

## Issue 84 November 2010 Continues

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### 16-Nov-10 Continues

Ok I see while looking over the previous newsletter I misses a picture of Violca tanning progress. Maybe she will be working tonight and I will only be a couple days off.

### 17-Nov-10 8:48am 38°

I see that my desk has gotten cluttered again. I guess clearing it once does not keep it clear. At lease this time it is mostly bills and other paper work to handle. I guess I best get at it.

### 18-Nov-10 1:03pm 36°

#### **Squirrels**

Is there more squirrels than most years? I see a lot more of them testing the right-of-way on the streets.

When I went to Crystal Lake the other day I saw one with black fur coat. Yes, a black squirrel. The ones around my house are grayish. When Jeremy lived a block to the north his squirrels were all brown. Black is a new color for me.

The squirrels around my house look like they are getting heavy. I guess that means winter is on the way.

While I was typing this I wonder how many different colors squirrels come in.

I found out they come in Red, Brown, Black, White, Gray, Brown/Gray, Red/gray, maybe mixtures thereof.

Here is something to think about;

*There are over 365 species of squirrels in seven families. They include the tree squirrel, ground squirrel, and flying squirrel.*

Source: <http://www.squirrels.org/facts.html>

That is one squirrel for each day of the year. And here is another squirrel fact;

*The squirrel's erratic path while crossing a street is an attempt to confuse the oncoming vehicle... thereby causing it to change direction. This is obviously the squirrels biggest, and often last mistake.*

Source: <http://www.squirrels.org/facts.html>

## Radio Repair

Yesterday I received the crochet hook I order from Amizon.com. I was amazed I had received it so quick.

I readied the rawhide case for the radio and thought in no time I would have the thing sewn and it would be finished.

I guess that sometimes I think the five minute jobs will only take five minutes.

I had a friend who used to come over and wake me up at five in the morning to help him with his five minute project. It got to be a joke because many times it would get dark before we finished.

Well the crochet hook was way too small. The hook was too small to hook the big thread I was using. The shaft for the hook bent because it was so thin. I just set it aside to think about it some more.

I tried a hand stitching tool used for awnings. The needles were too large so I tried a large sewing machine needle. It kind of worked for a while. I broke 3 before I stopped trying that way. Then I tried a large hand sewing needle. No good!

I finally used a very small hand sewing needle. I broke 3 or 4 of them before I figured out how to sew this thing.

How long should the thread be when you are sewing by hand? I even tried to have enough thread on the needle that I could sew a seam down the side of a football field and still ran out. ☺

Now that I am almost finished I think I am getting the hang of this.

Some the holes of the leather had already pulled through and I had to make modifications. I made other modifications because I didn't know what I was doing. In the end one part looks really nice and one part does not.

I didn't say I was going to restore this. I said I was going to repair it.

I think the glue is dry now. I can go finish the sewing. Yes some of it is glued. It was before and again now.

## 19-Nov-10 11:32am 40°

It started looking kind of gloomy and then the sun came out. I went to Starbucks and had my coffee and read my book a while. Then I called Cork and we went for breakfast. After getting Mike's mail and letting him know about it I decided to put my radio to gather and be done with that project.

## Radio Project

Yesterday I re-stitched the carrying handle because it was really bad and the leather is a little iffy if it is was going to hold up. Now that I re-stitched it if nothing else the thread will holds it together.

I was just putting it together to make it back into a useable item and I had another seam break. The thread on the other side was rotten too. I just walked away in frustration, but I'm ok now!

I know I do not have to take it apart as much as I did the other side. I know what I have to do to re-sew it. I know how much work is involved. I just thought I was about finished. I may just re-sew the whole thing.



In any case it is keeping focused. I just have to slow down and keep working on it until I get it finished.

Right now I think I just need to take a break and think about it before I get more frustrated and give up. Maybe this is therapy. Like I need to learn to slow down and take my time.

### Much Later

Wouldn't you know it? I re-sewed that piece for the radio case. Then I started to put the electronics back in the case I tightened the last screw. I aligned up the power plug into the chasses and powered it up and it was on WGN again. Sound great! Woops. The only part that wasn't re-sewn just fell apart. Oh well. ☹

I only spent 2 hours on the other side. I guess I have to do this side too. It might hold but I think I might as well remove it and re-stitch it too.

