

## Issue # 75 July 2010

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### 1-Jul-10 5:38pm 83°

Here it is another month. June is finished and it left only 5.55" of rain.

The Farmers' Almanac says hot, thunderstorms, hot, thunderstorms, hot, thunderstorms, and hot, thunderstorms for the whole month for the Midwest / Great Lakes area for July.

Here if the Map for the summer.



*I might as well stay home this summer!*

Well it is July so I guess the hot is normal. My data shows that in the last years July had this much rain:

Year	July
2005	0.850
2006	2.680
2007	6.250
2008	4.060
2009	1.700
Avg	3.108
Min	0.850
Max	6.250

### **2-Jul-10 8:38am 66°**

Well it looks like we have a strike next door. They have been doing remodeling at the school since school ended in the spring. Now it seems that they are doing nothing but standing at the entrance of the driveway. That is two more thing I have to be careful of when I back my car out of the drive.

I wonder how long this will last.

#### **Vacations**

Some times when you go on vacation things do not go as you wish.

Violca wrote; *“its 10000 degress in albania n im stuck here. i should be at the b e a c h”*

Source: Quote from Violca's Facebook

### **3-Jul-10 9:41am 72°**

I go through my newsletter before I publish it and all most never look at it again. After all I wrote it and should know things are ok in it. Yah right! ☺

When you edit your own work it is easy to miss things because you already know what it says. Same for miss spelled words. If they are miss spelled in your head they are most likely missed spelled on paper too.

I went out to have coffee and visit with Anila this morning and she was busy. With no newspaper nearby I thought I would flip through my newsletter. The first thing I saw was that I miss spelled Edie's name. If I learned anything in the last 60 years it is to spell peoples name right. And to miss spell your baby sister's name wrong...well I am sorry Edie.

I have fixed the printed copies that I still have. I update the web site pages. And I have reprinted my archive copy and replaced the backup copy in the computer.

Yes I did all of this for you Edie! Names should be spelled correctly. A person name is something that follows us from birth to beyond the grave.

#### **Correction**

If you have a printed copy of issue # 74 and it was printed before July 4<sup>th</sup>, check page 23, left column, second picture from the top. In the caption I spell Edie's name "Edit". Please take the time to change it to "Edie". Wasn't she cute 42 years ago? Sorry Edie!

#### **Name index**

With this issue I am going to try and index the names in each issue. Some of you might ask; "Why?"

I print a few copies of the newsletter and many people ask if they are in there. I say some like "I don't know let me look." Then I flip through the pages point and say something like; "There, is that you?"



This issue I am going to see if I can add an index with the names of the people or places I have in the newsletter. I will do this after the newsletter if finished because some of this is automatic. If I do it too early someone might get missed and they could smack their fist at me. If they are too close to me I could get hurt.



With the hybrid Corn now days, it is a likely hood of not being knee high is rare. Even 40 years ago on the farm it was over my head on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

In any case I planted some Sweet Corn so I had to take a picture to show you it is knee high.

Please note that my foot is on top of the pot of Sweet Corn and it is indeed more than knee high on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, a day early!

Also I have some plants that I have left for the bugs. I figured I chase them away to much they would tell their friends and the might come back in swarms.



*I let the bugs chow down on the beets ant turnips. They do not seem to be munching on much else in the green house.*

How about one more picture of the garden? The following picture has a lot of things in it to show you.

In the foreground is a Snake Plant that Marge gave me. It was wrapped in plastic. I stuck it in the pot and hosed it down with water. The short part next to the tall one on the right is all new growth. If you look at that base of the tall one on the left there is a one inch sprout come up there too.

On the far left you see Carrots and Swiss chard. Behind the Snake plant in the center are 3 Cabbage plants and way in the corned is an Egg plant. The yellow stuff on the right is Lettuce. It looks like

I could harvest it to eat. Lettuce is a spring harvest plant so I don't know how it will taste. I guess this one way to find out.



### Camera

I think I need to look for a new camera. I took these few pictures with the camera in the cell phone. It does a nice job with its limits.

My other camera is acting up again so I think I might take a trip to one of the stores and see if can find another one.

Even though I use the automatic setting most of the time it is nice to be

able to change settings when the need arises.

Some of the other garden pictures did not turn out as well as I would like using the Handy cell phone camera.

### Pilgrims

Last I heard from Mike & Petra was they were going to Gütersloh Germany for a vacation while they visited with Petra's Mutter. I haven't heard any news from there so if you go to Mike's journal at WalkingEast.com you will see the last updates.

