

Marty's Random Thoughts

Volume 07 Number 05

Woodstock, IL

May 10, 2007.

04/24/07 04:55pm 63°

It cooled off a little today. And it is a little wet. Not really raining just looks wet. I am starting a new issue today while I am printing the last one. This issue may look a little different because I am using a different word processor. I am using Open Office's writer to do this issue. I have been using Microsoft Word 2000. The Office Office Apps are free and I have not found any thing that I use that you can't be done with the Open Office Apps. So I will do this issue using free software. OpenOffice is FREE! The Microsoft Office Suite cost over \$300.00 the last time I checked. So I will use it a while and give an review of what I think in a later issue.

Today I watch somebody open a can of ketchup. This can was labeled as "Tomato ketchup". My question was: "Do they make ketchup out of any thing other than tomatoes?" There are different colored ketchups. And I am sure that those are made from different colored tomatoes. Well are they? So here is some of what I found out.

...Ketchup has not always been made out of tomatoes. It started out as a general term for [sauce](#), typically made of [mushrooms](#) or [fish brine](#) with [herbs](#) and [spices](#). Mushroom ketchup is still available in some countries, such as the UK. Some popular early main ingredients include [blueberry](#), [anchovy](#), [oyster](#), [lobster](#), [walnut](#), [kidney bean](#), [cucumber](#), [cranberry](#), [lemon](#), and [grape](#).

The largest major commercial distributors of ketchup in the [United States](#) are the [H. J. Heinz Company](#), [Hunt's](#), [Del Monte Foods](#), [Red Gold](#), and [Brooks Ketchup](#). Red Gold is the largest privately owned tomato processing company in the world and produces more than 90% of the ketchup that is found in the private label category....

Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ketchup>

And that is that.

04/26/2007 10:30 Rainy, at Vaughan's

I just remembered that 2-3 days I saw my first Robbin. I don't know if they are late this year of I just have not been looking.

Shirley is having trouble with her new laptop. I tried to make the CD drive work and had no luck. I think it is malo(bad). It is almost new so calling Dell is the best coarse. I hear they are very good with their support.

Gas prices are high and Route 47 is always busy or at a stand still. So with route 47 a parking lot full of cars that are all running, how much gas is being burnt? Hummm...Something to think about.

Today was 'take your kid to work' day. So Jake, Shirley's grand son, was at Vaughan's. He was not old enough to go to work with his mother, Amy. I used other reasons to get out of school when I went. Reasons like, "I'm sick Mon!". "Yah, Sure!, Go anyway." Mom would say.

Question: Mary, What is Heather's email address?

For you non-computer people I started to write today's notes with a pencil and paper. Yes, A manual word processor. Well, I had to do an upgrade because they don't make pencils like they use to. I used a pencil sharpener and the lead is off center and it sharpening stinks. So I am using a pen now. I have a good sharpener but it is not compatible with the new pencils. If I am going to use the new pencils I will have down grade the sharpener to a pocket knife. I also think the new pencils are not wood sticks with lead in them. I don't know how the pocket knife will deal with pressed cardboard. Well, one can only try.

Mary, This is a reminder that you wrote yourself a note!

04-27-2007 11:00am around 48°, Vaughan's

So I tried it! That is back pack at 27-1/2 pounds. Way too much for the first time! I went from my house to Newell, around the block and back home. About 10 minutes. Too heavy? Maybe! It did not fit right. When you adjust a backpack most of the weight sits on your hips. The shoulder straps mostly should stabilize the pack. So either it is loaded wrong or I have it adjusted wrong. Maybe both and it is to heavy. This backpack has a bunch of adjustments. I may have to learn more about them. Are any of you readers backpack hikers? Do you know how to adjust these things? I might not have it figured out by the time you read this.

Anyway, I piled in the car and came out here for a break and think about this.

While sitting here I over heard this lady behind me talking to some one on her cell phone. I guess the display was broken and she found out it would still make calls.

