



2024

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Many have
commented that
my blogs and
memories should
be in a printed
format.
This is the purpose
of Ramblings
Magazine

If You judge
People, you have
No time to love
Them
Mother Teresa

The greatest
Wealth is to live
Content with little
Plato

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April 22,
2009

Happenings Plus Time Equals Your Life

February 4, 2024



I have many years to go back and review events that have been in my life and see if they changed anything about me. I have had medical issues, accidents, romance, spiritual issues, and a near death event. I am near journeys end. It may be soon or ten years from now. Only time will tell.

There have been many events in my life that I have published here already. Below are links to the events if you are interested in.

<http://tomt2.com/2023/08/10/my-blood-clot/>

<http://tomt2.com/2023/11/03/a-strange-tale/>

<http://tomt2.com/2023/12/03/memories-of-faith/>

<http://tomt2.com/2023/11/13/touched-by-god/>

<http://tomt2.com/2023/11/09/a-journey-of-faith-and-religion/>

The above and other events have changed my perspective. That leaves the passage of time. I am different now in relation to my younger years. I feel I am smarter and wiser than years gone by. Many times, you may have heard, "What is the purpose of life?" My feeling is you are put on this earth to learn and experience events. From birth to death, you learn from whomever you encounter and events in your life. I firmly believe that death on this earth is not the end of your journey.

It Will Not Happen in My Life

February 5, 2024

WARNING! THIS IS A DOWNER POST!

I have a lot of tough requirements for me to have an ideal day. They are way beyond of what I have very little control over. But I can dream and pray that they will come about someday. Below is my list of requirements.

Recently powerful countries have hinted they may resort to using nuclear weapons. I was raised in the era where "duck and cover" was taught in the schools. Here I was maybe one or two years in elementary school, and they were teaching us in case there is nuclear event on how to improve our chances of survival. This was very scary. Something you never forget. Remember the phrase? "Mutual Assured Destruction" It appears that world powers have not learned a thing. Here we are close to the possibility of destroying the world again.

The world is on fire. Russia attacks Ukraine for reasons I don't understand. How long will the conflict continue? Hamas attacks Israel. The conflict has spread to other parts of the Middle East. Houthis have attacked international shipping in the Red Sea. Three American soldiers have been killed in Jordan. United States has retaliated with bombing and destruction. Is this conflict growing.

Locally, the southern border is wide open, and millions have crossed. I have ancestors who immigrated to America. That was in the era of Ellis Island. It was organized and documentation was required. Many were sent back to their countries for medical or health and documentation flaws. Why can they now just walk across the border with very little information? What happened to the immigration laws and requirements?

Crime is rampant. Every day on the news you see and hear about car thefts, shootings and murders. Snatch and grab is new terminology that I have never heard before. What has happened to fear and respect for the laws? Homeless camps are springing up everywhere. Large cities are spending millions providing housing, food and medicine for the homeless. The cities with great histories have become filthy and dangerous. Many stores and companies are closing and moving out. They are slowly dying on the vine.

I have never seen so much hate and anger in the political arena. Very seldom do you hear the platform on issues and problems. All you see and hear is personal attacks on their opponent. Both parties are basically corrupt. They use any old law they can find to indict or impeach their opponent. This is the nastiest election I ever remember, and we are still 8-9 months away from the election.

These are just five items of concern for me that should be fixed before I have an ideal day. Have I lost faith in this country? No! But there is a lot of hard work and time to fix these problems.

Computers and Internet

February 6, 2024



The most important invention to me is the computer and the internet. I couldn't do today what I am doing now. It is hard to imagine the world without modern day computer technology.

I wrote this blog on November 6th. [How many computers do you have?](#)

How many computers and laptops do you have in your home? In my home I have four. One is my primary laptop. The second is an older laptop that the hard drive crashed, and I replaced the drive, the third is a desktop in my workshop. Finally, my wife has a desktop she uses. I suppose I do not really need four computers at the same time. It just migrated that way. Now I have found a use for all of them.

Back in 2008 I purchased new a HP2000 laptop to replace Dell laptop because support for the Windows operating system has expired and I did not want to just upgrade the operating system since it was about seven years old, and we all know how fast technology has changed. I forget where I bought the new laptop but that was the last new computer I bought. This laptop served me well for about nine years with no large complaints.

This has been a good backup laptop for my primary computer. About a year ago the

software sent out an alert that the hard drive was going to crash. How the software can predict that is beyond me. Anyway, I got a replacement hard drive for about 25 dollars and went to YouTube and got instructions how to replace the hard drive and keep all the information and operating system from the defective hard drive. After that I thought I might as well put it to use. So, I installed Audacity software which is an audio editing program and started adding music to thumb drives I can use in my vehicle sound system and make audios for podcasting. This is a good backup laptop if for some reason my primary laptop crashes.

In 2016 we moved into a new home for us. After being in our new home for close to a year and the HP laptop was in service for me for about eight years and I decided to look for a replacement laptop. The problem I had was I didn't want to spend the money on a brand-new laptop since the one I had worked fine. I read or heard somewhere that refurbished computers and thought I might as well give refurbished a try. In my search for a refurbished laptop, I found refurbished laptops on Office Depot's website and purchased a Dell laptop for less than half the retail price, around 300 dollars. It arrived in about a week and has been working great. I upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10 since Microsoft offered the upgrade free and support should be available until 2025.

As I previously stated we moved in 2016 and our new home had a workshop. Since I had such good luck with my Dell refurbished laptop, I started to shop for a refurbished computer to be used in the workshop. I found an HP desktop from micomp.com for one hundred dollars with prepaid shipping and a one-year warranty. They purchase computers from corporations when they upgrade their systems. And they are a Microsoft certified refurbisher. It has been working great since 2017. The only thing that went bad, the CPU cooling fan started to squeal, and I had to replace it. I also updated the operating system to Windows 10, free of course from Microsoft. I have CAD software on this computer and an electronic microscope to look at bugs. Also, I install questionable software on this computer to make sure it is safe before I install it on my primary computer.