The edge of the rawhide is old and dry on the edges so some of the holes pull through and the thread don't hold much. I have the other three pieces sewn back on and those seem to be holding for now. It may not look as good as I really want but it is neat to listen to a radio that is 54 years old. I was about 9 years old when this was manufactured.

Oh I found one of the batteries it requires. I am still looking for the other one. The battery I still need is Eveready No. 717. I could use a number 707 if all else fails.

While I rest up from sewing I think I will search for the other battery.

**20-Nov-10 11:22am 35°**

### Birthday

No it is not for today it for the 19<sup>th</sup>. Berry K is Marc K's dad. Marc K is Mister Heather. I am adding Berry's birthday to

the list that way he will have a birthday next year. Happy Birthday Berry! You may not know Berry. He is one my readers who lives in Colorado. Heather told me I might meet him before the end of the year.

### Famous People

Wow, I know another person that has been on national TV.

Alan, one of the morning guys at Vaughan's, was on the Oprah show yesterday. I didn't get to see it. You can see the write up in today's Northwest Herald newspaper.



*"Alan Belcher went to Tuesday's taping of the Oprah Winfrey Show only because his wife, Gay, made him. ..."*  
Source: Northwest Herald, Nov.20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, front page

### Finish a project

You know I should finish that radio so I can say I finished at least one project this year. I just seems like I keep starting them and they never get finished.

Maybe what I need to do is re-start of the projects I never finished and still want to finish.

### Getting Fried

I was telling Violca I forgot her next picture in the series of her tanning. Remember I missed last Sunday's. Well she told me it was ok because she has not been tanning in two weeks. Maybe she is heeding the advice we have been giving her.

**21-Nov-10 11:02am 46°**

### Forced to Change

I have found most people don't change or don't like change. Sometimes

you get in a routine and you get stuck in your ways. I am kind of normal that way.

The last four times I went to Town & Country I sat in different places. You might say ' "So!" Well I think for the last three of four months I have been sitting in the same booth or at the same table on Saturday afternoon.

Today I sat in the front corner of the restaurant. You know things look different from the other end of the building. I almost thought that I was in the corner because I had done something bad.

It was fun but unconformable at the same time. I have been saying I need a change in my life. I never thought much about just sitting in a different place to getting a different view of things. Maybe just looking at things from a different angle can change your life.

I even thought of going to Starbucks in the afternoon instead of the morning. I am sure that would be a different.

### **The Radio is Finished**

I finished up that radio last night before I went to bed. I have it turned on in the other room and it sounds good. Now I can set it on the shelf to collect dust or in a box to rest for another 20 years. For now I think I will just turn it on once in a while and remember it is a neat thing to have a 53 year old radio that still puts out a good sound.

I found that this radio is a 1957 Philco, Sportster, model E-675-124 portable vacuum tube radio manufactured in the USA.

Most likely the factory was Philadelphia. Maybe near where Marie lived. What I

found was it may have been in the Philadelphia's Kensington District.

If you are interested in Philco's history here is a good starting source.

<http://www.philcoradio.com/history/>

### **Christmas Letter**

I was going to start my Christmas newsletter last July. Since it is almost Thanksgivings Day maybe I could start thinking about it today.

If you have a yearend letter I would like to see it. It is always nice to read about others events for the year.

### **22-Nov-10 9:39am 55°**

Good morning! It is a good morning. Rain stopped and it is very warm and they are forecasting up to 70°!

### **Tell us Again**

Today the radio talks about the Kennedy shooting again. It was 47 years ago. Do we need to keep bring this up again and again? So who shot Kennedy?

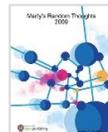
I don't think we will ever know until we start time traveling. If we travel back in time then maybe we can change the past and maybe this would have never have happened. Then what will we talk about?

### **Free Stuff for You**

While going through some more boxed I completely emptied 4 more boxes the stuff I saved went into other boxes that already had tings in them. I only started one box it was the size of a shoe box.

Three more boxes were movies. Two of them were full of VHS tapes. I might have watched them once and there they sit. I went through the boxes and saved less than 10 tapes I wanted to view again.