My MP3 player weight is 2.3 Ozs, and my Thumb Drive weights 0.4 Ozs. The Thumb drives will have all of my Portable Apps that I will need while in Europe. I could put all of the PortableApps on the MP3 player. It is nothing but a Thumb Drive with some music playing stuff hooked to it. I could save 0.4 Ozs.

Don't start laughing just yet. I am trying to get rid of 7-1/2 lbs. I didn't know it was such a small weight when I started to think about trimming weight. So what else can I trim?

Ah, Rain poncho or umbrella? Lets see what I can come up with. Rain poncho has a hood and will cover me and the backpack. It is big enough to get all the way inside it and it will go belows my knees. Umbrella is 40-48 inches across and will keep the ran off om me unless it is very windy. I also have a rain cover for the backpack And I think I will need that with the Umbrella or the Poncho.

My feet and below the knees will most likely get wet in a storm so that is the same with both. The poncho would be good walking in fog or real misty conditions. That is unless it sweats like that light jacket. The Umbrella would be quick to deploy when it starts to rain. You would keep it on the outside of the pack so you could get it quickly. It wouldn't be much help in fog or misty days. And in storms it would not do as good as a poncho. Hummm....You would use the rain cover on the backpack it it looked rainy to be ready. So lets see what we have.

	Umbrella	Poncho
Rainy	1	1
Storm	-1	1
Quick access	1	-1
Weight	-8.0(Ozs)	-13.0(Ozs)
Fog/Mist	0	1
Other usage	0	1(tent)

Poncho is out of backpack! I save 13 Ozs.

04/29/2007 10:03am 64° Home

Well here I am thinking about breakfast and the newsletter. Guess the newsletter won this time.

Friday my left hand was itching. Mary reminded me that meant that I was going to get some money. It this true or just another one of the wise tails. Read on and you you decide. So 2 months a go I retired and that stopped my money flow. I decided to cash in an IRA I bought back in the lat '80s. Well, it didn't come and it didn't come and I needed that money for my trip for my trip. I called and they told me it is in the works. Gives us another week. So after the week I decided to cash in some savings just to make sure. So I got the process of that started. Well, Mike had sold something on eBay and told me to watch for the check in his mail so I could deposit it for him.

So Friday morning my hand itched. So when my mail came there was the check for the savings I had requested. Then my hand stopped itching.

Now wait, this isn't over yet. Aunt Annie picked me up for dinner Friday evening and my hand had started itching again. I remembered that I had not checked Mike's post office yet for the check he was waiting for. So I asked if she could stop there so I could check Mike's mail. Wa La, there was Mike's check. And again my hand stopped itching.

And there is more. Saturday I was eating lunch and my hand was itching again. When I got home I checked my mail and my IRA check was there. And again my hand stopped itching.

And this isn't finished yet. Saturday evening it started itching again. This my left palm! Do I have a virus that is making my hand itch? I check my lottery ticked and I didn't win the lottery, yet. I don't know of any other money I have coming in right now. I there a bug bight or poison ivy I didn't know about on my hand? I guess we will have to see what happens. I may have more money coming my way. (Continued on Page 7)

While at dinner Saturday night there were a bunch of us standing around and talking about

fixing up the others with companions. I am going to leave names out of this because some of the people do not want there named used. So this is not an lonely hearts newsletter of a dating service but I will tell you after this group discussion we need a lot of help. Here is kind of what is missing in our group. These are all singles need. Even though some would prefer a married ones.

Lady around 40-65

Man around 70-80

2 Men around 25-35

Man 16-18

And maybe a couple married men or women to replace the ones they already have. I didn't hear any one say they were looking. It was all the other one trying to fix some one up. It seamed that the whole group was compatible. We were all having fun. Beer and pizza kind of brings thing out of people. The thing here is that there was no beer.

Random Ice Cream

When nothing else will do...

