

Issue 85 December 2010

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1-Dec-10 11:07am 23°

Welcome to December!

We finally found December the last month of the year. And we got a little snow with it. Only 25 days until Christmas.

Well I spent half the morning fixing the newsletter again. Something is happening I can't figure out. This time it put all the headings and footers together and put them on the top and the bottoms of every page. It is a pain to try and fix it. After a while I got it back to somewhat normal.

Just a little bit ago I published it to the web site and sent out the email notice it was ready.

Oh, thinking about the web site have you looked at the survey yet? There are only three questions for you to answer.

I better start printing it so I can go to Starbucks before I get snowed in. ☺

Better Maybe

I tried dropping the template and recreating the look of the newsletter in this document.

Most of you haven't seen how bad it looked. That is because I fixed it before you saw it. So for now I will see what happens.

First Snow



First Snow of the Season

Birthdays

There are three birthdays that I know about today. There is Steve M, Tom H, and Jimmy W. Happy Birthday to all of you.

2-Dec-10 12:59pm 28°

I found a clock I forgot the set back to Day-light-Savings-Time. It was my Thermostat. That is why it has been so warm when I woke up in the morning.

I just thought of another one I should go reset. That is my answering machine. I don't want to get my message too late.

Report from New York

Anila was in New York City earlier in the week. She said she dislikes the traffic. She said that she was down town and she thought we had bad traffic around here. In any case it was bad enough I didn't hear how her visit was. She went out there for a baptism.

3-Dec-10 3:49pm 25°

The 12 days of Christmas

Starbucks may think that December 1st to the 12th are the 12 days of Christmas because they have deals for the first 12 day of December and has Christmas in the ads.

How many of you know the 12 days of Christmas? Well they are December 25th to January 5th.

Birthdays

Today there are 2 in my list, Steve's sister Donna and Joe Anne from the gathering of the pilgrims. Happy Birthday Ladies!

Mystery Solved, Somewhat

My printer uses more Yellow than Cyan and Magenta ink cartridges. Remembering from school red and yellow make orange and blue and yellow make green I figured I would just try to use less oranges, blues,



and yellows my newsletter to balance it out. Then I got confused!

The colors the printer uses are Yellow, Cyan, and Magenta. Where does the red come from? No one could tell me. I searched the internet and found I was right about what I learned in school about mixing colors to get other colors.

I didn't under how this related to the inks put to paper from most printers. I guess it is the way they don't put the ink on the paper that makes us see the colors we see. Other than trying to explain it I will just show what I found and give you a link back to the whole story.

Cyan and Magenta, mixed in equal parts, absorb Red and Green leaving Blue. Magenta and Yellow, mixed in equal parts, absorb Green and Blue leaving Red. Yellow and Cyan, mixed in equal parts, absorb Blue and Red leaving Green.

Combinations of unequal subtractive amounts of the complimentary colors produce intermediate colors. Mixing all three complementary inks in equal portions absorbs all colors and, thus, produces black.

White cannot be produced by mixing complimentary colors because the ink absorbs color rather than reflecting it for the eye to see. To produce white, or the effects of mixing white with other colors, a Printer transfers NO ink to the paper. In this way, it produces the colors it needs for dithering, anti-aliasing or producing lighter hues of the complimentary color mix it is using.

To produce black, all colors must be mixed in equal amounts with no dithering.

Mixing all three colors together to produce black would be a very wasteful thing to do in terms of ink. For this reason, all color, ink jet printers have a black ink tank as well as one or more tanks for the three complimentary colors Cyan, Yellow and Magenta. The printing process described here is identified by the acronym CYMK and is common to most ink jet printers. The K stands for black.

Shades of gray are produced by dithering the black ink and interspersing dots of no ink, letting the media show through. This conserves the color ink for producing colors other than black and shades of gray.

Thumb Rule:

To accurately reproduce the color of an image, using a color printer, "bright white" paper should be used.

The whiteness of a paper is indicated by a number representing the percentage of light reflected from it. Paper that reflects 100 percent of the light that strikes it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to achieve. For color printing a plain paper, sometimes called "Bright White", with a brightness number of 90 or higher is acceptable. There are special paper that do better, but they are expensive in comparison to the "Bright White" papers.

Source: beadville.com/information/tutorials/Basic%20Color/basics.htm

So it looks like I want to use less Yellow ink I need to print more blue colored things and less Green. Or just buy a yellow cartridge once in a while to rebalance my colors.

So this mystery is kind of resolved.

4-Dec-10 11:41am 32° Snowing



First real Snow of the Season

Well there is near 4" of snow out here waiting for me to move it. This is our first real

snow of the season. I know I said we had our first snow the other day. This snow will need to be moved. The other one just about blew away and disappeared.

I would use the snow blower if I had bought gas for it. I need to move the snow before I drive over it or I won't be able to move it. It won't be too bad for me to shovel it.



I looked out the window and saw these people looking in the window at me. I looked again and I saw they were just my rocks wearing snow suits. ☺

Birthdays / Anniversary

Oscar the cook at Vaughan's took the day off for his birthday. It is also Bill M's birthday. Happy Birthday guys!

Tammy & Alex anniversary is also today. If memory serves this is number eleven. Happy Anniversary!

Remember how to drive

I always like to watch people drive in the first real snow of the season. It is like many people forget how. This morning I watch a SUV turn on Main Street and forgot the even the 4 x4's slide if they take corners too fast. He took the corner like it the road was dry and slipped 2 feet sideways. You could tell he forgot how to drive for a second. Others were giving it too much gas when starting to pull away

from a dead stop. Yes, I too tried that one. Wait I was testing the road conditions. ☺

The song goes; "Slip slide and away..." Be careful out there!

