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### 1-Jul-20

So, I got the battery and the mouse works fine!



I will start working on editing and proofing June's issue.

I will be back!

### Robot Mowers

Down on the west end of McConnell Road on Route 47 is another robot mower. It has been out there cutting away the last two days and the business is closed. It looks to be a bigger Husqvarna brand. I stayed with Worx because of the price and I have a smaller area to cut. Worx makes a bigger

model that they say is good for half an acre. Mine came up to ¼ acre. It just keeps going and going. I like Herbie and will keep him. My car is a different story.

### Oh, I forgot

2-Jul-20 6:51 pm @home 84° ☀

I just remembered it was July and I started editing the previous issue yesterday and did not finish. Jeremy and his guys were here all afternoon updating my electric in the garage.

Jeremy is Delaware Electric. And he is my nephew, Corks son.

The wires to my garage were installed in the 1950s and needed to be updated. With me trying to

do more things in the garage I needed the power updated.

This was part of the problems I was having with my X-carve.

## Newsletter

Well I have finished proofing MRT. Ok, you should have it by now!

## Subscribers

4-Jul-20 9:36 am @home 80° ☀

I was looking at my email app in WordPress and I see I do not show many subscribers. Maybe people are looking without subscribing. I am ok with that. I do this because it makes me happy. If people subscribe, I have an idea how many other people enjoy MRT.

## Independence Day

Today is the day we the people signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

It starts out:

*The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

If you want to read the rest of it, it is on the internet in its entirety.

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

What would the 4th of July be without some flags?



Betsy Ross flag in 1776



28 flags later we adopted this flag in 1960

For Life, Liberty, and the American way.

## Pilgrim

I need to start getting ready for my walk across Spain.

I just heard from Dan, one of the people I walked with on the Camino in 2012. He was selling food on the Camino. He said there are not many pilgrims on the Camino. The covid-19 had it shut down for the most part. Dan's email said he was stuck in Navarra Spain because of Covid-19.

I hope things get better for him soon.

Maybe next year when I want to go in April or May things will be better for me.

## My Leg

My leg is still bothering me. I might need my leg if I am going to walk the Camino.

My feet are fine. The biggest issue people talk about on the Camino is blisters on their feet. Some of the people I walked with spent hours working on their feet because of blisters.

I found out before I went out on the Camino about blisters. Shoes should be a size bigger than you normally wear. Wear a thin pair of nylon socks next to your feet. Then have a padded sock of wool over them.

The nylon sock lets your feet breathe and the wool sock sucks the moisture away keeping your feet dry.

Every two hours when walking you take a break removing your shoes and socks to let your feet dry and breathe.

I had only two blisters in the 500+ miles I walked. I think I got the first one the first day. The second one was when I had to get new shoes.

When I first started, my legs got sore off and on. After a good night sleep, they were ready to go. I do not think I was ever so tired I could not go on after a short break in 2012.

In 2007 I had no blisters. There were many times when I was so tired and so sore, I thought I could never go on.

The feet carry all your weight, your legs help you walk and shift from side to side to keep you upright. Your hips carry most of your backpack. The shoulders carry just enough of the backpack to keep it stable.

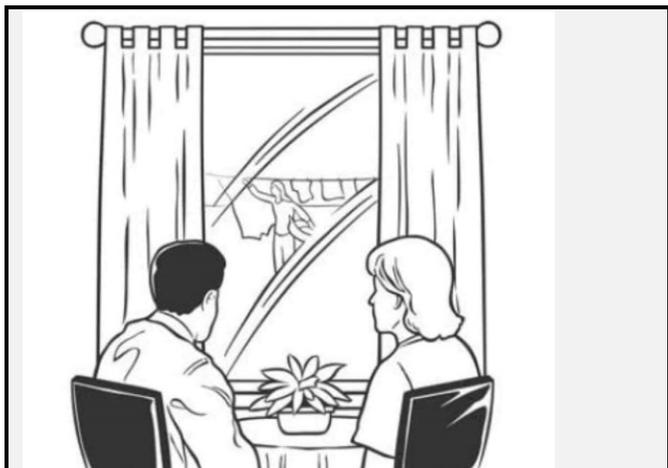
Your head points you in the right direction and gives you a place to put your hat. 🧢

Here it is almost 11:00 and I have not had my coffee yet!

## What You See Through.

5-Jul-20 10:13 am @home 82 🌞

This morning I saw this on Facebook. I thought you might like it.



*A young couple moved into a new neighborhood.*

*The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbor hanging the washing outside.*

*"That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."*

*Her husband looked on, remaining silent.*

*Every time her neighbor hung her washing out to dry, the young woman made the same comments.*

*A month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"*

*The husband replied, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows."*

*And so, it is with life... What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look.*

*So, don't be too quick to judge others, especially if your perspective of life is clouded by anger, jealousy, negativity, or unfulfilled desires.*

*"Judging a person does not define who they are. It defines who you are."*

*— Jonathan Kestenbaum*

*A repost on Facebook, so nobody gets credit for it.*

## Hot

It seems there is going to be a bunch of hot days for a week or so. It is only 10:30 am, it already says 82°. I guess you may already know it is HOT. I will say no more about that today.

