3.00 and they sent me a brand new knife. Why did I wait so long? I have it in my pocket almost every day.

The knife didn't do a smooth job so I tried the sharpener to smooth the edges with no luck it was too dull.

So I sharpened the pencil so I would tell you this story.

When I returned home I used the old crank pencil sharpener in the laundry room where I hang the clothespins.

Now I will go and fix the other little sharpener so I am ready for the next time.

#### Sharp Repair

Ok the sharpener that the blade fell off of it repaired. The sharpener is made from a cast piece of metal. I needed a little super glue to keep the screw from falling out again. Well all of the tubes have long since dried up. The wood glue had not dried up so with a tooth pick I put a drop under the blade and in the screw hole and tighten the screw.

You may wonder why wood glue on metal parts. Well the wood glue will fill the space in between the threads on the screw and also be sticky enough to hold the blade in place while I tighten the screw. It may never dry other than the part I slopped on top but it should help to keep the screw from falling out again for a long, long time. Long down the roads of time when it comes apart again it might be time to replace the whole thing. If not maybe I can have it welded into place. ☺

#### **Cutting the Grass**

After checking to see how Kim was doing after her operation I was going to go outside and mow the lawn.

Oh, Kim is home now and Bill said she came home today. I didn't talk to her because she was in the shower. With Bill there I figured I best not go into the shower to talk even if I was on the phone. Recover soon Kim!

It was nice in the house around noon when it rained a little. I noticed the humidity start to climb shortly after it started after it stopped raining. I closed up the house and turned on the A/C before all the humidity leaked into the house. It is nice in here now!

Here it is 2:30 and I haven't been outside since noon. I looked out the window and it looked sunny and dry. I opened the door and stepped on to the porch. Whoops, it was humid! I turned around and came back in and closed the door. The lawn will wait until Tuesday!

#### **Computer Updates.**

I have been doing a few computer updates today between other things. It is

asking me reboot this computer now so I'll be back later.

**12-Jun-10 9:31am 69°**

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Nathan H!

### **Answering Machine**

Well my infrastructure is falling apart a little more today. My Answering machine has failed me a little. Well this morning when I rewound the message tape to hear what message someone left for me, it broke. This answering machine is very, very old. I have two cassette tapes one for messages and another for my message when you call.

One good thing is it has a button so I can set to answer only until I find another cassette of your messages.

I know I had the answering machine before I moved to this house. That makes it at least 22 years old. I think I had it while I lived on Lawrence Ave. that makes over 25 years old. And I think I bought it when I lived on E. Jackson. Maybe it is time to replace it. Or I could just look around and find a cassette. I should have a bunch of them around the house.

Do you kids remember what a Cassette is? My first computer used them and we use to listen to music that was stored on them. For you old people they came after records, four track, and 8 track cartridges. That was before the Walkman and the CD, MP3 and even the DVD. ☺



### *Remember the Cassette Tapes*

I just saw some of them the other day I wonder where they were. Well first I should go for coffee then look for an empty tape for the answering machine. Yup, coffee first!

### **More of My Day**

While out there drinking my coffee at Town & Country the sky turned black. It was so black I almost could not see my car right outside the window.

I got out my phone to surf the internet to get a radar picture of the weather. I saw this big mass of rain with this really heavy part heading right for us. It was still dry outside so I said that I had to leave so I could cut my grass. I figured I had five minutes. You know it would happen.

I watched the radar until it showed the rain was upon us. I left while it was just starting to pour. Anila told me I should wait. I told her I had to wash my car.

Wash my car I did. I drove it into the rain by going west on US 14 from Route 47 to Dean Street. That is how I wash my car most of the time.





After I got home the rain was letting up so I came in and decided to look for that Cassette.

### **Cassette**

I looked around and found that pile of cassettes I saw the other day. They were the cassettes I used back in the 1980s before we had floppy discs. Yes I have had computers for a long time. I think it was June 1978 when I bought the TRS-80 Model I.

The Cassette I selected for the pile of six cassettes had no writing on it but when I listened to it you could tell it had data on it. The sound you here is much the same as you used to here if you had a dial up modem.

I figured if the cassette had data on it for 30 years and I have not saved somewhere else and wrote nothing on the label it belongs in the answering machine now.

The old tape only had the leader break and could be fixed. This one of the good cassettes that screws in it so you could fix them. I remember in to olden days you could fix things. I repaired this once before. And I know I replaced it once. Maybe this time I will just put it in the recycle bin, or fix it because I can and use it for a backup.

The new one is glued together so it will be trashed when it fails. Wait I called this a new cassette. It isn't it has to be 20 years old too. It may be older than the old one. As Tiny use to say; "Can't know!"

### **House Cleaning**

Now I found this small pile of old compute cassette tapes. Should I start a box of old computer stuff that someone might like? Or should I just start a box of more electronic stuff for the recycle place?

Right now I have an hour and a half before our Saturday afternoon get together maybe I could spend an hour filling a box for the recyclers.

Did you notice I didn't say;" ...emptying a box of stuff..." Whenever I empty a box of stuff I make 3 more. So if I fill a box with things to pass on to others it will leave the house when it gets full.

I have 4 bags of stuff sitting here for "Purple Heart" to pickup Tuesday. That means there is about 4 cubic feet of space that got emptied somewhere in the house. No much, but a start.

In case you didn't know I have this problem with clutter. I should just stop typing and do a little de-cluttering.

### **Back from Lunch and Woops**

I changed that Cassette tape and thought I did well, but didn't. I had forgotten about the leaders. On most audio cassette have a blank leader on then where you cannot record on them. That is what I put in the answering machine. When you use those in the answering machine it thinks there is no tap and fails to record anything and stops.

The Cassette tapes that are made for answering machines have recording tape all the way to the end. And is a little



heaver recording media so they don't break from all the rewinding.

