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Travel Calendar:

Vero Beach, FL: on Jan 1, leave 3/31

Clermont, FL (TT Orlando): on April 1 leave 4/15

Wildwood, FL (Three Flags) on 4/15 leave 5/01

Clermont, FL (TT Orlando) on 5/01 leave 5/22 Begin travel year three

December 30th, Sunday: It's the last day of the month. The biggest reason was that the Web Site has been in a coma and very difficult to access especially for me. I could type and add items but could only hope it was appearing on the site. That all came to a successful conclusion around the 25th of January when John Van Horn was able to resuscitate it from its comatose state.

Our first week in the New Year began at the Cracker Barrel in Titusville, FL., where we enjoyed Christmas with Dennis on Dec 25th, another Christmas on New Year's with Abby and family and lastly with Mary Ann in mid-January.

Christmas celebrated in 2016.



Yup, this is what a coach looks like at wrapping time. This was really my early Christmas present, the darker chair to the right. It's a rocker, which will stop me from trying to make the swivel, non-rocking chairs, into a rocker. Awesomely comfortable! This portion of the blog really belongs in December, but I think I'll stick it both here the back last month.



Back in the old days, those days of brick and mortar homes and lots of stuff, Christmas' used to be a tad bigger. Now we enjoy a much less expensive Christmas which will include very little stuff to box up. People ask us, do you have a Christmas tree, of course! Like everything in our lives, right now, it's in a more storable size, unlike the ten footers we'd had in the past. Muffy and Scruffy, our Christmas stocking critters. They've been with us for almost twenty-five years and look no worse for wear and tear.



Dennis, this year, would join us at Orlando TT Campground for Christmas. It's always been tradition for Carla and I to voyage to Boca and celebrate the Holliday with mom and Dennis, but this year mom and dad were with us in spirit. I never thought family pets would make out at Christmas. One of Scooty's best presents was Wobbly, and we recommend it for anyone with a cat.



No, this is not all I got for presents, but it's what I really wanted. But at over 3 ounces, 220 calories and 24 carbohydrates, I'm keeping it in the freezer till I lose five pounds before I devour this awesome snack. It doesn't take much to make Dennis happy. As you can tell we give mostly joke gifts, some have some relevance, but not many. In his hands he's holding a box of Archway Oatmeal Cookies. It's not that I mind his eating up my stash of Archways, just thought I'd give him some for the road back home later today.



Yes, this is Wobbly and Scooty in at play. Wobbly can hold a small supply of cat-treats in his belly, and it's refillable. Wobbly comes with a hole on his backend, to enable the treats to fall to the floor for Scoots to eat. It did not take very long for Scoots to figure out this routine. This works out great at night, most nights. Another dumb gift. We're hoping Dennis with adapt this lifestyle, if not full-time, maybe part-time. I'm certain once he gets his feet wet in the RV lifestyle, he'll go full-time; we're just trying to give him options once he gets into retirement. Oh, the gift, it's called the Exit Book, a must for all serious RVers.



Yes, books abound everywhere. Carla is indispensable in our navigation needs. This Road Atlas, unlike the four others we also have, highlight Flying J, other gas stations, Cracker Barrels and various campgrounds. Even I got more than one gift, as you can see on my head.



It's been an exhausting morning, opening gifts, so it's time to enjoy a good steak dinner.

Dec. 31, 2015

This is Dec. 31, 2015 and its New Year's Eve, and we've just had Dinner at Cracker Barrel. We are celebrating another Christmas with Abby, Mom and Michael, you know who he is. We've just gotten back from eating, Michael was late-he missed out on a free meal. Actually, we were hoping he would come, but were not sure.



In the past she's probably received more gifts, but our circumstances have changed, so now she'll get gifts from the various states we'd visited during the year. Abby, as usual, got the most gifts, but everyone got a little something, even Michael.



Yah, that's him. I remember being that thin and young-looking once, about a half-century ago, whatever! Next day will be a travel day as we move on to Vero Beach, FL for a winter vacation for the next three months.

JANUARY 2016

Jan. 8th.

An Ozzie Christmas. It's a beautiful day here in Port Orange, FL. This will be our third and last Christmas gift giving occasion. We'll be opening presents on Mary Ann's porch, benefits of having a grown-up home. Most ideal gift for any RVers, since we all enjoyed eating a little more than we should. Now that I think about it, some cinnamon buns with raisins would be great for breakfast tomorrow morning.



A very thoughtful and very appropriate gift for Mary Ann from Dennis. He's always the best in selecting cloths, especially when we had the benefits of a walk-in closet. This delicate swan is a weather indicator. We had one in the coach but it suffered a broken neck. *If it's fragile, a coach might not insure longevity.*



A very thick cookbook. Mary Ann is sports everything. This item will, most likely, get read more than once.



Today's the 31st and Carla is still trying to put this together. Vero Beach, Sunshine Travel Resort, has a problem with heavy down pours. All was back to normal by morning.



Our second week was equally as exciting, not to mention all the doctor appointments scheduled for the first three weeks in January. On the 13th we, including Dennis, attended the Tampa RV Show, which never disappoints. No! We're not looking to upgrade, but we were looking into something Dennis might like should he decide to try RVing if only part-time. Just checked, and I didn't take any pictures at the RV fair, awesome! We must be very satisfied with the Itasca. We've also taken time to review and update our Wills and Trust documents. Neither of us are planning to leave any time soon, still too much money left to spend, but having these documents updated every five years will make it easier on those we leave behind. As accurate as we thought we had them initially, we still made major changes and even some additions. We've also been inundated with heavy rains, as you can see from the above picture, but that's still much better than the snow that landed in Washington, DC. This last week in January, Dennis was supposed to join us, but work kept him at home, we expecting him to make good on his visit by Feb. 1, next Monday. In the meantime, we will finish up the Dr. Checkups, deal with more rain, rest as often as possible and wait for Dennis to join us.

FEBRUARY 2016 BLOGS

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Clermont, FL (TT Orlando) on 5/01 leave 5/22 Begin travel year three.

Moscow, IA (HWH)

Cedar Rapids, IA (MacDougall)

Forest City, IA (Winnebago)

Mount Rushmore

Glacier National Park

Dawson Creek, BC

Start Alaska Trek (July 19th)

2.02.16-National Navy Seal Museum

My brother Dennis joined us yesterday, once again, this time for just three days. Each time he visits is affirms to Carla and I that we are very fortunate to be able to live this lifestyle day after day. Yesterday was a rest day, time to talk about things going on in our lives but today, the 3rd, all three of us will venture out to, once again, experience the National Navy Seal Museum.



If you've been reading our blogs and our 2015 book, when it is available, you'll remember that we were here last year. The Museum was undergoing an expansion and each visitor was given a free pass to revisit here this year. This is the first item you'll see just as you enter the property. The statue is of Michael Thornton carrying Tom Norris to safety. Both men, Seal teammates were recipients of the Medal of Honor. Mr. Ross Perot donated the monument. At the base you will find the words: *Swim Buddy is a deeply rooted SEAL term which means each being responsible for the other's safety.*



The Trident. The anchor represents Navy, and thus its responsibility to protect and serve, guaranteeing the world peace. The Seals are a by-product of two other Navy branches; The Naval Combat Demolition Units and the Underwater Demolition Teams. These branches of the Navy were stationed at Fort Pierce, FL at the National Navy UDT-Team. You'll also notice the fork-like item in the Trident. It would symbolize the Scepter of Neptune of Poseidon, King of the Oceans.

The pistol symbolizes the land element of the SEALS. SEALS is an anagram for SE-sea A-air and L-land. Since 9-11 the Seals are now integrated into many combat groups, however, when additional expertise is needed Seal Teams go into action.

It was in 1961 the then President John F. Kennedy asks the heads of all the armed forces and Underwater Demolition teams to create a separate, new and unconventional fighting team to handle special ops missions with a high degree of expediency. A plaque honoring the establishment of this new fighting force has the following comment on it; *"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."* John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1961

On display, at the museum, is a wall with actual guns, knives and other military items used by the SEALS through the years. This is just on small section displaying guns. This is what the Museum looks like from the air. Not only is it full of descriptions and examples of the weapons they used, there is a typical training facility on the grounds of the museum outdoors.



I also found the plaque which I thought would be of interest to everyone. A real navy helicopter "Huey." Videos are everywhere showing examples of how these individual war weapons might have been used.



So much to read, view and try to assimilate, but that's the idea. Seals can do it all and are expected to be able to handle all situations. Glass case units are everywhere. One could easily deduce that the industry that never stops growing or reinventing itself would be "arms and munitions." Guns used in war-1944. Below is the rescue boat from "Captain Phillips." This is the inside of the rescue boat. The seats are extremely narrow, and the quarters are very tight.