5-Dec-10 12:13pm 24°

Big Mess

Well I see I am not finished with the format template in the preceding issue. I looked at the printed copies and I see they say Issue 82 and 83. So I am confused because the last one was number 84 because this one is #85. So if you are confused as I am I will try to clarify it.

Issue No	Start Date	End Date	No of Pages
81	Oct 1 st	Oct 15 th	12
82	Oct 16 th	Oct 31 st	16
83	Nov 1 st	Nov 16 th	16
84	Nov 16 th	Dec 1 st	14
85	Dec 1 st	Current Work in Process	

Ok I have fixed the online issue #84 so it says "Issue 84" but I have those Issues I handed out already. They are wrong.

If you have one of those previous issues that started with "1-Nov" it should be issue #83. The one that starts with "16-Nov" it is Issue #84.

You few people that get the printed copy make sure you have all the copies from 81 to 84 because they are still in the car. And I am confused who got the bad ones. The online version is correct now and this one is to. I will only reprint the paper copies if you need. Let me know.

I think I need a keeper! ☺

Starting Over

Sometimes I just hate computers. Issue #84 is becoming a pain in t butt. Wait...it is a pain in the butt.

I changed the issue number on the heading and looked at the page number to make sure they updated showing the right issue number as they should. It looked



fine so I saved the file and exported it for the web site.

After I finished typing the story for you I thought I better check it out so I wasn't lying to you. Well all the 84s still said 82s. Then I noticed once saved it reset itself to 82 for some reason.

After the frustration wore off I decided to recreate it with no template as I did with this issue. It is a pain to do that but I cannot leave it looking that way. Maybe you don't care but it shouldn't be doing that.

It seems to be working just fine with this one. Somehow I over wrote the edited copy of the real #84 so I have to re-edit it before it get pushed back out in the finished folder. Well at least I have a printed copy with most of the corrections. Well I'll be back...

Issue 84 update

If you haven't looked at this issue you can look now. If you have seen it I have re-edited it. It now says "Issue 84" on it instead of 82. I have reposted it online.

After re-edit it I see I need to spend a little more time on my editing. I thought I was re-editing it I thought I was doing the draft. What I really doing was editing the final copy. In any case I republished issue 84.

Solar Christmas Lights

I put the new batteries in my solar Christmas lights on the front porch. This is day three and they are still burning bright.

After I rewired them the other day I used an older set of batteries that were rated the same. Well there is no comparison between the old and new batteries.

Now I think I can decide how I will handle the other sets that give me

problems. If it is just batteries, I can just rewire batteries in to the circuits once I find some inexpensive batteries.

Now I can work on my big Christmas star. I just don't think it will be tonight because my hands get cold at 15°.

Follow up from 84

After looking at the issue 84 I see things that require follow ups I may never cover again. I thought I may let what happened.

I never did get that next picture of Violca tanning project.

The Squirrels are still running around eating and getting fat.

I found the tube for that Philco Radio. I put them away with the radio for another day.

I haven't seen Alan since he was on Oprah. I think I will ask him for his autograph.

No one has log and more of my dollar bills at Where's George since the 100th was logged.

My porch cam is working but it is still intermittent. I haven't found a source to repair it yet. Well I haven't looked yet either. I am thinking about just replacing it or just stop recording the snap shots. It has been turned on for 6 years and outside. It is not made for outdoor usage so I should just replace it.

That is where things stand with those items.

I think I will sit around do nothing much until morning when I should move the snow from the driveway. You never came over and did it for me! ☺

6-Dec-10 8:03pm 16°

Birthday

Happy Birthday Ryan S!

7-Dec-

10 10:27am 14°

Maybe last summer I wished for it to be a little cooled. Should I keep my wishes open so long? I have my wish list near the end of this newsletter and it says nothing about cooler weather.

Book 12

I finished book number twelve this morning. I had to drink two cups of coffee to get the job done.

Number 12 is The TAO of an Uncluttered Life, Lao Tzu's 10 Principles of Organization, by Karen Hicks. If you want to get organized this book might be for you.

For me this book is for some one that never has time to get all the things done that life, work, home, family, friends, and whoever else who tries to have you do.

What I am trying to tell you if you want to organize an unorganized life this book could help you get started.

I thought it was an "unclutter" book. It is in the sense that it could get you organized. I may not be organized but I need to de-clutter before I start re-organizing. I do not want to organize my clutter. I need to just de-clutter. I am working on it.

I rate book 12 is 4-1/2 on the MRT scale. It lost a point because of the title because it isn't about uncluttering as much of a organize book. It is a good read for organizing.

Christmas Cards

I received my first Christmas card today. Thanks Aunt Annie!

That reminds me to get back at my Christmas letter. I am on my third or fourth draft of it. I have to get ready soon or I will have to wait until January first so I can use it for a new year's letter.

Free Stuff

I may have those **free tapes** I talked about next year until 15th because Purple Heart hasn't been here today but Vietnam Veterans are coming next Wednesday and I should have many things for them.

Sometimes Purple Heart gets my stuff and other times it is the Vietnam Veterans that get it. Those guys get all the good clutter. I have enough for both.

Someone once told me that the same truck picks up for both. I think I have only seen the truck once. I think it like putting milk and cookies out for Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus. The milk and cookies disappear and you know it was one of those guys.



Browsing the Ads

Since it is Christmas time and Becky put all of these ads in my mail box I thought I would see if there is something there I should buy for myself for my birthday or Christmas that no one else would.