### 4-Jul-10 8:25am 76°

If it is 76° already, does that meaning it is going to get hot today? I just told Mike & Petra how nice it has been the last couple weeks. He had said it was 100° in Germany. Maybe I should remind you that Viollca said it is 10,000° in Albania. ☺

I just watered the garden and spread a little Milky Spores around the grape vines. It is what you use to help control the grubs of the beetles that are eating my Grapes. It is an organic pesticide that last 15 to 50 years. And you just put a spoon full on the ground ever four feet and water it. Or you could get fancy and use a spreader.

I need to walk off a sore back so I thing I will go and have breakfast now.

### Birthdays

Happy Birthday Annette's Mom!

### PortableApps

When I am on vacation or on the road and have my laptop with me. I try to



take a USB hard drive (memory stick) with me. I have one that has a program called Portable Apps installed on it. PortableApps is a bunch of programs that will run on most modern version of MS Windows. The programs include an office suite, browser, email client, web page editor, picture editor, MPG3 player, and many other application that are very handy. The reason I do this is in case my laptop fails I have most everything need to do the things when I am on the road. I can use most any computer I can find by just plugging the USB flash drive in and in a few seconds I am up and running.

It is then next best thing to having the laptop. I have used this many times while I have been away from.

Anyway they just did a major upgrade and I just reinstalled it. Now I am one step closer to go somewhere.

### Laptop

Now that I have the PortableApps I have to install all the updates on the laptop, I get behind on it because it sits in the wheelie cart waiting for me to take it for a ride. Nothing on it is set to happen automatically. I have to do the updates and make sure the antivirus is current. I do not want any nasty's while I am online someone's free Wi-Fi out in the middle of nowhere where I cannot easily recover from it. I have 2 antivirus programs AVG on the laptop and CalmAV on the flash drive. Both do the job to help protect me for computer viruses.

A new thing I am going to try and set up on the laptop is a modem using my cell phone. I use a Wi-Fi card most of the

time but there is not always Wi-Fi available that is usable. I like the free Wi-Fi if I can get it. Sometimes you are in a rest area and there is none. They may have good wireless cell service and if I could use my phone's G3 connection, it won't cost me any more than I already paying to use it.

So I should start on those updates and then after lunch see if I can get the G3 Modem working.

### Back from Lunch

I got back from lunch and I see the updates are not complete on the laptops yet. Maybe I should do this more often. Oh well, it is better now than on the road somewhere the internet connection is slow and there is something I need to update and I find I am 50 or more updated behind. There are 30 Windows updates today.

### Hot Today

It is 3:50pm and 92° I see it says got up to 95.7°. Hummm... I wonder where that 95.7° came from! I only show a high log of 93° at 1:00pm. May it is a peek that didn't get logged at the five minute interval. In any case it is HOT!

### 5-Jul-10 8:20am 79°

Well I checked my cell phone after I synced up my contacts on the laptop and I found it emptied my cell phone. I wonder what is up with that. Not too bad because I just put them back on there from my PC. Now I need to find out why that happened. Hummm...

Today it is already muggy outside so maybe I will work on the laptop. I need this when I go on my trip to

Watervliet. I still have to figure out how to use the cell phone as a modem....  
...I fixed the contact syncing. I just pushed the wrong button and moved them all one way instead of syncing the two. This is why I always make a backup before doing any new syncing.

So much for using the cell phone for a modem. I got it working and disconnected it. It seems I have unlimited time using the cell phone on the internet but as soon as I use it as a modem there is a \$29.95 charge a month. Isn't that amazing, I am paying \$29.99 a month to use the internet with the cell phone and have unlimited bandwidth but as soon as I connect to my laptop they would charge me another \$29.95 and it would have some limits. Well I guess that is the way it is.

That just means I won't be using the cell phone as a modem while on the road unless I really need it. There is a lot of free Wi-Fi out there yet. Besides I can do most of what I want just using the cell phone. It is just a convenience to connect the laptop through the cell phone.

I can buy more coffee with that money!

**6-Jul-10 2:21pm 91°**

### **Rough day today**

Today has been lazy day so far. After breakfast I have been sitting around doing almost nothing. Here is an example. I looked out the window and watch the one picketer next door sit there on his cooled and do nothing. And the other picketer has been sleeping in his

car all day. Oh there has been a guy drive up and talk to the one guy and blocks the driveway from time to time. He sits there talking for an hour at a time. This time he parked down the street and came over and is sitting by the other guy's chair. I say chair because he is gone. This has been the excitement so far today.

Oh I put the Laser Disc player in the trunk of the care that I was going to deliver last week and forgot.