In the left-hand corner of the picture is a screen running that portion of the movie "Captain Phillips" pertaining to the rescue vessel. Another actual helicopter used to drop Seals where they might be needed.

In the next picture is a picture of a steel beam from the World Trade Center. This piece was donated to the Seal Museum through the help of Mr. Lee Lalpi. His son, Jonathan, was a FDNY firefighter who died in the 9-11 tragedy. Above the SEALS were the heroes that executed the Bin Laden opt. On the wall in the background is actual footage of the event carried out by the SEALS.



The next group of pictures are of the training courses they must master. In front are the "Vaults." in the background is the "swing, stop and Jump."



In the picture below is the "Hoyas Logs" to the left is the "low belly over obstacle."



I'm not sure what to do with the "low weaver" below.



Next the "Net Traverse" Low Walls and wall climbing obstacles above. I'm sore just looking at this obstacle course!



Below would be a MK V Special Operations Craft. The little person under the MK V is Carla. At 5'3 she's not that tall, but it will give you a perspective on how big this craft really is. Now let's go on board. In 1996, it cost 3.7 Million dollars to build this craft. It would also cost \$4500 per hour to operate it. Not to mention that it is eighty-two feet long and seventeen feet wide. It needed a crew of five and could carry up to sixteen comfortably. At fifty-two tons it's not a potential pleasure craft. The boat below had room to carry four of the rubber boats below plus additional engines and personnel gear. I've only touched on all there is to see and do at this museum. Now, as you enter the museum, there's a video demonstrating the history and deployments of the SEALs. We watched the segment that was their current history, very impressive!

2.06.16-Saturday St. Sebastian Catholic Church
Of course this means church and pizza.



We are currently going to St. Sebastian Catholic Church in Sebastian, FL. Pastor is Fr. John Morrissey, right from Ireland, originally. He's put together a very strong and unified Parrish. It's been a pleasure attending his services.

2.09.16- Vero Beach

Feb. 9th, Tuesday So much is going on today, except here in Vero Beach. In New Hampshire they're voting and in New Orleans you will find celebrating in the streets. In Vero here we go about our days biding time till the winter storms are done, and spring comes once again. Temps here are getting much cooler. Our fireplace is on the blitz, to be fixed next week when we travel to Clermont, FL for two-three days to have the new dining buffet installed. We have a few more items that need looking at as well. We'll be staying at Camping Connections on US-192. Tomorrow will be the beginning of Lent and with that comes a little sacrificing and some reflecting on our current lives and how we might improve on them for His sake in the future.



Scoots took a field trip to the doctor's today for a checkup; she's been doing more scratching than acceptable, I thought, but Dr. Eric says she's just great, except for being a little on the porky side. I take a little offense on the word porky, possibly just a little chunky; after all, she still fits in the sink.

2.15.16- Sunshine Campground in Vero

Nothing much is new, still at the Sunshine Campground in Vero. The reason we're a bit dormant is that we've seen most of what is here last year. There are still a couple of venues still out there of interest, possibly in a week or two. Two venues we experienced last year were the McLarty Treasure Museum. I'm not going to dwell on it again since you can view it by clicking on the link below, it's a very good read.

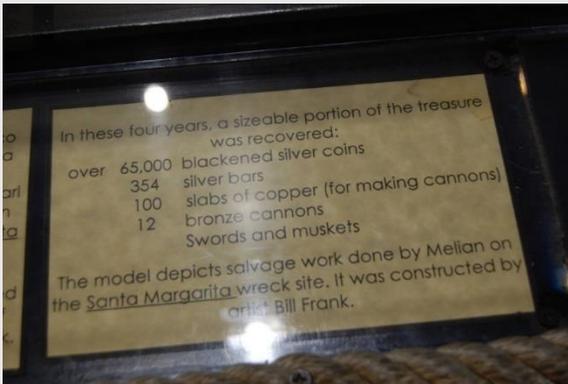
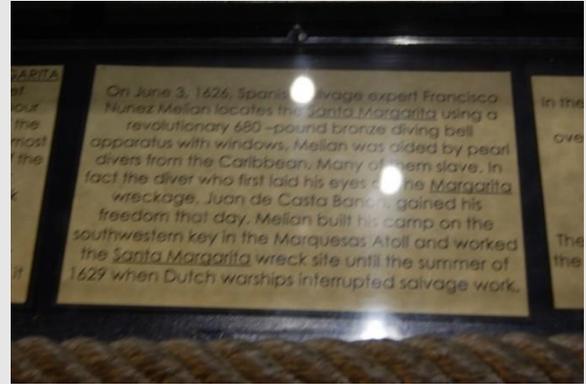
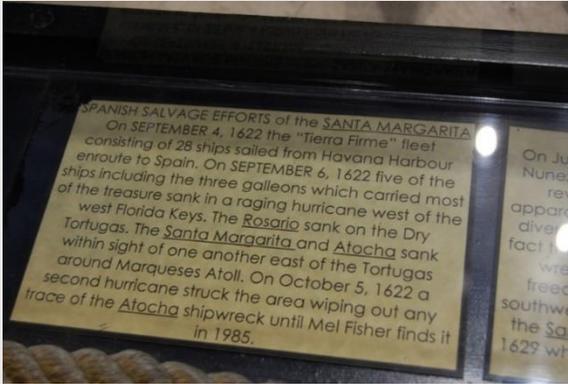
2.9.16-The Mel Fisher Treasures Museum;



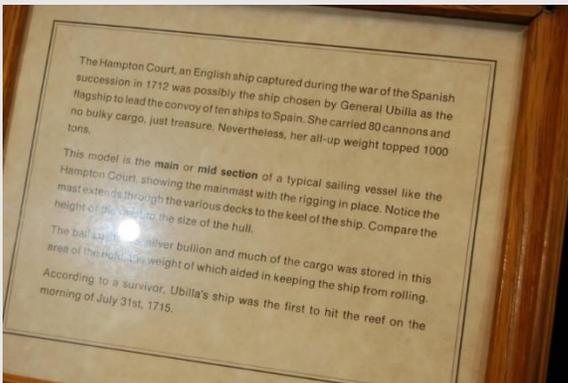
This is what you see from the road... But, it's a very unassuming place. We're now at the entrance of the Mel Fisher Museum. This is a cannon that was found at ocean's bottom from the sunken ship Atocha. Dick Fisher made the discovery in 1975.



On the wall above the cannon are the tools used to clean and reload the cannon. Below, in the back-right side of the picture you'll see metal balls. These were crude grenades but devastating when thrown onto an attacking ship by a sailor at the time. The grenade ball was hollow inside and would be filled with gun powder. Just prior to tossing this weapon the sailor would ignite it.



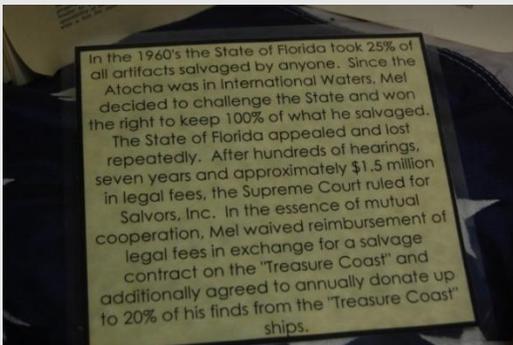
I found this item extremely enlightening. As you can see it's a cross-section of a 1600's sailing ship, the kind Mel Fisher was looking for.



Mel was not only looking for gold but items like the silver tea pot and religious items of course. Gold plated dishes, and once again, religious ornaments were high on his priority list.



This map, one of many, dates to the 1600's indicating the approximate location of the ships when they went down that that hurricane. Gold this and gold that is found in every corner of this museum. A plate that also tells a story. The Salvage Vessel M/V Endeavor. It was captained by John Brandon



So, I'm sure by now you've asked yourself, can I get a piece of this action. Short answer, probably no. Below is a short summary of the contract Mel Fisher has with the state of Florida.

I don't think anyone wanted to hear about this agreement. I've been told that anything anyone finds anywhere off the Florida is his, *he'll have a richer retirement than I have.*

2.24.16-Itasca Renovations:

Wednesday. We have been waiting for this date for six months. This is what we had:



Then we changed out the linoleum and old carpets to: This change alone made the entire coach feel so much lighter and airier, but it was not what we were aiming for. This day we're at Camping Connections where they installed the final dinette units, and now we have:



I know, you're saying that it looks like office space also, you're right. We live in less than four-hundred square feet in our coach, so if we can make an item for dual purpose, then so be it. We had Bradd and Hall, located on Charlotte Ave in Elkhart, IN. upgrade our coach. We had approached Lazydays to build this for us and they wanted at least sixty-five hundred or more to build what Bradd and Hall created for far less than that. This unit was delivered to Camping Connections (US 192 in Kissimmee, FL).