Bass Pro Shop

I don't fish or hunt so I have to look and the camping stuff. They have weather stations. I have enough of them. There is a cushy chair. No I sit in from of the TV too much now. I see a lot of clothing that I don't need. They have fire arms but no ski mask to go with them. ☺

Oh, here is something. They are giving away 170 iPods. Maybe I will run right down to the store and sign up for one. Let's see what else they have...Knives, Smokers, Flash Lights and Vacuum Cleaners. Oh, I could get my picture taken with Santa for free. Well let's check out another ad

Farm & Fleet

On the front page I see Jeans. I need a new pair. I don't need a boot dryer. In a few pages are electric shavers. When I looked in the mirror it looked like I haven't



shaved since September 1st. Maybe I should keep this page in mind. Still a few pages later I see all of these small appliances. They all look neat but I eat out. There is a flyer stuck in the middle. I see more clothes I don't need.

The second half starts with ice fishing stuff. I don't like sitting on an ice cube that much. Now there are a few pages of hand tools. They remind me too much of doing work. I quickly went past them. Following that was the automotive stuff. Again I passed that to the end of these ads.

Wisted's

Every time I go grocery shopping I get home and can't find anything to eat so I go to the restaurant. There is an exception in this advertisement. They Breyers ice cream on sale for 3.99. I'll pass because I think this price is still a little high. And so on to the next one.

Jewel-Osco

Every time I think of Jewel-Osco I think of high price and medications. I'll look anyway because I am getting hungry and I am looking at all the ads I got in the mail anyway.

I see they have wine and booze on the second page. That reminds me I have a hundred bottles of wine I made myself. I don't think I will buy any. How did you guys like the wine I gave out. Did you just pour it down the drain? I didn't know about aging it before you giving it away. I opened one last night and I like it. This is the first one I drank since summer. Back to the ads!

How about a holiday dinner? You get the Ultimate Turkey Dinner for \$69.99 that serves up to 8. Think of how much work that would save you!

There is a whole bunch of food and it is making me hungry. Whoops, I must have eaten too much. I am in the drugs section.

I feel better because I am on the last page and it is deserts. Next!

Joseph's

I skimmed through their ads. I stopped for a second at fresh bread, Round Sour Dough Bread, 99¢ each. Here is one I don't think I wouldn't like, Raw Shrimp. Why would any want to eat raw shrimp? ☺

I haven't been to Joseph's in a long time. A lot of people tell me how good it is. Maybe I should add the to my trip list.

Dominick's

I have never cared for Dominick's much. Don't know why. I will look at the ads and maybe take a trip and see what I find when I get there.

In the beer & wind section they have eggnog. It is in a milk carton so I think I'll pass. How about some fresh baked cookies 2 for \$5? It is only 20 count package. I'll pass. For \$4.99 you can get some assorted holiday candy. I'll stop at the pound of potato salad for \$2.49. All these prices you have to use your Dominick's card. I don't have one! Next advertisement

Meijer

There is nothing at all there for me.

Break

Before continuing I think will take a break. My ~~feet~~ fingers eyes are getting tired from going through all of these flyers. I'll be back...

Menards

There are two flyers for Menards. The back page of the first on has appliances. There is a \$14.99 George Forman grill and the sizes is 51 sq. in. Is that big enough for a hamburger? And there is a bread maker that it will make a 2 pound loaf. I have made a 4 pound loaf in mine. It is \$50 after rebate. Why don't they say you shell out \$80.00 and well give you a bread maker? And if you want to wait for a few months

we'll send

you \$30. The other flyer had ever things from Fisher Peanuts to Kitchen Sink. Remember even though they don't have in this advertisement you can buy your grocery at Menards.

Ok I finished with that packed of ads. I can go out and get my recycle bins and start filling them again.

De-clutter Findings

Every now and then I have a thought and write it down. Here is something found you might like. It is dated Jan 29th 2006.

*This morning I awoke;
I think I have become a poet;
Now I wait and see;
What is in it for me;
Someone may hang me with a rope;
Because they think me to be a dope.*

Source: Marty 1/29/06

Can I throw that out now?

9-Dec-10 12:44am 28°

Hay, it is up to cold again. Maybe I could stop typing and go move that last snow out of the way so I have room for the next one that is coming late this afternoon. I spread a bunch of salt on the drive to help make it movable. What I didn't do yet is get gas. I guess if I am going to use the snow blower I best get gas first.

I have something to tell you about first.

Remember Tim

I haven't seen my friend Tim in quite a while. I think about driving up to Iron Mountain Michigan and see if they have coffee. Maybe I'll do that. I'll get up there and he will be down here visiting his daughter.

I brought this up because Tammy, Tim's daughter is in the paper today. No, she did a good thing!

Tammy is a writer and authors of a few books. When I last talked to her she was

helping other writers and home schooling her children.

I was over to her house and tried to fix her computer. She was looking for a publisher then and I was no help trying to fix her computer. Sorry Tammy!

For you who want to read about Tammy the story is in the Northwest Herald, Thursday, Dec 9th, 2010, on the cover of Sidetracks, Section "D", and more on page 10. You can also find on the Northwest Herald web site at nwherald.com and search for "Tammy Barley"

Birthday

Happy Birthday Flo!

Christmas Letter

I think I am done editing my Christmas letter I have to see it I can find my mailing list now. I am guessing I have a lot of them wrong. If you don't get one it may be just because I don't have your correct mailing address. I don't try really hard to keep my address book up to date. Sometimes I see mine is wrong. That is funny when I see that because I have been here for 22 years. Wow, is it 22 years already; I guess it could be. I worked 22 years for Knaack and I have been retired 3-1/2 years. Yes 3 1/2 years!



Well I bet you I can get these to you by Christmas if I mail them out before the 24th.