The last computer we have is the one my wife uses. In 2022 we replaced an HP desktop with a Dell desktop for the same reason. The support for the operating system ended and it was time for a hardware upgrade. It was working fine when it was shut down for the last time. We got another desktop from micomp.com for \$150 dollars, free shipping and one year warranty. It has been working just fine.

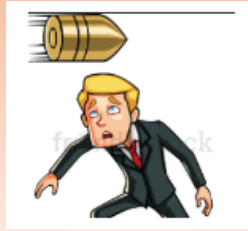
In conclusion, I have had good luck with refurbished computers. I have been retired since 2006 and on a fixed income and I do not need a top-of-the-line computer. These refurbished prices fit well in my budget. I am not a computer expert, but I do have more technical knowledge than the average person and that could be a problem for some. The largest problem I have is my wife, she gets in a bind many times on the computer, and I must rescue her.

This blog pretty much covers everything I need to write about my love for computers.

This was from a writing prompt
The most important invention in you lifetime is...

February 7, 2023

February 7, 2024



Not much to remember on February 7th. In 1940 the movie Pinocchio premiered. General MacArthur returned to Manila in 1945. President Kennedy blockaded Cuba in 1962. Not much has happened throughout history on February 7th. However, **February 7, 2023**, is a day I will never forget.

This is the day I dodged death. I was standing in front of death's door and Doctor Death was holding the door open for me to enter. Here I was laying on the operating table with a massive blood clot between my lungs. The doctors said they had better results if the patient stayed awake, so I went with that option. About 30 minutes after the start, I was really feeling horrible. I was having trouble getting a breath and there was the time I thought, "this is it, life is over". I must have passed out, but a while later I woke up and slowly started to feel better. I survived and spent the next three days in ICU.

Many times, while lying flat on my back, in ICU I thought many times, "Why was I given a second chance?" It has been a year now and I am still searching for the reason I dodged death on February 7, 2023. Until the reason reveals itself, I will just do what I do best, and this is just be me and enjoy these bonus days and hopefully bonus years.

Time for Spring

February 7, 2024



I have king sized cabin fever! I am sick and tired of the cold days. I am tired of the funny winter hats. My hands are always cold. I miss sitting out on the porch enjoying the sunshine.

I received a battery-operated hand warmer last Christmas. The name on it is Zippo. I am sure many vets remember the name Zippo. In my military days everyone had a Zippo lighter. I guess the sales of lighters these days are not that high, so they had to diversify. The hand warmer is nice though. Rechargeable and you can plug into your smartphone and use it in case your smartphone battery dies.

Denver Metro had a record-breaking snowfall recently and that did not help at all. I did not go out of the home for three days and that does not help cabin fever one bit. The older I become the more I cannot tolerate cold winter months. If I was twenty years younger, I may consider moving to a warmer winter month state. However, I am sure family would convince us to not even consider it. I guess all that leaves is to moan and groan about the cold months.

I need a break!

M&M's

February 8, 2024



I am addicted to M&M'S dark chocolate. I am not ashamed of it. I have been eating them since the announcement of the dark chocolate type. I still remember the saying, "M&M's melt in your mouth, not in your hand!" I think M&M's originated in World War II. The fighting forces liked their chocolate, and the M&M was created to fulfill that desire and solved the chocolate melting problem.

My Interests Have Changed

February 9, 2024



Throughout my many years I have had many interests. In my teenage years, cars and hotrods captivated my interest. After I got my driver's license, I bought a 1940 Ford two door sedan. It was a refugee from the junk yard. I paid \$125.00 for it. My dream was to make it a car show item. I didn't have a garage and spent many hours in the back yard sanding, cleaning up and learning about engine repair and modifications. This was before all of these emission requirements, and they were not as sophisticated as they are today. I quickly learned that those hot rod items were expensive, and my budget did not have room for those expenses. A couple of years after high school this hobby was over.

After I got married, we bought a home where the basement was partially finished. This was my next interest, to upgrade the basement. Hanging drywall and paneling was one of the jobs. Putting drywall on a ceiling is a task you never forget. Everyone wanted a bar, so I had to have a bar. All of these projects were a learning experience. you learn to appreciate craftsmen that do this for a living. You could easily see that my projects were done by a "do it yourselfer".

The most recent hobby I had was building birdhouses. We moved into a new home for us in 2016. This new home had a workshop and I started building birdhouses. One had to put this new workshop to use, right? I built many birdhouses. I gave birdhouses to neighbors. I sold birdhouses in garage sales. But after a while I had an overabundance of birdhouses. I finally thought enough is enough. In the end I gave the remaining birdhouses to a thrift store.

There have been other interests and hobbies that I enjoyed. Fishing, hunting, RV's, computer repairs and others. As I aged and matured my interests have changed. The longest interest I have retained is writing. Computers and the internet have helped this interest. I remember that you had to retype many manuscripts before you had an acceptable piece. I have had this site since 2009. It was a little dormant for a period. Now, **"I'm Back."**

Amazing News?

February 10, 2024

I guess this all depends on a person's definition of amazing, fantastic news. My definition is some news that affects the entire world not just my small piece of the world. For example, the fall of the Berlin Wall to me was fantastic news. Since I was born during WWII. Communism was a great threat while growing up. I had to spend two years in the army in Germany because of the Iron Curtain. In 1975 I took a trip and crossed the Iron Curtain from Budapest to Vienna Austria. The border was very depressing, 100 yards of defoliated land and machine gun towers 100 yards apart along the border. Fifty miles from the border the tour guide got off the bus. We asked why, she replied, "I am not allowed to get any closer to the border." We have many freedoms we just take for granted. The Iron Curtain was to keep people in, not stopping people from immigrating in. The Apollo moon landing and return was fantastic news also.