Oh I sealed up a box to stuff for Petra to ship to her in California. Mike told me they leave Germany tomorrow morning at 11:00am and will be in California around 1:00pm. I should take that to UPS so they can get it on the way. This time there is no way it will beat them. This box is going to take about 6 days and I see they are only going to take 2 hours.

Better luck next time box. ☺  
I think I should go outside and get started. Maybe stop for coffee on the way.

Yes today is a rough day so far.

**7-Jul-10 2:44pm 91°**

### **JUST FOR GRINS**

*Can't we just get rid of wine lists? Do we really have to be reminded every time we go out to a nice restaurant that we have no idea what we are doing? Why don't they just give us a trigonometry quiz with the menu?*

-- Jerry Seinfeld, Comedian, Actor

Source: E. C. Kraus wine making newsletter

### **The Pilgrims**

Mike called me on his cell phone at about 3:30 from the airport in California. They are back in the states for



the rest. I am sure they will be keeping us updated as time goes on. Check Mike's journal at [www.WalkingEast.com](http://www.WalkingEast.com) from time to time.

### **8-Jul-10 10:36am 69°**

I have been talking about putting that wind mill on to top of the antenna tower for long time now. I have to make sure the hole for the mast on the tower is large enough before I get too far into this project. In order to do this someone needs to go up the tower and measure the hole. That is unless I figure how to measure it from the ground. A close up picture and extrapolate to size from other known measurements.

Today when Cork was over here he was going to climb up and measure it for me. He went one rung higher than I have. When he was back on to the ground he said; "Nope!" I agreed!



*Here is the hole at the top of the tower that I want to measure. You don't see anyone up there?*

Hummm... Those bolts are  $x$  size so the big holes must be  $y$  size. How do I do that? By the time I get this figured out I could have rented the boom and had the job done. I guess it is the challenge to

figure out how to measure the hole with being up 32 feet in the air to do it.

### **9-Jul-10 11:52am 83°**

#### **Electricity Usage**

A couple of years ago I received an electricity bill for over \$150.00. Since then I have been trying to lower that to see I could get below \$50. And keep it there. Well this bill it is about \$94.00.

I know that this is from running the A/C a lot. I used \$150 less in the last 12 month than I did last year at this time. I also used 1,100 less kWh in the last 12 months and a year ago.

I see that in July 2009 the cost was 11.5¢ per kWh and this year it is up to 12.9¢. This means this month's cost for my electricity is up even though I am using less.

So I guess that means I have to cut down on some. Let see, when I am at the computer as I am now I see I have the ceiling light and the desk light both turned on. And the curtain is closed blocking the free light from outside. That tells me I have more habits to work on. It is noon and I am not using that sun light. Get with it Marty!

#### **My Spelling**

My spelling may have improved since I started to writing in my newsletter. It still need much more work. Reading more is helping too. I sometimes catch myself looking up to see what they mean instead of just guessing like in the past.

I don't live it the past too much. It is hard to change it. But some time I wonder where I would be today I spent a

little more time reading while I was in school. Then I start to think of where I can go now that I am reading more now.

Then I remember that yesterday is gone and tomorrow has not come yet. There is only NOW!

On that note here is a Frank & Ernest from the paper today.



Source: <http://comics.com/frank&ernest/>

I think I might have gone to that school.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday Diane!

**10-Jul-10 11:25am 85°**

**11-Jul-10 6:11pm 80°**

From the looks of my newsletter nothing happened yesterday. No notes anyway. Today has been that exiting too!

Laundry...wait... I fixed the back door latch again!

I have replaced this door latch 4 or 5 times since I have had this house. The first one was a very old latch. I think it came with the house. Part of the house was here in 1901. I don't think this latch was that old. I am guessing the latch was installed in one of the remodeling that happened it the 1950s.

The first time I replaced it was just worn out. It was a very well built mortise lockset not like those they make today. When I replace it I was surprised I could buy a new lockset that would fit

right in the slot. That was about 10 years ago.

About a year ago this one jammed up and I had to remove the door to get it open. I opened the lockset to see what the problem was. I found parts that were all bent up. It looked like they were too weak for what they had to do. This lockset wasn't made as well as the one from fifty years ago.

I went to buy and new lockset and that kind was no longer available. I got a larger one that took a little modification to use. Remember this was about a year ago.

Since this I have taken this lockset apart and straighten parts 2 or 3 times. I seems like the parts are as thin as aluminum foil. Well the parts were very weak.

Today I decided to just go see if I could find a new lockset. When I got to Ace I found a new lock the same size as I removed 10 years ago. And though parts of were tinny the working parts seemed to be much stronger than the one I installed a year age. After a little modification again I have it back together and it even sounds tougher.

Maybe it is working as well as it did fifty years ago. Cross your fingers.