## Robot Mower

I gave Herbie the next few days off. The grass stopped growing. It will give me a few days to get that perimeter wire installed on the other side of the front yard.

My leg is still sore, but I will work on it if things go well.

I made a holder for the stakes that might let me stand most of the time while installing the wire. If that does not work out, I may just go rent one of those machines for installing the wire. It is not worth it for only 200 foot of wire for the front yard? I must install 250 feed for the edge along the driveway too.

Maybe for my leg it will be better in the long run. I wonder if “Ralph’s Rent All: has one of those machines.

## Old Friends

I was just thinking about an old friend I worked with at Woodstock Die Casting back in the 70’s. Jim Zimpher used to run Machine 44 while I operated # 45. He disappeared and I was just wondering what happen to him.

I got on the internet to see if I could find him. I remembered hearing that he had moved to Arizona and was a little older than me.

Well, I guess all those people I worked with are getting older now days. Never thought of Jim as being an old guy.

Seems Jim Hendy Zimpher was born in 1943 and died in 2015. Rest in peace Jim my old die caster friend!

A while back I found an old list of people who I worked with at Woodstock Die Casting. I put that list somewhere so it would be easy to find if I thought I wanted to look at it again. Maybe I should have left it where I found it. 😊

## Woodstock Hat Pin

8-Jul-20 6:16 pm @ home 88° 🌞

It was a little cool this morning, not so much now.

If I am going to walk the Camino next year, I need to fine some pins for my hat.

I had a “Woodstock, Woodstock Illinois”, Sloopy’s friend, last time but the pin came off even before it left the car. I it in my billfold so I know where I am from.

I found another Woodstock pin for my hat, but it does not say “Woodstock Illinois on it. It is just Woodstock!

I search the internet to find another one and they are not out there to be found. It looks like this:



If you find one of these Woodstock Hat Pins, scarf it up for me. This one was sold for about \$15.00. Just make sure the pin is still attached.

## Added to MRT

While I was looking for the Woodstock Pin, I also looked around for the City of Woodstock’s logo. I do not think they have one. Unless this is what they call their logo.



Oh, I got distracted. I found this image of Woodstock at the typewriter. I thought I might add it to my newsletter somewhere.



I am not going to change the name of my newsletter to “The Woodstock Independent”. That is an idea. I my get in trouble because we already have one of those.

## The Woodstock INDEPENDENT

Feb. 19-25, 2020  
Published every Wednesday | Est. 1987 | Serving Woodstock, Wonder Lake and Bull Valley, IL | www.thewoodstockindependent.com | \$1.00



**MARKETPLACE**  
True Blue Dogs preparing pups to help people get well

**A&E**  
'Annie' will take the stage March 13 at Marian Central

**COMMUNITY**  
Local class in last generation to hear Holocaust survivors

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**The Woodstock Independent**  
615 E. CARROLL, WOODSTOCK, IL 60098  
Phone: 815-338-8043  
Fax: 815-338-8177  
THEWOODSTOCKINDEPENDENT.COM

### Some choices for March 17

Ballots have a few contests for both Democrats, Republicans

By Larry Lough  
LAWRENCE@WOODSTOCKINDEPENDENT.COM

Woodstock-area voters have less than four weeks to decide who will get their support in the March 17 primary election in Illinois. And they have some choices to make.

People who take a Democratic ballot will have a voice in the race for the party's nomination for president. Their ballot will list 12 presidential hopefuls, several of whom have already dropped out of the race. The campaign to see who challenges President Trump in November will be going strong on primary election day in Illinois.

Republican voters may choose from among seven candidates to challenge freshman Congressman Lauren Underwood in the 10th District on Nov. 3. She has no opposition for the Democratic nomination.

Democrats also will pick a candidate to challenge Republican State Representative ELECTION, Page 2.



INDEPENDENT PHOTO BY THERESA CARDELLI  
Snow outlines the letters on the arch at the north entrance to the Park in the Square after a snow last week that failed to deter a tone walker. The subzero cold that followed might have been a different story.

### Changes at Woodstock North High

By Larry Lough  
LAWRENCE@WOODSTOCKINDEPENDENT.COM

Two familiar faces will be missing when school resumes next fall at Woodstock North High School. The Woodstock School District 200 Board of Education last week approved the resignation of Athletic Director Brady Storeyquist and the transfer of Assistant Principal Patrick Podgorski to Woodstock High School.

These were among several personnel changes the board approved. They also included the retirement of Diana Fricker, principal of Olin Elementary School since 2013.