These moves like my books cover everything from Star Trek to how to fix your



sink. There are a few off-Air recordings. And a few new blank tapes. There are over 50 tapes in the two boxes that I am going to part with.

Here is the deal. If you are interested in these tapes let me know. After you see them and still want them there are yours. So if you want them please contact me by any means you can. Remember You get all you want.

Please tell me you are interested before Purple Heart is picking up donations soon and I want them out of here. I will hold them if you interested. Purple Heart can wait a month or so. Pleas hurry!

**23-Nov-10 8:57am 22°**

Remember yesterday when the temperature went all the way up to 65°? I'll bet a lot of you were thinking about filling up your swimming pools. Maybe some you did! Well this morning you may have an ice skating rink. Are you ready for this weather?

### **Starbucks Review**

People have been telling me that since Starbucks remodeled that their service seemed to be slower. Today I waited in line for what seemed forever. I noticed only 3 people behind the counter and one of them was making coffee and not serving the customers.

I know they have to make coffee because that is why most of us are there. And he shortly started take customers orders.

When I got up to the cashier I found the reason for the delay. They have a new computer system. There is always a new learning curve that slows down the normal flow.

After I sat down with my coffee I could see the display the cashier was using. It was all covered with pictures of the coffees. I guess if you are used to using numbers and words and changes to pictures is can be confusing. Or is it a case that the designer of these computer systems think people won't be able to read and use pictures now.

Another thing I have noticed is the volume on the music. I like the music though they could turn it down a little. Maybe if I wasn't sitting right in front of the speaker it wouldn't sound so load. I will try moving the next time. And I could ask them to turn it down a little. I have to tell them so they understand it is only a little too load and not that I want them to turn it off. It needs to be background music and not foreground music.

### **Town & Country Review**

Yesterday at Town & Country they were serving turkey dinner with all the fixing. This was the free dinner to the customers to say' "Thank You!" We even received a glass of sparking grape juice and dessert. It was all very good!

Thank You Al and Erma!

### **Restaurant Near Opening**

I see that we have a new restaurant getting ready at the south end of Main Street. I looked through the window and I see they aren't ready yet but I think it might be soon. I don't remember the whole name. It was "A-B-C..."

### **My Desk**

A while back I cleared most of the clutter from my desk. Today I see some it came back. I think this is like weeding your lawn. You have to keep working on it to keep the weeds away. Clutter like weeds

need removable often. My desk's clutter is paper work and I will work on that today.

As for clutter in general I have been working slowly on the windowed porch. It is a warehouse cluttered with boxes of clutter. I am working on this too. This clutter is neatly stacked and I have to check each item before it is removed.

As I said the other day much of it is ready to leave to find a new home elsewhere. My goal is to get down to the point I could live out of my car.

Right now it is my desk I am working on.

**9:48pm**

Whoops, the desk didn't get cleared again.

**25-Nov-10 3:09pm 29°**

**Happy Thanksgivings Day**

Marge arranged for her, Aunt Annie and me to have to a Thanksgivings turkey dinner at Isabel's today. Thank Marge!

**100 and Counting**

Today I got another hit with Where's George. I started tracking my paper money in July 2009 and today someone logged they saw my 100<sup>th</sup> bill.

That brings my George score up to 737.53. This makes my state rank in Illinois is: 232 out of 5,755, 95.97% My rank based on George Score is #5,958 out of 46,481 current users with a George Score or 87.18%

I have had 100 hits in ten states and one in other country. Money really gets around.

I am so happy! Maybe I will keep doing this Where's George.

**De-cluttering**

I sorted I emptied another box without starting another 3 box. This box was full of nuts, bolts, screws and other fasteners. I

took each item and put them in those bin boxes I bought for this a long time ago.

I thought I almost every fastener I own in the three bin boxes. After I put the empty box in with the recycle stuff I grabbed the next box to de-clutter. Yup, it was full of fasteners for me to sift through too.

I am trying to stay in the Now. I am not even going to ask myself how I got so many boxes of stuff. It happened and I am working on trying to keep it from being a problem in the future. This I have to work on it now. But first I need a break.

**Android, Not Yet**

I have been eyeing up those new Android tablets. This is not an Android phones that have been showing us on TV. It is the Android Tablet PC. The Android is the operating system based on Linux.