...how about making your own personal ice cream? This is the perfect boondocking treat: no electricity is needed and you don't have to crank for hours. Here's how it works. Gather the ingredients:

1/2 cup milk

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 tablespoons sugar

6 tablespoons salt (rock salt is best)

1 cup of crushed ice or broken ice cubes

Put the milk, vanilla and sugar in a zip lock freezer bag. Put ice and salt into another zip lock freezer bag, drop the sealed bag with ingredients in and shake for 10 minutes. Bam. Ice cream. You'll love it. Your kids will love it, especially if you let your kids make it.

posted by Adrienne Kristine at 5:01 PM

Source: <http://www.rvtravel.com/blog/womenrvers/2007/04/when-nothing-else-will-do.html>

I'll have to try that Ice Cream It sound so easy a Caveman could do it. Oops, I shouldn't have said that.

Bumper Snicker

I haven't had my coffee yet. Don't make me kill you!

Worth Pondering

"I'm tired of all this nonsense about beauty being only skin-deep. That's deep enough. What do you want, an adorable pancreas?" -- Jean Kerr

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue273.shtml>

05/01/2007 6:23pm 74°

Hay, it is May already! Not much been happening the last couple days. I checked in with the hearth doctor and he said that it was ok for me to hike across Spain. Like that would stop me. I told him it was a good thing he was letting go because he would have to lock me in the hospital to keep me here. He told me just to rest when I got tired. I have been doing that for over 60 years so I think I can handle that.

I thought I could save some weight on the backpack by charging my camera through the USB cable. You can do that with many devices now a days but not this camera. I have both 12v an110v USB power adapters and the special USB cable for the camera but it is not designed for charging the camera. Guess I will to carry 20 ounces instead of 15 ounces. So as right now it is down to less than 23 pounds.

There isn't much I can do now except load it up and see that I have every thing I need and nothing I can get along without.

I have to remember that this is only the stuff that I am carrying when I am hiking and not all the stuff I am taking with me. I think I figured there was 10-15 pounds more stuff that I am taking with me and leaving at Mikes until I am finished hiking.

So I am going to re-pack what is on the list and make sure I have it this time.

05/03/2007 10:03am 56°

I just got back from my morning walk. I went and had breakfast with Kim. Kim told me I should go have coffee with Mary. While there

Shirley told me I could go to the Post office and check about forwarding my mail while I am in Germany. So I did all these things. Maybe 3-1/2 miles. I was carrying about 1/2 the weight in my small backpack that I will have in the big one. I had about 15 pounds. I did not have any problems carrying that weight. I have to go a little longer with out a break. I need to get use to about one hour maybe two with out a break. I am only going about thirty – thirty-five minutes, 1-1/2 miles before a break. There isn't very far to walk inside Woodstock before you get some wheres. I live in midtown. Wall-Mart and Farm & Fleet are way out on the edge and it may be 2 miles to Wall-Mart and just a little more to Farm & Fleet. Walking along the highway isn't very pleasant. When I go walking I like to have some where to go. I need to start thinking different about that. When I go to Spain I will be walking and walking and walking and if go the whole Camino de Santiago I may get tired. So if I just head for the next village or town then it will be shorts walks. From the looks of the map it is takes about 7-8 hours to drive from Roncesvalles to Santiago, Spain. Or maybe 40 days and 40 nights to walk. Wonder why I have decided to try to walk it?

Yesterday I went to work to help them out with some stuff. I was there 6 hours. It was nice to see some of the people. It was still work that I did. From the email I got I think it is fixed.

Later 9:25pm 54°

I just remembered there was some more of that lonely hearts gossip to report from last night. This guy likes this lady but there may be another guy there too. And she is driving around looking for him all the time. She say he is a too big to hug. The guy and lady are getting along because she say they are doing friendly picking on each other. And they are text messaging back and forth. I was told "No names, please!"

I was planting some of my garden this afternoon. Last year I think let it go without planting any thing. I had to scrap of three inches of sod of the top of my pots. I haven't finished yet. So far I have planted popcorn, cucumber,

cantaloupe, pumpkin squash, and some Fava Beans. These are great big beans. I only planted a couple seeds of each of most of these. All of these seeds are 5-6 years old so we will see how they do.