Correction Spelling

Last month I missed spelled Irma's name. I am sorry! I had a great Thanksgivings dinner and I really have to have to spell your name right or Al will think he marred someone else. Again thank you Al & ~~Erma~~ Irma for the turkey dinner!



11-Dec-10 9:07am 30°

I missed another clock! I hate Day Light Saving time. I have a thermometer sitting on the windowsill in the kitchen. I just saw it said 10:05am. That is Standard time. How many more of these clocks am I going to find? Maybe I just have too many clocks that are not smart enough to take care of their selves!

Oh there is another clock. The Caller ID only gets set when I have to change the battery. It is a pain to set. If you miss you have to start over from scratch. I hate dislike Day Light Saving Time!

The Weather

I think we are in to the transition from autumn to winter. Today is going to be warm enough to rain and then maybe ice then maybe snow later. Then snow some more and get down to sub zero for a few days. I can't wait. Right now it is only has and 31°.

Finishing Up

Have to get back to my Christmas Letter. I have been slacking off and if I don't work on this I may be still doing it midnight Christmas Eve. Santa would be happy with that.

Birthday Party

I have had my first birthday party reminder today. Thanks Heather, Mary, and Arlo! I am still less years old than I will be on my birthday. That means I am still 21 again today. 😊

Another Party

At lunch Diane, Tonya, Chelli, Jeremy, Cork joined me for lunch. Thanks.

12-Dec-10 10:40am 21°

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. The weather outside is frightful.

Yes we are in for some winter weather. Those guys say we could have another 4" of snow. And wind gust up to 55 MPH. Maybe I should spend the rest of the day inside.

Oh yes I have been out in the weather already. I had my free birthday coffee at Starbucks. There I found out that Linda's birthday is next Saturday. I better add her to my list so I don't forget.

Birthdays

We have four Birthdays today. My good friend Melody W. Teri Z I haven't seen for years and years. It is Linda's sister's birthday. She doesn't have a name yet. Linda is Linda of Sewing Concepts. Happy Birthday to all of the ladies!

And there is me. I am having a birthday today too. I am going to have 90 more of them. Yes I will be 154 years in the year 2100. I am planning to live until the year 2100. I decided this when I was just 12. And I am still here now. 90 years from now you should look me up. I'll buy the first round!

I just looked out the window. You can't see the sidewalk it is snowing and blowing. I think I will be spending my birthday in the nice warm house.

Far Away Birthday Wish

This morning the phone rang. It was Edie, my baby sister who lives in Kansas. Thanks Edit!

What to do

It is my birthday so I should do something. So far I called Aunt Annie to see how she was doing. She has been under the weather. Wait, I mean not feeling well. We are all under the weather today. It is still snowing and blowing!

Now What? Maybe I'll do this paper work. Yesterday Violca was bored and I

laughed at her. I guess she could laugh at me today.

Oh, I ran out of business cards. I could print 10 more. You never know, someone might want to know who I am some day. I mostly use them for book marks.

OK I have new business cards printed. It is nice I can just print 10. In the past you had to hire someone and have 1,000 made. When 10 will last you for months it is great. I printed the last 10 cards on March 5th the day before Marie's birthday. Anyway I got a new picture on this time that was taken today.



Marty 12/12/2010

Why when you take your own picture they don't look as good as if you have someone else take it.

Pilgrim's Greeting

Petra called me from the other side of the world to wish me a happy birthday. Mike too. Thanks!

Mike tells me they will be going to Egypt and staying about a mile and half from the Pyramids. Petra is doing much better but I don't think she is going to climbing the Pyramids just yet.

I just went to Google Maps and searched the Pyramids of Egypt and used the satellite view and ...well Wow! They are going there next.

13-Dec-10 3:14pm 9°

I thought it would warm up while I was out getting that snow off the drive. I guess not. It is still COLD!

I was out at 11:00am to move the snow and it was just too cold and windy for me. It is a good thing I finally got out there at 3:00pm or I would have been late for my morning coffee. I didn't get it this morning. I was waiting for that snow to melt. I didn't

happen today. Well now I am ready for tomorrow.

14-Dec-10 2:58pm 14°

Well it is warmer this afternoon. That was not the case yesterday. We also have sunshine today.

Solar Lighting

I bought a battery that might work in my solar lights on the front porch. I installed it earlier enough that it should charge enough to make them glow. In a few hours I'll see. I hope this works.

I may have to rethink my solar lighting if batteries keep being a hassle. I don't mind changing batteries once in a while if I could find them. Anyway I'm working on another idea.

New Baby

I forgot to tell you because I didn't know. Ina gave birth to another baby boy. Devyn was born on November 25th. Welcome to planet Earth Devyn.

Wrong Shoes

I knew there were special shoes for lots of things. There are hiking, running, walking, dancing, and many other special shoes. Did you know there are special shoes for operating a spinning wheel?

This morning only two of the ladies showed at the regular get-to-gather with their spinning wheels. One of them must have used half the napkins to dry her feet before using her spinning wheel. The other lady said that she could not spin yard because she didn't have the right shoes.

I almost walked over to ask; "What spinning shoes look like?" I just smiled to myself and went back to reading my book.

Bread

I am thinking about going out and making a loaf of bread without using the bread machine. First I need to clear off a



spot. I need this spot is I need to need the bread. ☺

Birthday

Happy Birthday Ed !

15-Dec-10 12:16pm 17°

It is almost a heat wave. Well, almost.

More Birthday Parties

This morning I was at two more birthday parties. At Town & Country I had as honored with a candle and Anila sang to me and Tom. Tom's birthday was on the 1st and mine the 12th of December. Thanks Anila!