Fricker, who has been with D-200 for 35 years, became an administrator after teaching at Greenwood and Deas Street elementary schools and having roles at Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center and City Elementary.

Her retirement is effective at the end of the school year, when she plans to go to work for Aurora University's Woodstock Center.

Podgorski said his move to Woodstock High was about professional growth. He was about professional growth. He was about professional growth.



How could I use Woodstock at the typewriter image? I will think on that.

### Make it Rain

10\_Jul-20 9:09 pm @home 75° dark

I figured out how to make it rain! Yesterday I set up the sprinkler to water part of the lawn where things never grow because it is always too dry. I set it to not water the sidewalk next door and on mine a little. I finally got it setup and set the timer to only run another 30 minutes. I went inside and got a class to set out to measure my watering. I watered about 1/4". I did not want to overdo it.

I came in after it was done and heard the thunder. Yup it rained! We got about an inch.

The other way to make it rain is to hang clothes out to dry. 😬

### Family Tree

I have not talked about the Metras/Jansen Family Tree in a while.

I have been working on it occasionally. Using Family Tree Maker, I flagged all the ancestors and descendants of Mom & Dad. This way I am not loading a bunch of people that are not related. I think I have a bunch of those people.

I am looking for fathers & mothers I do not have. To help I started with last names that start with "A". I am to the "M's" now.

I have also been syncing it up with Ancestry.com as I go. I find many pictures and stories doing this.

I am also down to the "M's" with the stories. I am not reading them currently, there are too many. And there are 300 left to mark for syncing.

## ***Ancestors & Descendants Report***

I have posted the latest list of Mom's & Dad's ancestors on the Mom's 100<sup>th</sup> blog site. I have eleven generations on Mom's side and forty on Dad's side. Where did Mom come from?

I have also posted the descendants for both. They are pretty much the same. Neither of them re-married so they look the same.

I have not figured out how to integrate the stories into the family tree reports yet. I have added a lot more pictures as you will see.

I will post this on the Mom's 100<sup>th</sup> blog page as soon as I am finished here.

<http://marty-metras.com/moms100th/>

Be careful if you try to print Dad's ancestors. The report is about 250 pages. That is a lot of . Well, not that kind of paper but a lot!

It is bedtime!

## **Enough, Maybe!**

13-Jul-20 3:26 pm @home 80° 

I see things in Japan might be going just a little too far!



Even though Florida opened Disneyworld yesterday, and Tokyo Disneyland was open as of July 1st, there are still guidelines that must be followed at least some theme parks in Japan.

One of the most bizarre is the banning of screaming on thrill rides. The idea is that, even with masks in place while whipping along at roller coaster speeds, anything that would cause the COVID 19 virus to be spread more easily (such as talking and singing, much less yelling) should be prohibited. A [video](#) posted by the Fuji-Q company shows be masked executives riding in complete silence and ends with the admonishment to "please scream inside your heart." The rule seems in effect at the Fuji-Q facilities but may just be a company policy so far.

This could also be considered an appropriate response to the events of 2020 in general.

Source Coast to Coast, AM:

<https://www.coasttocoastam.com/article/japan-bans-screaming-on-roller-coasters/>

It never stops amazing me!

Down at the bottom of the page I found this picture.



Barbara Eden, "I Dream of Jeannie"

I remember her well!

### *Celebrating The 50th Anniversary*

On September 18th, 2015, Barbara Eden joined NBC to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of *I Dream of Jeannie*. The actress reminisced about the show's time on the air and what it was like to portray such an iconic character. While it would seem as though it could become very difficult to deal with life in the public eye.



Fans couldn't help but remark at how gorgeous Eden still looked, so many years later. She aged very well.

Source: <https://www.pastfactory.com/television/i-dream-of-jeannie-then-now-and-fun-facts-about-the-show/68/>

## Doctor Visit

Well, after a month with my sore leg I went to the Doctor today. He ordered many tests and I am waiting the results. I should have studied up for these tests. If my leg and knee was not hurting, I might have done just that. 😊

My leg feels better today, but that might be just because I went to the doctor. I still think there is something wrong in there. If not, "Time heals all wounds."

## Perimeter Barriers

I need my leg to get more better so I can get out there and put the rest of the wire to let Herbie mow more of the grass. It has been a month since I cut the front yard on the north side of the sidewalk. Maybe 6 weeks on the north side of the driveway.

On the other hand, the back and south side of the front looks nice. Well, there is still those weeds I must take care of. 😞

## Coffee

14-Jul-20 9:44 am @EWT 76° ☀️

The last few days I have not been up to Starbucks for coffee. I could use one right now.

I have not been feeling like going up there just for me and not being able to sit around and drinking and talking. There is something about sitting around and watching the people. Even if you are up there alone.

I guess the time will come when people will be able to start doing that. It just will not be this week.