It came in one big box with four individual pieces. In less than six hours they meticulously assembled this beautiful piece of furniture. Camping Connections has come to our assistance several times in the last couple of years and once again outdid themselves without draining our savings. We continue to enjoy our new Dining /office sectional. Motorhomes don't offer the luxury of specialty rooms, except for bedroom and bathroom, but we multitask and multiservice sections. One thing did change. Our unit did come to us with a pull-out computer table, we did not ask for it, but we'll keep it. An error that, in the end, turned out to be a bonus we did not anticipate. I've always sat on the further side of the table, but with this unannounced computer unit, it was to both our advantages to switch sides. This would give Carla the three big draws she needs for maps and family papers. In the end Someone knew what we really needed. Our travel agenda for after Abby's Graduation, is coming together awesomely.



We're building in plenty on open days for both field trips and if the coach should need any maintenance.

3.13.16- arrival of Connie Fugere

We await the arrival of Connie Fugere. To the best of our knowledge they're the only other family members that own an RV. It's a Road Trek.



Currently Connie (left) and friend (Sharon) are visiting in Coral Gables and we're expecting them around 3:30 today. Connie is the daughter of Harold and Alice. I met each of them only once but they were folks who, once you meet them, make a very awesome impression. Harold and Alice always in our prayers. This is their first real camping experience with their Road Trek RV, and they're loving it. We're told that Connie does the driving while Sharon, like Carla, navigates. We had a great visit with them and will meet up again possibly next year.

3.23.16- Dennis is back and Easter



Always a joy to have him drop in and spend a couple of days with us.

25th...Good Friday - St. Sabastian's Catholic Church in Sabastian, FL



This is Holy Week and like many parishes it also had a Living Station of the Cross. What an awesome production. With a cast of possibly over six-dozen individuals and with selected readings and hymns by parishioners in attendance, the two-hour production held your attention from the very first minute. Those in attendance would sing "Where You There When They Crucified My Lord" intermittently at each new station. The cast individuals were as polished as you could ask for. This has been a production on the parish for the past fifteen years and will be presented far into the future. Lighting and costumes were excellent. Our church had maximum attendance. This is a production everyone should witness at least once. Fr John Morrissey, Pastor of St. Sabastian's, is the glue and manna that binds and grows this great parish, but humbly states "I just live here" ...Awesome!

3.25.16



It's almost time for us to begin packing up again. This has been a 3-month lay-over waiting all that inclement weather in the upper 47 states to clear out. Ordinarily I would be telling you we are beginning our third travel year but we're on hold for just a few more weeks. Abby graduates from Rockledge, FL High School on April 21st and we'll begin travelling again on the 22nd. We've patiently watched her grow from an eight-year-old day-care brat at our Child Care Center to a very charming young lady of eighteen years.

From a youngster who occasionally missed her bus and needed a ride or would be kind enough to give us a 6:30 am wake up call, telling us her bus hasn't arrived yet. It's a grand-parent thing and would not have missed or traded all those years for anything.

3.26.16-Holy Saturday

Just when I thought St. Sabastian could not possibly exceed any more of my expectations; we attended the Holy Saturday Celebration. With the same number of celebrants, we had on Good Friday, if not one additional alter server. The altar was occupied with three priests, three Deacons and three alter persons. The church was filled to just below standing room capacity. With a great selection of hymns, readings by all the priest and deacons, digital assistance for the parishioners, the church was overwhelmingly filled with the voices of all who attended and a full choir to augment the parishioners. The music, I'm sure could have been heard by those walking on the beach. A truly beautiful Holy Saturday experience. Happy Easter to all! Excellent job! Since we travel every three weeks in general, we're always in another parish. Our winter lay-over, for the last three months, in Vero Beach Florida brought us to this parish. It has been a pleasure and a very memorable experience temporarily joining the family of this great parish.

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APRIL 2016

4.01-16- Thousand Trails Orlando

Carla and I arrived in TT Orlando and settled in very easily and comfortably. We spent the last two nights at Camping Connection having a couple of minor improvements done. Parking the coach with dinghy attached was facilitated by the overly spacious RV/car parking area at the Registration area. They are expecting over one-hundred new RVs coming in on Friday and wanted all pre-registered RVers to try to come in as early as possible. We got in at 9:30 am and had no problems. Last time here our site was in the wooded area, called the swamp, there's no swamp there, just the name this area has. This time we're hooked up at the very back of the main camping area. Not much to say about it. This area is called the "Parking Lot." It's just that. Sites are set up in every which way possible to accommodate as many campers as possible. Just like last year they're upgrading the water and electrical utilities at the A, B and C site areas, so everything is a little tight. Great thing about here is the price. As with most Thousand Trails (TT) campgrounds we were advised to travel the campground and pick the location we feel good about. Wi-Fi, pool area and, more importantly, the price is right. As always with these Campground Blogs I'll let the pictures do most of the talking. The park is so big it has several pools strategically located around the park for easy access.



Another reason this is an Encore TT (Thousand Trails) Campground. Over a 100 acres and easy access everywhere. This is the Clubhouse with pool area in back. Tennis, pickleball and game room for the kids are here as well. Building in the background is the laundry room but most impressively are all the bikes in the foreground. These bikes some of them belonging to adults; a good many of these belong to the many kids that travel full-time and are home taught. Home teaching is a very big undertaking for RVers; and yes, the kids enjoy school hours, I've been told about three hours a day. This is the pool to the right, heated.



This is the pool on the left. There's also a Jacuzzi, but not visible in the pictures. This is another section of the clubhouse. They offer small orders of fries, tacos, burgers and franks. Picture above is the Ballroom. Otherwise known as the Bingo hall. Tonight, is bingo night.



Another look at the size of these buildings. Quiet room, but not very quiet. Books to read, VHS, DVDs to watch and movies available to rent at \$2/night.



Also, in the quiet room, as at most campgrounds, you'll find puzzle tables. Generally, just one, here we have 6 tables with puzzles started. It's just after noon and I've run out of pictures just now. Guess it's time to return to the coach, relax a bit. We're here until the 15th, just must deal with the temps around 84.

4.03.16- Devine Mercy Sunday.

As a Catholic I feel many of us look at the Birth of Jesus, Christmas, as probably the holiest, if not, the most important day every year. Although it is one of the greatest days of the year, The Resurrection, Easter, holds the title as the most important religious holyday of the year. For myself, and I do agree with the above statement, however, I wait eagerly each year for Devine Mercy Sunday. Sister Faustina, with the backing and assistance of Pope John Paul II, has raised the importance of this day all over the world, as the one very special day for everyday folks, like you and I. On this extraordinary day we can avail ourselves of the endless mercy Jesus has for us; it's ours for the asking.

The story of St. Faustina is available online for everyone to read. Through her Jesus has set the requirements needed for every Catholic to receive His Mercy on this special day.

The Requirements: (don't panic, there aren't that many.)

Go to Confession. Receive Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father, take part in the devotions on Devine Mercy Sunday and recite a handful of prayers. We spend more prep time than this making reservation to go out to dinner at a fine restaurant. *So, what does this get for us when all is done?*



The picture above displays the Lord with rays emanating from the wound on his side. As he related to Sister: *The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The Red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depts. of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross...Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299). So, what happens; the soul (person) that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness for sins and punishment. In the Catholic Religion this is a very big thing. The forgiving of sins can be obtained almost anytime, but with each sin, even a forgiven sin, there is a punishment that is due after we die, I'm sure you all knew that. As it is written, and it is worth repeating; whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day, Devine Mercy Sunday, will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (300) the operative word here is "complete."* This is punishment forgiven for all our sins, all our lives on this one special day. For this reprieve from punishment Acts of Mercy should be part of our everyday lives towards others and being compassionate towards others as well, which we should all be

doing, regardless!

HE leaves us with a parting statement: *Before the day of Justice, I am sending the Day of Mercy (1588). I am prolonging the time of mercy for the sake of sinners. But woe to them if they do not recognize this time of My visitation (1160). While there is still time, let them have recourse to the fount of My Mercy (848). He who refuses to pass through the door of My Mercy must pass through the door of My Justice (1146).*

The numbers (####) after many of the quotes are references to the Diary of St. Faustina, should you want to refer for the full quotation. In conclusion, I am not a religious, a priest or even deacon. But I would be the first to share the secret location to the fountain of youth, *still searching for it*, with everyone, if I knew of its location. *This information is the Fountain of Everlasting Life and its location should also be shared with everyone taking the time to read about it. Thank you.*

Carla and I were fortunate to celebrate this great day at the St. Faustina Catholic Church in Clermont, FL. Father David Gillis, the pastor here. This great little parish has had at least two "storefront" locations as it and its parishioners promote as much as possible, activities and events to help raise the funds needed to bring about new construction on a Church of their own.