That isn't the last one. Marie and Cork came in and Marie had a box full of cookies. This time Cork and Marie sang to me softly. Thank Cork and Marie!

There is more. Shortly everyone in the restaurant was singing Happy Birthday. Thanks to all of you!

I may be just about partied out for today.

Long Morning

So I am stilling sitting there at Town & Country at 10 o'clock when Tom, Don, Teresa left. The next thing I notice it was 10:45 when Corn and Marie left.

By then I knew it was too late to go and have coffee with Mary at Vaughan's so I decided to stay a few more minutes and visit with Anila.

Anila asked me a phone/computer question and it got started.

Bluetooth with Phones

Did you know if you have Bluetooth on your cell phone you can connect to

another device that has Bluetooth and transfer files? I did not know this!

Anila told me we could do this so I got my phone out and got it connected to her phone. I said;"Wow, I did ever think you could do this!" Anila said;"See I know thing you don't Marty!"

So I played around until I had the procedure figured out. Then I asked;"Why are we doing this?" Anila had some videos she could not get off of her phone and thought she could just copy them to my phone and I could email them to Arben.

Well after working with it a while I copied 10 video files from Anila's phone to mine and emailed them to Arben's email.

I hardly ever use my other Bluetooth devices. That is the head set and a keyboard.

So I wish to thank you Anila for letting me know I could do this.

Born Again

And when I was helping Anila with those videos I saw the dates on the videos were December 13th. I asked;"Why they had a party for Arben 10 days early. Arben's birthday is until the 23rd. He told me so." She said;"No it is the 13th! The 23th is what it says on the paperwork."

So I guess both Cork and Arben are "Born-Agains."

Now I have to fix my birthday list for these guys!

Arben's real birthday was the 13th. Happy Birthday Arben!

17-Dec-10 8:45am 10°

Not the warmest morning but it is better than others.

So do I write down these dates wrong or am I getting bad information. I have another date wrong.

Anniversary

While talking to Anila I told her I was sorry I forgot her anniversary yesterday. She said; "I forgot!" I said; "What!" Then she said; "I think it is today. What is the date?" After we figured out today was the 17th and it is today. Then Anila asked me; "What year was I married?" I told her I had it written down as 2002.

So I have another one wrong of Anila doesn't know either. ☺

Well Happy 8th Anniversary Arben and Anila when ever that was or is.

I Need Your Help

When I publish the birthday / event calendar in January I need all of you to check it out to make sure I have your special dates right. I love having them correct but it is getting overwhelming to do it myself.

Just look at the dates that are important to you and if you see one missing or wrong let me know so I can fix it. If they are ok you don't need to do anything.

You can check the Calendar on line any time by going to my web site www.martysrandomthoughts.com/ and click on the calendar link.

18-Dec-10 10:44am 14°

I must have been half asleep this morning. I looked at the thermometer and saw it was up to 29°. It was a nice feeling. I put on my jacket and smiling I went outside and headed to Vaughan's for Breakfast. I thought it felt a little cool for 29°. I just shrugged it off because we haven't seen 29° since before my birthday.

Heather to me; "No way it's that warm!" I got out my phone and looked up the temperature and found it was only 8.4° then. I decided it must have been 2.9° when I left the house. Then I was cold! ☺

Birthday

Happy Birthday Linda!

Future Yogi I Out

Mace Myrrh Stirs

Dab Harpy Pithy

Happy Any Were

Teenagers Song Is

Source: <http://wordsmith.org/>

19-Dec-10 11:14am 17°

Only 6 days until Christmas. And the New Year starts in just 13 days. Yes a week from Saturday. Are you getting ready to write "11" instead of "10"? I typically stay up all night New Years Eve practicing writing "11". ☺ I wonder if this year will be any different.

2010 Christmas Letter

I have posted my Christmas letter is online if you haven't seen it yet.

Event Calendar

I found a few problems with the online calendar that are working now.

20-Dec-10 9:14pm 23°

It is almost a heat way. It got all the way up to 29° today. Can summer be too far behind? Maybe we should wait a couple days for winter to get started.

People are Getting Better

Aunt Annie, Kim, and Marge have all been incapacitated in the last weeks. Today I saw all three of them and they seem to be somewhat better.

What Happened

I just looked out the window and I think I will be late for coffee and/or breakfast this morning. It looks like about of 6" of snow out there. I think it "Is getting to look a lot Christmas..." out here.



Lunar Eclipse

Melody sent me an email telling about Lunar Eclipse on Winter Solstice, first time since 1600's and not again until 2095. That is Dec 21st (Tuesday) 1:31AM ET begins, totality for 72 minutes around 2:45AM ET. This is the shadow of the earth on the moon.

Now if the sky just clears so we can see it. It should be a site to be seen because it is also a full moon.

Thanks Melody!

21-Dec-10 11:31am 31°

This morning when I looked at the thermometer it really was 29° not like the other day when I just thought it was when it was really 2.9°

The Pilgrims

A few says ago Mike and Petra were in Amman, Jordan.

Cookies



I move all that snow this morning so I think I will have to start on Christmas cookies. I think I will see how many I can make before I get tired of that.

Let's see I think batches range from 36 to 72 dozen. If I keep them to around 36 dozen batches and I only eat half the dough, I think after 5 or 10 batches I'll be tired or even sick of cookies.

So if each batch only yields 18 cookies because I eat half the dough, I could back 90 to 180 cookies...I best get started because I am getting hungry for the dough. ☺

It was hiding

Last night I stayed up until after 2:00am to see if I could witness the Lunar Eclipse. Well the weather gods had other ideas. It was very over cast with very low clouds.

It was neat to see how light it was outside with all the city lights reflecting in to the haze. It looked very bright out there at 2:15 in the morning.