Today is farmers market day and it makes the parking difficult. Those farmers are taking a lot more of the parking on the Square being spread out like they are. I must get there too early.

I guess the coffee can wait!

## Old Notebooks

I started going through the paper notebooks I have found lying around. There are a bunch of them! Like Marty's Random Thoughts, these have stories in them. Mostly it is paper that could be recycled.

I decided to transcribe them. The first one I grabbed was for May 2007 in Spain.

I wonder if that ever made it into my book. Later I need to see.

It talks about the aches and pains in the first few days. Mike was walking with me then.

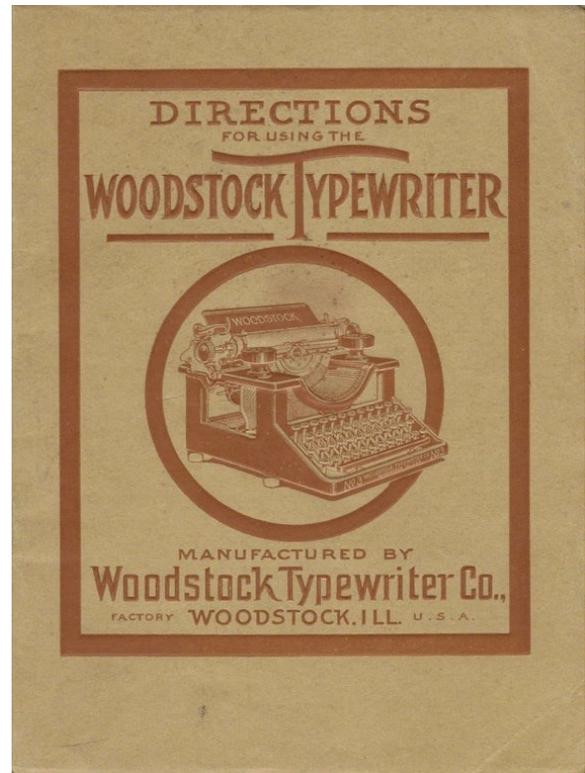
I will not go into the details. You will have to read the book. 😊 *My Camino de Santiago Adventure, 2nd edition 2018*

I only briefly looked at the dates in the notebooks. Some of them go back to the last century. At this time, I can only wonder what I was thinking back then.

It is going to take a long time to go through all this to see what I can learn from my past.

If anything, important is found I will let you know.

## I was just thinking



## Here it is Friday

17-Jul-20 8:10 am @EWT Temp Unknown but ☀️

Today has not started off to great. It all started after I returned from the doctor yesterday.

The Doctor said the x-rays of my need looked surprisingly healthy for someone of my age. We

decided I must have twisted my knee and it will get better with a little therapee. I started those exercises this morning here at EWT. These are things I should have been doing anyway.

## **Robot Fence**

I have not been using Herbie every day because of the heat and dry air. The grass has not been growing much. I stopped the schedule to run it manually.

I decided to start it up for a few hours to catch up a little. The grass and the weeds were fighting to see who could get taller. Well...

Well, seem the primary wire is missing. That wire is the wire that goes around the outside to keep Herbie in my yard.

I checked my splices and walked to wire and saw nothing wrong? I need a Wire Loop Break Detector to trace this. The grass has been growing over the wire and awfully hard to see anything wrong. They are around \$25.00. I could use an AM radio to do that too. I will figure that out later today.

## **Aches and Pains**

This morning I woke up with a stiff neck and a splinter in my finger. What is going on?

## **Internet is Broken**

I went to check my mail and found the Internet was not there. After Checking my modems and rebooting them, I found the problem was elsewhere.

I tried my iPhone's hotspot and it failed too. So, I headed to Starbucks for coffee.

I came out here to EWT and the Internet was out here too. That is three internet providers that failed. That tells me it was the INTERNET that was BROKEN.

Do you know what you can do without the internet? Try it some time. It is not just email that will not work. Think about it! 😞

It just came back now. It has been back for a few minutes.

What was I going to do today? I forgot;?!

## **Not Much Better Yet**

Here it is night at night and today has not gotten much better. Yes, some things are not so bad, but others are.

After getting the wire loop tester I have not used it yet. Herbie decided to go on vacation or something. My Landroid will not power up. I checked the battery and looked it over to see if I could find something to fix. I found nothing I could do!

I called support and they are going to send me a shipping label to return it for servicing. So, currently Herbie is the same as being on vacation in NC for a couple of weeks.

Tomorrow I will check out the wire that goes around the perimeter. The Wire Tracker is easy to use. Just hook one wire to the perimeter wire and ground the other. Then use the probe the touch the perimeter wire until you do not get a BEEP! The problem will near that spot.

I will also have time to install the rest of the perimeter wire while Herbie is on vacation.

