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## Table of Content

Alaska.....1	Fantastically Day .....3	Grape Vines ..... 5
Top Projects .....1	Planting Time.....3	Petra..... 5
Soil..... 1	35 Years Later.....3	I am Digging It..... 5
Petra on the Camino.....2	New Pets .....3	Dirt..... 5
Garden Tower Project.....2	Garden .....3	Grass..... 5
Garden Boxes..... 2	Lawn .....4	Not Monday ..... 6
Self-Watering Pots..... 2	Weather .....4	Petra..... 6
Seeds ..... 2	Cloud.....4	Month is Finished ..... 6
Half Started .....2	Grass .....4	Follow up..... 6

Apr-3-2023 7:01 pm @home 39° F

### Alaska

Alaska is behind me now. It is time to get on to other things. What should I work on first?

### Top Projects

The first thing should be to de-clutter a little so I can get back to working on my train. It has been a while.

I need to recover the funds I spent while in Alaska. This means less spending for a while. No toys for a few months.

I started making a walking stick that is also a seat. It is warmer now and I can start working in the garage a little more.

I still have stuff to sell on eBay. That goes under de-cluttering so I can get back to building my layout.

I guess my top 3 projects should be de-clutter, walking stick/chair, and stop buying things I do not need.

Well, I need to start today, right now!

The trail can be on the next top 3 list. 😊

2-May-23 1:17 pm @EWT 49° F

### *Soil*

May has started. I need 10 yards of dirt in my garden. I think this is right, but I will refigure it.

I refigured it and I only need about 3-1/2 yards.

I was using cubic feet and converted it to cubic yards and got messed up.

That is around 70 bags or one truck full. By the bag, it would cost around \$175.00. I wonder what a truck load would cost.

Where would I get a truck load of good soil? Who is going to move it? I need to figure out these things. 😊

8-May-23 11:22 am @EWT 53° F Rainy

We are into May now and I didn't get to the Camino this year. The way I feel today I am glad I didn't go.

I have a case of spring fever. Maybe you call it hay fever. In any case I feel miserable. Cough, runny nose, itchy watery eyes, and all what goes along with it.

What are you going to do? It started raining this morning and it should clean the air. I have a list of remedies that may help, but for me they usually backfire. Meaning things like "Nodose" put me to

sleep and "Somnex" keeps me awake. That is the case with many of the over-the-counter drugs.

That is why I stay away from most of them.

10-May-23 7:48 am @Home 50° F

## Petra on the Camino

I received this picture from Petra this morning. She has been on the Camino for 6 days now. There is no information about where she is, just this picture.



*Petra and 2 other pilgrims*

Petra call just after I got this picture. These two ladies met her, and they are walking together.

She is in Roncesvalles eating dinner now.

Petra said it was 20 years ago when she met Mike on the Camino.

## Garden Tower Project

I have finished making the platform for my Garden Tower and have the base bolted to it. I must assemble it and fill it with dirt next.

Since it runs with compost, I must start eating more vegetables.

Basically, you fill it with soil, scraps from the kitchen, and add some worms to the scraps.

With a little watering, you grow many vegetables you get to eat.

### *Garden Boxes*

I have my 4 x 4-foot garden boxes that need my attention this year. I could not work on them last year because of recovering from my surgery.

They might do much better after I get them cleaned up and planted. Bob removed a tree that shaded the garden part of the time. A little sunlight goes a long ways.

### *Self-Watering Pots*

I have some pots I have used in the past that are called Garden Boxes. They have a space on the bottom full of water, so you don't have to water them so much. If time permits, I will get them out and use them too.

In the past they yielded good crops.

### *Seeds*

I have been using the same seed for 25 years. This year I may use more plants to save time starting.

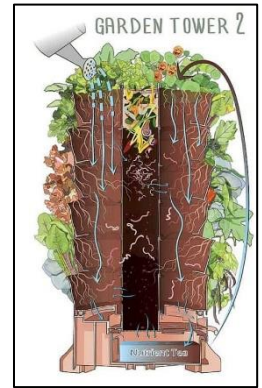
The last time I used these seeds they germinated and grew just fine, but it is getting a little late to try starting some of the seedlings.

I must look at my seed and see what's what and bet is going!

## Half Started

I have many half started projects besides the garden. There is the CNC router, the train, lawn cleanup, washing and the Camper. Seems that I need to start finishing, or finish starting projects.

I could fill this newsletter with projects I have started and not brought to completion!