I wasn't finished yet. The phone rang and I answered it and I had to leave and didn't get back to the garden. Maybe I will finish it be fore I go to Europe. Then when I get back I may have some food to eat. Well tomorrow is another day.

Still later 4:37pm 69°

I just got finished setting up my travel web site that I will use while I am on vacation in Europe. If you are so inclined you can goto www.doerofthings.com/vacation and click on "Late Spring 2007". This will get you right there. Those who are not on the Internet will have to wait for me to get time to publish it on paper.

This could be my last newsletter before I go. I may take notes and email them to some one to print for the non-computer people. Not having a computer is fine for many people. I just got use to using them and I find many things I do work better for me. I do still know how to use a pencil and paper. I plan on using then while in Europe. That is unless I find a computer sitting there calling me to it.

05/05/2007 9:00am

Just got back from breakfast and my walk. Added another pound to what I was carrying. I was dragging today. I guess there are bad days along with the good ones. Most all of the days have been good so I will take this day too.

I checked gas price on the way. Clark on Washington near Church was 3.19⁹ and Lake was 3.23⁹. That means that I might saved about 28 cents on this walk. Not quite a cup of coffee yet. With the way gas prices are going it won't be long.

9:40pm 55°

RV Travel newsletter time. This is the first thing I see in the newsletter:

RV Industry Association, RVtravel.com readers disagree on gas price impact
The Recreational Vehicle Industry Association

reported last week that nearly all RVers plan to use their RVs more this spring and summer than last year. But RVtravel.com readers are singing a different tune, with most planning to scale back their RV travels because of high gas prices. The rest of the Story is at this link:
http://rvtravel.com/publish/news/article_931.shtml

I plan on using my RV less even though I drove it to Elgin today. That was only because it has been sitting since October 2006. Yes over 6 months. I need to drive it just to make sure it still worked. I may use it after I return from Europe.

Bumper Snicker

The early bird gets the worm but the second mouse gets the cheese.

Worth Pondering

"America believes in education: the average professor earns more in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week." --
Evan Esar

Source: <http://rvtravel.com/publish/newsletter/issue274.shtml>

05/08/2007 1:43pm 91°

91°! That is warm enough of now. I returned from my morning walk around 10:30 and it was already 71°. I did my normal 3-1/2 mile walk. That is to see Kim for breakfast then to see Mary & Nora for coffee and then home. Today was different because it was much warmer than before. And I had my fully load backpack. It was about 24-1/2 pounds. I added 2 bottles of water that is about 2 pounds. Because I was not use to the weight it seem heavy. I did not have any problems handling it. I did need to stop and get the hat out. The sun was hot on my head. And I was sweating after the first mile so I got the bandanna to wipe the sweat. The backpack seems to be adjusted good. It fit good. I need to repack some of the stuff because I could feel some of the stuff moving around inside. You do not want the load to be shifting on you. It will make it hard to carry with even small weight shifts. It could be the camera and or the personal care items. I remember them being loosely packed. I have this wide rimmed hemp hat that is

hot. I may change it to a straw hat before I start the big walk in Spain. I was wearing black pants. That is a mistake when the sun is shining. They get hot. I will change to the tan pants. I knew better.

Knaack contacted me again. I guess they need my help again. When I retired I thought have to give them very much help. Guess I need to leave the country to be free. Well, they pay me.

05/09/07 3:05pm 84°

I saw Heather and Olivia today. I haven't seen Heather since Olivia was born. She is about 6 months old now and is getting big. And Heather looks great too. It was good seeing her again. She told that one of the days she would email me something for the newsletter. That is Heather not Olivia. (Smiley face)

Any one know how to put in those Smiley faces with Open Office? I know how to do it with Microsoft Word.

Random Bumper Sticker:

"I do what I am tower."

Source: Marty saw it



Wonder what kind of gas mileage this gets?

Source: Arlene

It is a little long but here is the content from an email I have received.