So when I came home from lunch someone had tried to leave me a message and it failed.

Well I took the old tape apart and repaired the tape cassette hooking the end of the tape to the take up spool and put it back into the machine.

Now I have to see how this holds up. If it breaks again I will fix it then head to Radio Shack® for a new tape. It is a Radio Shack® answering machine so they might have one of those heaver tapes. Maybe Wal-Mart has one too. We'll see how this one holds up first.

#### Word for Today

Saradipdee: (check spelling)

***Serendipity is a propensity for making fortuitous discoveries while looking for something unrelated.***

Yes I have it spelled wrong. Google set me right. And I had the meaning wrong too.

Many times when I am doing one thing something unrelated solves a problem. So it is not the word I was looking for today.

The word that I was trying to remember still eludes me. What I was doing when I was reading a book and it reminded me something completely different. This was at seven o'clock this morning and I don't even remember what triggered the thought and where it led me. I do remember that it made me think of the word "serendipity" and I wasn't sure it had its meaning correct. Now I

have the meaning and kind of have the spelling.

Now I will keep think about what the word is for something that reminds you of some else that is not related. Hummm....!

#### Books

I have been going through my book shelve pulling books I haven't read yet. There a log of them. I am putting them aside so I can see what is there.

While looking I found my book that shows me how to make sundials. As you may know the title is "Sundials."

I used this book to make a pocket sundial a long time ago. I have been looking for the book and the sundial for a long time. Now that I have the book I can make a new pocket sundial.

You never know when you might need a sundial. My batteries go dead in my camera and cell phone and I am out for a walk I will know when it time for coffee break. That is the best reason I can come up with right now.

#### Many, Many Books

I just finished pulling a bunch of books of my book shelves that I don't think I have completed. Some I started some I may have read but most I have not.

I put them in a box that was not big enough. Then just before they fell all over the place I decided to list them. So I didn't have to do all the typing I looked up the ISBN numbers to get the titles. Then I could just copy the titles and paste it in to my list. I didn't even have to type



in that ISBN number. I have a Scanner for that too. Damn I have a lot of toys!

I stopped at 52 books. Anyone want to help read them? Here is the current list in no kind or order

### **Book List**

*Crystal Spirit*, --> *The Edgar Cayce Remedies*, --> *How to Write Your Own Life Story: The Classic Guide for the Nonprofessional Writer*, --> *The Secret Power Within*, --> *Illinois: Off the Beaten Path/a Guide to Unique Places (Insiders Guide: Off the Beaten Path)*. *Numbers and You: A Numerology Guide for Everyday Living*, --> *Random Acts: Does It Take A Killer To Catch A Killer?*, --> *Living Your Past Lives: The Psychology of Past Life Regression*, --> *Clutter Be Gone: Cleaning Your House the Easy Way*, --> *The Hanged Man's Song*, --> *First Steps in Winemaking*, --> *Star Trek Generations (Star Trek The Next Generation)*, --> *Who Are You?: 101 Ways of Seeing Yourself*, --> *The Complete Book of Homeopathy*, --> *Hot Numbers*, --> *Believe and Achieve: W. Clement Stone's 17 Principles of Success*, --> *The Power of Alpha Thinking*, --> *Mystical Experiences in 30 Days: The Higher Consciousness Program*, --> *Sue Kenney's My Camino*, --> *Confessions of a Pilgrim*, --> *The Zen of Organizing*, --> *The Life You Were Born to Live: A Guide to Finding Your Life Purpose*, --> *Wisdom of the 90s*, --> *Keeping Food Fresh*, --> *Keeping Food Fresh*, --> *Write Your Own Magic: The Hidden Power in Your Words*, --> *Move Your Stuff, Change Your Life: How to Use Feng Shui to Get Love, Money, Respect, and Happiness*, --> *BeliefWorks: The Art of Living Your Dreams*, --> *The Gift: ESP, the Extraordinary Experiences of Ordinary People*, --> *P.D. Ouspensky, The Fourth Way (1957)*, --> *7 Day Detox Miracle : Revitalize Your Mind and Body With This Safe and Effective Life-Enhancing Program*, --> *Soul Psychology : Keys to Ascension*, --> *Mrs Wage's New Home Canning Guide*, --> *The Busy Person's Guide to Preserving Food*, --> *Quicken 2010 for Dummies*, --> *All New Square Foot Gardening...ORACLE WITHIN*, --> *Tarot in Ten Minutes*, --> *Get High Now (without drugs)*, --> *The independent scholar's handbook*, --> *The Healing Power of Foods*, --> *RV Vacations For Dummies*, --> *At Your Own Pace: Traveling Your Way in Your Motorhome*, --> *RVing Basics*, --> *Why Your Life Sucks: And What You Can Do About It...RV Retirement*, --> *RV Electrical Systems: A Basic Guide to Troubleshooting, Repairing and Improvement*, --> *Desert Retreats: Sedona Style*, --> *Uncommon Cures for Everyday Ailments*, --> *Birdhouses: 20 Unique Woodworking Projects for Houses and Feeders*, --> *The Next Exit: USA Interstate Highway Exit Directory (Next*

*Exit: The Most Complete Interstate Highway Guide Ever Printed)*, --> *RV Repair and Maintenance Manual*

Even that list looks like a lot of books to read. I have to finish the one I am reading now. I made bold the next two I am thinking about today.

This has made me tired so I think I am going to watch some TV until I fall asleep in the chair. Nite!

**14-Jun-10 11:49am 66°**

It is cooler today but it is still too damp to be cutting the grass. The grass cutting book says don't cut grass when it is wet. It isn't good for the grass. Any reason I can find works for me. ☺

### **Today's Event in History**

Today is Mary's Mom and Dad's Wedding Anniversary They married in 1949.