## Fantastically Day

Today has been nice. I finished assembling my garden tower and have ready to start planting tomorrow.

Now, I must figure out what to plant after I go through my seeds. Most of my seeds are old! Some are 20-25 years old. Most of these seeds are good, just old!

I will need to make a trip to the greenhouse and get some plants. It is getting late to start my own.

Tomorrow is planting day.



Figure 1 Garden Tower Project, day 1

12-May-23 2:33 pm @home 68° F

## Planting Time

I figured before I start planting, I should look of my seed supply.

I think I need to get rid of the outdated seed. I have seeds I have had since the last century. Yup, 50% of them were dated 1998-99. I decided to dump them.

I was not worrying about then not germinating. In the past almost 99% of them came up. After 25 years it is time to let them go.

It looks like I have a bunch of 2010 seeds, and a few since 2013.

I must go through them and see what I want to plant now. Hmm.

In any case I have a lot of seeds!

## 35 Years Later

I just remembered, today is the day I closed on my house. This is a day I remember!

15-May-23 10:08 am @EWT 64° F

## New Pets

I now have some pets that I need to care for.

I received 250 red wigglers for my compost garden. If I just feed them a little garbage they will feed my plants, and my plants will feed me. Oh, and just add a little water!

Red wigglers are just small fish worms that eat vegetable waste. They are my new pets.

Since I bought my house 35 years ago, the only pet I have has is a fly that comes to visit for a few days each year. Well, the squirrels, birds, and other wild animals that live outside too.

## Garden

I planted the garden tower yesterday. I have it almost finished. The top still needs something. Carrots, maybe.

I have three of the five Earth Boxes planted with old seed. For now, I will see if the old seeds grow. I will plant purple Cabbage in one of the other one.

The 4x4 garden boxes still need to be cleaned out before I plant anything there.

I must try and mow my grass first. Hmm, I wonder if the worms eat grass.

I better check with Michelle, she said she might have those carrot plants.

17-May-23 10:52 am @EWT 56° F

Had the Pacemaker checked today. The only thing they said it that the battery is only good for about eight more months.

I guess they don't change the batteries, they change the pacemaker. It is a simple procedure. I can't wait! 😞

All is going well with LVAD. It is a couple months before the next check up for it.

### Lawn

Yesterday I started working on the lawn. I trimmed up where the robot will have trouble.

I started looking for the break in the guide wire for the robot. I have not found it yet.

I decided to block the front yard until I get it working in the back.

I cannot seem to find the wire after the break.

When you install the wire, it is just staked to the ground. After 3 years it seemed to disappear.

I will go back out there this afternoon and see if I can find it. The break I found first was in the center. Maybe that will be the only one.

Once the back is fixed, I can start working on the front. For now, I will bypass the front lawn.

The problem I am having is getting down on the ground and getting back up. Fixing the broken wire is the easy part.

I may need to mow the grass one time, as it is getting mighty long!

I need a lot of work on the rest of the landscape too! 😞

This is my next garden. Not so much grass to cut!



18-May-23 9:00 am @EWT 54° F

### Weather

It has not been the best weather for my seeds to start growing. It is above the low temperatures for the seeds to germinate but not by much.

I guess I will wait and see.

### Cloud

Not the clouds in the sky, but my cloud server, well, all three of my servers.

Yesterday I tried adding my newsletter at home and noticed it had not updated yet. I check my PC then my Cloud server. I found it had hung up for some reason. After rebooting I check the other 2 and they had the same messages on the screen.

All three at the same time is very unusual. It was late, so I only looked at the messages to get a clue.

All the messages were the same and said something about USB failure.

This too I thought was strange because I did not think I used anything that uses USB on any of those servers.

Ah, the keyboard and mouse are USB. All three server share one keyboard, mouse, and monitor. Could that switch have failed. I guess that gives me a clue of what to check first when I get home.

I have enough keyboards, mice, and monitors, so I could hook them up with 3 sets. It would be a pain to do it that way. It is much easier to use a KBM switch. Less clutter that way.

Well, let's wait until I return home to see if that is the problem. Do I have another KBM switch. I surely must have one of them somewhere. I have everything. I have everything else!

You guys may think I am always having problems with my computers and servers. When I had the problem the last time the servers were up over 225 days while being completely updated. And they are all 10+ years old. This time I do not think is a computer issue.

Well, I will see when I get home.

