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28-Jan-21 8:56 am @EWT 84° ☀

It may be sunny, but it is C-O-L-D!

Oh well, it is going to warm up. "They" say it will be back to the low 30's Saturday. Of course, it is going to snow.

I have not gotten rid of January's snow yet. Maybe when I get that heater in the garage wired up, I can use the other kerosene heater to melt the snow. No, not all the snow. Just the part between the car and camper where I walk. That is ice! I wonder if the heater would do that. Heat rises, so I would think it would be more work than buying 2 bags of salt.

I should have bought that salt a long time ago. I almost never use salt. When I use it, it is for the path from the house to the car. It will take a couple of bags to remove 2-3" of packed snow between the camper and car. It is hard to walk there now. Now we are going to get more snow on Saturday!

I need some other things at Menards, so I will have to remember to pick up some salt.

29-Jan-21 11:32 am @Home 31° ☁

This morning I was woken up and, I think it was still dark. I think the text said it was going the snow later and I need to do my shopping early. It wasn't that bad because I went to bed early last night. Still, I wasn't ready to be awake!

The way I see it, about 4:00 pm it will start snowing and keep coming for about 7.3" until tomorrow night. Then we get three warm (30°) days then a few more inched of snow. Oh, well, its winter!

Camino in the Spring

While sitting here in front of the T-V watching *Blown Away*, a glass blowing reality show, I see these artists getting their creation just about finished and something breaks. They say, "Oh Well!" and start over. Sometimes they even win that round.

Starting over can help sometimes even with constraints. You learn much with mistakes.

As for my plans to walk the Camino in the spring of 2021...Today I don't think that will happen. There are too many restrictions for travel to Europe and no Americans can go to Spain without a two-week quarantine when you get there. Spain is bad right now!

I was just thinking. I could walk my Camino without leaving my block! The Camino in Spain I walked in 2012 was about 550 miles. Let's see, around my block is about 1/2 a mile. I would have to walk around it about eleven-hundred times.

If I walk around it once the first day, twice the second day, three times the third day, etc. It would take 2,200 days. Wait, that is way too long! How about doubling it each day, Meaning 1, then 2, then 4, then 8, etc. That's better, only thirteen days to go around 2,048 times. That is now too fast. I should use the car! I need to rethink This!

Last time I walked the Camino it was 2012. I was there about two months. From my front door and back was about 600 miles walking. So, 60 days and 600 miles will be easier to figure.

Ok, 20 trips around the block for 10 miles. 20 trips around the block when you are out of shape is a bunch too much.

I have been up for 6 hours and my FitBit shows only 600 steps. There are about 2,500 steps to a mile. If I am going to walk 600 miles, I need to walk about 1,500,000 steps. I BEST GET GOING!

Back from Lunch

Now I have about 1050 steps and it has not started to snow yet! I am stuffed! I can start walking later. 😞

1-Feb-21 6:34 pm @home 19° Dark

I was just thinking it would be nice if it were overcast and dark all day tomorrow. No, I am none a sadist. It is Groundhog Day!

If the groundhog does not see his shadow it will only be six more weeks until spring. Either that or there will be six more weeks of winter.

I am getting tired of the snow and cold. I want to get out and do this.

Sitting on the park bench eating ice cream with a friend would be a nice thing to do.



But no, it is going to be cold the next few days. Oh well, I will take it! 30° and sunny in nice too.

Four more inches of snow on Thursday then the sun should come out for about a week. I will not say it will be a COLD sun.

It looks like it is starting to warm up after that. By the end of them month it should be almost nice.

Maybe I will see my driveway again!

6-Feb-21 4:23 PM @home 4° ❄️

Spring is Coming.

Well, our Groundhog did not see his shadow. The last couple of days would not let you think that. It has been C-O-L-D!

Heating the Garage

I decided to get out in the garage and install that wiring for the heater. I have everything I need to do that.

I have enough fuel for the current heater to keep the place warm while I get the wiring done and install the new electric heater.

Well, yesterday it was too cold, and I needed a day off. Today I realized it was Saturday and not Friday. I blew off lunch and was going to go out to the garage. So here I am, sitting watching TV.

Now I am bored. I know I could go out to the garage and fire up the heater then come back into the house for a while.

Yes, it would be dark before I got back out there, but there are lights in the garage. There is also a computer/TV and a chair to watch it.

I could start working clearing the wall so I could put in the wiring. Or maybe mount the electric heater so I know where the wire must be routed.

On the other hand, I could forget it for today and start in the morning. That last big snow is still all over the car, so I cannot go anywhere.

I am so disliking this weather!

I will wait until tomorrow. I just looked at the forecast for tonight. It is minus 12°. It will warm up tomorrow. They say a 4° high.

I either need to deal with the cold or wait for a couple of weeks for it to warm up.

The earth is much closer to the sun this time of the year. You would think it might be a little warmer. Yes, about January 4th the earth is only 91.4 million miles. On July 5th it is 94.5 million miles away.