On a closer note, I cannot think of something that was amazingly fantastic. A year ago, I thought I took my last breath. When I awoke from passing out and heard that the survival rate was three to five percent for this kind of procedure, I thought that was great and thanked the Lord for giving me a second chance. I had a good feeling but that is all I could do because I had to stay flat on my back for three days. So, I couldn't get up start dancing and celebrate. The medical personnel acted like just another day saving lives.

I have not experienced a loved one near me survive a serious illness or accident and then survived. I do not know how I would react. I don't play the lottery so I will never experience winning millions. I kind of doubt that I will ever experience a "great, amazingly fantastic news event"! Time will tell.

My Dream Came True

February 11, 2024

Back in 2016 my dream came true. For about two years prior we have been looking for a new home. A medical emergency prompted us to do a home search since the EMT's was not able to get their gurney down the hallway. We looked at many building sites in the Denver Metro area and was not having much luck finding our dream home. We were about to give up the search and started to accept that the home would not be found.

One night around eight PM we were driving down this street we have been down many times in the past. I was going east and happened to see this for sale sign in a residential neighborhood. I asked my wife, "would you like to tour a home I just saw a for sale sign?" She said, "might as well, it doesn't look like we will find a new home." When we got home, I made an internet search and got the address and listing. It was just put on the market Thursday one day ago. Contacted our agent and she made an appointment for Saturday afternoon. We went Saturday and signed a contract the following Sunday.

The house was built in 1998 and the original owner was moving to Phoenix and was selling his home. It was all I ever wanted in a home. A two-car garage that didn't need to be used for storage space. A large master bedroom larger than the 10 x 12 one we are used to. The laundry room is on the first floor, one of the requirements since we are becoming seasoned citizens. The HOA takes care of the lawn, trash pickup, snow removal, gutter cleaning, and other items. The basement is finished, and it has a workshop. something I have always been dreaming about. This was the final straw. I wanted this house. To this day I still do not know how I saw the for-sale sign. It was dark and four

houses down the side street. My wife says, "it was the Holy Spirit at work and this home was meant for us". One will never know. We have been here for eight years and will more than likely spend the rest of our lives here.



King For a Day

February 12, 2024



If I had the power to change one law, it would be to enforce the laws now on the books. It can be seen everywhere that current laws are not being enforced. For example, thousands are coming across the border every day. All of a sudden, the immigration laws are not being enforced. Crime is rampant in major cities. If by chance they are arrested, then the DA then releases them with no bail. Just to be released to commit their next crime. Shop lifting must be legal these days. A new phrase emerges, "smash and grab" where large numbers enter a store and take whatever they want. You never hear of any arrests and prosecutions for these crimes. When was the last time you saw a police officer writing a ticket for a traffic offense? How many expired license plates have you seen lately? Because of the political atmosphere it has made it appear that there is a double standard in the prosecuting procedure. **Any law that is not enforced, the law becomes useless.**

Remembering My Parents

February 13, 2024



What were your parents doing at your age? Unfortunately, my parent's journey was over before they reached my age. My mother passed on from bone cancer when she was seventy-five. This was in 1982. Three years later, my father passed on from a heart attack when he was seventy-five. This was in 1985. Since I am over eighty, they both are watching me from heaven then and now. I have many good memories of mom and dad. They gave me a strong base to live my life. What I am and what I have done is because of them and the values and lessons they taught me. Sure, we had disagreements and differences, but I will always remember and love them for what they gave me and the love they showed for me. I am confident somewhere in the future we will meet again.



I am Just a Mere Mortal

February 14, 2024



I can't jump tall buildings, not as fast as a speeding bullet. I haven't received any heroic metals or certificates. Not a high paying singer, actor or businessman. Not an elected official or important in a religious order. I am just a mere mortal.

Born during World War II. Raised in Denver Metro area. Spent two years in the army. Went to Germany during that time. Got married a while later. Fathered two great sons. Had to experience a divorce and the heartbreaks associated with that. Remarried again after I met the woman, I should have met twenty years sooner. She blessed me with two great stepdaughters and two stepsons. After working forty-five years, retired and now have enjoyed over seventeen years of retirement life. I have experienced the "American Dream!"

I am Just a mere Mortal.

Patriotism

February 17, 2024



A patriot is a person who loves their country. It is generally seen as a positive. Many have ancestry from a foreign nation. They have seen or heard how their life has improved in this country compared to where their ancestors came from. They have realized they can believe a religion they may have been restricted from. The world is full of controlling countries and that may be the reason they immigrated. Whatever the reason, a love for a country is starting

to materialize when they come to this country and feel the opportunities. Have you ever heard of anyone immigrating to Russia, North Korea for the opportunities?

Defending a country against its enemies, and a desire to see it succeed is very important.

There are national cemeteries across the nation that are full of patriots that stepped up and fought and defended the country. Millions are in these cemeteries that made the supreme sacrifice in battle defending this love of country.

Most countries aim to instill patriotism in their youths from a young age, often through education and exposure to patriotic symbols and events. I remember in grade school they would raise the flag when the students were entering. When they were raising the flag, you would stop and wait until the flag was raised. We were taught about the many symbols and history of this country. Unfortunately, I have heard that this has diminished in the last years. If this is true, I am afraid that this will affect this country in the future.

Patriots believe it's their duty to vote in elections. This is based on their sincere desire for their country to succeed. Patriots pay attention to the events that are happening in the country and vote accordingly. Way too many do not vote and do not have a clue what is going on in the country. I am concerned that this lack of interest could affect the future of this country.

Yes, I consider myself to be a patriot. I vote consistently and follow local and national news and events. I served in the military and was willing to give my life for this country. I respect the flag and symbols of the country. I love this country and have no desire to go to any other country. This country has been very good to me, and I have lived the American Dream.