### **Birthdays**

Today is Luiza Birthday. Do any of you Three Brothers Restaurant goers remember Luiza? Luiza is Kim's daughter I haven't seen her is quite some time. Oh, not that Kim, the Kim that owns the place. Happy Birthday Luiza where ever you are!

### **Famous Person**

*Crystal Lake Force winds Illinois Cup*. The Force's coach is none other than our own soccer mom Anila's husband Arben.

If you look in today's Northwest Herald in the Sport section on page 2B you can read the whole story. Or you could go to the web site at

[http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2010/06/13/r\\_mild1cvurlsinazsruk\\_q/](http://www.nwherald.com/articles/2010/06/13/r_mild1cvurlsinazsruk_q/)



Denis, Arben, and Deron

#### Book Four is Finished

I noticed it takes up to an hour and a half to finish a 12 once cup of coffee when you are reading a book and watching the people, This morning I had only about five pages to read to finish this on. The coffee only lasted a few minutes.

By 6:30 I was on the way to Angelo's for breakfast. I hadn't been in there for a while so I spent my hour and a half visiting.

I finished this book "*How to Write Your Own Life Story, The Classic Guide for the Non-professional Writer.*" I really enjoyed this book. It gives an idea where to start if you want to tell you descendants what it was like before them. There are a lot of short stories and a lot of guiding to help you in the process.

I learned some things that might help me when I edit these newsletters. Now I have to remember to use the guide lines I learned. You will have to tell me if I start writing any better after a few more issues.

If someone wants to read my copy of this book remember this copy has  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup of dried coffee in amounts the pages. No pages are unreadable! ☺

I will be working on my life stories from time to time. But I have already picked out the next book to start reading.

#### Garden

The next book I will start reading is titles "The Busy Person's Guide to Preserving Food, Easy Step-by-Step Instructions for Freezing Drying and Canning."

You may know I eat out a lot. A LOT! My garden is not a real big garden and I may not preserve very much if any. In fact I have eaten everything I have harvested within an hour after bring it into the house.

I just returned from harvesting what I think was my last Radish. I looked over the garden and I forgot how many different things I planted.

#### Here is the list of Veggies:

Cantaloupes	Cucumbers
Carrots	Turnip Greens
Beets	Turnips
Swiss chard	Collard Greens
Radishes	Lettuce
Brussels sprouts	Okra
Kohlrabi	Green Peppers
Peas	Onions
Spinach	Cabbage
Cauliflower	Egg Plant
Sweet Corn	





**And here are the other things:**

Gourds	Lucky Bamboo
Baby Tut	Pachysandra
Snake Plant	Sunflowers
Aloe	English Ivy
Per Winkle	Wild Flowers
Fancy Grass	

I think this is all doing alive and well. Some plants I am not sure what I planted. Wait they are what I planted but they may not be what I thought they were. Harvest time will tell.

I don't see Beans on the list. I best look for seed and get some in the ground. I wonder if I still have been seed.

**Picture found**

I found this picture that fell out of the frame. It is dated 12/14/1982. I know both for these people. I will give you a hint. One is me. How many of you know the other?



*Me and a mystery person. Where was this picture taken?*

## 15-Jun-10 8:29am 68°

**Birthdays**

My young friend becomes a woman today. Yes Violca turns 18 today. She is going to go on vacation this weekend and spend most of the summer in her home town in Albania. Being Violca was my running mate in 2008, I am sure she won't be just going there to party with her friends. Happy Birthday Violca and have a good time!

**At Starbucks this Morning****Murse**

This morning I packed an umbrella and walked up to Starbucks with my book, coffee cup and some things to mail. It seems that every time I walk up there I have more stuff I am carrying with me. I might need a bigger fanny pack soon or a "murse", as Tonya says. I don't know if that is really a word yet and I guessing it am not spelled right either. A "murse" is a Man Purse?



Zach Galifiankis of "The Hangover" sports some stylish over-the-shoulder apparel after tying one on. Its zipper-up leather pocket looks just the right size for a flask.

Also, "Indian Jones wears one..."

Source: <http://thesatchelpages.com/>

I just remembered that I have one of those dispatcher's bags. Maybe I could start wearing it when I have too much in my fanny pack.

I looked up the word “murse” and in Wikipedia it says; “Murse is a portmanteau word with two connotations: Male nURSE and Male pURSE.”

So I guess I am nursing this story along about caring a purse. ☺

#### My book

I got my cup of coffee and a cookie and sat down to start reading about preserving food and think about Mom & Dad doing it all the time. Even the year before my Dad died he was still canning food from his garden.

My Dad was a farmer! I remember one year he planted a row of sunflowers that grew over fourteen feet tall. I remember have the latter standing up next to one of the plants and it didn't go clear to the flower head.

I remember I had little interest in all the work that a garden required back then.

#### Spinning

Anyway I was sitting there thinking about the olden days when a lady came in to Starbucks with looked like a spinning wheel. Shortly 3 or 4 more came in carrying spinning wheels. In short time they were setup and spinning yarn. I watched a little and saw how effortlessly they would take that pile of wool and spin it in to yarn.

None of them seemed to be watching what they were doing and they were all talking about the things they were going to make from the yarn.

I would have gone over and watch but today wasn't a good for that. It

was getting too noisy in there for me so I had another cup of coffee there realized that two cups of that bold coffee it too much for me. And I left drinking my coffee on the way while walking home.

Now I remember why I don't drink and walk, I have to stop every few minutes to take a sip.

They told me the Spinning Wheel people are regulars at Starbucks. I will see them again. Maybe they will let me try my hand at the spinning wheel. Who was that that spun gold from straw? Maybe I could try that! ☺

#### **Page Sixteen**

I have noticed that this issue of my newsletter I have been talking a lot. Well typing a lot. Think about typing we have to find a typewriter ribbon for Aunt Annie. Yes I said typewriter! We all do not need so enthusiast about computers like me. I think I will make it my project to help Aunt Annie find a ribbon for her typewriter.

