
Marty's Random Thoughts

Volume 07 Number 03

Woodstock, IL

March 2007

09-Feb-2007

Well I have only 15 more working days after today. Today is Omar's last day. We are taking him out to lunch to which he will be on his new job. He tells me that he will be servicing those big printers they use to print the paper used on the billboards you see along the highways.

I think I will have to check with Mike and see when is a good time to go visit him. I can't just show up at his door in Germany and say "Hi!" That worked when he lived in Sandwich but Germany is a little far to turn around and come back another day.

02/10/07

I got my RV Travel newsletter today. This caught my eye:

God Approves RV Lifestyle



The Bible contains a great deal about the full time camping lifestyle. In fact, I will argue that God highly favors the nomadic outdoor lifestyle that has been enjoyed by generations of campers throughout history and continues to be enjoyed by modern campers and RVers.

Being a Christian minister I have read the Bible cover to cover many times. I have studied it in Hebrew and Greek and greatly appreciate the many insights and wisdom it contains. I have been an avid backpacker and RVer for many

years and have frequently pondered what the Bible says about this activity.



Let's start at the beginning. God created.... Yes, the God of creation certainly appreciates

the great outdoors. The woods and hills, streams and lakes, mountains and valleys, oceans and deserts are all awe inspiring and each has incredible riches enjoyed by travelers in every age. The Patriarchs embraced and enjoyed the nomadic lifestyle living in tents and traveling in caravans hauling all their earthly possessions with them from place to place. In fact in the Middle East people still live this way. I snapped the above picture while in Israel.

The exodus is also a camping story. Sometime between Adam and Eve and Moses the RVers greatest asset was invented – the wheel. The wheel allowed man to carry more possessions over greater distances in less time. So we see in the story of the Passover that Moses instructs the people to dress for travel, gather their possessions and get ready for the greatest RV rally ever recorded.

The children of Israel loaded up their possessions



on ox drawn carts and headed for the desert. Snowbirds now do this every year, except now they use their motorhomes, 5th wheels, campers and travel trailers.

Instead of escaping from a despotic king they are escaping from the despotic cold.

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This exodus RV rally lasted forty years. In fact this nomadic lifestyle was commemorated into a religious festival called the "Feast of Tabernacles" or the "Feast of Tents." That's right, camping has its own religious holiday! Once the children of Israel occupied the land of Israel on a permanent basis, they were to celebrate this festival once a year by making a shelter or erecting a tent of some kind and they had to move out of the house and live in this shelter and recreate.

King David wasn't always a king living in a palace, in fact he was a shepherd who enjoyed outdoor living. In fact his thoughts about this are recorded in the Psalms. Many a night he spent around the campfire, living in tents and moving around the landscape. Shepherds, like RVers don't spend a lot of time in one place, they are mobile and that is the essence of the RV lifestyle. The Old Testament is full of camping stories, but how about the New Testament? What group of common folks did God first tell about the birth of Jesus? That's right the shepherds. Where were they? They were camping on the outskirts of Bethlehem! Do you think the wise men stayed at motel six? No, they traveled caravan style and camped along the way.

They were using the RV tow vehicle of the day, the camel. In fact great camel caravans were



common during this time. They traveled great distances across all kinds of terrain. The US

government even experimented with the idea of using camels in the Army and the next time you are in Quartzsite, Arizona you can learn all about that experiment.

Jesus enjoyed the great outdoors and we know that as he traveled around the country preaching he frequently slept under the stars.

The Apostle Paul was actually in the RV business. Paul supported himself by manufacturing tents. People traveled by foot or rode donkeys or camels and in so doing they loaded up their tent on a donkey or camel for transport. These folks could make and break camp quickly. They traveled light and travel they did!

I believe God approves of the RV lifestyle because it causes us to get away from the grind of daily living and exposes us to His creation. It carves out time for us to actually enjoy this planet – hence the word "Recreation" which you will recognize as the root word in the term "Recreational Vehicle." In fact if you study this word it means "re – creation." The word "creation" is right there! God wants us to experience "re – creation," rejuvenation and refreshment. Gives a whole new perspective on RVing doesn't it!

Blessings – Jim

Source:

<http://rvtravel.com/blog/rvnow/2007/02/god-approves-rv-lifestyle.html>

Bumper Snicker

"Make yourself at home. Clean my kitchen."

Worth Pondering

"I have a dog that's half pit-bull, half poodle. Not much of a guard dog, but a vicious gossip." --

Craig Shoemaker

Random RV Thought

The tool you do not pack for a trip will be the one you need. And the special ingredient you needed for your award-winning recipe will be the only one you left in your cupboard back home. These are RV facts of life. (Murphy law is at work here too!)