A Gift of Life

February 18, 2024



February 7, 2023, I received a gift from God. It was one of the greatest gifts I have received. On that day I was afflicted with a gigantic blood clot between my lungs. The surgeons gave me three options. The first was attempt to use medication to break up the clot. The second was to go up through the groin into the artery using anesthesia. The third was the same procedure but the patient stayed awake without going under anesthesia. They said they had the best results when the patient stayed awake. I picked that option. The most painful was when they cut into the artery to insert their equipment.

Somewhere in the procedure I was feeling very bad. I was at the point that I thought this is my last breath. I must have passed out and sometime later I woke up and was starting to feel better. The remainder of the procedure took about forty-five minutes. After completion the surgeon talked to me and he said, "Tom I think the right decision was made to stay awake. I am afraid if you would have gone under anesthesia, I would have lost you". At that moment I realized I just received a gift from God!

After three days in ICU and an additional day in the hospital, I went home. Doing some research and I find that only three to five percent survive a clot of that size. Also, most patients die within six months after. Well, it has been over a year now and I am still here! This has truly been a gift from God. How long this gift continues only God knows.

<http://tomt2.com/2023/08/10/my-blood-clot/>

I Do Not Have a Favorite Shoe

February 19, 2024



Sorry, I did not have a favorite shoe. To me a shoe is a necessity not a luxury. Life would be tough without shoes. Looking at scenes during Jesus's era and seeing those open sandals and bare feet. No Thank You!

I remember when going to grade school high top tennis shoes were the type to have. You just didn't fit in if you did not have high top tennis shoes. My mother would shop at Thom McAnn's shoe store, and we always got our shoes there. Are they even around anymore? A new pair of shoes always gave you a blister somewhere on your foot. When I started in corporate management Florsheim shoes were the brand to have. I had one pair, and they were the worse shoes in my life. After a short period of time, they were not comfortable and lasted less than six months. That was the last Florsheim I bought.

In the army I received two pairs of combat boots and one pair of class A shoes. Since I have a small foot, size eight, I received combat boots made for WWII They had a date of 1944 in the boot, and this was twenty years after the war. The boots received the most attention in my entire life. They always needed to be shined and one pair had to be spit shined for guard duty. They lasted many years after I got out of the army. Probably the reason they lasted was because I did not wear them that often. I never did get into all these designer shoes or sport shoes like Nike, New

Balance, Adidas or others. After I married, I accepted shoes from Target, K-Mart, or Walmart. Cared less about brand name but how they feel and wear. I am still in that position now. In conclusion, I never had a favorite pair of shoes and never walked "The Yellow Brick Road" in them.

A Three Letter Middle Name

March 8, 2024

middle name

My middle name is Lee. A simple name just like me. Does it have any special meaning, I don't think so. The story I got from my parents is that they did not know what to name me. They did not want to name me after any relative or friend. My older brother was named after my father, and they said that they found out after a period of time the same name in the family can be confusing. My brother is five years older than me and there was only the two of us.

I was born after the beginning of World War Two and my parents told me they could not think of a good name. so, for a name search they went to the listing of the men being drafted into the military. Apparently during that period, the draftees' names were printed in the newspapers. They came across the name of Thomas Lee, they like it and here I am. I do not have a clue what his last name was or anything else. All I know he was from the Denver metro area.

HELLO
My Name Is

100 Years Ago

March 10, 2024



Dear Tom, it's hard to believe that a hundred years ago you came into this world. It was shortly after the beginning of World War Two. You were only three years old when the war was over, so I am sure you do not remember much about this war. However, remember standing in front of the home and watching the military vehicles driving down the busy street a block and a half away going to Denver Federal Center maybe five miles west of home. It seemed like hours watching all those trucks going by. I am sure your parents talked about the war a lot when you were very young. I am sure their conversations left a lasting impression on you.

Remember your mother walking you to school when you started grade school. There was a busy street between home and school, and she wanted you to be safe. Miss Kushka, Mrs. Keebler and Miss Lee are teachers one never forgets. All the boys had a crush on Miss Lee. She was young, blond and so sweet. Everyone's dream was shattered when Mr. Groutt, the math teacher married her.

Life continues with junior high and high school. Those years were tough years. Our hormones were acting up and strange. Unfortunately, those were years of anger and hatred. We were mad at ourselves and everyone else in our life. Smoking and drinking became an important part of life. Then came full time employment and the army. Remember when you took the military oath after being drafted and the night long train trip to Ft Leonard Missouri. The military sure changed your life and outlook about other people. Looking back

at this time you learned so much about people by meeting people from all parts of the country, New York City, Florida New Orleans, California, Chicago, just to name a few. If Viet Nam wasn't staring you in the face, you may have made the army your career.

Back from your military duty you were looking for love and someone to have a family and begin the life every young red-blooded American wanted. Your desires come true, and you meet a young lady from Nebraska. Then marriage, a home, two sons and good job. Life could not be better. Unfortunately, this dream came to an end after about eleven years.

Divorced, unemployed because your job was eliminated. These were challenging times for you. But you did not give up. During those times you met your future. You met her in a divorce support group. Ten years later marriage happened. you have now been together for over forty years. Yes, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Remember a year ago you were at deaths door and Doctor Death was holding the door open. You defied the odds that only three to five percent survive this kind of procedure and forty to fifty percent die within six months after the procedure due to some other illness. It was just not your time. Your journey is not finished.

After eighteen more additional years I am wishing you a **Happy 100th Birthday!** You have had quite the journey. You have met and interacted with thousands of individuals through this life and learned a lot. I must remind you that the purpose in life is to learn. **Learn as much as you can in your life!**

Sincerely, Your Subconscious.

*A Daily Writing prompt
"Write a letter to you,
your 100 yr-old-self"*

Superstition Versus Faith

March 12, 2024



from Wikipedia, "A superstition is any belief or practice considered by non-practitioners to be irrational or supernatural, attributed to fate or magic, perceived supernatural influence, or fear of that which is unknown."

Faith is confidence or trust in a person, thing, or concept. In the context of religion, faith is "belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion". According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.