Fifty Years of Math 1957 - 2007

Last week I purchased lunch at Burger King for \$1.58. The counter girl took my \$2 and I pulled 8 cents from my pocket and gave it to her. She stood there, holding the nickel and 3

pennies, while looking at the screen on her register. I sensed her Discomfort and tried to tell her to just give me two quarters, but she hailed the manager for help. While he tried to explain the transaction to her, she stood there and cried. Why do I tell you this? Because of the evolution in teaching math since the 1950s:

1. Teaching Math In 1950s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price. What is his profit?

2. Teaching Math In 1960s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100 His cost of production is $\frac{4}{5}$ of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?

3. Teaching Math In 1970s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?

4. Teaching Math In 1980s:

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His Cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: Underline the number 20.

5. Teaching Math In 1990s:

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is Selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the Habitat of animals or the preservation of our Woodlands. He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of this way of making a Living? Topic for class participation after Answering the question: How did the birds and Squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers.)

6. Teaching Math In 2007:

Un hachero vende una carretada de maderapara \$100. El costo de la producciones es \$80. Cuanto dinero ha hecho?

Source: Arlene:

05/10/07 7:20pm 80°

I took my backpack for another walk today. About 3-1/2 miles again and all was fine. So I think it would be a good time for me to stop telling about this every day. I should be getting old news for you. I will need to start talking about other things.

There were 4 people that saw me one beeped the horn. They just let me keep walking. Thank you even those I gave you a little hard time about not giving me a ride. I do want to do the walking thing.

I went to Knaack and showed the new guy, Eric, what I was doing so he could get off to a good start. He seams to be a good fit to do the thing I use to do. Good luck Eric with your new job.

This is page six of the newsletter It will most likely be my last newsletter until I return from Europe. I may still do some writting if I get near a computer. It will most likely be random.

If time permits I will be updating my vacation adventures on my web site so if you get bored you can check it out if your so inclined. If you do look at my web page and you are thinking of it you could print out what you see and give a copy to the people who do not have access to a computer if they would like to see it. There are a few people that do not have access to a computer so I can not even email it to them. I am a geek so I use the computer for almost every thing. There are a lot of people that are not.

If you want me to email you when I post something on my web pages please email me and let me know. I will not use your email address for any thing except to let you know I updated the site. And you do not even have to tell me. You could always just check out the links listed below. You people who do not have computer access but still would like to know where the heck I am or what I am doing just ask one of those people who to check this out for you.

My may web site:

www.doerofthings.com

My late spring vacation 2007:

www.doerofthings.com/vacation/germany_2007

Marty's Random Thoughts:

www.doerofthings.com/randomthouthts

“Klaatu brada nikto” Until next time. Marty
Oops. There is some more. Read on...

I went back to read this before I printed out and noticed there was thing the I wrote that I did not finish for whatever reason. So I will try to finish what I started.

Random Follow up:

from 04/29 on page 2: Hand itching...

After my hand started to itch some more I was still trying to figure out what was going on. A couple

days later I got a letter in the mail telling that they deposited my Knaack profit sharing funds in my 401k account. My hand stopped itching and has not itch since.

So it it true that when your left hand itch you will receive money?

If your right hand itches you will meet some famous. So they say.

from page 3 column 1: Ice Cream...

I haven't tried this yet.

April 2007 weather stats

High Temp 88.4° on 22nd at 2:30pm

Low Temp 17.9° on 7th at 7:00am

0.56" rain on 11th

2.10" for the month of April

It rained on 10 days

Average wind was 2.9 MPH

Highest was 31mps on 1st at 12:00pm

So I am finished.

The rest you can use for scratch paper.

**Bye,
Marty**

<i>Company</i>	<i>11-28</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>2-3</i>	<i>6-9</i>
	<i>05/10</i>	<i>Months</i>	<i>Months</i>	
Caterpillar (CAT)	61.60	73.10	68.00	79.00
Toyota Motors (TM)	117.44	116.80	122.00	100.00
Cummins (CMI)	118.23 ^{bs}	89.18 ^{as}	130.00 ^{bs}	unknown
Boeing (BA)	87.94	92.80	85.00	unknown
Dow Chemical (DOW)	39.65	45.40	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. (as) After Split (^{bs}) before split

Marty