**12-Jul-10 4:51pm 83°**

I was working on a jigsaw puzzle when Cathy call and told me that Aunt Annie's surgery went fine and she was in recovery. Cathy will let me know more information later.

## Jigsaw Puzzle





This morning I was on line and I saw this jigsaw puzzle you could do online. I hadn't put together a puzzle you decades so I thought I would give it a try.

I thought it would be a piece of cake because all the pieces were right side up and the top of the pieces were up. It had a clock to tell how long it took. I lost track of time while putting it together and when Cathy called it showed 4:15. I finally finished it at 5 hours.

I can see how you can get addicted to things. 5 hours Wow!

### Save Money

Save on printer ink by using the Century Gothic font, which a recent study showed consumes about a third less ink than industry-standard Arial. That saves about \$20 a year for a home user printing 25 pages a week.

Source: AARP newsletter

This is a sample of Century Gothic font. In my case I print a lot of paper. It may be to my advantage to use the Century Gothic font. If I uses this very much it has to be easy to read. Some fonts are easier to read than others. The rest of the newsletter is Times New Roman.

### Birthdays

Today is Sadie's birthday. Sadie is two today. I haven't seen her in a while. I am guessing she just starting her terrible twos. Happy Birthday Sadie!

## 14-Jul-10 6:46am 68°

Is that strike over next door? There are a lot of construction trucks in the school parking lot this morning. On the other hand there are four guys in yellow shirts standing in the driveway on the tree bank. Hummm...

### Aunt Annie

I hear no news about Aunt Annie yesterday. I figured I would give her a full day after her surgery before I called her. Most people do not want company for a day while surgery drugs ware off. I know in my case I didn't even remember much of what was going on that first day after my bypass. So later today I will give her a call.

### The Strike is over

The guys in the yellow tear shirts this morning was the black top guys. They are tarring up the entry way in into the parking lot now. With that cement saw running I am glad the wind is out of the southwest.

You know with all of that safety training we received at Knaack I get nervous when I see some running a saw without safety glasses. He's done now so I can stop shacking.

There is a lot of thing I do now for safety that I didn't do before all of the safety training at Knaack. For at least 10 years everybody at Knaack went to one hour of safety training a month. They said this cut the accidents by 90%. I was amazed at that number. I wonder if they still have that training.

### Health Insurance

Starting tomorrow I have health insurance again. I have been without it for 22 months. With the heart attack and other things in the past the insurance companies do not cover pre-existing condition.

As long as I don't do any pre-existing illnesses I should be ok for a year and a half when I can get Medicare.

This is what is meant by 'pre-existing condition' by my insurance provider.

The DEFINITION of Pre-existing Condition is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Pre-existing Condition means a medical condition, Injury or Sickness, not excluded by name or specific description, for which:

- (1) Medical advice, Consultation, care or treatment was recommended by, or received from, a Doctor within 1-year immediately prior to the Effective Date of coverage for a Covered Person; or
- (2) Symptoms existed within 1-years immediately prior to the Effective Date of coverage for a Covered Person that would cause a reasonable person to seek Consultation, care, or treatment from a Doctor.

"Consultation" means evaluation, diagnosis, or medical advice given without the necessity of a personal examination or visit,

## Life Story

You know I haven't written any of my life stories lately. I see I left off when I shot myself with a .22 rifle while trying to chase the pigeons. That is at page 31 of the uncut version of my notes.

Maybe I will work on my life stories a little this morning.

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday Sharon P

## Yesterday's Birthdays

Melvin Z was yesterday. I hadn't remembered Melvin's and it wasn't on my list. Happy Birthday Melvin!



**Aunt Annie Update**

After talking to Aunt Annie today it sound like she will be getting of the hospital as early as tomorrow. That is just great to hear!

**15-Jul-10 7:53pm 80°**

While working with my weather station I noticed the humidity was down to 30%. I walked outside and it was very pleasant. I quickly went out and cat grass for the first time in a month.

**Aunt Annie**

After visiting Aunt Annie today I found she was doing fine. She was just waiting for a bed (room) to become available at the rehab center. They want her to spend a few days there before she comes home.

**16-Jul-10 5:21pm 91°**

My weather station data says we peaked at 97.5° around 2:45 this afternoon. Even though it could have peaked at one-hundred this morning it hasn't logged it yet. It has been hot. The humidity has dropped to around 30% again it is still 90° so I am not going to mow the back yard today.

I just haven't wanted to be outside in this hot humid weather.

*Row, row, your boat;  
Gently down the stream;  
Marley, Marley, Marley,  
Life is but a dream.*

**Aunt Annie**

Aunt Annie is at the rehab center and is planning to be there until Monday.