Maybe I could call her now and get the information to see what I can find for her....Well she is on the way into town now and will drop off the information and I will see what I can do.

What I started to tell you is that after I finished reading that book about writing my life story I remembered something it said. Luis Daniel said something in her book about writing down stories that happening now. They are part of your life story too.

I have noticed that Marty's Random Thoughts is kind of a journal of my life as it has been unfolding since





about a year before I retired. There are bits and pieces in the older issues from when I started in the last century. Wow that right it has been eleven years since I wrote my first issue. It is still fun!

Well I can work on my life story while I am waiting for Aunt Annie to get here.

### **Restaurants**

Returning from lunch I noticed that they are coming right along rebuilding McDonald's. About a week ago I saw them finishing the cement of the floor. Then two of the outside walls were going up. Today I see the front wall is up. Now these walls are by no means complete but you can tell they are walls.

It won't be long and we will be able to have our Big Mac attack with getting hurt at the construction site.

I don't remember seeing or hearing of any changes about the other restaurants in town.

### **16-Jun-10 9:35am 67°**

Some times when you work on one project the other projects get forgotten or at lease do not get as much attention. This was the case of my garden. I looked at it and the rain took care of the landscaping. Most of my garden it inside the green house and no rain get in there.

I must put the hose in the pots and turn it on for any water to get in my garden. Because of the humidity the plants did not suffer. I did need to fill all of the reservoirs. Each one of those Earth Boxes holds about four gallons of water. Unless it is very hot and dry they will go

a week with watering. None were hurting.

I have been working on my life stories and spending too much time waiting for my eyes to open up to remember to water the garden. My plants need me to feed and water them. They are my children and I must care for them even if I am going to eat them when they grow up.

The garden in the greenhouse is getting quite large and I had to move the other Tomato plant outside so it can get full sun.



*The greenhouse with the Tomato on the left and the Corn is on the right.*

When the grass dries later today I have to get out there and mow it. The lawn is a big garden full of grass plants that needs too much attention. Maybe I could plant more rocks out there they need a lot less attention. ☺

### **4:30pm 86°**

I watered the garden this morning and sat down a watch a DVD of Star Trek. It was the last two episodes for season three. And the last episode was a cliff hanger. I guess I have to wait for the next DVD to come from Netflix to see how they get out of it. The captain was just assimilated into the Borg. I can't

wait to see how he gets out of this. I will have to wait until tomorrow or Friday to get the first DVD of season four.

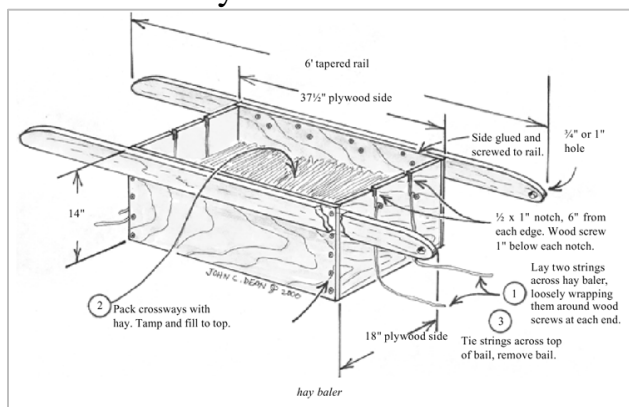
You do know I already know he will survive. I use to watch all of the Flash Gordon films in the fifties. They always seem to make it too.

I went out for a couples glasses of Orange Crush the return home to mow the front grass. Now I am tired and bored.

Tomorrow I should cut the back yard. Parts of the front looked to be eight inches tall. With all the rain I never got out there to take care of it. If I keep going this I may have to start bailing the grass.

I wonder if they make hay bailers for home use.

I was joking but look at this simple backwoods hay bailer.



Source:

<http://www.backwoodshome.com/articles2/hooker82.html>

Who would have thought I would have found a home bailer in less fifteen seconds.

Ok I was joking before! Here is a video of a baler that makes 4-1/2 x 6 x 10\" bales. Really! Check it out.

<http://www.minibaler.com/TableBalerVideo.aspx>

I found another bailer that makes small bales 8 x 10 x 17\" long. I guess I could start harvesting my grass too. Who would have thought?

Oh the mini baler for the 4-1/2 x 6\" baler cost about \$13,000.00 and the one that you pull behind a tractor is less than \$10,000.00. On the other hand the wooden box above uses one sheet for plywood and a couple of 2 x 4's.

Ok this is the last little bit I am going to tell about mini balers. I found two mini round balers too. One mad a 3'x3' bale and the other made 2'x2' bale.

The 2'x2' is about as big as you could lift. A regular round I think is something like eight feet around.

I think I will bail out of this story now. ☺

**17-Jun-10 8:26am 68°**

When I returned from my walk uptown for my morning cup of coffee I see all of these immigrant workers in my driveway. Well they were migrating any way.



*This is the red ants on the big exit across the very wide black top river to places unknown.*

Anyway there was a bunch of ants crossing my way when I came home. I wonder where they are going.

**Birthdays**

It's Lili's Birthday. If you see her at Town & Country or anywhere else wish her a happy birthday. Happy Birthday Lili!

### **18-Jun-10 11:15am 85°**

When I went outside this morning to check on those ants they were all gone. I have no idea where they went other than they were traveling from the southwest to the northeast across the driveway. Maybe they were on field trip and will be back after their holiday. ☺

#### **Aunt Annie**

Yesterday afternoon Aunt Annie called me from the hospital. She had been there since about five in the morning. She sound good and was joking about going home but they wanted her to stay overnight for test in the morning. She must be still having test because she is not answering her phone. I will check back after lunch. I know she is going to be fine. I could tell from her voice yesterday.