You think it be warmer in January. The earth is tilted, and the sun's rays have more air to pass through to get to us this time of the year.

A few million miles don't make that much difference in the vacuum of space. It is all that air that makes the big difference!

Maybe that is why during our winter it is so hot in Brazil. 76° right now.

A little closer to home in Sedona Arizona it is 61°, right now! I will see you when I get back! 😊

7-Feb-21 8:24 am @Home -12° 🌞

Good Morning

Will I think it is a good morning, the sun is shining.

I looked at the thermometer in the back yard and it was frozen at -13.4°. On the other hand, the one on the porch on the west side it was much warmer at -6.2. Heat wave, I guess! 😊

It is so cold my car turned white. Either that or the snow from the other day is still on it.

Yes people, it is COLD! Hence, hot oatmeal for breakfast.

Since my car has been sitting there for a few days, I should go out and make sure it starts. Same with the Camper. Though the Camper is not going anywhere unless I move the snow from behind it.

Don't you just love winter.

The Temperatures

- Iron Mountain, Michigan -13°
- Lyons, Kansas +11°
- Saint Louis, Missouri +6°
- Santa Fe. New México +26°
- Omaha, Nebraska +1°
- Sedona, Arizona +32°
- Woodstock, Illinois -11°
- Maquoketa, Iowa -12°
- La Grange, Illinois -1°

Where do the rest of you live?

I must go turn the heat up 1 or 2° to make me a little warmer.

14-Feb-21 8:19 am @Home -6° hazy

Happy Valentine's Day

Being Valentine's Day, can spring be extremely far away? I am very much tired of this bone chilling weather! Look we will be coming out of soon so I should be delighted.

Camino

I was longing last year to head to Spain and walk the Camino this Spring. All I have said many times, "You want to hear God laugh, just make plans!"

I am willing to wait for this pandemic to start burning itself out. Even in time the forest burns themselves over I time.

The Trial

The trial is over with a "Not guilty" result. I normally don't follow Poly Ticks. I watch hours of this ordeal. I did not watch all of it, but what I did made me wonder if it was nothing but a witch hunt.

It seemed to me that they were scared and needed to blame someone for what happened.

Most of us must blame others for things we do to ourselves. Then Democrats and the Republicans have been fighting so hard that we started taking sides. Then we started getting frustrated, and BOOM, a riot!

Now maybe this is over, maybe we can start talking to each other again.

Pandemic

I hope these vaccines will help to slow the spread of the COVID-19. It would be nice to get back to near normal. Whatever the new normal might be.

Ohio River Valley

Seems that over fifty years ago they found Roman and Jewish coins in the Ohio river valley dating back over 2000 years old. It is another reason we should not think that Leaf or Christopher was first.

In school I was taught that Christopher Columbus of Spain who I think was from Italy. He was commissioned by Queen Isabella who was Catholic. I guess that might be why the Catholic school taught us that.

Later I learned that Leaf Eriksson, who is believed to have been born in Iceland around A.D. 970, spent his formative years in desolate Greenland. Around A.D. 1000, Eriksson sailed east to his ancestral homeland of Norway.

There is more!

...
*So, who were the people who really deserve to be called the first Americans? VOA asked Michael Bawaya, the editor of the magazine **American Archaeology**. He told VOA that they came here from Asia probably "no later than about 15,000 years ago."*
...

Source: <https://www.voanews.com/usa/real-story-who-discovered-america>

The latest I have heard is about the Romans around the year zero. No BC or AD, just zero.

...
Each of the sites was well documented in the 19th century; unfortunately, they have all been obliterated by more recent development. They appear to be examples of what conventional historians consider to be relics of the "Mound Builder" culture.

Roman coins have been found in a number of locations along the Ohio River. Several old maps indicate the presence of "ancient forts and mines."
...

Source: <https://archive.triblive.com/news/oyler-ancient-forts-and-mines-along-the-ohio-river/>

I wonder what brought that to mind. Well. I guess it is not called Marty's Random Thoughts for nothing.

17-Feb-21 9:37 am @EWT 13° Sunny

Maybe Tomorrow

Yes, maybe tomorrow! It starting to warm up outside. I like that. I do not like the subzero temperatures anymore!

In the past I told everyone if it was between 120° and -20° I was ok. Not so much anymore.

Now days, it is more like 90° and 32°. Yes, I have gotten soft in my older years.

What is your weather like?

Texas

They are getting hammered with the cold and electric there. They can handle 120° days but not so much 30°. I hope it gets better for them soon.

I cannot even begin to think what it might be like not having heat/electricity when it is this cold. Even now I am shivering.

Kitchen Stove

I just bought a new kitchen stove and one of the things I thought about was if I buy electric and power went out, could I cook? Yes, I do cook from time to time! 😊

I would have liked to buy an induction cook stove, but they are expensive. I would have had to install another electric circuit to run it. And if I did lose power in the winter, I could not cook or use it a little for heat.