### Grass

I got the mower running. I had not run it for 3 years and the gas in the can was 4 years old. It started right up. 😊

It mowed around the outside of the lawn where the wire for the robot should be so I could get to it. It was getting late so I figured I could look for that wire another day.

## Grape Vines

I have been outside digging holes for the grape vines I bought. I could not resist trying to grow grapes. I bought three roots and three different kinds. I bought one each red, white, and blue. Not because I am an American. I just now thought about that.

I bought one of each of the grapes that were for growing in zone 4 or 5. There were only three varieties.

Anyway, I need to dig three holes and they need to be two feet deep. Did you know the grape roots grow as deep as 15 feet! The other thing is they live up to 200 years.

Digging these holes is going to take a while because I live on Clay Street and clay is all I have found so far. I tire easily and need many breaks. Maybe by the time you get this newsletter, I will have the grapes planted.

## Petra

Petra called me from Santo Domingo, Spain. She will continue walking the Camino. Santo Domingo was the place I had started to think about quitting for the first time in 2007. In 2012 I got there on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

On 21-May I was at Cardeñuela Rio Pico. That is about 57 km further down the Way.

I am not saying I was faster than Petra. We all walk the Camino at a different pace. It is more a reference.

I need to see how I did in 2007 when I had decided I was done. It looks like on the 12<sup>th</sup>-day, I too was in Santo Domingo. This was after losing my Pilgrim's Passport. That was where I was after trying to walk back from Najera to Ventosa, then from Ventosa to Najera then Santo Domingo. That was nearly 60 KM walk in two days. And extra eleven hours of walking that did me in. Hence, in Santo Domingo I was done in!

I need to go and dig my holes for those Grapes!

## I am Digging It

Sunday, I started working on those holes for my Grapes. After a while I knew I needed something besides a shovel.

The family used to have a set of post hole diggers. They were left over from the farm and have transferred between us. I checked with Cork and Marie and neither had them.

I worked on digging them with that shovel. It took me six hours to make a hole in the ground one foot around and two feet deep. Yup that means it would take me a very long time. It was too hot Monday and Tuesday for me to work on the other two holes.

This morning I asked Steve if he had a post hole digger. I found out he did and would lend them to me. I picked them up after 1:00. Around 5:00 I got out there to see how it would go. Well at 5:45 I was finished with hole No.2.

I have always said if you have the right tool, you can do great things. Thanks Steve!

## Dirt

I picked up enough dirt to plant those grapes. Tammy and I unloaded the car and put the bags near where the grapes would live. I figured 2 bags per hole. I have 4 more bags for other places.

Hopefully, tomorrow they will get planted. We will see.

## Grass

I got the grass in back cut today for the first time this year. Bob has cut it in front 2-3 times already. Thanks Bob!

Tammy and I found the wire for the robot so I can get repaired so Herbie can keep it mowed in the back. It was like a forest in the back and the robot would not have cut it anyway.

I need to get those grapes planted first. Then I have a bunch of work for Michelle.

I am starting to keep busy. I love keeping busy as long as I can. 😊

30-May-23 9:45 am @EWT 77° F

### Not Monday

People, this is not Monday but Tuesday! As much as I like long weekends, I get messed up for a few days after that. Oh well!

### Petra

Petra made it to Burgos over the weekend.

I know I say how far I was from where she was, but it means little. Everybody's Camino is their own.

It was that both she and I started on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

The difference was that I started in 2012 and she started eleven years later.

I will stop comparing who covered more ground.

### Month is Finished

Happy June, Marty

### Follow up.

- **Robot** wire has been a bigger problem than I thought and still not fixed.
- **Garden:** Many seeds are growing, and the top of the tower is carrots seedlings from Michelle and are doing quite well. The grapes are planted, and one has started to grow
- **Cloud Server:** This is still not reinstalled. Things are not going well. Maybe I am working on too many projects at once.
- **Michelle's Project:** I have not done much with this. I need to cut some boards then install them.
- **Next Thing:** I need to get back to that Cloud server and working on the project for EWT now.  
Oh yes, I need to publish this too! 😊

# Marty's Random Thoughts

## The Backer Page

### MY BOOKS

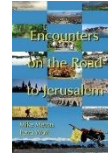
← MY CAMINO DE SANTIAGO ADVENTURE  
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### FoodShed.coop

1684 owners 31-May-23

We are a group of 3 regular folks working hard to open a community-owned grocery store in McHenry County, IL and we hope you will join us!



FoodShed.coop Location Video:  
<https://youtu.be/Uc3-OlpXe-I>



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