In case I forget Aunt Annie, Mary said; "Hi and get well!"

#### **Without Money**

This morning I got up to Starbucks without my billfold. That always bother me when I have things in my hand to buy and find I don't have any money for it. I begged and pleaded until they let pay tomorrow. It wasn't that bad. It took about five seconds for them to give in.

After I finished my coffee I went home got my money and came back and settled up my debit and had another

coffee. They are nice people up there at Starbucks. Thanks for trusting me!

### **Kim**

Kim is still recovering. I think she is doing fine. She was on her way for some test when I called. She didn't sound stressed or anything other than she had to get going. More information as it comes into my ears.

### **Storm Last Night**

Did we have a storm last night? When I came back from Starbucks this morning things looked like there was a heavy wind. I saw that the Tomatoes had their leaves turned inside out. Well I guess you would say they were backwards like the wind had blown them.

I see from my weather data that between 3 and 4 this morning that there was some very heavy gust of winds. Oh I see over an inch of rain too.

Maybe I sleep through another storm. I do that all the time. If I am a wake I'll watch it. If I'm asleep, I'm asleep!

Maybe that was a storm.

### **7:00pm 71°**

Now that was a storm! It looked stormy when I went out to eat around 4:30pm I went to dinner and there were just a few sprinkles. By the time I got to Town & Country it had stopped raining.

In between that time it was storming so bad that traffic stopped moving and power went in many places. Power was out at the intersection at the Three Brothers and so was the traffic signal. It was blowing so hard that they stopped broadcasting the Cubs games to tell us there were 80 MPH wind gusts. Yes, I said eighty mile-and-hour!

When I arrived it started to let up and I only got a little damp.

### **Aunt Annie Update**

Aunt Annie sounds fine tonight. She is watching the storms and waiting for more tests tomorrow.

### **19-Jun-10 10:10 am 75°**

Fantastic day outside the rain has stopped there is a nice breeze and the air is dry. This would be a great day to do just about nothing or even anything. Well maybe testing rain barrows and rain coats could be postponed.

Tomorrow around 6:00pm Violica leaves for Albania. Bye, have a good time!

### **Food Preserving**

The book I have been reading is on food preserving. After growing up in a family where Mom and Dad were always canning food out of the garden I thought it would good to know something about how to preserve food. Also I thought it might be neat to preserve some of the food out of my garden.

This books shows and tells you the easy way and the hard way. Sometimes the harder way is the better way. It is all about preserving food to have store so it taste the best.

Two years ago I preserved about 20 pounds of pumpkin using the pumpkins from a garden. I enjoyed doing it but in the long run it is easier to go to the grocery store and pay the three dollars for a pound pumpkin already in the can.





Home grown and preserved food does taste better. In my case I do not think I will have enough to preserve after the harvest. If I have any to preserve will be just a few leftovers.

For the few of you who had any of my harvest in the past know it was a very small amount. Most all of my harvest was eaten within twenty-four hours of its picking.

This year most is eaten 60 minutes.

I am not like my Dad having a garden the size of a half of a football field. Don't laugh. My Dad's gardens were huge. He loved working in his garden and on his path.

#### **Mary & Heather Missing**

Mary & Heather weren't at work today. I was surprised because I almost always know these things before hand. Shirley said they were out running a race somewhere. I think it was the "Woodstock Challenge 10K, 5K & Kids Races." Since it started at 8:00am I think I might be late since it is already 11:30. Oh well, I am not one to try to run a race.

I am sitting here with the window open and a nice breeze coming in and blowing in my face. I do not need to run for that.

Maybe I will go get my book and sit out on the porch and read.

**6:37pm 83°**

After lunch I went out to the hospital and visited Aunt Annie for a while. She seem ok to me. Her spirits were high for someone in the hospital wanting to be home. She acts like herself. So the problem must be

somewhere inside. I make no reports on that.

They are still testing her because they are not happy with the test results are telling them. This is not a bad or good report. It is what I use to call a report at work that yielded no data a "No Report" report.

We will have to wait and see what tomorrow brings. Let's hope it was the same thing they found the last time I said I was having chest pains. They found I had a fart stuck crosswise. Yes they it was just gas. Get Well Soon Aunt Annie!

**20-Jun-10 9:58am 73°**

#### **Happy Father's Days!**

I was looking through old pictures and I found a bunch of my Dad. I thought I would share some of them with you. When we first moved to Woodstock we lived over the White House Tavern that was next to Townsend's Chevy /Olds dealership.



*The White House is on the left and Townsend's building to the right. This picture is from the late 1960s we are already living on the farm.*



Dad, Mom and the seven of us kids lived over the White House through most of the 1950s.



*Note both babies have a bottle in their mouths. My Dad is the big one!*

It you know the baby please let me know. I can then mark the picture. Oh, I mean the smaller baby. ☺



*My Dad likes dogs too!*

My Dad was a farmer so we moved to the farm in the early 1960s



*So we moved to the farm and in 1960, so snowed and nothing happened for a day or so.*

Things got better after the big snow of 1967. In the next picture you can see Dad talking to someone next to window. If you look out that window you can see green grass. That window is right next to the porch where the snow picture was taken.

Happy Fathers Day



*So here is my Dad in 1968*





*Dad & Mom on the wedding day in 1942*



*The Metras Nine in 1968. Left to right:  
Back row: Marty, Cork, Mike, and Marie  
Front Row: Edie, Dad, Jake, Mom, Marcia*

**21-Jun-10 19:29am 76°**

### **Rare Picture**

I have found that over the years as families grow it is hard to get the family picture with all the off springs. Cork & Diane got their family together for a group pictures.



*Jeremy, Tonya, Betsy, Shaun, Diane, Cork, Chelli*

### **Happy Summer!**

Summer starts today doesn't it?