I've been told they now own the property just up the street where they hope construction will someday take place. This new location, another storefront, was supposed to be big enough to handle those attending Mass, but the parish enrollment continues to grow, and additional seating is common. What is it that brings so many to this little church? If you've ever listened to a sermon, or homily as they are called, and left you hoping for more, then you were not attending St. Faustina CC. Father Dave is an everyday guy and his sermons never leave us asking for more. I only wish I were a person of means in order to facilitate the construction of their new church, Fr. Dave and his parishioners deserve their own property. Someday that person will attend one of his services and leave with a whole new attitude on this Catholic Church, and maybe he might just be that person to make it happen for these folks.

4.05.16- comply with our Wills and Trust

We'll spend the next two weeks getting our ducks in order to comply with our Wills and Trust both are time-consuming and a little expensive but should be reviewed every three years which is what we'll end up doing these next two weeks. This lifestyle often leads us to forget the real world, the world of contracts and obligations. To our surprise we discovered that an account we thought was nestled nicely in our Trust, never made it, two years ago, so we had to fix that. Right now, all is as it should be, at least until we look at things, once again, in 2020, if not sooner.

4.06.16-Walt Disney- Dennis visits –

He can't get enough of the type of living, so Dennis visits off and on. We enjoy it as well, gives us a third person to hash things over with. This week we'll be re-visiting Walt Disney World's Epcot on the 7th.



Just a few pictures to remind you of how beautiful Epcot really is.



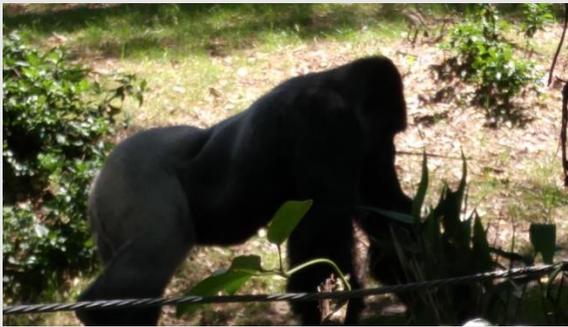
Thought I had a picture of the Mars Experience, but it was not to be found. It's been eight years since we were here last and back then the only choice available was the "full" Mars experience, which was more experience than I wanted. Now you have an option, with a limited experience, much more enjoyable. They have this every year, and it never disappoints. Groups of flowers below are just floating on this lake.



Yea, Dennis does look like he's having a good time. Now we're in Animal Kingdom, as you can see by the Tree of Life.



Inside and below the Tree of Life is an animated production in 3-D, called its A Bug's Life. I've never seen or heard Dennis enjoy anything as much as he did this venue. I thought he was going to ask us if we wanted to view it a second time. A jungle waterway. This is something I had never experienced before, The Lion King Show. It's very similar to a Cirque production, and very enjoyable. Yes, gorillas also live in Animal Kingdom.



A must, every time we do Animal Kingdom is the Flights of Fantasy. They have their birds trained so well I've a notion to drop off Scoots, our cat, and see if they could give her a little extra training. Kali River Rapids was also one of our last experiences. They guaranteed us that 2-3 of us in the raft would really get wet, they were right. Thankfully it wasn't us, although we did not walk away unscathed.



The Safari Trek ride through the Disney Jungles was next. It was going to be a sixty-minute wait but did not seem that long. The pictures that follow are only a few of the many taken...Enjoy!
Giraffes and hippos can also be seen enjoying a beautiful day.



As we left the Safari experienced one of our last images was of Mount Everest. Not sure when we might return, not for at least 2-3 more years, but we leave with many great memories. Dennis makes his way home tomorrow.



Sunday, I thought would start like every day in a campground, but we were pleasantly surprised to look out the window to see a family of four cranes prancing around between our coach and Gary's. The following Tuesday was busy finishing Trust items, and for the evening we joined Robbi and Bob in their coach. Robbi was nice enough to drop by a couple of days earlier to compliment us on what a nice-looking coach we had, then she said they also had an Itasca, SunCruiser, but theirs was the 38J floor plan whereas ours is the 38T. If both motorhomes were side by side it would be hard to tell them apart, except the front of theirs looks brand new. Ours will too in a few months. It was a delightful evening but unfortunately, they'll be leaving on the 15th as we are but they'll be heading to Silver Springs, FL, which is south of Boca, and we'll be heading to Wildwood, FL, north from here. I'm very confident that we'll be seeing them from time to time in our travels. What was very comforting to know is that they've been full-time campers for the last ten years living in a coach same as ours, so my guess is that we'll do okay in it as well.

4.15.16-Wildwood Encore/TT (Three Flags RV Resort)



Friday. We left Orlando TT RV Park around 9:45 and arrived in Wildwood a little over one-hour later. The trip, as usual, was very smooth and uneventful. I stress we always strive for the "uneventful" portion. Three Flags manager asked us if we had any preference, over the air TV was not an option. We chose lot 33 off Tennessee.



If you should be here or in the area, please don't hesitate to drop by. This is another property belonging to the Equity Lifestyle Properties group otherwise known as Thousand Trails (TT). I believe they have eighty-five Properties in the group. As you can see from the picture our site, like most of them here is a "pull-through." Once again, as you see, the sites offer little privacy. However, if this were a privately-owned campground, instead of paying zero dollars to stay here, it would be more like eight hundred or more to stay.



The perimeter road and the connecting cross-roads are paved, and every site is very easy to access.



The RV Park consist of two connecting properties. We're in the front section while others we know are situated in this back section. Below is the community clubhouse. It has pool tables and serves as a Bingo Hall. This might look like a very long, dull building; not really. Inside you'll find three big-screen TV's all connected and receiving dozens of stations, I mean dozens. It's also a gathering place for Sunday services and has a kitchen here as well. The building to the right of the picture houses 2 very nice pool tables. The pool sticks leave much to be desired, but otherwise you should have a very nice game.



Just outside the clubhouse you'll find horseshoes and mini golf. The mini golf area is awesomely clean and free from debris and leaves, unlike most campgrounds we've stayed at.



Above is a community fire pit, no fires permitted at the sites here. Below, what looks like a small tennis court, is pickle ball.



Additional picture above on the generous entrance to the back section. The resort is not very heavily wooded, but trees may be found here and there, should your site preference mandate a little shade. Below is the main entrance to the park from RT-44, excellent access.



Notice the large drive area coming in and below is the office, with equally generous space for anyone with a camper to park comfortable and safely while you check in. Mail is delivered here but unfortunately there is NO WI-FI at this park for camper use. Tomorrow, Sat., we'll be attending St. Vincent de Paul Church in Wildwood (see below).

4.20.2016-



Today was supposed to be uneventful, possibly no more than getting the windows washed. Then out of nowhere, came a truck, you know, a twenty-footer box-style truck advertising Pro-Tech Mobile RV Service. At first, we let it go by, then we remembered that our hot-water pressure in all the spigots in the RV was down substantially from what it should be. Next time the truck went by we made the call. Not only did they fix our initial problem they also noticed a plastic fitting that was damaged. This barely visible crack in the fitting would cause our water pump to go on, very briefly, as it re-pressurized. We've been noticing this on and off for the last month and now it's fixed. They are going to check out one of our sunshades, an MCD product, and procure a new motor for the shade. If our shade motor gets fixed it will save us from

visiting Winnebago in June. Our coach isn't new by any means, but it drives and looks as though it were a late model coach, priceless!

4.21.16- Russell Stover Chocolates

April 21st, Thursday. Well, this day isn't really known for anything except its four weeks and one day till Abby's graduation. We leave Florida the next day. We haven't had much to write about until today. Russell Stover Chocolates is just down the street from this campground.



I would hate to tell you what I was expecting. This is a big building. I expected we'd be treated to a tour; my only hope is that pictures would be allowed, but no! It was just a store. Why would I think there'd be more? It's called the Russell Stover Chocolate Store; not factory, not see how we do it, no, just a store.



It was jammed pack full of their own brand plus Millionaires and Whitman Chocolates; do you think they own them all? I did not ask. This is the other side of the building, close outs! What! We're campers. Our lives revolve around Walmart, Aldi's and now the discount side of the RS Store. The experience did have a happy ending; don't mind me, I have trouble getting my picture taken.