**RV joke for Aunt Annie**

*A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the engine of a class A motorhome when he spotted a well-known heart surgeon in his shop. The surgeon was there waiting for the service manager to come take a look at his RV when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey, Doc, can I ask you a question?" The surgeon, a bit surprised, walked over to the mechanic, who straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish it works just like new. So how come I'm paid so little compared to you when we're doing basically the same work? The surgeon paused, smiled and leaned over and whispered to the mechanic, "Try doing it with the engine running."*

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/issue438.shtml>

**18-Jul-10 9:33am 81°**

I was just thinking I should go out and cut that grass before it gets too hot. Before I do that I have to remind you the following.

**Renew your Subscription**

I have sent out a renewal notice to the people on my email. Not all of you have replied. After this issue if you have not let me know you will be dropped from the list until you tell me to put you back.

**What this is all about**

After I post a new issue on [www.MartysRandomThoughts.com](http://www.MartysRandomThoughts.com) I send out an email to all my subscribers letting you know it is out there.

I keep your email private. I do not give out email address to anyone.

If you are a new subscriber you need to send me an email telling me you want to be added to my list. If you have someone else send me your email

address I will not automatically add you. You must send it to me yourself!

**New Subscribers, What to do**

Email me your full name and email address and ask me to put on my email list to

[Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com](mailto:Thoughts@MartysRandomThoughts.com)

Or go to

[MartysRandomThourghts.com](http://MartysRandomThourghts.com) and click on the "Contact Marty" link. It will take you to a form to let you do the same thing. I host the form on a secure site to try to keep the spammers away.

I think I will go visit Aunt Annie now.

**Aunt Annie Update**

I went up to see Aunt Annie around 11:30am. I walked in the room and Bob & Shirley were there. After visiting a while I had to leave with them because I had something in my trunk for them. It had been there for a couple weeks and I had forgotten.

When I came back inside the guy at the front desk was giving a visitor's pass to someone to visit Aunt Annie. I visited them one the way up to the room they didn't know I know they were going where I was going.

When they asked who I was going to see I said; "Aunt Annie, same as you!" Of course they need to know who I was and me them. This was Carolyn & George, customers of Aunt Annie. We had a laugh.

I didn't get a lot of information form Aunt Annie because we all had to visit. I could tell she was doing very well

and she thinks she might get out tomorrow. ✌️ (crossed fingers) 😊

**19-Jul-10 7:21am 69°**

**Book #6**

This morning I finished book number six for the year. I didn't really read all the notes and appendices in the back of the book. I did look at the pages and there was nothing there that interested me at this time.

This book was named "The Independent Scholar's Handbook" by Ronald Gross, ©1983. It is a good book to read if you are doing any kind of research purity much on your own. It will give you a lot of ideas how you might go about it to make easier and more enjoyable. On the MRT scale I will give it 4 stars.

I have already chosen my next book, more on that later.

**Hat**

I thought about starting to wear a hat again. I have a lot of them around hear that just get knocked over and then I have to dust them off. After that I just put them back in the pile to fall over another time.

Today I noticed that derby I bought a bunch of years ago. I have worn it from time to time. It had a bunch of dust on it that made it look gray. After vacuuming it off I see that it is very dark brown or black.

When I tried it on I think it got larger or my head shrunk. Since I haven't been to a psychologist that I know I am



thinking that the hat is a size or two too large.

Remember that people used to put newspaper under the hatband to resize them I thought I might try that. I went to the recycle bin and pulled a page of a Menards ad to use.

The Menards ads always have quotes on the bottom that give you something to ponder. One page says “I bought some powdered water, now I don’t know what to add.” ☺

Rolling up one page wasn’t enough. I put another page under the hatband and see what happened. That wasn’t enough. I will just to have to find someone with a bigger head. I know I get big headed sometimes. That’s different!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> pages quote was “Laugh at least once a day.”

Well now with those two bands of paper under the hat band it distorts the hat band too much and still it is too small. I removed them and now it rest on

my ears and glasses. The size is 7-5/8. At the time I bought it that was the size I thought was correct. If I am going the wear this derby I will have to wear a stocking cap under it. ☺

You can see how to figure your hat sizes from this short video. I think I need size 7-3/8.

[villagehatshop.com/head\\_size.html](http://villagehatshop.com/head_size.html)



Do you know any one that wears a size 7-5/8 hat and would like a derby?

**Aunt Annie Called**

Aunt Annie is just waiting for them to let her out. It still sounds like it will happen today. You still have for the doctors to ok it. Hang in there Aunt Annie It will happen sometime soon.

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Did I get all of you?