Anyway I like the idea of the new Android 7" tablet PC They also make a 10". I have been looking for a small PC that I could carry around in my pocket. Well the Android is what I have been looking for.

So I went out and see what is out there. Well I think they pushed to get them on the market for Christmas. Even though it seems to be a good thing for me they are still buggy. I think I will wait until the spring.

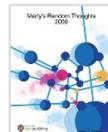
I saw QVC selling them and they had a good price for under \$130 with free shipping. But I'll wait!

**Shop 'til ya Drop Day**

I have to rest up for tomorrow. Remember tomorrow is Shop-Until-You-Drop day. I think I will go see what people are buying.

**26-Nov-10 11:23am 25°**

By now I am guess all of you shoppers are starting to get tired of shopping. Well



this guy is not yet because I have been anywhere except for Starbucks. Not too many people in there. I am guessing they were out shopping too.

I have to go to the store today so I might do some shopping while I am out there. Before I go out to mingle with the multitudes. I should make a list of what I need. If I have a list I may not be swayed to buy myself too many toys.

### **27-Nov-10 2:47pm 30°**

Today and yesterday must be try to fix things days.

#### **Batteries**

Yesterday I was working on the solar chargers for the Christmas lights. I have been using some of the solar Christmas light strings for 3 or 4 years. While checking them some of them don't stay lit very long after dark. So I have been seeing what I can do to make them run longer.

One them had a battery that was corroded. I found out all of them that I opened up had 4 volt lead-acid batteries. The only number on them was "4V1AH" which is the battery's rating.

I went to the internet to see if I could find replacement batteries. The only place I found them was in China and I had to buy a car load to get a price. I was surprised because I have a lot of these solar lights sets.

The new strings use different batteries and I can find them easily but they won't work in my current sets.

So I decided to make my own battery pack. I need 4 volts so use 3 "AA" rechargeable batteries I would have 3.6 volts or 4 to get 4.8 volts. Either way I should be able to charge them with the small solar charger.

Yesterday I bought a battery case and set of new batteries. I wired it up to the light set and hooked it up and last night I saw it seemed to be working fine. I didn't have a good charge last night but today it has been charging all day. Tonight I'll see if they stay lit up as they use to when they were new.

In the mean time I pulled out another weak battery and put two batteries in the big string set to see how it does.

If they all need batteries I might just buy new light strings. The parts to make up the rechargeable battery sets cost more than a new solar light string. Even now while Christmas lights are at full price.

#### **Window Camera**

Some of you might know I have a camera on my front porch so I can see what the weather looks like when I am away from home. The last few weeks it has only been updating intermittently.

It has been up and running since maybe 2004. I see I have some picture dated January 2008.

After working on it a while I think it may have given up its ghost. I'll play with it some more before I give up but I think it is done for.

I just saw the label I put on the side of the camera. The date is 01/28/2004. I guess I guessed right. I will check for a replacement because this one is no longer made or supported.

### **28-Nov-10 10:28am 34°**

Is it really only 34° it feels like 40°? I need 40 plus degrees so I can Rain-X my windshield. It makes it much easier to scrap the frost off if I use Rain-X. Last year I didn't use it and I played hell with the frost, ice,

and snow. In a little while I will see if it got warm enough to get the job done.

## Birthdays

We have two birthdays today. There is Ronny who I just listed. She is one the people who has been pouring me coffee off and on for years. She now works at Isabel's and before at Three Brothers.

Norma Lee is an old friend who I haven't seen in 20 or 30 years. Norma Lee and I use to visit for hours at the Timber's. Do you remember her or the Timber's?

Happy Birthday Norma Lee & Ronny!

## Book 11

I was wondering earlier this month if I was going to make my book of 12 books this year. I think I might make it.

I finished number eleven before months end so I have thirty-three days to select the 12<sup>th</sup> and read it by the end of the year.

Book eleven titled "The Secret Power Within, Zen Solutions to Real Problems" by Chuck Norris.

Though this book has Zen over tones through it is a book how Chuck Norris over came some the real problems from childhood up through the 1997 when the book was published. I enjoyed this book because I too overcame of my problem in similar ways. This book is 5 stars on the MRT scale.