I am guessing I will have to wait until 2095 and try again.

I was surprised that I saw nothing in the paper about it. Maybe they didn't know about it.

22-Dec-10 10:10am 27°

Want List

I have had my "Wish List" in the last few issues of Marty's Random Thoughts. I think I should put others wish list in here too.

I hear other's wishes. Sometimes I can fulfill some of them very easily. When some tells me; "I wish you should shut up!" I can grant their wish even though it is hard for me to do it. Anyway others have wishes so I am going to list them to see what happens.

Just the other Anila wished for a laptop. She said it hard for her to get time on the one at home because there is almost always someone else using it. Little does she know that having two computers she may not have time to use it. I hope your wish comes true.

Is Spring Here Yet

Well winter is here. And if you are waiting for spring it, starts March 20, 6:21

P.M. Let's

see that is about 98 days and 10 hours. But who is counting. ☺

Solar Lighting

I got tired of fitting that one solar powered Christmas light set on the front porch. I keep trying that one set with no good fortune. I tried finding a replacement battery with no luck. I rewired it and no luck.

I finally decided to replace the string with a new set.

This time I installed hangers and hung them up so they could easily change.

The bad light string is not really bad. I connected them up to a battery and the lights all light up. I am cussing it is something in the solar charger. So I have to see if it is something I can fix. I know I could just trash them but that is not me. I have time to work on it. And why put all of these good parts in the trash.

Remember reuse it, repair it, make do, then recycle it.

I think I will go make some more cookies.

Strange Lights

It was just when those new lights came one when it got dark. At the same time there were bright likes flashing in the window. I jumped up and there was a fire truck in front of the house.

Shortly there was a knock at the door. I first thought my house must be on fire.

The guy at the front door was Nick, a neighbor from Madison Street. He had a piece mail that got delivered by mistake at his house. After he gave me the letter and we visited for a couple minutes, I asked Nick: "Is that your fire truck?"

Just them Jim the neighbor from three doors south came down and we asked him; "What up with the fire truck?"

Jim told said that the new people next door locked themselves out of the house.

We all thought it was strange because Bob, the landlord lives next door.

I haven't seen the new people yet. They may have been there only a week. Today I am wondering if this is a just an unusual event or do I have a strange bunch living new door. Be nice Marty!

Oh I was going to make Cookie.

23-Dec-10 9:02am 25°

Late Birthday Wishes

Oops! I missed a few birthdays the last few days. I missed Marty A., Mary's husband on the 21st and Angelia K. who use to work at Town & Country yesterday. I guess Arben can have another one today.

Happy Birthday to all of you!

Lost Addresses

I see a few of you have moved since last time I mailed you anything. If you didn't get my Christmas don't feel sad. I didn't forget you I may have just sent to the wrong place. It is funny I could drive a thousand miles without a map and find you but I won't have the address right when I mail something. This is why I posted the Christmas letter online.

Cookies

If you don't see any cookies from me it most likely I sampled too many. If I look a little heaver after the holidays you may guess why.

So if you see me ask me: "You did walk here didn't you?" Then remind me how much healthy it is to walk. And remind me how I still know how to walk and there is nowhere in town that I can't walk.

Don't take my keys from me because that will make me go buy a new car. Just give me a gentle reminder once in a while to get out and move around.

I'm thinking about making more cookies. If I make enough of them I will get sick of cokes and start eating candy, cake,



and pie. Aren't they the four main food groups this time of the year? ☺

My cook book was first published in 1939 and the cookie recipes all make 72 dozen cookies or more. And you do know I need to make 10 verities. There are over 100 verities in the cook book.

I best get started. The first batch was for only yielded about 100 cookies. It said it should make 300. Either there was a typo or I ate too much cookie dough.

I know I think I will make Toll House Cookies. That recipe doesn't make so many in a batch. Well I'll be back...

24-Dec-10 9:54am 25°

After coffee and breakfast I went to Wal-Mart to see if I could buy something. No, I didn't need anything; I just wanted to walk up and down the aisles to see if something would jump into my cart. Well I saw jeans and remembered I retired a pair this year. I looked through to \$10 brand and there was none in my size. So I bought at \$15 pair. After it was my birthday gift to myself.

While I was at Wal-Mart I saw Pat and visited for a while. I hadn't seen her in a while. Pat and Steve live about 400 feet from my house so I don't see them much. Wait, Google maps says it is only 350 feet!

After looking at my house on Google maps I see they updated the arrival pictures. You can see my green house. I bought that in June. You can see my pickup too. When did that go away, September?

Anyway after 5 cups of coffee and a new pair of jeans later and I was home.

Not so Cold

I haven't seen Becky, my mailman mail lady mail delivery person for a couple

weeks so I thought I would sit out there and wait for her to wish her a Merry Christmas.

It had just started to snow a little so I put on my heavy coat, grabbed a blanket and a book, toweled off the chair and sat there with my Christmas hat and started to read.

It was so quite out here I could hear the snowflakes hit the ground. It was about 9:30 and I was warm enough to last an hour or so before I got too cold.

In a few minutes I could hear mail boxes open and close down the street a ways. I thought;" No way that is what I am hearing!" In a few minutes here comes the substitute mailman. He said;"Becky got lucky and got the day off." I wished him a Merry Christmas and came back inside to look and all that neat mail I received.

Cookies

I didn't get those cookies made yet. I'm just not in the mood. I'm not sure if it is because I don't trust myself to not eat so much of the dough or the cookies them self. Lords, knows I love to eat more than I give away. I also know many, many others are making cookies and I can help eat them too. If I eat all of mine and theirs too my blood sugar will go to 9,000.