Throughout my life I have been exposed to many superstitions. For example, do no step on the cracks in a sidewalk, brings bad luck. Break a mirror, you experience seven years of bad luck. Four leaf clovers bring good luck. Friday the 13th is a bad day. My oldest son was born on Friday the 13th, I can't say that was bad luck, but good. I could go on for hours about superstitious encounters in my life.

I am a product of a religious mother and grandmother. They were very religious Catholics. I was raised a Catholic. I suppose you could say baptism is evolved around a superstition. If you are not baptized, you die with original sin and will never see heaven. I was taught if you die with a mortal sin, you do not go to heaven. You should be in the state of grace to receive the sacrament of marriage and so on.

I have had strange spiritual events in my life. My mother had a very painful medical death, and she was terrified of dying. How could this be? She was a very religious person, and all this faith

did not prepare her for death and the other side. This really bothered me that she was so unprepared. About a week after her service I had a dream, my mother was there sitting in her favorite chair and said, "Tom everything is good. Do not worry about me, continue your life!?" I was put at peace and my confusion resolved.

I had another dream about this girl that I have not seen or heard of for over forty years. She said in my dream, "Tom, you and I were meant to be together. If we would have ended up together our lives would have been totally different." Yes, that bothered me. After forty or more years why did I have a dream about her? This bothered me for a couple of months, and I finally went to my alumni newsletters and got her married name and made an internet search and found out that she died three days prior to my dream. This is spooky. However, it did convince me that death is not the end.

Another event happened in the last ten to fifteen years. I was going for a walk around the park and this loud voice came and said, "Tom, stop trying to be somebody else! Just be yourself! That is what you are expected to be! Ever since, that I am Just Myself!

So, is this superstition or faith? I guess it all depends on what the definition a person has of superstition and faith. I know one thing for sure. My spiritual events have impacted my life more than all religious teaching and superstitions.

projecting on three screens, and it was supposed to give you a panoramic view. I was nice, but you could see the splits of the three screens. When they remastered the movie for the DVD the split screens are not so obvious. The storyline was about a family that migrated from the east and migrated to the western frontier. It had stories about the Civil War. How the train expansion helped speed up the expansion into the frontier and stories taking place in San Francisco and California. The music in this movie was great! It was an important part to the success of the movie.

My other favorite is **Patton**. This is a 1970 movie about the experience of General Patton during World War Two. This is my favorite movie about World War Two. There is Saving Private Ryan, Battle of the Bulge and many more. However, Patton is my favorite. For some reason I have a large interest in this war. I don't know why. Maybe it was because I was born at the beginning and my parents talked a lot about the war when I was growing up. I have watched every episode on the History Channel about the battles, and Hitler with the Third Reich. Maybe I am trying to understand how people became so dark to do what atrocities they did then. In my life there has been World War Two, Korean War, Viet Nam War, The Gulf war in 1990, and the Iraq War in 2003. I know I left some out. My life has been full of wars. However, my most interest has been WWII.

My Favorite Movies

March 13, 2024

I have two favorite movies and have watched them many times. I have the DVD for both them and pop them in when I need an uplifting moment. Also, if I happen to be watching or streaming tv and I stumble onto them I start watching. The first is, **How the West was won**. This is a 1962 movie originally filmed in Cinerama. This was a process of



I Am Addicted to Computers and Internet

March 14, 2024



Since 1994 I have been addicted to Computers. I bought my first desktop computer from a co-worker who built computers. I think I spent around Seven hundred dollars for it. Those were the days of floppy disk drives, 32k modems, Windows 3.1 and cathode ray monitors. Those were the days where dependability was not a strong feature. Remember, "The Blue Screen of Death"? Storage capacity was below a gigabyte.

Technology has really changed in the last thirty years. Now they have storage in terabytes, thumb drives larger than older desktop hard drives. Access to the internet by many means instead of the phone line. Solid state hard drives. Ever drop a laptop and the mechanical hard drive was killed? Desktop and laptop sales are decreasing because smartphones are becoming so versatile. They say this technology is just the beginning. What will we see in next ten years?

I cannot imagine what my life would be like without computers and internet. My handwriting looks like chicken scratching. My typing accuracy was never very good. It was quite a feat to type a page without a typo. With the help of the computer and Microsoft Office of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel I can look like a professional, which I am not. I am able to share my thoughts and memories thanks to the computer and the internet. Although, I spend way too much time on the internet. I never did get into gaming. The most I play on the computer are solitaire.

I Survived the March 14 Record Snowstorm

March 15, 2024



For three days the news media has concentrated on the gigantic storm coming to Denver metro area. It finally started to rain last afternoon and turned to snow sometime during the night. Woke up with five inches of snow this morning. Some foothill locations got forty inches. During the day the lights flickered occasionally but never went out. However, there were reports that ar

rees taking out power lines.



We live in a community of forty-four homes and the HOA handles snow removal and received an email that snow removal will be done after the snow stops. Well, it has been snowing all day and I hope there is not a medical emergency in the circle. There have been very few auto tracks on the street, and I don't know if a fire truck or ambulance could navigate the amount of snow on the streets. plus, none of the driveways or walks are cleaned. Wonder if someone has a medical emergency and emergency treatment cannot get in, can the HOA be sued for neglect of duty? Since this post was started Thursday night I will finish it Friday.



Here it is Friday morning, no power outages, no fallen trees or branches. We still are snowed in though. The HOA crew has not done a thing on the snow removal. I have thirteen inches of snow on the front porch. The city did plow down the middle of the street. However, that leaves a twenty-four-inch pile of snow in front of the driveway. No way could I drive over or through that pile. I am over eighty and no way can I remove that pile of heavy wet snow. I guess I am snowbound for a while.