## Next Book

I have read a couple of books that started me working on de-cluttering, spiritual, food books so it is time to look for something else to finish the year. Here are five books I have considered for number twelve.

The TAO of an Uncluttered Life, Lao Tzu's 10 Principles for Organization

The New Glucose Revolution, Low GI Guide to Diabetes

Random Acts, Does It Take a Killer to Catch a Killer?

The ZEN of Organizing, Create Order and Peace in Your Home, Career, and Life  
Who Are You? 100 Ways to Seeing Yourself

While making this list I was thinking from the titles what I might get from these books. Here is a summary of what I was thinking. This may help me decide which to read next.

In January I had over 50 books in that pile on the table to read. I removed only eleven so far. So I went through and selected these 5 and here are my current thoughts of each.

The first book "*The TAO of an Uncluttered Life*" is about de-cluttering one's life by organizing it. Being a person who is somewhat random I don't know if I really want to be organized.

The second book on the list, "*The New Glucose Revolution*", may help me eat more better and loss a little weight. I need help with both. I also need some exercise.

I bought third book "Random Acts" a long time ago on an impulse because of it title. It looks like a mystery. I think I will pass the book because I don't think I am ready for a murder mystery right now.

The next book, "*The ZEN of Organizing*" is another ZEN and organizing book. It has a book mark at the end of chapter four so I must have read part of it. I kind of remember it. It is more about organizing. For now I think I need to de-clutter more before starting to organize. I think I will pass on this book until later too.



And finally, "Who Are You? 100 Ways to Seeing Yourself" I shouldn't have to ask; "Who I am?" but do any of know us who we really are?

Again I will read this book at a later time. It is too "New Agey" for now.

I guess this leave me two books to choose from. Well we are into the holidays and there is a lot of food to eat. If I start reading the book on the low GI I might start eating only food that is good for me and miss out on the foods that taste good. I know that they could be the same foods but why take chances this close to Thanksgivings, my birthday, and Christmas. So I will pass on this book for now.

I guess that leave me with the de-clutter book, "The TAO of an Uncluttered Life, Lao Tzu's 10 Principles for Organization" It is only 114 pages or about 3-1/2 pages a day. So my next book is "The TAO of an Uncluttered Life"

I think I better go and try to Rain-X my windshield now.

### 30 Minutes Later

I wonder why it took so long to get around to putting that Rain-X on all the windows on the car. It took only a half hour to wash and all the windows on the outside of the car and put on two coats of Rain-X. And I even polished the glass and did the head lights.

Why do we put thing off so long? Now I have time for lunch and I am ready for the frost.

### Porch Camera

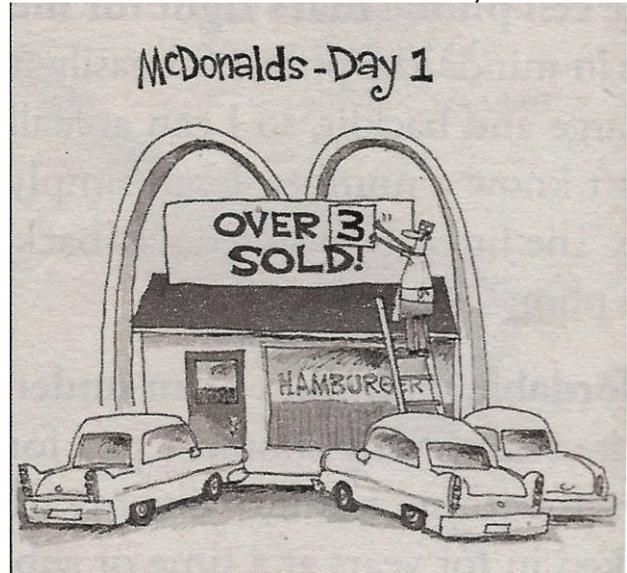
Well the window camera is done until I get it repaired or replaced. I will let it keep grabbing pictures until it is complete dead of I find a place to get it repaired.

It takes some full pictures, some less full like half or less, and some blank pictures. It may cost less to replace it the repair it but I have to try.

If you have been looking off my porch remember you may not see much.

### Funny Stuff

I thought you would like to know how McDonald's did on the first day.