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue262.shtml>

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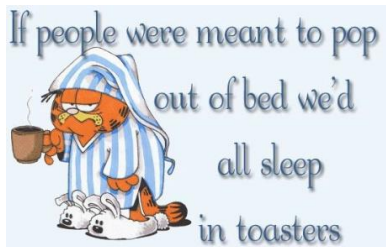
Random Thoughts

02/10/07

So I went to work today to do a quick job. I figured it would take a couple hours if things just went a little wrong. So it was a little before 7:30am. At 8:00am I thought I was just about finished. Wrong! I left just before 1:00pm and have will wait until Monday to get ha replacement part. Well there are only 15 more of those regular workdays coming up before I end it. Yes there are 15 more work days. 21 calendar days. I still have a project for next weekend. It is more hardware that needs to be changed on the computer I take care of. It could take 36 from start to finish. Most of it is wait time. There are 3 hours of real work. That is if all goes well. We will see. So I am home now doing my stuff again.

02/15/07

We start off with this email. Guess Mike and Petra are coming to the states for a visit soon. I am looking at May maybe to go to Germany and visit them. I haven't made any plans yet. I will wait until after I do not have to go to work any more. There are 12 more working days I need to get out of the way first. Today I am going into to work late because I have a dentist's appointment. Those are always fun. I received this in an email today. It said "Happy Thursday!"



Source: Arlene

Bumper Snicker

"I thought I was indecisive; now I'm not so sure.

Worth Pondering

"I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: "No good in a bed, but fine against a wall." -- *Eleanor Roosevelt*

Random RV Thought

On a cold night as you climb into bed, if you suspect that you will get cold feet during the night, try putting a wool cap on your head instead of socks on your feet. The cap will keep your head warm, allowing more blood to flow to your feet, which is a lower priority for heating as far as your body is concerned."

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue263.shtml>

Did you ever wonder why it's called a piggy bank?

Dogs bury bones. Squirrels gather nuts to last through the winter. Camels store food and water so they can travel many days across deserts. But do pigs save anything? No! Pigs save nothing.



They bury nothing. They store nothing.

So why do we save our coins in a piggy bank? Because someone made a mistake. During The Middle Ages, in about the fifteenth century, metal was expensive and seldom

used for household wares. Instead, dishes and pots were made of an economical clay called pygg. Whenever housewives could save an extra coin, they dropped it into one of their clay jars. They called this their pygg bank or their piggy bank.

Over the next two hundred to three hundred years, people forgot that "pygg" referred to the earthenware material. In the nineteenth century when English potters received requests for piggy banks, they produced banks shaped like a pig. Of course, the pigs appealed to the customers and delighted the children.

Random Thought: Only 5 more workdays!

02/24/07

Arlene sent me some more emails. Here are a couple pictures for your Cat people. And for you people who like to paint cats.

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Yes, Cat's Ass!



Must be a flag waver.

The Caption in the Email went like this:
"The book these came from said some of the paint jobs cost \$15,000 and had to be repeated every 3 months as the cat's hair grows out. Must be nice to have \$60,000 a year just to keep your Cat painted!"

Ok there were Some Dog pictures in another Email.



One Dog, One Girl!



One Dog, One Boy!

Are the people looking more like their pets or the pets trying to look like us? You decide.

Source: Arlene

More Random Thoughts:

02/24/07

So yesterday they through a surprise party for me at work. That had a big cake for me for my up coming retirement. I was surprised because it was a week early. The told me that they were not sure I would not cut out a week early. I ensured that I was not planning on bolting out until maybe after lunch next Friday. Thursday I planed on going through the shop and say good-by to the people I use to work with. And On Friday after lunch to the people in the office. And when it is starts to get to me I would just leave. When I left the Auto-Lite after 15 years I started to say good-

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by when I started to get emotional and had to just leave. Hell, I am starting to tear up now. Cut that out Marty! Oh, Auto-Lite, that is Woodstock Diecast for you young timers.

So I retired my car last week. Wait, I put tires on it. They were bad! It drives nice now. Thanks Steve and Woodstock Auto Body.

Next week will be rough at work. I will not want to do any thing and I don't know how much stuff people will give me to do because it is my last week and they think I am the only can do the stuff I do. Most of what I do some one else could do it they wanted.

So later today I have to go to a birthday party. Anila told Aunt Annie and me that we had to come back to Vaughan's are 5:30 because Shirley's birthday is Monday so Saturday is a good day to which her a Happy Birthday. Oh, here is a cake for you Shirley!



I am not sure if this is our Shirley when she was little. It is really Shirley! Shirley never did like me making a big deal about her birthday so I will on say Happy Birthday once.

Happy Birthday Shirley!

Well we all sang Happy Birthday. Here is Shirley before blowing the candles. Then we all had cake and eat it too.



Picture by Marty

02/26/07

Another reason to travel by RV

Did you hear about the new scanning device at

the Phoenix Airport? It can see right through your clothes. The Associated Press says that the result is an image that "shows the body's contours with blush-inducing clarity." Other airports will soon install the device. Right now, in Phoenix, the scanning device is being used only as a back up screening measure on selected passengers. A passenger can chose between being scanned or patted down. So which would you prefer?

Bumper Snicker

"Prune juice sets you free."