## **What is in a Name.**

A couple people wonder why Herbie. Well the Worx Landroid wonders around the yard and you do not know where he will go next or where he is unless you go look all over the place to find him.

When I worked at Woodstock Die Casting in the late 1960s and clear up to when I left in 1983 Herbie worked there. Herbie was one of those guys who work there as a Die Caster. You never knew where he was, and he was always hard to find.

I remember one time he relieved me for break. Some die casting machines had to be run through break the keep the die hot. Many times, when Herbie relieved me, I would come back from break and the machine would be sitting with the cooling water running and the machine was idle and getting cold. Sometimes I had to scrap parts for a half hour while the die got back up to operating temperature.

Funny, one time I handcuffed him to the machine, so he did not go wondering off. Before I got too far away, I realized that was not a safe thing to do. I came back and apologize and told Herbie

why I did it. It was the last time he screwed off when he was relieving my machine.

That is why my Landroid is named Herbie!  
I still have those handcuffs somewhere.

## Car Problems

I went to Crystal Lake yesterday and on the way back I found the cruise control is not working. I wonder if that is the same problem. The 3 passenger windows are not working either.

Fuse maybe? Passenger windows and the cruise control are not working. I guess I must crawl under the dashboard and check those fuses. 😞

This is just another one of those things that have been failing on my car. I really need to find a replacement.

## Received the Shipping Orders

20-Jul-20 10:20 am @EWT 75° Sunny

Herbie received his shipping orders today. When I get home, I will send him off on his vacation. While he is gone, I guess I should do his job. The grass might get mighty long in the 2 weeks without him.

Oh well, that is not much different than when I worked at Knaack. I had to do my job while I went on vacation there too. 😊

## Penny Found

When I stopped at Starbucks this morning, I found a penny in the dirt. It was heads up! Coins found heads up are lucky. You need to put them in your pocket for good luck all day. For better luck you give it to someone and wish them good luck.

On the other hand, if you find one with heads down you should turn it over and put it in a sunny spot where someone can find it. You put it in a sunny spot so it will recharge the luck or something.

I always do this. It either works or it does not. You decide!

## Exercise

Except for Sunday I have been doing my rehab exercises to help my knee and leg get better. Today I added some upper body stuff too. I am going to be in shape for walking across Spain next spring! 🏃

## After Lunch

Maybe that lucky Penny is working!

I finished boxing up Herbie and put the box into the trunk of the car. I looked up to find where the drop off place was for FedEx and found Walgreens on the list. I go there to get my drugs. It is on my way and I had until 4:30 pm to get there. No rush!

I just was there, and the FedEx truck was in the drive when I got out of the car, I asked the driver if I could just give it to him. He said, "Sure!" I guess Herbie is off to Charlotte NC! I hope he has a nice time and is ready to return to work when he gets back.

They said it takes about a 2-week turnaround time to get my Landroid fixed. We will see!

I need to cut my grass!

## Camper Hinge

When I left to drop off that package, I noticed the other cargo door was still open from yesterday. It must have been open when I went to the Dairy Queen to see if the Camper was still working okay, it was. I closed the lid and noticed that hinge was shot too. I called Sunny Island RV and they do not have the short one either. Bummer!

That will take 2 weeks to get here.

They said they were booking service into mid-August now. I did not schedule an appointment today. I will wait until I get a hinge.

That tells me those hinges only last about 25 years since my Camper is a 1995. More like 24 years.

The Camper might be starting a cycle where it is going to cost me money to keep it healthy. I could live with these hinges, But I will not be able to store my stuff in those cargo bays.

## New Car

I still have not gone out and done any serious car shopping. It is not one of those things I really want to do, but it may be time!

## Family Tree

12-Jul-20 10:02 pm @Home 71° Dark

I got back to working on the Family Tree today. I did not add too many people. I did add a bunch of

pictures. I got through the “M” looking for parents of people that are related.

I want to get through the list once before I start removing the people that are not related. I think 20% of the people on my list might not belong in the family tree. It could be as high as 50%.

Maybe I will talk to Tim before I start removing any body. Tim, are you listening? 😊

I am a long way from the clean-up process. Right now, I want to get through the list once.

I think what happened was back when I started. I had the Metras and Jansen family trees on paper and I put them into Family Tree Maker manually. But I also had the Byers family tree. At that time, I thought they were relatives. I do not think that was the case.

When you use Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.com, you get a hint. I think that was my mistake. I got click crazy! 😞

Now I have Mom’s and Dad’s descendants and ancestors marked and I am only looking at them.

And I only look at the ancestors if they do not have their Mother and/or Father. There is still a little garbage sneaking through, but I am watching it.

With my new way I am getting a lot less people each time I work on it. I think it will pay off.

After I work on it for a while, I check for duplicate people and remove the ones I am sure are duplicate entries.

Only after that do I sync it up with Ancestry.com. Then see if they have any new pictures or stories for me.