Source: Parade Magazine, Nov 28, 2010, by Glenn McCoy

### Another Restaurant

Today Marge, Aunt Annie and I went to Harvard and went to Nick's Cozy Nook for lunch. I saw Getti there. I haven't seen her in years and years. It was good to see her. Nick was in Florida visiting his dad, Sam and other family. Nick is Getti's husband and Sam is one of the three brothers of The Three Brothers.

### 29-Nov-10 9:55am 38°

It is a little warmer today. Maybe spring is going to be here soon.

### McDonald's Review

Today I had breakfast at McDonald's. It is the first time since they remodeled. Service was good and the food was ok. It is

open and very light in the dining room. It looks very modern. One thing I noticed was you could hear everything. Meaning all the sounds traveled all over the inside, with all the hard surfaces the sounds went everywhere. My hearing is good but in there even the people who talked softly could be heard from where ever I sat.

Maybe it was where I was sitting. I will have to try a couple more spots before another review.

### Month End

Earlier this month I thought this month was dragging. Something must have changed because the end is near and it got here quickly after a very slow start.

### 30-Nov-10 11:3eam 29°

It looks like winter is coming back. It is cold damp and windy out there.

### Tomorrow

I started to edit this newsletter and it went all wacky again. I think I have it looking readable but all the editing may not have got finished. You will have to live with it because I am frustrated. See you next issue.

^

### 1-Dec-10

Yesterday I saw my first show flurry. Yes I think I only saw one. So yesterday November 30<sup>th</sup> was my first official day I saw SNOW.

Today we get a snow day, don't we?

### 5-Dec-10 6:02pm 15°

### Re-Edit

I re-edited this issue because I had to re-create it because of the problems I have been having with the format template. When I was proofing it I found a few things the needed to be edited. So I learned the editing it too fast It still could still to be re-proofed.

So if you already red this once before tou can see changes.

^

### My Wish List

My wish list is continuing. Check out Issue No. 82 & 83 for what the first seven items.

**8. A helper.** Yes I think it is time I find a helper to help me reorganize and de-clutter. I think it had to be some on I can have fun with because fun is more important to me than getting things done in a hurry. The goal is a journey not where you end up.

**9. Visa, Master Card, or Starbucks Gift Cards.** The Visa and MasterCard can be used anywhere. Other Gift Cards are limited to one store forcing you to only buy at that one place limiting your choices. This is something to think about if you are giving a Gift Card to other people. I listed these three cards because I would use them. I use my Starbucks card all the time.

**10. I would like the motor home to sell.** If the motor home sells before spring I would be much happier. Wit it gone I could rid myself of more of the clutter I have accumulated because of owning it. Some of the things I still own are because I have the motorhome and may need them if the doesn't sell or I start using it again. They are thing I might re-buy is I still own the motor home in the spring.



# Marty's Random Thoughts

(C) 2007 MEM

11<sup>th</sup> Year

Woodstock, Illinois, USA, Earth

Marty Metras

## Calendar

### November

Nov-01 Tristan P  
Nov-01 Tom H's Dad's  
Nov-02 Erik T  
Nov-02 Denial Boon  
Nov-04 Aunt Irene & Uncle Bud Anv  
Nov-05 Uncle Bud (1918-1985)  
Nov-06 Patty (Mary's Sister)  
Nov-06 Sally Fields  
Nov-06 Cassie H  
Nov-11 Sally H  
Nov-12 Olivia K  
Nov-19 Berry K  
Nov-26 Scott M  
Nov-28 Norma Lee N  
Nov-30 Miki

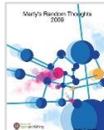
### December

Dec-01 Steve M  
Dec-01 Jimmy W  
Dec-01 Tom H  
Dec-03 Joe Anne  
Dec-03 Donna, Steve's Sister  
Dec-04 Bill M  
Dec-04 Oscar  
Dec-04 Tammy & Alex Benetez's Anv  
Dec-06 Ryan S  
Dec-09 Flo  
Dec-12 Marty M (me)  
Dec-12 Linda's Sister  
Dec-12 Melody W  
Dec-12 Teri Z  
Dec-14 Ed P  
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Also read about me walking across Spain