You should see the first of these two pictures. I'm not as grumpy as pictures make me out to be. Ice Cream was awesome. This was just a single scoop, yet the gal stuffed three scoops of chocolate chip in my waffle cone...priceless!

4.28.16

Our time here at Three Flags Resort in Wildwood, is ending. Carla still has a small wash to do, we have so many gifts to wrap for Dennis' birthday and we prepare to move back to Orlando on Sunday. Hard to believe that once back in Orlando we'll have only twenty-one days till Abby's graduation then we're on the road again. It's been a little tedious timing out our wait for Abby's big day, but while we're having a week of hot 90's our neighbors up north are still experiencing ice storms, tornados and even heavy snow in many sections of the country. In a way it might have been beneficial for us to stay put for a little longer this year. I'll be back in May. Just when I thought there'd be very little else to talk about didn't, I have the pleasure of meeting Roger and Rosemarie? He's just retired and they're getting their feet wet in 28 foot travel trailer. Not just ready for full timing yet, but I bet after September they'll be thinking about it a little more seriously. Right now, Carla is getting ready to trip with her sister going back home to Greenfield and will visit family. This is now an annual event. I'll have Dennis' company for most of next week, so it should go by quite fast. We begin this wondrous trip from the SE corner of the picture above. From Missoula, MT going west on US 90 stopping briefly in Spokane, WA the proceeding to Seattle, WA. After a brief stay in Seattle, or there about, it's off to Alaska. Our extreme Western travel boundary will be Homer, AK, found on the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula. From there we'll head north to Anchorage, then Denali State Park and finally ending up at our most northern point, Fairbanks, AK. We have an option, and we'll most likely take it, to take a flight out of Fairbanks and fly north to Barrow, AK, which is the farthest town north and sits on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. Fairbanks, AK is the most northern point on the road map. From Fairbanks due north by compass is Barrow, AK. It looks to be about 600 miles from Fairbanks. To put it in another way, if Key West, FL is the most Southern Point, Barrows is the most Northern Point of the continental US. *One interesting point on Barrow, AK. On May 10th the sun will rise but will not set again until August 1st.*

MAY 2016,

5.02.16- Back in Orlando

Back in Orlando once again. We're on a site we enjoyed several months ago, much nicer than what we had two weeks ago. This will be the last time we spend time in this beautiful campground. We left Three Flags in Wildwood, FL mid-morning yesterday and arrived uneventfully a couple of hours later. Our leaving, often, means we meet some very nice campers only to split company before we exchange email addresses. Such will be the case for a nice guy named Mike. Most everyone is bigger than me, but Mike and I saw eye to eye. He was a wrestling coach and was visiting one of his former students during his stay. He and his wife had a beautiful Sport Coach RV they bought brand new, very nice. Just behind us were campers Roger and Rosemarie. He was participating in a 60's baseball match up. Last I heard it did not go that well. They played in extreme temperatures all day. They did get our card, but we never got around to ask for their contact information. Only hope both couples will contact us some time in the future. As I've mentioned earlier, we'll be staying here until the 22nd when we must get an early start on our Alaska Trek.



We've returned to the "D" Section. It's been referred to as the swamp area, but I've yet to find a swamp, even after heavy rains. The last few months I've had a phobia about dropping tree limbs, but we're facing temps in the nineties for, most likely, a good portion of our stay, so we're in the shade till we leave. It's truly awesome to enjoy the outdoors without having to hassle the intense heat from the sun. We've enjoyed some very nice homes the last twenty-five years, yet whenever we find ourselves in this type of setting, nestled in the woods, Carla will often tell me that she could not imagine being any happier than she is...*Priceless!* Tomorrow, the 3rd, we drive to her sisters' home in Port Orange, FL. From there, the next day, she and Carla will begin their journey of bringing Mary Ann back to Greenfield, MA, a two-day journey. After a short visit she too will be returning to her Summer Home in Derby, VT.

5.07.16

This gives Carla another chance to visit family, especially this year since we'll be away for twelve months or more before coming back to the East Coast. Yea, and there are many to say goodbye to. Myself, I'll have to endure the single life for the better part of the next week, I'll have very little to write about for the next seven days.



Carla's been gone almost five days now. Things are going well. Talk to Dennis sometimes for thirty minutes or longer and going on 2-3 times a day. Scoots and I are still on talking terms. No biting so I guess she's tolerating me as well. This being Saturday it was church, pizza and beer night. It's about ten pm and Scoots wants me to shut down so she can go to sleep, *dream on! Be back Sunday, possibly.*

5.11.16-Wed-Only ten days to go before graduation!

This is such a great way to live your retirement. It's almost sinful. Mornings for the last three weeks are coming in at around 68 degrees, but warming up quickly around 11am, but that's Florida for you. We are expecting low nineties for the coming weekend, time to get out of Dallas. We continue to edit our trip to Dawson Creek, BC. Now we're scheduled to arrive in DC on the 17th just to take the pressure off us to be on time.

5.17.16-Tuesday

We continue to tweak our travel plans and count down the days till Sunday. We're also looking forward to spending a couple of hours with Abby and Mom before her graduation Saturday evening. The exercise will most likely last till around 9pm and it's a two-hour ride back to Clermont. With almost 1300 miles to cover in the next four days we'll be going to bed early all this week. Can hardly imagine the anxiety Abby is experiencing. Oh, to be eighteen once again...*no thanks!*

It was around 3pm and Carla and I decided to take a walk, since there's a 100% chance of rain through Sunday. What a pleasant surprise. At the end of our street, here in Clermont, we met Sheryl Scott. Her license plate read New Hampshire, so we had to disturb her quiet and say HI. Not only had she lived in Littleton NH, she was there in the seventies when I was working at Parkers Drug Store. Even more coincidental, she attended Brockton High School. I know, I attended Cardinal Spellman, but it was still quite a coincidence.

She's also lived in Christmas, FL just outside of Titusville. We don't have an email on her, only hope she writes some time so we can keep in touch. This, as I've mentioned before, is just another one of the nice occurrences that happen more often than you can imagine living this type of lifestyle...*Priceless!* A day we will remember for quite a while!

5.21.16- Abby graduates

What a great day and beautiful graduation Abby had. It was worth waiting all these weeks for.



Abby with Michael and Mom on the left front.

So many words of enlightenment were given to the new graduates, but since I did not write them down, I've forgotten them, and so have the graduates, I'm sure. It seems that not only did the students graduate, but the Principle as well. With dozens of years in that position I'm sure he'll be missed, but he should have a great retirement. Guess what...graduation is over, we're free. We will hit the road bright and early tomorrow morning.

*July... Trip Day Planner:**18th - 19th -Enjoy Dawson Creek, BC*

1-3 -Fort Nelson, BC

4 -Muncho Lake, BC

5 -Watson Lake, YT (Yukon Territory)

6-8 -Whitehorse, YT

9 -Destruction Bay YT

10-11 -Tok, AK

12-15 -Valdez, AK

16-17 -Palmer, AK

18-19 -Seward, AK

20-22 -Homer, AK

23-26 -Anchorage, AK

27-30 -Denali National Park, AK

31-34 -Fairbanks, AK again on the way back now

35 -Tok, AK

36 -Destruction Bay, YT

37-40 -Haines, AK

41-42 -Whitehorse, YT

43 -Watson Lake, YT

44 - Iskut, BC

45-46 -Steward, BC

47 -Smithers, BC

48-50 Prince George and farewell dinner (odometer...)

5.22.16- (55500). travels north to Dawson Creek

We begin our travels north to Dawson Creek, but we're aiming for Cedar Rapids, IA first to visit with family in Iowa. We enjoyed their company last year and since it's on the way, according to our travel map, we'll be dropping in again this year. Carla and I will forgo curling this time. Sunday, we made it up to Perry, GA and enjoyed a great meal at Cracker Barrel as well. I think it was a country pot roast...delicious! Next day we woke around 7am and were on the road by 9, what a life. We were planning to travel till around 3pm about tree-hundred miles but discovered that by 3pm we were in Central Time Zone. Love Central Time. As a result of this time warp, we decided to continue for another hour and landed in Clarksville, KY. That's the beauty of this lifestyle, so flexible. Ate dinner in the coach. Slept well, even Scoots slept most of the night in our bedroom sink...don't ask!

5.24.16

24th- Another great night. Woke and Carla asked what time it was, said 7:15. Thirty minutes later Carla informed that it was really on 6:45, forgot about the time change, so here we are, now we have breakfast at Cracker Barrel done and the windshield is clean and we're ready to go at 8am. So, it was jacks up and we hit the road a little early. We drove past Mattoon, IL and chose to travel a little closer to Moscow, IA and dropped anchor in Urbana, IL. *Wow!* I'd forgotten from last year how big the farms are in this country. We, once again, spotted a few turbines in the distance gently rotating in the breezes. Carla took a couple of pictures, possibly later.