Now on the other hand if everyone else thinks about not making cookies for Santa Clause he may get cranky and I might get on the wrong list.

So I have all of the fixings for making cookies but I wait until next week before making any more. Oh yes, I did make enough for Santa!

Ready for Christmas

Well I think I am about as ready as I'm going to get for this year. As always I didn't get all the stuff I wanted others, not enough cookies were baked, and I am not happy with those solar Christmas lights.

Even with the negative thoughts I am ready to go to Tammy, my niece's house to be with the rest of the family. It will be worth it to see everybody, snow or no snow.

Tomorrow I will take the day off and rest up. Then come Sunday or Monday we can all go out and buy Christmas decorations for next year. The sales start just after Christmas. Maybe I will try and put up more lights than Jeremy & Tonya next year. Yah right! ☺

Late Christmas Eve

Home from the gathering and I had a great time. It was good to see everyone. I am always amazed how we don't see each other during the year even though all of us live only a few miles from each other.

Thanks Tammy and Alex for inviting me!

The Pilgrims

Mike and Petra finally made it to Jerusalem. I wonder what's next.

Santa

I was about to head for bed when I thought first I should check to see where Santa located. I went to Google maps and found he was located at Kivitoo, Baffin Island, Nunavut, Canada. I best get to sleep before he gets here.



Merry Christmas to all and to all Good Night!

25-Dec-10 10:20am 28°

Merry Christmas

First Day

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me
A partridge in a pear tree.



I hope you received the joy of the Christmas season. I tend to forget whose birthday this is. So I think I will add his birthday to my list.

Birthday

No matter what we believe Jesus Christ has been influencing our lives for over 2000 years.



We are all children of the same universe
Wow, you are 2010 this year!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

26-Dec-10 9:51am 25°

Second Day

On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. I am checking the camera to see if I took any pictures. I am sure I did. I take pictures all year then forget when we all gather. I see the camera is loading some now. I'll check them out and post a couple.

I was wearing my scarf Friday night and couldn't remember if really did. I didn't find it Christmas day. Tammy let me know it looked funny covered with snow in her driveway.

That why I thought I had it, I loaned it to the driveway to keep it warm in the weather. After all it's Christmas. ☺

I have to check on those pictures now.

It looks like I only took five pictures. One turned out. This must not have been the year for pictures. Well here is the picture!





This the Christmas wrapping when I was checking out the camera to see if it was working. I guess it was working and I wasn't. Maybe better pictures will come next year. ☺

Cookies

I never got around to making the second batch of cookies before Christmas. I think I will wait a few days until all of you have eaten all the sweets you have now. Then I will make cookies until I have used up all the ingredients I have sitting here.

Maybe when I have two or three hundred dozen cookies baked I'll bring you some and you could give me a glass of milk and we could enjoy them together.

Anniversary

Happy Anniversary Tip & Mary's, 1971!

28-Dec-10 7:50am 14°

I see I wasn't here yesterday to post the "3rd Day." Well I was here I just think I didn't turned on the computer so I best give you the 3rd & forth days now.

Third day (Yesterday)

On the third day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



Fourth Day

On the fourth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



Birthday

Happy Birthday Vicky M!

Paperwork Day

I have to do one of my unpleasant tasks today. Yes, I have to catch up on paper work. I think I should set a schedule for this task like tasking my meds and watering the plants. Maybe it wouldn't be such a chore.

The laundry is never scheduled because it is set up as a trigger. When there is only one shirt in the closet or no clean underwear it is time. Water the plants happens on Monday and/or Friday or sometimes in the middle of the week when they look dry. The snow removal happens when it happens and the grass gets mowed when I feel like it.

Now the bills and other paper work should be paid on time. If I miss a mortgage payment too many times I might be sleeping in the snow. It is not a money thing it is a procrastination thing. Like now I am telling you about it instead doing that paper work. Now would be a good time!

The End is Near

It just dawned on me the end of the year will is all most upon us. What does that end mean to you? For me it mostly means just another day of the week.

I say mostly because at midnight on Friday night a day, month and a year all come to an end. On the other hand just after Friday midnight is a new beginning. Yes, a new day, month and a year will start.

Many people make New Year's resolutions and forget them shortly after the year starts. I try not to make resolutions for that reason.

I went to the internet to see what others might be resolutions one might have. I found this list of the top ten.

1. Spend More Time with Family & Friends
2. Fit in Fitness
3. Tame the Bulge
4. Quit Smoking
5. Enjoy Life More
6. Quit Drinking
7. Get Out of Debt
8. Learn Something New
9. Help Others
10. Get Organized

This was the first list I found. Numbers 4, 6, and 7 don't need to be on my list.

I tried Number 2 and 3 last year I tried last year and...well let's say I should put them. I had been working on number 5 and 10 daily. And # 1, 8 and 9 need more work.

All I can say about this is we must all do our best.



29-Dec-10 8:29pm 31°

Nice heat wave today!

Fifth Day

On the fifth day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



30-Dec-10 11:07am 36°

Another warm day though wet.

Sixth Day

On the sixth day of Christmas,

my true love sent to me
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



Spring be Near

Spring must be near when you start to get seed catalogs in the mail! Yes I either got the last seed catalog of the 2010 or the earliest one for next spring. I received a catalog form "Jung Seeds & Plants" in the mail just a few minutes ago.

I see from the "U.S.D.A. Hardiness Zone Map" I am in zone 5 where the minimum temperature could be -20° to -10°. This I already know!

Last year my garden seemed to grow well but the yield wasn't very large for the amount I planted.