Worth Pondering

"Life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on." -- *Samuel Butler*

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue264.shtml>

I have a lot of quotes from the RV travel newsletter. Since I only have 4 more work days before I don't do that any more, I need to get in the travel state of mind.

I have some thoughts for March, part of April, May and maybe some of June. And these have little to do with the RV. July, August, and September are open months. I may do some RVing with that time.

I see I am up to 5 pages with this newsletter. I didn't think I could find that much to write about. I guess if I can talk a lot when I get going I can fill this right up with stuff.

Don't you just love the new area codes? Now you get to dial an extra 4 numbers to call the guy next door. My fingers are getting tired just thinking about that.

We got a mess of snow over the weekend. It was mixed with rain and was very heavy to move. So I just left it there. The weather report is warmer and windy the next few days. Normally this would be great to get rid of some of this snow. This time it going to be wet. This is no fun unless it stays warm to melt the snow.

Feb 27, 2007

Random Rumors put to sleep:

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In the January 2007 issue of this news letter I printed this: "Random Rumors: I hear Melanie is getting married. That is all I have heard so far. May be just gossip."

Well fokes it ain't true! Melanie has been reminding that I should not listen to Bill. I told her I did not here it from Bill until later. And since it was just gossip and she says it isn't true, this is my retraction. I have put thin in the newsletter because I am getting told over and over it was just a now true and I should have not put it in here for ever one to see it. So Melanie, I do not want to be in traction so this is my retraction.

Marty

So I have only 3 more workdays. So who's counting? I am!

I should update my Stock prices. Today the stock market got hammered so here is how we stand today:

Random Stock Prediction up				
	date:	2-3	6-9	
Company	11-28	02/27	Months	Months
Caterpillar (CAT)	61.60	64.83	68.00	79.00
Toyota Motors (TM)	117.44	132.97	122.00	100.00
Cummins (CMI)	118.23	136.15	130.00	unknown
Boeing (BA)	87.94	87.20	85.00	unknown
Dow Chemical (DOW)	39.65	43.66	41.00	unknown

First posted 11/28/2006
 Predictions are based on the gap that needs to be filled. And these are my guesses.
 Invest at you own risk.
 Marty

3 out of 5 for the 2-3 months. Maybe I should have bought some of this.

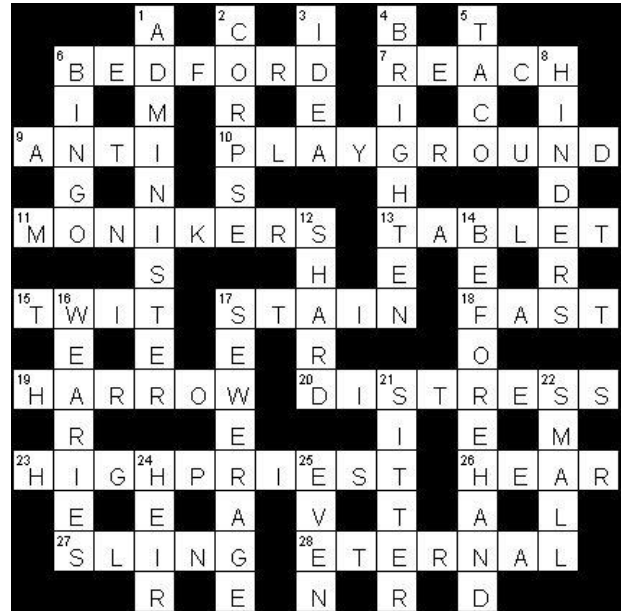
Random Weather History:
 Here is some weather data I collected this year.

2007 Month	Temperature High	Temperature Low	Inch Prec.*	Wind Speed Avg.	Wind Speed High	Days it got wet*
Jan	49.2	4.1	0.47	2.7	25	5
Feb~	50.7	-8.6	1.37	2.5	28	9

For more detail go to: www.doerofthings.com/weather

* Snow measured as rain(melted snow) Days got wet is when Precipitation was over 0.01"
 ~ As 2/27 at 10:44pm

Random Solution



Yes this is the solution to a crossword puzzle. I want to make it easy for you for my first puzzle in my newsletter.

If you really want to work this puzzle you can get it at: http://www.poincrosswords.com/weekly_puzzles.html

This was Feb 23, 2007

March 1, 2007

Well it is March now. Time to bring this issue to its end. Tomorrow it my last day at work. I spent some time saying "good-by" to people at work today. A lot of them wish they could retire too. I told them; "Just do it!" I guess every one has to do things on their terms. I know it took me al long time to say, "Just do it!" to myself. When it was time I did just that. So tomorrow is the last day of work. I will go work in the morning and pack up a few things. Then go to lunch with the gang. Walk around and say good buy until it starts to get to me. Then leave. May target date was Sunday the 4th. That would make it 22 years. I started at Knaack on March 4th, 1985. Oh, That makes Saturday the end of 22 years.

So my new motto for doerofthings.com will be for a while

"A world of things left to do and almost retired"

Until next time, thanks for reading this,

Marty