5.26.16

We arrived in Moscow, IA on schedule and have our rig in their garage by 8am. The slides needed no repairs but, at ten years old, needed some updating. Within three hours we were out and on our way to Cedar Rapids, IA where we plan to stay till the 1st of June is all goes well! Within an hour we were pulling into Hawkeye Downs Speedway, just a big gravel parking lot. Even though we arrived here a day early Joyce and Don had us over that evening for an exceptional steak dinner. Iowans eat well, guess that's why they all look so healthy. Next day, 27th, Carla felt the tanks should be emptied and the closest dump station was at Squaw Creek Campground in Cedar Rapids, a campground we stayed at last June, go to the link below for more info.





Long story short when we arrived at Squaw Creek, we noticed the driver's side slide was away from the coach a couple of inches. By the time everyone tried to fix the situation it was out quite a bit, too far to take on the road. The Ranger at Squaw Creek was very helpful. He told us we could stay in the ranger office parking lot until he had an opening. Within an hour he had a cancellation, so we took it. This is much nicer than the Hawkeye!

You've got to admit; this place is awesome looking! We hope to have someone look and hopefully remedy the slide on the 31st. Topped the evening off by going to Noodles' Restaurant and watching Robin Williams' movie RV, which is one movie you should not watch if you're thinking of RVing someday. Awesome show!

5.28.2016- The General Store and Pub Saturday –
The MacDougall's are not going to let us get bored. They took us to visit Stone City.



We ate at the General Store and Pub, which was awesome even before we ate the food. You're right, the appetizer was served in a "bait box." They provided each of us with a sheet of aluminum foil to eat the appetizer on.



When the prime rib came to the table it was served on plates. Ten ounces of pure delight. Scoots is also enjoying this part of our trip. However, this is about all the excitement she shows daily. Sunday- What a way to begin a day. We attended a "Traditional Mass", like the way Masses used to be before Vatican Two. We and the MacDougall families occupied the rear of the Church. The experience was unforgettable. The altar servers, four of them, were impeccable in their actions on the altar, John MacDougall Jr. was one of them. After Mass Don and Joyce joined us for breakfast in the coach, a pure delight. That evening we enjoyed dinner at their home, Chicken in a delicious sauce and raviolis, more than we could put away. Monday, of course, was Memorial Day. We celebrated with a picnic at their home. John (son) and Meg and Paul (son) and Ivy were both there with families, the experience with all the families, was priceless. Miss Cat, in the plaid outfit, and her sister Miss Hannah are in the forefront. Miss Elizabeth, opposite Cat, at the table, who grew about twelve inches since last year and Gavin next to her.



Miss Marren (daughter to John and Meg) is here standing behind Lil Eoghan (pronounced Owen) is always the center of attraction, sitting in the highchair. 31st...Carla and I will spend the day hoping are coach will get looked at, if not, we're here for a while longer.



JUNE 2016

6.03.16 Friday

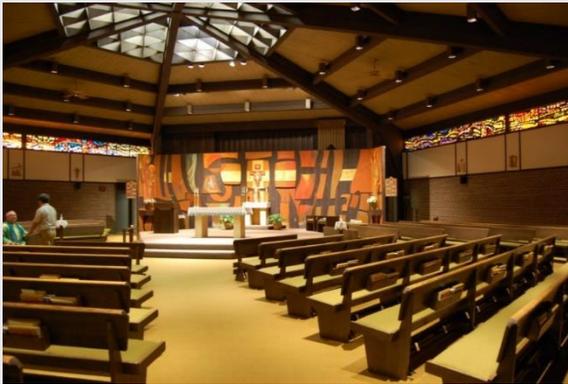
Friday... Well, we've been here at Winnebago for 2 days, and it might be necessary for us to stay till Tuesday. The coach is drivable, and the slides are working well, but some small items remain. I should know more in three hours. In the meantime, we will finish our Subway sandwiches and go back inside where it's a little cooler.

6.04.16 & 5th- Sat-Sun-

Just decided to be lazy this weekend. All our fixes are complete on the coach. Winnebago wanted to put shoes on the back slider but did not have enough time. They were expecting to be slammed the next week with only hopes they might get to us by Thursday. We would opt to pass on that option. Today is the 8th but let me quickly fill in what's been going on.

6.05.16

We attended Mass in Forest City St. James Church. We were there last year at about the same time.



Great little church. Fr. Paul Lippstock, with Fr. Jim, cover six churches in the area.



Yup! He also owns an Itasca. He will have a couple of parish members join him and they'll take field trips always making use of the canoes. He's awesomely well liked. He ended his service last Sunday and asked anyone who wished to be anointed to remain. This was on his dime. This took about an hour and that little after-mass service was very special.

6.06.16

My birthday. I'd forgotten when I first woke, but Carla's was the first greeting that morning and, as usual, the Ozdarski family, one by one, each called with birthday wishes. Either in calls or texts everyone remembered. A very dear friend, our Director for our Greenacres Child Care Center Cindy, living in Arizona also remembered, as she always has. My daughter Cheryl also called later in the day, a call I look forward to each year. At a certain age presents and stuff are not that important, a strong point when you live in a tin can. However, I still enjoy receiving the unique cards Dennis can always find. To be remembered is the biggest gift anyone can give. I once heard the saying, "*once people begin to forget you, then we slowly fade away*", and I'm not ready to fade away yet. All in all, it was another very memorable day. I think it was the night before, when we spoke to Don and Joyce. I'm trying to get up the nerve to ask her for her recipe for Chocolate Chip Cookies, unless it's a family secret. My stash is getting low. Today we travelled to Mitchell, SD that day bucking very strong head winds all the way, and on our way, I heard from Mary Ann and received texts from more Ozdarski members.



We spent a few minutes at a rest area in South Dakota. On a grassy area by the station was a contemporary teepee made of several concrete beams that must have measured about sixty feet tall. It was a beautiful piece.

6.07.16- Mount Rushmore

Mount Rushmore & Devil's Tower Once again the ability to change itineraries on the spot, is the biggest plus for this lifestyle. By going a few extra miles and driving toward Rapid City instead of Mitchell, we were able to fit in Mount Rushmore.



The original itinerary called for our staying in Rapid City, SD for three days, but the coach fix mandated that we cancel our reservation so we would be on schedule for Yellowstone. We only got one day at Rushmore, but it was well worth the effort. Poor picture, sorry, but Gutzon Borglum was the head of this project, a world-famous sculpture in his own right. He headed the project until his death, thirty years into the project and his son finalized it about one year after his death. I hope to add to this soon.

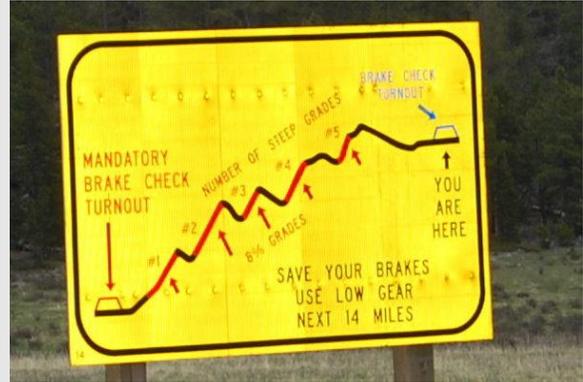
6.08.16- Devils' Tower

Devils Tower. Today we headed out to Sheridan, WY but as we were traveling, we realized if we trekked to Gillette, WY instead we could give ourselves one full day at the Devils Tower.



This was such a bonus and, you could say, an additional birthday present I wanted very much but felt we had to forgo it do to time restraints.

6.09.16- E-Ride in the coach



E-Ride in the coach. This picture is supposed to exemplify a "Hair-raising Day." It's not that we had a bad experience, just that sometimes you experience something for the first time. This country is just so beautiful. This quiet, uneventful and relaxing trip would soon be replaced with a tad more anxiety and apprehension in the next 24 hours. Just a quick look at what the road ahead would look like in real time, see below. Maximum speed on each of these turns, and there's about eight of them, is twenty-five mph; we took them even slower than that. To our benefit a two-foot tall metal rail is along the edge of the road; *like that would save us in a bus twelve feet tall and almost sixty feet long!* As the picture shows in detail, we are very much in the left lane. The drop off the road is measured in thousands of feet. DOT does provide rest areas along this road where you can actually get off the road completely to allow your brakes to cool off.

I was even figuring that the snow, all around us, might smooth the fall a bit in a worse scenario.