I know it is not smart to use the stove for heat, but in a pinch, it could be used. The microwave could not be used without power.

When I had the Fleetwood motorhome, I just went out into it when the power went out. It had a 5,000-watt generator in it. I never had to use it in the cold, but I did use it in summer a couple of times just because I could.

My Roadtrek camper does not have a generator but it does have a heater. It might not be the best heater in this cold weather, but it would do for a while.

Funny, I could not drive it around the block today. I need to remove the snow that is piled behind it.

So, what does a generator cost to install. I will have to ask Jeremy when I see him next. He sells the backup generators for homes.

Maybe that could be my next major purchase.

Wait, I just looked, and it is forecasted to be above freezing on Monday. I will wait! 😊

Marty's Random Thoughts

If you get this for MartysRandomThoughts.com you may know you can leave Comments on my blog. If you want to Post anything you need rights to do so. My reader/subscribers who have created a login can post things on the MRT blog.

All you need to do it to register by going to [Play Along] in the menu at the top and register.

18-Feb-21 3:58 pm @Home 20° Sunny

You Would Think

I bought my car in August 2020, about 5 months ago. I lost it a few times in the parking lots even though I always park about the same place. It was understandable to me because the old car was white and this one is blue. Well, the old one was a sedan and this one is a hatchback.

After all I had the old car for over 18 years. Habits are hard to update.

Today I parked closer to the door because it was cold. I remembered and walked right to the car and looking at it, I did not recognize it. I am not getting senile just yet. It was that all the snow had melted off from it and it was a greyish blue.

I looked at the license plate to make sure it was my car. Could not tell! I remembered the old license plate. I had to look inside to see my junk in it. Yup, it was my PT Cruiser and not someone else's. 😊

I remember looking for 20 minutes for my Honda and finally figured someone had stolen it. That was when I remembered I had driven my pickup. I was standing right where I parked it. All I had to do was turn around.

Do not tell me it never happened to you!

I am safe at home now and thinking about getting another white car. 😊

22-Feb-22 9:52 am @EWT 27° Overcast

Health and Safety

I hope all of you are safe and healthy. I hope none of you have gotten that virus that has been around. If you by some rare case got it, I hope it was mild.

I have been saved and as healthy as I have been able. I am, as healthy as I can be, because I went outside to move some of the snow out of my way. Not much of it. Just enough to get between the car and Camper to get to the garage. There is a lot of snow piled up around my place.

Later today I will go out and see if I can open the street sidewalk a little. There is a big pile of snow at the end of the driveway that is blocking the sidewalk. It is 2 meters high. Oh, 6 feet! 😊

I looked out the other day and saw someone trying to cross it. They looked stable but also struggled climbing over it. It is a safety issue at this point. I must try and fix that!

The rest of the street sidewalk is clear. It will be like opening the walk for people to walk with without going into the street.

The next place I need to move the snow is the walk leading up to my front door. I have not moved any of that snow since the first snow. The snow is just staying around this year!

I used to move the snow as soon as it stopped snowing. I would move enough to get out of the drive to go get coffee. Now days I just look out the window and wait for it to melt. This year is not melting so fast.

Now it is warming up a little I will attempt to move some of it.

3-Mar-21 10:17 am @EWT 40° 🌞

Time Flies

Some how March snuck up on me. I have been working on updating my LED Marquee sign I bought 20 years ago.

At one time I had it automated to get weather and stock prices and send the info to the LED sign.

I have it working and added color to it and have it working automatically.

Though I only have the weather and one color right now, it works again.

I found that those great big signs work the same way. That made it kind of easier to get it working again. And like everything else I still have found the software on my backup server and just had to figure out how to get it going again.

I see that I can change the colors and send a file to it kind of easily.

I have it data scrolling across the screen but could have it fill the screen or scroll up and down. I just need to learn how that part works.

Using that remote is too hard to program it. Using Linux makes it much easier for automating it.

I must figure out where I will place it once I am done. 😊

Follow Up

- **Electric Heater:** I have not gotten it installed in the garage yet. It has been

too cold and when it warms, I may not need it right away. 😊

- **The Weather:** I see I have been dwelling a lot on the weather. It is going to be 60° on Tuesday. So “They” say.
- **LED Marquee:** It gets the time for my computer and the weather from my weather station. I took a picture, but the camera is faster than the LEDs, so it doesn’t look good. Video will be in the comments once I post this on Facebook.
- **Opening the Sidewalk:** I had gone out and cut a path but missed the sidewalk. I will go out and finish the job in a couple of days. People can get through but there is still a big pile to move! 😞

Marty's Random Thoughts

The Backer Page



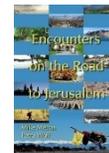
MY BOOKS
← **MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE**
WALKING THE WALK, CAMINO DE SANTIAGO 2012 →
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(2021 MAY BE MY NEXT CAMINO TRIP)



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



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We are a group of regular folks working hard to open a community-owned grocery store in McHenry County, IL and we hope you will join us!



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