



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

2009 Christmas is here. I hope all is well with you and yours.

Christmas is about friends and family...

Aunt Annie is doing well and is still doing mending. So if you have some sewing don't forget her. Mike & Petra are resting their feet and getting ready for their next part of their pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Marie is still living in Philadelphia. She was in town when two of her grand kid granulated this spring. Cork & Diane are still living and working in the same place. I enjoy a meal with them once or twice a week. Marcia and Dan were remodeling their house in Lyons but I think they still live in Hesston. Edie is also still living in Kansas. I got to see Marcia, Edie in March on my return trip from Mew Mexico.

As for my nieces and nephew I think they are all doing well and spread all over the United States. Erik and his wife live in New York. Samantha and her family are in Colorado. I could spend a year driving the country visiting all of them. That is a thought.

All of my friends are doing well. There are new jobs for some. There may be a son-in-law for others. One just had an operation and is doing fine. There also some new friends. Not enough paper to talk about everyone.

Let's see what has happened with me this year...

Mid January Mike & Petra started they journey on foot from California to Jerusalem. When February came around I hopped into the motor home and met them in Flagstaff for coffee. I traveled with them for a few weeks. At Albuquerque I thought I should head toward home and see what was in Woodstock. On the way home I stopped in Kansas for a couple days and visited with Marcia, Edie, and their families. Then I continued home through Maquoketa to visit Steve and Wally. Well Steve was ill and Wally was not to be found so I just went home. A month on the road was all for me this vacation.

While on vacation I thought wanted to see more of what was in Woodstock so in April I started checking out the parks we had. Did you know there are 22 parks in town? I had no idea so I decide to visit them. You may know me I need something to do all the time so I started to do some Geocaching while checking out these parks. After a month or so I kind of lost interest.

The month of May kept me busy. I spent time finding all those horses they put up around town. The weather was great for walking the Square and traveling around taking pictures of them.

In June it was hot with days over 100°. I was seeing a lot more mosquitoes and looking for ways to keep them away. Did you know that spraying Listerine on your deck is said to keep them away.

July came around and I went to meet Mike & Petra for a few days in Hannibal MO. Well at Pittsfield, IL the motorhome stalled in the middle of a four lane intersection. I was towed to town and the next morning to Greenfield where I spent 2 days at Morrow Brothers Ford to have the fuel pump replaced. While there I met a lot of nice people some took me lunch. I spent the rest of the two weeks with Mike & Petra camping along the Mississippi up to Burlington, IA. That was where I had enough camping for this trip after fixing a roof leak on the motor home.

August brought some of the summer harvest from my little garden. I ate a bunch of cucumbers and radishes. I had gladiolas, grapes and raspberries that did not yield much this year. I made a day trip to Utica to take Petra her new shoes. After 900 miles she wasn't going to make it the last 100 miles to Woodstock.

September was a busy month. After 3 or 4 weeks stay in Woodstock, Mike & Petra left to continue the walk to the east coast. Road construction started up here on Route 47 and Calhoun Street and messed up the traffic patterns in town. Cork turned sixty was surprised by the party. Also Edie turned fifty. I published my book on my travels in Spain in 2007 and started to write my life's stories.

The construction was still slowing me down in October. On the south end of town they put up a five-hundred-thousand kilowatt wind turbine. Not to be out done I also put up my own wind turbine a little smaller at 400 watts.

November I found out my wind turbine needs to be about 100 feet higher in the air to catch the wind. After 7 years I broke down and bought a new cell phone. And a built an eight foot star for Christmas and put it on the roof along with solar lighting.

December Mike & Petra made it to New York are trying to figure how want get to Europe after walking across the United States. They traveled about 4,500 miles where over 3,500 were walking. Mike posted a journal as they traveled that you can read at WalkingEast.com.

We got our first major snow on the ninth. It was so wet that my blower broke down and I had to finish it with a shovel. Then next day the temperature dropped down below zero. I now have the snow thrower fixed and ready for the next snow.

Merry Christmas

And a

Happy New Year to All