I may be picking up stories I will remove later, but for now, it is easier this way.

Oh darn, it is bedtime! Good Night!

## Herbie

22-Jul-20 10:20pm @Home 75° ☀️

Looks like it might rain a little, but the forecast called for none today.

Herbie arrived in North Carolina to start his vacation. I wish I got two weeks off after I only worked a month. 😊

I should get out there and cut the grass. Herbie will come back wanting a few days off to rest up from his vacation. I know I always did!

I must eat lunch first.

## Later

I see this issue is getting longer than normal. Must be because I am not busy enough and have time to sit here.

I cut the grass. I need to get the perimeter wire for the Landroid (Herbie). I do not like mowing the grass anymore.

## CBS

The President broke into the TV to tell us what was happening about COVID-19 and I was listing to it. It was five o’clock and time for the news, CBS Chicago Channel 2 cut him off!

Even if you do not like Trump, he is the President! He was talking about what some say is the worse thing that happened to us in my lifetime.

What is happening Channel 2? I have never been very political and do not watch everything the President has to say, but he is the President of the United States!

It will be along time before I watch Channel 2! Grrrr!!!! 😞

## Too Hot

This laptop has been running hot for a long time. The cooling fan is always running. I decided to take the cover off and blow it out. Most times the fins are just full of dust which slows the normal cooling.

I took out about 20 screws and still could not get inside. Remember this is the laptop I have had since 2014. It was a high-end laptop. It has been a problem since the beginning.

I had to have it fixed just after the warrant expired and last year, I had to reinstall windows and all my apps.

Now it runs too hot. I think it is heating my office. It may be time to replace it with a cheap one. Or maybe even a desktop. The problem with using a desktop, I will need a monitor too. I do not have a spare one.

Wait I can build a PC. I will not need to buy one, just a monitor. I think I have one in the other room

that is new enough. I have 5 of them. Is set up as a server right now but is a spare box and may still have Windows 10 installed. I will check that out.

Now what do monitors cost now days?

Wow, I just took a quick look and a 27" Monitor at Walmart is \$149.99. My TV is only a 32"!

Now I will start shopping.

The screen is 17" so it would be big to go 27".

I have room on my 4-foot desk!

27" looks like the sweet spot in size. \$150 to \$300. Many at \$250. One was \$9,999! 😬 You know I do not want that one, I need a new car first!

Ok I have an idea what is out there. When this puppy dies, I will re-look into this.

## Lazy

24-Jul-20 9:52 am @EWT 75° ☀

Well I have been getting lazy with my knee hurting. It is ok and I need to get out there and break some cement and lay some wires.

If I take it a little easy, I do not think I will break my body again. I could break up the sidewalk first and get that ready while the weather is nice.

You may think that breaking up cement is not taking it easy, but it is! I am not pounding on it with my fist, I use a sledgehammer! I let the hammer do the work, I just swing it a little.

The work comes up picking the broken pieces of cement and figuring what to do with it. Do you want some broken cement? 😊

I told Michelle, if it were winter and snow on the street, I could toss it out there and let the snowplow move it down the road! 😊

So, do you want a little cement? Maybe for drainage in your flowerpots. Just come and pick it up.

As for the wire I need to lay 150 feet for the other side of the front yard and about 250 feet of the other side of the driveway.

And there are all those projects I have waiting for the CNC router.

I HAVE TOO MANY PROJECTS STARTED AGAIN! I need to reevaluate my projects and start finishing some of them. It is time to make a new list of lists again. 😊

Making lists helps me when I find them and see that I finished a lot of the things on them. I make a list and do not check it twice. Sometimes I do not look at it for years.

If the COVID-19 restrictions were not going on I could have a garage sale. Wait that is just another excuse. I could empty the garage and organize it for a garage sale. That way I would be ready when they remove the restrictions.

## Priority Project

I think the sidewalk cement and the wire should be first. Herbie should be back next week. And I will be ready for him.

The wire on the other side of the driveway does not need to be done so soon. I need to saw a groove in the drive to get the wire to the other side. Going across the top will cause problems this winter. Snowplow will snag it and pull it out.

Sawing a groove then putting the wire in it would be the easiest way to handle this.

I could install it now and just run it over the top if the cars do not get in the way.

## *Next Project.*

Clean out the garage makes sense to do next. I got too much stuff in there. Do you need or want anything? I am sure I might have something you are looking for.

Sitting here I can think of a few things that are out there I do not need.

- 4 new tires on the wheels, they fit a Ranger
- A window A/C, 5000 BTU maybe
- 3 Lawn mowers, one Gas, one electric, and the one I used
- I have one of those lists out in the garage somewhere!
- a little electric scooter, 12" wheels
- 2-wheeled scooter
- Bicycle
- ...

My mind just went blank on what all is out in the garage so I will stop here am move on to something else.