But what the next picture does not show is that the visibility looking forward is over a mile. It was at this rest area that I remembered that I'd never taken the time to have the brakes checked, *hell of a time to think about that!* This would be an 8 1/2 % grade for fourteen miles. In the picture showing the graph of the road, the black ink sections are not hilling just another downward hair-pin curve in the road. The picture above does show the excellent visibility for on-coming traffic. We proceeded very slowly and pulled off whenever possible to spare the brakes.

6.10.16- Cody, WY



This is a western town where most guys are cowboys. Carla tried to talk me into the cowboy image, but I wouldn't buy into the image, besides it was a Stetson.

6.10.2019-June 10th. Yellowstone Valley Inn RVP

And with that price we got electric, sewer and water. It took us about thirty minutes to travel to Yellowstone. This facility has it all. How about a Saloon, restaurant, cabins and even a motel unit. This is a private RV Campground but it's the closest we could get and least expensive at \$70 per night, that's not too far from Yellowstone Park. We spent 2 days at Yellowstone Park and 2 days resting up.

This is the marquis that will greet you when you arrive. Negotiating the RV Park was a dream, mostly all pull through. We weren't there long enough to get to meet anyone but the staff at the campground was very helpful. We knew we would visit the East entrance from US 20-16 and 14. She recommended we also take in the North-East entrance using US 212 from Silver Gate and Cooke City, Montana; a delight from the moment we entered the park.



The Shoshone River is at the back of the campground, a beautiful sight each evening. This river begins from Yellowstone Park and flows through the Shoshone National Forest and eventually will power the Cody Dam in Cody. It was on my list of things to see, but opted to take a day of rest instead. At first I was awed by how clean the water looked as it flowed by but was later informed that it was polluted with sulfur from the geysers in Yellowstone. Some of the cabins at the campground. When we asked how come the cabin guests got free breakfast we were told because they're paying \$180 a night to stay. She did tell us we would qualify for a 20% discount on all our meals. The "Motel-like" unit was all log style, very rustic.



As always, I like to emphasize how generous the parking area is at the campgrounds we stay at. If they know you're coming, and you better call way ahead, you'll be out the door and at your site within minutes. As in every stay, it comes to an end. Everything and everyone at this facility was excellent. Don't hesitate to spend a few nights here should you visit Yellowstone National Park. This is a Wyoming sunset at this campground.

6.10.2019 – PM Cody Stampede Rodeo. This is a very active and professional rodeo. It's just a few miles outside of Cody going west, on RT 14/16 on the road to our campground. Light entertainment is everywhere prior to the Rodeo beginning and yes, it begins right on time. This dude just paid ten dollars to sit his butt on this bull for ten minutes. *I can't every recall making that kind of money!*



6.14.2019-Tues. We left Codi, the Yellowstone Valley Inn, and arrive in Butte, MT around 4pm. We'll spend the night at a beautiful Walmart and will leave on Wed. for Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. I don't usually relish over the chore of driving in steady rain, but today I was thankful. The coach was dirty, dusty and inundated with other leavings. Right now, it looks pretty good. A rodeo sunset. Crescent Bar Encore RVP. It's a TT property, so you know what that means, a freebee. We're planning to stay here for ten days and try to rest up from the driving ordeal of this last week.



Above is the view of the Columbia River from site at Crescent Bar. In general, we only get to wish we had a site like this but today we hit it big. Met an awesome couple, Cindy and Jim, today but sadly they'll be leaving in the am. It's the way it is with life on the road. Their traveling in a new Winnebago Adventurer, a coach I've always loved. I have no doubt we'll be meeting up with them in the future. They also aspire of doing Alaska someday as well. Well, this will be our home for the next ten days, as we will leave on the 26th. Since we have no over-the-air TV reception I should have plenty of time to complete these blogs. This is the view of the Columbia River from site at Crescent Bar. In general, we only get to wish we had a site like this but today we hit it big. Met an awesome couple, Cindy and Jim, today but sadly they'll be leaving in the am. It's the way it is with life on the road. Their traveling in a new Winnebago Adventurer, a coach I've always loved. I have no doubt we'll be meeting up with them in the future. They also aspire of doing Alaska someday as well.



6.19.2019-Treasures of the Church - Sunday.

At 3pm today we would attend a presentation called the Sacred Relics Exposition. The presentation is also called the "Treasures of the Church." Fr. Carlos Martins oversees this presentation. It would be at the Holy Apostles Parish, Wenatchee, WA. The advertisement in the church flyer showed a picture with possibly ten relics each in its own tamper proof relic container (forgot its name.) We had never attended anything like this and had never really seen a relic close, so we decided to attend. We got there about fifteen minutes early, only to find a beautiful church with few in the pews, nevertheless we stayed. Fr. Carlos finally showed up and began setting up for his verbal presentation. The presentation on relics was awesome and much too intense for me to try to present here, it's a must-see show. Fr. Carlos was very unpretentious, but halfway through his talk you could almost feel the saints hovering in the back of the church. "Handcuffs" that would prevent one from fully benefitting from the relics numbered four.



I had to admit to one of the four but felt good about the other three. Documented miracles were being exalted one after another. Even examples of the lengths the Church goes through to qualify an individual for sainthood. St. Bernadette and St. Maria Goretti stand out most prominently. A little over an hour later he was wrapping up his talk. With so many miracles produced from this exposition over the years I was hoping I could make something happen for Cheryl, my daughter. The actual exposition would be in the hall next door. Overwhelming, to say the least! About twenty tables, six-foot-long, were set up in the hall each displaying six or more relics on each table. Some of the 167 relics there were; St. Agnes's Augustine, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Blaise (throat saint), St Bernadette, St Francis of Assisi, a fragment from the birth crib on Jesus, a fragment from Jesus' Crown of Thorns, Apostles James the Great and James the Less, St. John, St. John Paul II (Pope), Maria Goretti, Mary Magdalene a clothing fragment from Mary, Jesus' mother.



Also were more Apostles, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Paul, Peter, Philip, Thomas, and John and others. Many of the Sainted Popes were also represented. In addition, were St Teresa of Avila, St Thomas More and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We spoke of St. John Marie Vianney. He lived for 73 years, 1786 to 1859 and died in France. His body, like many others, was found to be incorrupt by death. He is entombed in the Basilica at Ars, France. There were another 150 I did not mention. Also, on display was a relic of Christ Cross, relic from St Joseph and fragment of bones from the twelve apostles. I did feel disappointed a couple of days later, really tried to make something happen for Cheryl. Carla had family members she was praying for as well, as of this writing. The experience did not produce any miracle for our families, we did pray hard, however. This presentation is a must attend for every Catholic and Christian to experience. I would certainly attend this again, even if I had to drive 200 miles to attend.

6.20.2019- Scoots needed a shot to be allowed into Canada and some paperwork. Found a nice Veterinarian in Quincy. Next day would be a field trip day.

6.20.2019- In anticipation of Dennis' coming on next Tuesday we knew we had to do a small clean -up. Carla took care of the inside and I did a quick wash and partial wax to the coach and even did the same to the HHR. We were both in need of a rest. Had a great dinner and topped the evening off watching 2012, the movie.

June-25-26th - Saturday was supposed to be a River-Fest but did not really materialized. Later this evening we'll disconnect water and sewer in preparation for our Sunday departure. We did have a chance to meet Dave and Janet, full-times and have temporarily left their home in the hands of their son to live in and watch over, very nice folks. Their coach is a Monaco Diplomat, which looks brand new. I expect it's about as old as ours but looks great. In the year they've been RVing they've covered some very interesting places. We've marked up our roadmap should we be traveling in those directions. Only hope we get to meet up with them again in our travels. When we get up Sunday morning it'll be slide-in, jack-up and untether the coach from electrical. The trip to Monroe, WA is about one-hundred miles. We plan to travel west along US 90 then north on the 205 to Monroe. It's not the shortest route but might be the better direction for the coach and sight-seeing.

June 26th - Arrive in Monroe, WA.
Another one of those uneventful rides.



We plan to stay here until the 13th of July. Next day, as usual, is rest and shopping at Walmart. In two days, the 28th, we will be picking up Dennis as he flies into Washington for a one-week visit. Scoots is adapting nicely.

June 30th. Boeing, Space Needle and Chihuly



6.30.2016- Boeing, unfortunately, is one of those venues that restrict pictures in the manufacturing complexes. We were exposed to the manufacturing of a 747 and a little later a 777. The plane hangars were off-limits to pictures of any kind, so we had to make do with the on-site museum and the outside grounds. The museum was just short of awesome. The Dream Lifter Aircraft, not seen here, by Boeing, will travel to a plant and pick up the sectional for the 777 and fly it back to Seattle. It was interesting to learn that the 747 was their largest plane and it takes a month to fully build one unit. En contraire, the new 777 planes are built in several locations, around the globe, and then transported to Seattle and pieced together.