NEDERLAND	53"
ASPEN SPRINGS	45"
ECHO LAKE	41"
CONIFER	39"
EVERGREEN	32"
GOLDEN	24"



I am Ready for Spring

March 24, 2024



After months of cold, snow and being shut in more than what I like, I am ready for spring. The days are getting longer, and I am getting excited about the warmer days of spring. I like the spring. I enjoy watching the trees and bushes preparing to green up. Since we have moved, I do not have much space for gardening, but I still get the many seed and flower catalogs for me to thumb through and think of flowers and vegetables. I enjoy watching things grow and many days I just go out to see how things progress. Last year I did not have very good luck growing tomatoes but that did not stop me to attempt growing tomatoes again. The other day Dee and I went to Dollar Tree, and I happened to notice some seed packets. I had to buy some. I am not sure where I am even going to plant them, but I just could not pass up the good deal. Spring is just a happier time for me. Winters are hard for me to stay in. I am glad when I am able to get out and enjoy the outside without freezing my tail off. My attitude changes and it is just a better time in my life. That is one thing I really like about the Colorado weather and that is the many days of sunshine this area has. I remember when I was in the army in Nuremburg Germany for about 8 months. In those eight months I do not think the sun was out more than 2 weeks for the entire period I was there. This was from December to July but even the springtime was cloudy and overcast. The Nuremburg weather was not my favorite. I guess I will be a Denverite the rest of my time.

I am sure there are other things that happen in spring, but I just can't think of anything at the time. I guess I am stuck on the weather. Dee has asked me if I am writing about my duck. So, I will write about my duck. I won a duck at a bazaar when I was young. This was a recently hatched duckling and I enjoyed watching this duck grow up that summer. I made a cage and the duck stayed in the cage during the day and at night I would pick up the cage and the duck would follow me into the garage. The duck would stand on the paper. The duck waited for me to put the cage over her. This duck knew the drill. Also, I dug a small pond and would fill it with water and watch the duck swim around and have a ball. This duck gave me many fond memories.

SPRING IS MY FAVORITE TIME OF THE YEAR!



Easter Thoughts

March 30, 2024



Here it is the Saturday before Easter. Dee and her granddaughter Danielle are busy in the kitchen making Easter pie. It is an Italian tradition to have Easter pie for the Easter meal. It is basically sausage, eggs, flour and a crust. We bought twenty dollars of ricotta cheese yesterday and Danielle is bringing the sausage and eggs. How many pies will they make? Too early to tell. I would guess four or more.



Reflecting on my past Easters. I was born and raised a Catholic. I remember the forty days of Lent. No eating meat on Fridays. During Lent having to fast, the last two meals could not be more than breakfast. You were supposed to give up something for lent. Just like making a New Years resolution. I gave up on both and no longer even think about them. Stations of the cross every Friday during lent. You were reminded many times you were a sinner, and it was a job to get to heaven.

Dressing up for Easter service and a family meal after. The churches Easter guidelines have eased up quite a lot. The Easter Bunny was around with the Easter egg hunt. You had to hard boil the eggs and then color them. Does anyone do that anymore? All I have seen is the plastic-colored eggs. Surely some of the eggs were hidden so well they weren't found until the middle of summer. Easter has become commercialized so much these days and the real meaning of Easter is becoming an afterthought. I just saw that the president just banned religious-themed designs from White House Easter egg art contest. So many American traditions are on someone's agenda to change or remove them.



Retirement Years

April 1, 2024

The big day came in September of 2006. That big day was retirement. I had good thought and bad thoughts. For example, the absence of the stress of a responsible job will be good. I won't have to get up or be at work at a specified time. I can plan and do things that I never took time to do when I was working. I could go on and on about the benefits of reaching and being able to enjoy retirement.

On the other hand, I had reservations about retirement. Will my financial planning be adequate? Will I fall into the rut of being bored and not have enough interest in my idle times? I also thought about that I am now on the downside of my life and the inevitable will happen sooner than later. Also, will my health remain to be good?

In reality, I am enjoying retirement very well. over seventeen years since I retired and people ask me, "what do you do?" I respond, "I am recuperating from the last forty-five years. Sure, I still have stress in my life and things don't go as expected. I have had two medical issues in retirement. The first happened in 2018. I had an eleven-millimeter kidney stone in my right kidney and had to be removed by going up from the basement.. The next issue was a large pulmonary saddle embolism (blood clot) between my lungs. I thought I was going to breath my last breath during the removal. But I survived and it has been over a year now since that event with no long-term effects.

However, every day is Saturday and what I don't get done today I can do tomorrow. My outlook remains to be good, and I pray that I retain this outlook as retirement and the later years of my life evolve.



The Necessities of starting The Day

April 1, 2024

Normally my day starts between 7am and 8am. I put on my robe and go get my morning blood thinner medication with my vitamins. Then I turn off the oxygen concentrator located in the pantry and continue to the kitchen. Every other day I make a pot of new coffee. A pot usually lasts a couple of days. If some is left, I just turn on the maker to warm up the remaining coffee.

I then fill a glass with water and take my medication and vitamins. Then I walk around the home and open up the shutters and let in the light. That does depend on the time of the year. It may still be dark of sun shining in.

I then continue going down to the "Man Cave" located in the basement. Turn on the TV. One must find out if we are in a war yet or some natural disaster happened. How many shootings and death happened in Denver Metro overnight. unfortunately, the news is more bad news these days than good news. Oh, I also watch the weather to see what kind of day it will be. Then I wake up the laptop and read my emails and delete all the junk, spam, and phishing scams. Will the FBI ever learn that I do not reply to their email threats? I then go to X, formerly Twitter to see what is happening there and how many hits I have received. I then go to WordPress, Sub Stack and Blurb to look at the latest activity on those sites. Sometime in this hour nature calls and I do my daily duty to keep my bowels healthy.

By this time the hour is usually over, and I go to showering, brushing teeth dressing and eating breakfast. Since I am retired, if I run over an hour, it is no big deal.

A DOG, CAT, OR WHAT?