### **Aunt Annie**

Aunt Annie is being transferred to NIMC this morning for and an Angioplasty or was it just an Angiogram well the procedures are about the same I will know later.

### **Hot in Kansas**

I got an email from Marcia. She planted potatoes in buckets. To harvest them you just turn the buck over and pour them out. Why didn't I think of that? I didn't even plant any potatoes because of the hard work at harvest time.



Dan sent a picture showing how hot it gets in the sun in Kansas. I guess the sun is closer to Kansas than Illinois. It's nice here in Woodstock.

*Kansas temperature*

### **The Pilgrims**

Mike and Petra are reported to be in Arles, France and it feels like they are getting ready for a break.

**22-Jun-10 8:38am 74°**

### **Aunt Annie update**

I just got off the phone with Aunt Annie and she tells me they are going to let her go home today. Maybe she will get home just in time for the rain.

*My brother's books*

For more details go to

[WorksAndWords.com/bookindex.htm](http://WorksAndWords.com/bookindex.htm)

**Mike's  
Works and Words**



### **Jansen Family Picnic**

If memory serves in the past we had the Annual Jansen Family Picnic on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in June.

Jansen family was Mom's side of the family. Well Aunt Annie too!

Is there anyone who reads this newsletter remember this? Do you have any pictures or records I might use in my life stories? If you do would you let copy some of these pictures? I can have then back to you in a few days.

We went to the family reunion for years and years, more than 20 I think.

Also any stories about me you remember. You may remember events different than me. I would like to hear you side of the story.

If you have any stories or pictures I would like to see them. Contact me at [Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com](mailto:Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com)

I know some you don't have email. So who ever you got this copy of the newsletter from can give me your contact information and I will get a hold of you sometime.

### **Movie Review**

I watch my share of movies and then may some more. Most of the movies I watch I rate as "alright."

Well I just watched a five star movie. It called "2012" and yes it is Sci-Fi and it is about the world coming to end with an interesting twist.

It about how we as people may handle the end of the world if we know it

was coming. The story line is good with conspiracy, love, and adventure. I have put this one on my list to see again.

### **Books, Books, Books**

What was it 50 or so that I piled up in the corner a couple of weeks ago?

I was going through my bookshelf and I found another 30 books that I am not sure I have read yet. I put all on one shelf and will look through then again someday.

### **22-Jun-10 8:02am 64°**

This morning I went up to Starbucks to have my morning coffee and finish my book. When I opened the book I found all that was left was the charts in the Appendixes. That was so exciting. ☺

Now I know how many create or bushels in need to have to preserve 'x' number of quarts of whatever.

I may only have one or two bushels in my whole harvest.

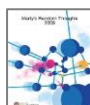
### **Book 5 Review**

I finished my fifth book this morning, "The Busy Person's Guide to Preserving Food" by Janet Bachand Chawick, ISBN #9780882669007

This book shows you how to setup and preserve food your harvest in many ways telling you the best and the fastest to do each food item.

If you don't grow your food it is a good guide for if you buy in bulk at the farmers markets.

Janet also tells you how to make up stock foods in advance so if you have a busy week you can have some prepared foods ready for you time crunch meals.





I found a new recipe for chili in this book that I will try. Oh yes Janet has many recipes with in the pages of this book.

I think if I am going to review books I should rate them too. I will have to come up with the Marty's Random Rating System first.

I liked this book. I will use it for a reference. I recommend it to people who have a garden and want to offset their food cost by using their harvest through the year.

Growing up in a family of nine Mom and Dad canned food all the time. For these reasons I rate this book a 4.5 where 5 is the highest.

If you would like to read this book, let me know. Just let me know and you can read my copy.

#### **What Nook Next**

I went out to my pile of books and I went through it to see what was there. One of these I will choose from.



#### **Next Book**

After going through that pile of books I selected 5, one of each size. I narrowed it down to one, "The Independent Scholar's Handbook, How to turn your interest in any subject into expertise" by Ronald Gross. I don't know how this one will go as it is a hard cover book so I will see. I flipped through the

pages and I saw there are no pictures. As I feel I am an independent scholar I should read this book to see what it is all about. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> book this year.

#### **Tomato**

Did I tell you I have my first Tomato? Well here is what it looks like.



*First Tomato for 2010*

#### **Gold**

If it keeps rain like this it might create a new river where we could pan for gold. If the sun comes out while it rains the rainbow should show us where there is a pot of gold. Well it will won't it?



#### **Life Stories**

I am tired! I have been driving tractor all day. Well not really, but I have been writing about driving tractor all day in the field on the farm. It has made me tired sitting here.

Here is picture I found from around that time. Look it and tell me

who, where and about when let see how knows. It is written on the back of the picture.



*Who is this and when and where was it taken?*

### **Long Issue**

This issue of my newsletter looks like is going to be a long one. I was going to keep them at 12 pages, then 8, then 4, and now this one is already at 25 and I am not ready to stop yet. Well I will cut it off at 80 pages for sure would be too long. I sill stop at the end of the month, won't I?

### **24-Jun-10 8:47am 70°**

Today is nice walking weather. Cool and not too humid. So I walked up to Starbucks to start reading my new book and drink my morning coffee.

After I got home I sat on the porch and started reading some more. Why is it that when I sit at Starbucks even with all that goes on there and all the noise I read better? At home there is almost no activity while sitting on the front porch but it is more distracting.

This book is starting to get interesting. Even though I have just read a few pages I know it is going to be good. It is about following you passion. You may be just a janitor but you may have a great passion for history and become an expert in the field an independent scholar by following you inter drive to learn even more than you're learned in school.

I have learned in my few years that schools should teach you how to learn. Yes you need the basic reading writing, and arithmetic. You need to learn to commutate and how to get along with others. Mostly I feel you need to learn how to learn.

