

Everyday Luxury

November 8, 2023

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Rolled out of a king-size, electric-blanket-heated bed at 4:44 a.m.
Pulled on a terrycloth robe. Cats waiting outside the door.

Walked down the hall, passing the tile bathroom with its indoor toilet.
Stopped at the thermostat in the living room and pushed the "up" button four times to take the temperature from 64 to 68. Immediately heard the furnace in the basement turn on.

Fed each cat one scoop of the two different kinds of dry food they like.
Visited the triple door, stainless-steel-clad fridge and filled a plastic tumbler with ice followed by Body Armor electrolyte-fortified water. Entered the bathroom and felt warm air blowing from the vent. Turned on the hot water which arrived quickly. Brushed my teeth, washed my hands and face.

Spooned blueberries into a bowl, added yogurt and honey. Read and watched news from around the world on my Mac Mini over breakfast. Got dressed and returned to my office in the home where I began working on this with the astonishingly user-friendly Microsoft Word. What great writers like Ann Frank, Cervantes, and Poe might have done with modern technology!

Pulled my Hyundai Accent out of the garage and visited the supermarket one mile away. It's filled with just about anything anyone could want to eat or drink and the prices are ridiculously low—apples grown somewhere in Wisconsin orchards are tended, harvested, transported, and deposited in store bins where they sell for about \$1.00 each. How do they do it?

My car takes me 350 miles on a tank of gas. And I motor over mostly smooth roads, including Interstate highways that connect all corners of the country.

If I want, I can drive 20 miles to the airport, board a flight or two, and be practically anywhere on Earth within 48 hours. Or, I could travel practically anywhere virtually and take in local scenes from my office chair.

Receiving information from beyond our planet is easy, too. NASA's website provides data, reports, and images associated with numerous missions, some with exploratory craft—as in the cases of Voyager 1 and 2—that are already plying interstellar space.

All this just for starters in 2023 suburban America where life is good.

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