April 6, 2024



What kind of animals make the best pet? All I can do is go by memories of pets I have had. We lived in a small home with Grandma, a brother and I. Naturally Mom and Dad were there. It was only a two-bedroom house. My folks slept in one bedroom and Grandma in the other. When I was young, I slept with Grandma until I became older. I would say maybe until fifth or sixth grade. They had a roll away bed that was put in

the living room at night and my brother would sleep on the roll away. They did make another bedroom out of the attached garage sometime in my young life. That made sleeping arrangements much better.

When I was young, my parents allowed us to have cats, no dogs though, there was just no room. The yard did not have a fence and that was the main reason they gave us the reason for no dogs. The cat was sent outside to sleep at night. I remember the cat's names. There was Jughead, Sandy, Boots, Tiger and Lucy. My parents said male cats only, female cats have kittens. The only way we got a female cat was one day Lucy was at our backdoor as a kitten. She stayed around for a couple of days, and I became attached to that loving cat. Finally, they relented and said OK we can keep her. This was in my later teenage years and yes, she did finally get pregnant. At this time, I was then drafted into the army. I was in basic training when the kittens were born. My mother played midwife and by the look on her face when the subject came up. I think she really enjoyed helping to raise her midlife family. They didn't have much difficulty finding new homes for the kittens.

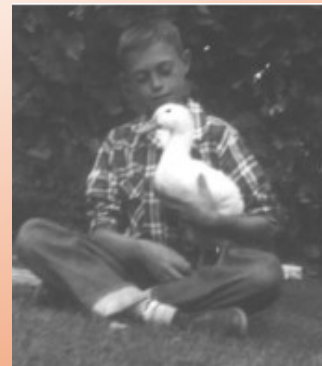
I also had other pets in my younger days. One summer I won a baby duck at a bazaar. I was able to keep it until the fall. I built a cage for her and in the evening, I would lay down papers on the garage floor and take the cage into the garage and the duck would follow right along and stand on the newspapers and let me put the cage over her. She knew the routine. She became Thanksgiving dinner to a needy family we knew from church.

I loved my duck. Never gave it a name though, it was just duck.

I also had other living creatures also. I had a goldfish. It just swam around in the fishbowl and came to the top of the water for food. I also had a turtle. It was just as boring as a fish. We used to keep it on top of the hot water heater. Well, it was forgotten about for a couple of days and the water all evaporated and so much for a turtle. In junior high they had hamsters and guinea pigs. We used to let the hamsters crawl in our sleeves and shirts. They were fun. My son had a ferret. Those animals had a weird smell. I had a rental property for a while and the renter had a boa constrictor about six feet long. No thanks!

In my marriage I finally was able to have a dog. Ginger was some kind of mix. Had her for a long time. I also remember other dogs. There was Gypsy, Cuddles and Missy. Missy was a peekapoo, she weighed less than five pounds. Had her for over thirteen years.

The love and loyalty from a dog cannot be beat!



Just be Myself

April 10, 2024

*Just Being
Myself!!!*

For most of my life I have tried to be something I was not. Many times, through life I heard "You should be like, whatever name you want to insert." In younger years I heard; you should be more like your brother. Just because he is five years older than me, I should be like him? I guess I was a handful when I was young. Going to school I hear the same thing. You should be more like Johnny. At church I hear you are a sinner and should be more like the saints and apostles. Well, I got the picture, I should be somebody I am not and be somebody that fits in the surrounding society.

My teenage years were very difficult for me. For some reason I was angry and mad all the time. I hated myself and my situation. Was it because I was trying to be somebody I was not or was it just the hormonal change that everyone goes through during that age. One will never know. I was drafted into the army later and looking back now I think this is one of the best things that happened to me in that period. This was in the Viet Nam era but fortunately my service period was served in Germany instead of Viet Nam unlike the seven other men drafted on that day. They all went to Viet Nam. Why I went to Germany and not Viet Nam is something I will never know. In the service you meet all kinds of people from many different areas of the country. Because of that I realized that the human race is not that bad. All the ones I met were basically good and were just trying to get through the challenges in front of them.

I have spent maybe two thirds of life trying to be somebody that I am not. You may believe this or not, but, one day I was taking a walk around the greenbelt near our home. There was nobody around and I was just having some silent time to my own. Then this loud voice came out and spoke. **"Tom stop trying to be somebody else, just be yourself! Your purpose in life is to be yourself!"** After that event I have decided to just be myself. Since that time, I been at peace since and am actually enjoying just being myself. I even like myself. This is one positive change I have made in my life.

Hormones in High School

April 11, 2024



Here I am 14 1/2 years old. I continued from junior high and started high school in the fall. The junior high school was walking distance from home. The high school was far enough away that I had to take the public bus to get there. I have used public transportation before so that wasn't scary. The size of the high school and the number of students were scary though. In junior high there were boys and girls. No big deal. The girls ran around with the girls and the boys ran around with the boys. You did start to notice a little that the girls shape started to change a little bit. Maybe they should just stop eating so much.

After summer break you and start high school and see the girls from your junior high and think "WOW!" they have really become attractive and interesting. Also, during that time, you look down and see all this hair grown between your legs. When did that happen? It wasn't there yesterday. You wake up in the morning and your male plumbing is acting and feeling very strange. In high school, there is Junior and Seniors and you are exposed to street sex talk. There is a difference between boys and girls. One form of entertainment was to go the local drugstore and look at the Playboy magazines from the top of the display shelves. WOW! The female body is really exciting and desirable. You want to join in on this excitement.

My mother sees the change and knows it is time for the traditional home sex education session. She goes through the biological difference of man and woman. She also takes the opportunity to bring up the religion aspect and reminds me that sex outside of marriage is very sinful and should be avoided. She reminds me that women can get pregnant very easily. This was the time before medical birth control and the condom was known to be not very reliable. Finally, she tells me that many women try to get pregnant so they can get their Mrs. degree. She also told me. "Tom do not let your hormones lead your life and change it that you may regret sometime later." This really alarmed me and for a long time I thought, will I ever know if she married for love or married me just to get a Mrs. degree? This is what I learned during high school, not in high school.