I shouldn't say the yield wasn't an entire loss because the bugs had their fill. I didn't use any chemicals to try to control the insects. Maybe I should plant some veggies and tell the bugs they are for them if they stay away from the ones I plant for me.

Flowers look nice. Maybe this year I could plant some. I could put them between the driveway and the fence. They would look appealing and I wouldn't have to mow there as much. Maybe a nice flowering ground cover.

Let's see, the ground cover should be 6" high or less and be fast growing and dense. I would have to grow fast to take over the grass and need little watering.

I would not have to be just one color or one kind of plant. It would just have to be self maintaining.

I guess I should look through this catalog and see what is in there for me. The ground cover seeds I planted last year never developed. Maybe I should try and start them again. Maybe I could buy one of



those heating pads and start new seeds this winter so I am read when the soil is ready in the spring.

I wonder how the weather/temperature holds up in the green house. I haven't checked it sense last summer. If I pile Snow up around the base I could keep most of the wind out. The sun would warm it a little.

Wait I could plant Raspberries along the driveway. I had them there from the back of the garage to about 20' in the front for a couple of years. The only problem with them was they jumped out and grabbed you when you got in the car. I guessed I could fence them to keep them away from people (me).

Here is another idea. Asparagus and Rhubarb could be planted along the drive on the north side. Both of them only have to be planted and wait a few years to start harvesting. The Rhubarb I have in a pot isn't doing well. I think it wants to be released into the wild. The Asparagus I had in a pot a few years ago could not survive in captivity either. I could try that in the area where I will try the Raspberries before.

I think I will start my list for along the fence here.

Garden along the Fence

- Raspberries
- Asparagus
- Rhubarb
- Groundcover TBD

I'll come back to this later. Christmas and New Year is upon us this week.

Year End Cleanup

I cleared my desk of most of the paper work the other day and someone sent me some more in the mail. I am sure that never happened to you. I thought I would just take care of it so I can get some new paperwork next year. Funny next year is in two days.

I think my event calendar is up to date. That is one thing off the list for this year.

MRT the blog

I am going to use my blog a little more next year. If you haven't seen it yet you can get to it through my website at MartysRandomThoughts.com.

I will still be doing the newsletter it is just that I will be posting more in the online blog.

31-Dec-10 10:32 46°

I just looked out the back window and almost the whole yard is green. That means that the end is nearer. Only about 13-1/2 hours left.

Seventh Day

On the seventh day of Christmas,
my true love sent to me
Seven swans a-swimming,
Six geese a-laying,
Five golden rings,
Four calling birds,
Three French hens,
Two turtle doves,
And a partridge in a pear tree.



Book 13

I just finished my thirteenth book this year. This one titled "LETTER FROM *Cicely*" by Ellis Weiner, 1992.

The book is based on the TV show "Northern Exposure" that aired back in the early 1990s. It is a collection of letters that the charterers wrote telling about their lives during a three month span from March to June.

I thought it was interesting that when I read a letter I could tell who sent the letter before I got to the end of the letter.

I think you would like if even if you never saw the show.



This book is 5 stars on the MRT scale.

Now it is time to select another book to start reading. I wonder what I will select. I think I will go look now and see what I can find.

9:14pm New Years Eve

Sorry kids. I know it is only a little after nine but I am sleepy and can't quite keep my eyes open. I my eyes won't stay open and so I came in to turn off the computer. On the way I noticed it was still above 50°.

Being this warm on New Year's Eve is a good thing. No ice for the crazies out there

This

driving tonight. I hope it holds up for a few more hours.

As for me I am off to bed to sleep through all the excitement.

Happy New Year!



My Wish List

Check out Issue No. 82, 83, and 84 for all the details. I decided to keep my list to 10 items. This is the summary.

1. ~~Mickey Mouse Dial Phone.~~
2. ~~Kindle Wireless Reading Device.~~
3. The iPod, an Android Tablet PC, Book Reader
4. Some house plants.
5. Vacation.
6. I want Petra's recovery to be healthy and fast!
7. A little routine in my random life.
8. A helper.
9. Visa, Master Card, or Starbucks Gift Cards
10. I would like the motor home to sell

Note: item # 3 would do more than item # 2
Note the revisions I have made since My Birthday

1. I don't really need another telephone even a neat Mickey Mouse one
2. #2 & 3 are all most the same so I will remove #2 and Put it with #3

I won't be pledging you with my wish list after this issue. This was mostly to remind me of the things I want to buy for myself. By next month I will most likely change my mind.

Calendar

December

Dec-01 Steve M
Dec-01 Jimmy W
Dec-01 Tom H
Dec-03 Joe Anne
Dec-03 Steve's Sister Donna
Dec-04 Bill M
Dec-04 Oscar
Dec-04 Tammy & Alex B. Anv 1999
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-13 Arben G (paper birthday)
Dec-14 Ed P
Dec-16 Arben & Anila's G. Anv (2002)
Dec-18 Linda
Dec-21 Marty A
Dec-22 Angelia K
Dec-23 Arben G
Dec-26 Tip & Mary's Anv 1971
Dec-28 Vicky M
Dec-25 Jesus Christ
Dec-30 Last Update

January

Jan-01 Ned H
Jan-06 Winter Rose (Jessica Baker)
Jan-06 Kim M
Jan-06 Mike A
Jan-06 Kelly H
Jan-15 Tonya M
Jan-15 Robert L.R
Jan-16 Mike M
Jan-20 George Burns (1896-1995)
Jan-20 Hilda
Jan-22 Sandi & Larry's Anv (1991)
Jan-23 Ethan H
Jan-24 Ina
Jan-25 Mom Died
Jan-26 Chelli M
Jan-29 Ammie
Jan-31 Steve B



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