This issue is getting long! I need to get busy, so I am not spending so much time here.

I think I am thinking with my fingers instead of my feet and arms. My fingers are doing the walking. Wait, that was the Yellow Pages! 😊

## Wallpaper

I was looking at my wallpaper and thought it needed to be changed. Not on my wall, on my laptop!

I found a few pictures I thought I might share with you.

This picture is of my Fleetwood Motorhome. It liked spending my money. Every time I went somewhere it broke down. I bought it new. Go figure! What year was this Steve?



And this picture is inside the motorhome. Looks a little messy. Well it was about time to eat.

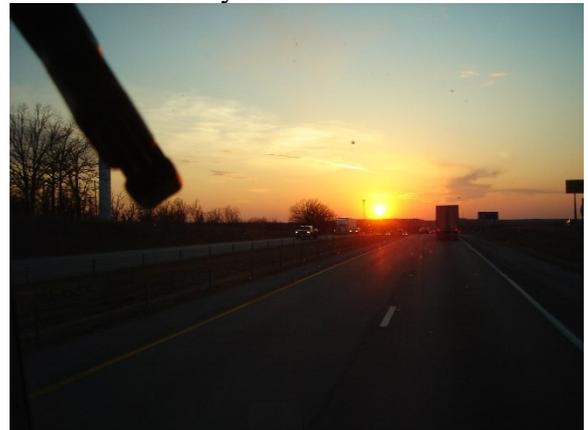


I miss those guys.



Oh, my car is in the picture too. 😊

Sunset has finally come



All three of these pictures were taking around the same time.

Anyone remember this couple?



I was only 10 years old in 1956 and I remember that picture.

What else can I find today?



Kim, who is this lady with Spike!

Here is this lady again with another dude.



She looks like she is enjoying herself!

Oh, here is the first place I remember going to school. I think Marie and Mike went there too. You had to beat me with a stick to get me to go there.



Is that still there? I went there in 1952/53.

I see the break lights are on, on the school bus. I guess the battery might be dead after 67 years. 😊

I wonder what else I can find in my pictures!

I am done with pictures for now. There are 30,000 pictures so I can get back to them another day.

I found this dated 2010. I thought you might enjoy it.

## Why the Number Three

*Why 3? The number three has always been around me my whole life. It seems that three or numbers that divide by three evenly are always there. Many years ago, I noticed that I saw a lot of threes. So, I started looking for the threes and see if they would help me.*

*I was not looking for miracles or to win the lottery, even though those would have been nice. I started to look for things that happened that had numbers added up to be a three and see where they lead me. This is like 3, 12 ( $1+2=3$ ), 36 ( $3+6=9$ , or 3 times 3), March the 3<sup>rd</sup> month, December is the 12 month ( $1+2=3$ ), and those kind of threes*

*I was born December 12<sup>th</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> month and the 12<sup>th</sup> days are both  $1+2=3$ . My address today is 702 or  $7+0+2=9$  and  $9/3=3$ . I have lived here the longest of anywhere. So, the story begins with what I remember where the number three has taking me.*

*I was the third born. I have 3 brothers and three sisters. I was born on the 12th month ( $1+2=3$ ) and the 12th day ( $1+2=3$ ). After Mom and Dad were finished there were 9 in our family ( $9/3=3$ ).*

*Playing with the threes is fun. When I went to the Laundromat, I would look for machine numbers that divided by three evenly. Numbers like 42, 36, and 3 itself. It was fun to pick out a three-washing machine right between two machines that were not threes. Like machine 18, between 17 and 19. My machine was  $1+8=9/3=3$  and the other two were  $1+7=8$  and  $1+9=10=1+0=1$ . Though 19 is a 1 that is an exceptionally good number I would washing clothes in my three machines and not have trouble and the others did. This was not always the case, but most times this would be true.*

*It seemed to be the case with dryers more often. If it were busy in the Laundromat I would look and only find number 41, 44 or other number machine that did not make me my choice of a three it would not work for some reason. When I got a number like 42, 45 or 72 all was fine with my dryers. Many times, I would see the non-threes out of order for some reason.*

*Playing in the Laundromat was fun. At first, I thought this was just the machines in this Laundromat. While I was still using Laundromats, I tried other Laundromats in town. Well it worked*

*the same in the other Laundromats. It was a little spooky at this point.*

*I found through experimenting that 3 was the best. 9 was the least lucky at the Laundromat.*

*Dated: 8/10/2010*

## **Whoops**

I just entered only 2 pages and I am on page 13! I guess that is not a Number Three!

## **ires Mow**

26-Jul-20 4:14 pm @home 91° ☀

Friday night I started breaking up that piece of sidewalk I need to fix. I think it was Saturday just before lunch I had it ready to pour concrete in the hole.