I heard one time that you get a driver's license so you can get out there and learn how to drive. The same is true with that piece of paper they give you when you leave school. The diploma is a license to remind you that you have the knowledge to start learning.

I am sure there is something I am going to learn from this book about learning something. I know I have learned that I am going to have my morning break a little early today.

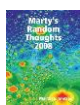
I'm taking this book with me just in case I get some reading time.

### **Birthdays**

Happy Birthday Deron G!

### **25-Jun-10 8:81am 72°**

Yesterday I checked on Aunt Annie and she is recovering at home. Now I have to start checking up on Kim who is also recovering at home too.... I





just talked to Kim and she is recovering well and said she would be back to work on Tuesday.

Wow, Tuesday is the 29<sup>th</sup> that is almost next month! Where has this month gone?

### **De-cluttering**

After I went through those books on the bookshelves I see I emptied three boxes and filled four other with stuff to pass on to other people, that is donate, sell, give away, or just trash it. This is a form of recycling. My idea is to just get out of this storage building, my house.

### **Multi-projects**

I am trying to keep the number of projects I am doing down so I have a little more time for each.

If you have 96 projects going at once you can only average 15 minutes for each in a day. Cut that down to 24 and you can average an hour each. Well you need to sleep and that leaves you day to 16 hours. And you must eat, do laundry, pay bills and other normal daily tasks and of course you have to fit in those two hours breaks every ten minutes.

So you are down to about 8 hours for projects. If you still have 24 going you are down to only an average of twenty minutes each.

So if you want to still average an hour each you have to cut it down to eight projects or passions you work on.

What are my eight passions? Hummm... my newsletter, reading a book, the garden, planning the windmill move to the antenna tower, watching all of the Star Trek shows, and de-cluttering

that is only six! I must have two other projects that are not related to house work.

It is break time now so I have to think what the other two items are.

### **Later**

I've been back from break for a long time forgot about two other projects; I have the Weather Station and my computer stuff that I mess with. That eight and enough for now. I could go on and on with other half started project. For now let me just stop and type other stuff into this newsletter.

### **Printer Jam**

I went out to Mike's blog and some pictures I hadn't seen yet. I print these out for Aunt Annie because here computer is like my paper and pencil. Well while printing them I noticed that the quality was as good as it used to be and it didn't help that I was using the lower quality paper and I use it only to print text. While I was printing I ran out of cyan ink then the printer jammed big time. When you print duplex the printer waits a little while for the ink to dry before flipping the paper to print on the other side. With text printing it does just fine. When you print pictures on the thinner paper it doesn't dry in time and it is almost like using a wet paper towel. I usually use a higher quality paper to prevent this.

You do have to change the paper first. I forgot so I had a mess getting soggy paper out of the printer. I use higher quality thin papers so most of my printing it is just fine. When you are doing higher quality stuff the higher

quality paper is worth the dollar more for package.

Anyway after I un-jammed the printer and putting in the new cyan ink, I ran a quality test and had the clean the print heads too.

### Project

Oh, I am writing my life story too. Anything else?

Oh I just updated my blog to the latest version of WordPress. It is now version 3.0. At the rate I post anything I will have to do an upgrade before I get around to post anything. You can get to my blog from my web site at

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

### 26-Jun-1010:28am 77°

I looked at the forecast and I think the rain gods are not finished with us yet.

I think I will go up on the roof and clean the gunk out of the rain gauge. I don't know if the gauge is performing up to snuff. When last I checked it wasn't full of leaves or anything but it was a little sticky. With a storm heading our way I thought I would wait for a nice day like today. I guess I go now...

...Well I used Fantastic and WD-40 to clean and oil the weather station's rain gauge. The other gauge was full so I emptied it too. It had 3-1/2" so your guess is as good as mine as to when that was emptied last.

Right now the Weather Station says we that 0.65" since midnight and 13.40" for the year. We have had 5.14" so far this month. The next month high month was July 2007 with 6.25". The

other 2 heavy rain months were 7.25", May 2004, and the record since I started recording in Mar 2004 was August 2007 at 10.64".

Here are some rains stats.

Year	6mo		Notes
	Total		
2003	-		No Data
2004	15.50		No Jan.& Feb. Data
2005	8.31		
2006	13.08		
2007	10.96		
2008	14.81		
2009	15.87		
2010	13.81		Includes June

The total includes the snow that was melted down to water and measures as inches of rain. They say more rain today. I just can't wait" ☺

Most of this data is available to any one as I post in on the internet at [www.doerofthings.com/weather/](http://www.doerofthings.com/weather/) and it is updated monthly. There is also weather data that is posted hourly. Check it out weather if you need to or not. ☺

### 27-Jun-10 11:20am 80°

I'll bet you do not want me you that is rained again. Well I am going to tell you I cleaned the Weather Station's rain gauges mechanize and right now I show 0.41" of rain since midnight.

..... I went out while you were waiting for me type something and looked at the rain gauge out by the solar panel and it showed a little less than a 1/2". Therefore I feel they are both reading the same amount of rain again. I wonder how long that will last. Enough about the rain stuff.



**Zone Alarm**

For you using Zone Alarm as your firewall there is a new upgrade for the free version. This upgrade takes me to Version 9.2.057.000.

I like Zone Alarm it does a good job and it is free.

**AVG Anti Virus**

Since I upgraded Zone Alarm I checked AVG and I found has been doing just fine updating itself.

**Spyware Doctor**

I have not been running this on regular bases because I have Spybot Search & Destroy and seem to be doing the job. I am running it now because I am thinking about it. I paid for it but it uses too many of my computer ~~race horses~~ resources where Spybot does not. Also when I run Spyware Doctor the does not show anything in the way of new spyware the Spybot has not already cleaned up.