X, formerly twitter and their Grok feature.

April 14, 2024



I am a **X** member and use it very often. I noticed on their feature column a new box called Grok. What is that? I do an internet search and copilot comes up with this explanation.

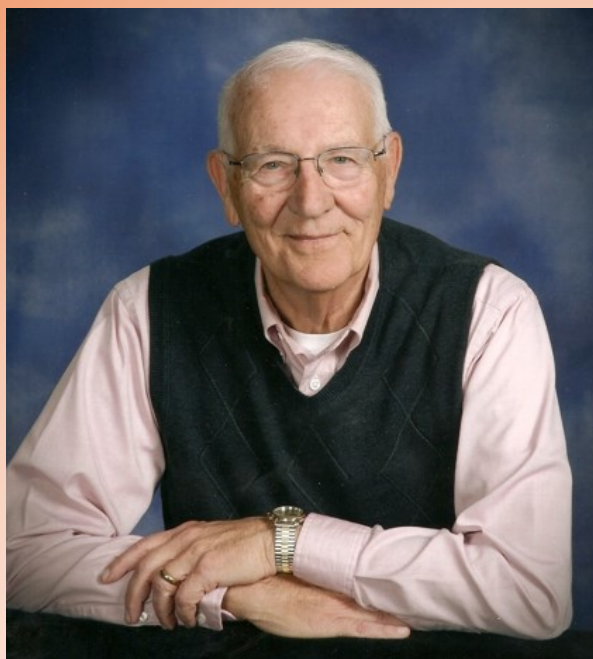
Grok is indeed an AI chatbot developed by xAI, which was founded by Elon Musk. Unlike typical chatbots, Grok has a quick wit and a rebellious nature. It can answer questions about current events, pop culture, and more. But what sets Grok apart is its willingness to delve into topics that are usually off-limits for other chatbots, including polarizing political theories and conspiracies. Plus, it doesn't shy away from using less-than-polite language when responding. Grok's most significant selling point is its ability to access real-time data from X, something no other chatbot can do. For instance, if you ask it about AI developments today, Grok will provide up-to-date information, while other models might offer more generic answers based on their training data.

I don't have a clue what a chatbot is. I am not a premium+ member and don't have a clue why I was allowed to access it. It appears that it similar to a Wikipedia format. You can ask any question about anything. out of curiosity, I asked, who is TomT2.0? In a few moments Grok came up this explanation.

From Grok at X Tom T2.0 is a retired individual from Denver, Colorado, with a long history of personal and professional experiences. Born and raised in Denver, Tom T2.0 has been active in various fields throughout his life. He served in the military and was deployed to Germany during the Vietnam War. After his military service, he worked in the television and electronics manufacturing industry, where he was part of a large company's distribution arm. However, the company was sold, and his job was eliminated, leading him to explore new paths. Tom T2.0 has been married for over thirty years and has experienced a near-death experience, which he survived. He has been active in sharing his life experiences and reflections through various online platforms, including a blog and a podcast, where he discusses a wide range of topics, from personal memories to current events. His content often reflects on his life journey, including his experiences in the military, his career in electronics manufacturing, and his personal life. In addition to his personal reflections, Tom T2.0 has expressed his interest in technology and has been active in the cryptocurrency community, as seen in his interactions on social media platforms like Twitter/X. He has also shown a keen interest in domain names and the management of online identities. Tom T2.0's online presence serves as a platform for him to share his life experiences and engage with others on various topics, reflecting his diverse interests and experiences throughout his life

I was surprised at the response and somewhat impressed. However, it is kind of spooky knowing that AI can come up with so much information in such little time. The only glaring error was that I have never been involved in cryptocurrency. I guess it goes to show that whatever is put in cyber space it never disappears.

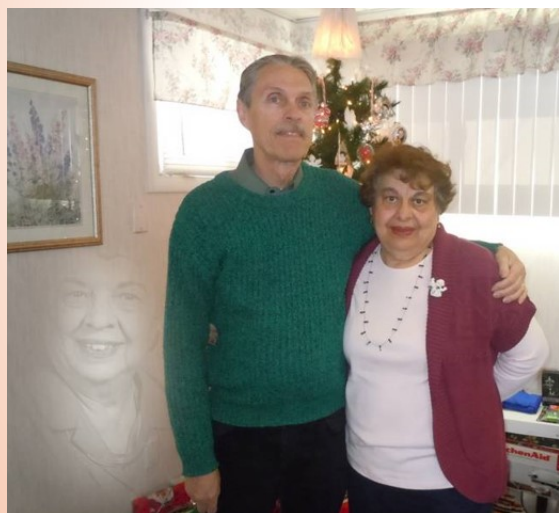
PHOTO MEMORY SECTION



STAN, A VERY GOOD FRIEND



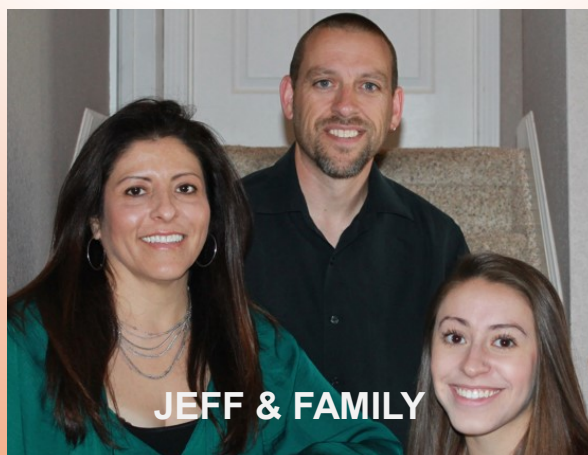
ADAM, MY YOUNGEST SON



DO YOU SEE THE GHOST?



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JEFF & FAMILY



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