I had it broken up and removed. I had it washed down and formed up. I even put a tube in it so I could run the wires for the Landroid Perimeter wire to the north side of the front yard. I do not want people tripping over that wire. Under/through the cement keeps it out of the way!

After lunch, Tammy helped me bring the bags of concrete home from Menards. 420 pounds was a little much in the trunk of my car.

There was an accident in front of the Harley place, and they had the whole US 14/Route 47 intersection blocked past Davis Road. When we came back, we needed to go clear down to Lucas Road then to Dean Street. The traffic was terrible!

Tammy took me back to Town & Country to pickup my car and I was home by three. I normally get home about 2:30 on Saturday's after lunch.

Thanks Tammy!

After we unloaded all the Cement it was too hot to work on is any more yesterday. Those bags weigh 60 pounds.

Early this morning I went to Starbucks for coffee and a breakfast sandwich. I came home and read a book while I ate it. Then remembered I had made some oatmeal, so I ate that too!

Then I went back to my patch job. I put another wire through my form incase the tube for the wire was too low. I am a computer guy therefore I like backups!

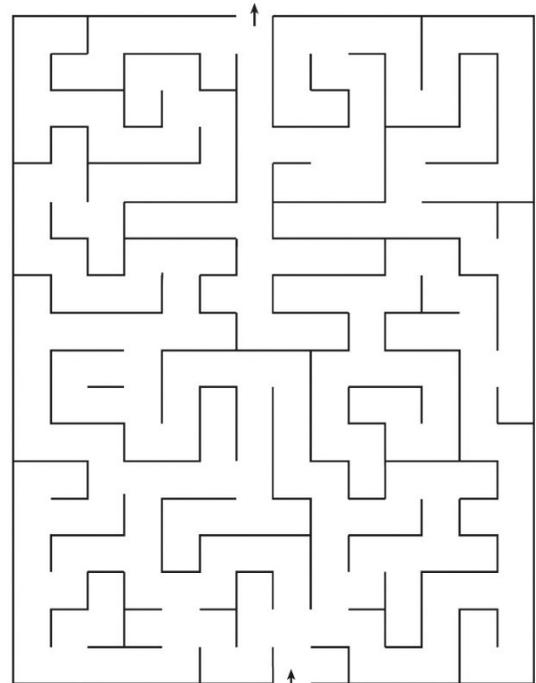
Before I started, I noticed my water hose was leaking so I patched it with electrical tape. My patched held but that hose is shot! It swelled like a balloon. I guess there is a difference in a \$10.00 hose and a \$30.00 hose. The thirty-dollar hose has been driven over and froze many times in the last 3 years. I bought the ten-dollar one just last year and has never froze or been driven over.

I read the label because I have not mixed concrete in many years. After mixing and pouring 5 bags I was done with that. The two extra bags are in my trunk ready to go back.

The patch is all smooth and all that stuff. I covered it with plastic for the next seven days. And all the tools are back in the garage.

Where did I get the extra space in the garage? It took me for ever to dig out the wheelbarrow from the back of the garage. I can walk back into that corner without moving very much now.

It is a thing the never ceases to amaze me! Thinking about mazes, here is one!



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This only took me 10 seconds to find the end. Unamazing! 😞  
I get the rest of today off!

## My Life Story

28-Jul-20 9:25 am @EWT 74° 🌞

I was clearing out old stuff from my hard drive and found “Life and Times of Marty Metras”.

I will be back; Michelle needs me to do something....

Whatever that was, I must have finished it because I am home!

## Perimeter Wire

After eating lunch, I decided since I could not do any more with my sidewalk until it cured a week or so, I worked on Herbie’s fence.

I have the north front yard done. All that is left is the splice where it goes under the walk. I will have to wait until Saturday when I can remove the forms. Almost done. I am trying to get done before Herbie gets back from North Carolina.

## Used Books

29-Jul-20 1:32 pm @home 80° 🌞

Remember if you are going to buy a book on Amazon, check the used ones. In many cases they are as new. And you never know they may be one of mine. I added more books today.

My used books are being sold under the name; “MRT Used Book Sales”.

And because this is an ad, email me and I will give you a 20% discount. Just let email telling me you saw this ad in MRT.

One thing, if it gets sold from Amazon before I can remove for you, it is gone.

So, let me know, so I can get it off Amazon!

## Enough

That enough for this month. Bye! 🙋

**Rest left Blank by me!**

## MY BOOKS

← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE  
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →  
2<sup>ND</sup> EDITIONS



*My books are available online from Lulu.com, Amazon.com and from me personally.*

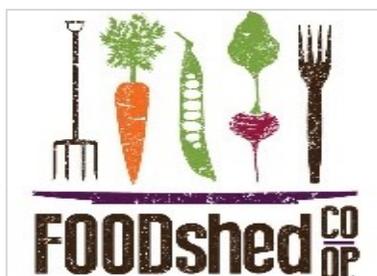


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