I keep Spyware Doctor around because I paid for to get rid of that Trojan I got in February that at the time nothing else would clean it out. Things have been fine since then.

**Bugs**

I am getting a few bugs rating at my plants in the green house. Today I put one of those bug strips in the trying to scare them away. Do they work?

The turnips has been hit the by bugs eating on the leaves the other plants not so much.

**Aunt Annie**

Aunt Annie is holding up quite well. Next week she visited the Doctor to learn more on the operation they have

planned for a week from Monday.

Wait that is the Independence Day holiday for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. I wonder it that date is right. Well, Aunt Annie says she is ready.

**Where's George**

I have been playing a little catch up this morning and my Where's George score is up to 679.69. I just had a dollar spotted in North Dakota. It travelled 245 days to arrive 746 miles away in Minot, ND on June 26th.

I haven't been watching my Georges as much as before because most of my cash spending has been in the restaurants and I have been using my credit card in restaurants because the credit card is giving me a 5% rebate this month. I use the cash back dollars to buy Starbuck cash cards and then I get free coffee for just spending money.

Well I have to get ready. I have to pick up Marge and Aunt Annie for lunch. We are not letting Aunt Annie drive yet.

**28-Jun-10 11:08 78°**

Since it was just a nice day outside, I had to walk up town to have coffee. After I returned I had to hang a load of laundry out to dry. Then I had to set on the porch and read a book for a while. Then I started to think about going for a drive. Then I remembered I haven't had any real breakfast yet today. Why am I typing when my stomach is making this noise? I'll be back....

**Birthdays**

**Happy Birthday Haley!**

**Field Trip**

I am thinking of taking a trip to the library in Watervliet Michigan. I figured it is about 175 miles.

I want to go to library that has the Tri-City Record newspaper on microfilm back over 120 years. I thought might look through the records and see what was happening the day I was born.

I figure if I left after breakfast I could be there by noon. After lunch I could do my research and be back in Woodstock in time for dinner. Or if it gets late stay the night in a hotel and come back the next day.

My primary plans are to go to the Library and come home. This doesn't mean that I can't stop every 10 minutes and take a 2 hour break. I haven't done any research to see what there is along the way or after I arrive. I will do that before I leave here or after I get there.

I have room for 3 more people in the car and I will buy the gas. Let me know of you interest.

#### **Dehumidifier**

I have just got a dehumidifier to help dry the air in the house. With a crawlspace that is just dirt the humidity get high from time to time. I have central air and it dries the air but it cost a lot of energy operate.

The dehumidifier uses only 20% of the energy. So I am running it to see how it does at drying the air.

You see the hot air up to around 90° for a few days is fine for me if it not too humid. I am not very comfortable if the humidity is high and even 70°

With all that rain we had in the last few weeks I was wondering how dry it was in the cellar. I just returned from the basement and I things my next project should be to replace that rain gutter to keep that water on the outside. Maybe I should work on the tomorrow.

The cellar had a little standing water. This has always been from the roof when the gutter is clogged. I have all the parts except one end cap that they were out of the last I was at the store. So maybe tomorrow I should do this repair while it is not raining. The grass can wait until this is fixed.

Maybe the cellar will be dry by the time I get the cutter fixed and I won't have to run the new dehumidifier or A/C as much.

#### **29-Jun-10 8:51pm 64°**

Today was a fantastic day. I replaced that rain gutter over the bathroom window by the tower. And I did the laundry. I had too breaks and watched a movie before the day ended. The only things I didn't get to do was read some of my book while having coffee. Over all today was fantastic.

So tomorrow I need to mow the lawn! And I should order one of those grass bailers. ☺

#### **30-Jun-10 7:35am 59°**

Well it is the end of June and this newsletter has become a long one. I think I should print it out and start proofing it so maybe it will be ready to publish before the 4<sup>th</sup>. Then I can start getting ready for my trip to Watervliet.





First I should call Cork and see if he wants to go for breakfast.... I just called him and he was still sleeping.

I will let him wake up because I used some muscles yesterday I forgot I had and they didn't like that I used them. Maybe I should set that ladder up in the drive and go up and down it 10 or 15 times a day so my muscles don't complain so much the next time.

Just imagine how sore I might be like if I climb that tower to put that windmill up on top. I'll get it up there someday to work on that project.

### **Multitasking**

I tried to listen to the radio while proofing this issue and kept losing my train of thought. I guess the radio was more interesting today than editing my newsletter. I hope my newsletter does not bore you! Maybe it is because it is so long. In any case I turned off the radio and I am going back to the editing.

### **Aunt Annie**

I guess Aunt Annie I doing better because she called me and invited me out to lunch and she is driving again. And so I put off the lawn mowing until after we return. Well I replaced that rain gutter yesterday so I get a day off, don't I?

### **Lunch is over**

I have half the newsletter done and I think it is time to mow that hay field out in front. I can come back to this.

**1-Jul-10 12:03 pm 77°**

I know it is July now but I am not ready to cut this issue loose yet. I still have the grass in the back to mow and I have 1-1/5 pages I can type on yet. And I

am still checking this issue for some of the Marty-izums. Is that spelled right? ☺  
Is that a word? ☺

### **First Proofing**

After the first editing I see now I have 1-1/2 pages I can use. Now I have to check out page and column breaks.

### **Violca's Vacation**

I thought I would do one more thing before started up another issue.

I went to Violca's Facebook this and asked her:

Violca,

I was just proofing the next issue of Marty's Random Thought and thought you might want to have a few words about your vacation for our readers.

Do you have anything you would like them to know?

Marty

### **Violca's Reply:**

"Yes. Its very hot . The traffic is unbelievable and everyone keeps asking me about anila. Haha. also that i miss everyone"

I miss you to!

The end

It is July now so I muse publish this so I can cut the grass in the back. Bye!

Λ

# Happy Fourth of July



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