This plane, believe it or not, is assembled in around three days. This is a 747 in its "green-skin" coming back from a test flight. Once fully tested it will be painted to the wishes of the owner. I believe we were told one of these could run from 625 to 700 million dollars.



Picture courtesy of Boeing. This 777 could be built in three days, cost from 250 million to 400 million but carries about one hundred fewer passengers. This is the biggest gross volume building in the world. These bay doors are the width of a football field and this building had, I think, five sets of doors building different types of planes from the 737 to the 777 models.

JULY 2016



7.01.2016 – This day, Friday, we rested. We ended the day with a steak dinner, movie and ice cream. Next day would be a field trip day. We had never been to Seattle before and we were told, that even though it was only thirty-four miles away, to allow at least two hours in travel time. We ventured into Seattle and bought tickets to the Chihuly Gardens and then at 2pm we ascended the Seattle Space Needle. This picture was taken at the Chihuly Gardens which is located just below the Seattle Space Needle. To read the complete blog on the Space Needle click on the link.

Chihuly Gardens



On our way to the Needle we had to walk about one-quarter mile from where we parked the car. It was a very enjoyable walk. On our way we came across a Seattle bikeway. Much smarter than sticking the bikes in the street. This was our destination, however little did we know, we would have to wait nearly three hours for our turn to go up. That would be Okay since we spent that time viewing Chihuly. Our turn did come, eventually, to stand in line to be whisked up five-hundred-twenty feet to the top of Seattle.



Now we would go off to the Space Needle. *In my honest opinion this was far more interesting than the Needle...whatever!*

7.02.2016– This was a field trip day. We ventured into Seattle and bought tickets to the Chihuly Gardens and then at 2pm we ascended the Seattle Space Needle. This picture was taken at the Chihuly Gardens which is located just below the Seattle Space Needle. Our time for the Space Needle was for 2pm about two hours from now.



To tell you the truth, Chihuly was far more interesting. On our way to the Needle we had to walk about one-quarter mile from where we parked the car. It was a very enjoyable walk. On our way we came across a Seattle bikeway. Much smarter than sticking the bikes in the street. This was our destination, however little did we know, we would have to wait nearly three hours for our turn to go up. That would be Okay since we spent that time viewing Chihuly. Our turn did come, eventually, to stand in line to be whisked up five-hundred-twenty feet to the top of Seattle. Being from Florida standing in line is inbred. It only took about thirty minutes to get to the elevator, much faster than Disney during peak times.

Famous celebrities and politicians have visited the Needle over the years. They included Eisenhower, Presley, Nixon, Kennedy and many others. The Needle was completed in early 1962, the same time "Telstar" was launched and Chubby Checkers' song "The Twist" was released. 1962 was the same year that the World's Fair came to Seattle, as it was planned over a year before. Just a couple of facts. The Needle has had about twelve-thousand visitors per day each year for the past sixty years, over 2.5 million visitors.

Views from the top are awesome. Below you see the Chihuly Gardens.



The Seattle shoreline is breathless. In the center of the picture you'll see Seattle's Eye in the distance. Seattle is very strong on sports. Above is a soccer field with stadium seating.



Not far from the soccer field is a water-play-area for kids. We, Dennis, Carla and I, were packed in very tightly at the top as you can see. This is in the restaurant area.



There's a sign at the top that tells us that it took four-hundred-seven days to complete the needle. 467 truckloads of concrete were used to anchor the thirty-seven-tons of steel that was needed to erect the structure.

In the picture above is a child turning a bolt. This bolt is typical for what was used to build the Needle, It's about the size of the child's head. Like with all field trips there's always a time that we must leave. The experience was unique, but I would not endure the heavy traffic ride into this city to view it again. The city supports a rail system to move its hundreds of thousands of visitors and dwellers around town. On occasion we come across a "Ride the Ducks" venue. The Seals originally created this vehicle, and we also saw it at the Upper Dells in Wisconsin.

Just a quick picture to pay tribute to Bill and Melinda Gates is a picture of their foundation headquarters. It was a very nice day and experience, but I'll be glad to get back home, our coach, and out of this city.

7.23.2016 - Whitehorse, YT. Arrive at Pioneer RVP in Whitehorse, YT. Enjoyed Roast Beef Dinner on WIT dime. This will be a three-day stay until we leave on the 26th.



As the trip continued, we were hoping for sunny blue skies. Well! As I said we were just hoping. By 8 a.m. we had reached the Rancheria Falls. This was one of those "park the coach on the side of the road" and huff it a mile to the venue but was it worth it. We were parkers that day and were following Ed and Jan the WIT Caravan Leaders.



It can't be that far, just following the walkway then the boardwalk then the Portage trail to arrive at the falls, okay! Yes, we've seen bigger and more majestic falls, but the force and roar of this fall had to be experienced. But as was said in that movie "now we've seen it let's go." and go we did.



However, even the walk to get here was worth the effort. So, it's back in the coach again, this time we're working hard trying to catch up with Ed and Jan in their Winnebago Meridian "Diesel" Motorhome. It is hard to keep up with a Diesel at time, but we eventually did catch up to them.



It's now about 2 p.m. and as you can see the skies are beginning to give us a break. We can see just a little blue above. We've stopped for a bit to experience the town of Teslin. It's basically a museum of several buildings giving us a history of what life was like for early settlers.



The weather is just not going to give us a break today, cloudy everywhere. So, we travel on, a bit further looking for Whitehorse, YT. We finally did arrive at Whitehorse a little after 3 p.m.

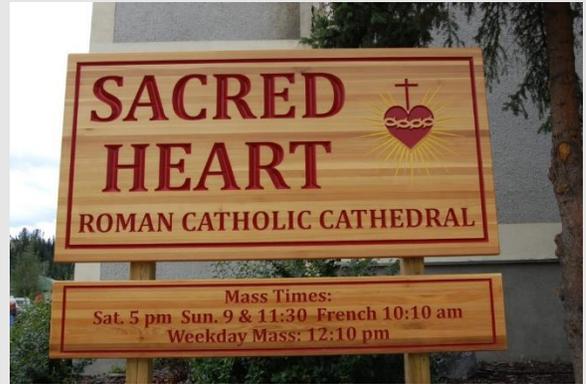
7.24.2016 - Whitehorse city Tour, Klondike Ship, and fish ladder



Good morning Whitehorse! It's 9:30 in the morning, and even though many of us might have liked sleeping late this morning, that was not to be. We're on an organized WIT Tour to see and experience the town of Whitehorse. This is the Klondike ship, the centerpiece of Whitehorse, YT



This is called a fish ladder. It's about fifteen-hundred feet long and, as we've read in a past blog, its purpose is to insure the area will have fish hundreds of years from now.



7.25.2016 Sacred Heart Church in Whitehorse, YT the 24th just did not work out, just too busy at that time so we attended mass today, Monday, not totally acceptable, but permitted. Carla mentioned that it might be a Cathedral, not sure. The mass we attended was commemorative for a gentleman who passed away. It was well attended. If he was looking down on all the family members that attended, he would have been very proud. Yup, she was right, it is a Cathedral. Nor nearly as ostentatious as many we have seen in the past.



Daily Mass is at 12:10pm, maybe that's why the attendance was so good as well.

7.27.2016 Destruction Bay Lodge RVP, Valdez and Bear Paw RVP.
 This destination is going to be just a twenty-four hour stop-over.



From the picture above DBL is about as plain as you can get. But what it lacks for polish and glitter it provided us with down-home cooking and down to earth good entertainment. We were cared for the evening we arrived and were sent off the next morning with a country breakfast second to none. Personally, I can't wait for thirty days to go by till we return to the campground.

7.29.2016- Valdez, AK We will enjoy Valdez for the next three days.



One of the many mountain ranges surrounding the Bear Paw RVP. The climax of our stay was a cruise to view the Mears Glacier. We will be staying at Bear Paw Campground. There is no shortage of picturesque views as we travel to Valdez.



Traveling through Alaska requires patience. Rain and road re-construction are the two biggest pastimes in this state. Due to the permafrost even, the best roads require repaving more often than this state would like to do. For the most part, the Alaskan roads are far superior to either Canada or the Yukon Territory.

The final road to this town is a ten-mile seven percent decline to within a few miles of our destination. About eight miles down we experienced the falls below. This is Bridal Vail Falls. A little way down you'll also see Horse Tail Falls. Bridal falls are several hundred feet high and an awesome sight to experience. Bear Paw is not much to brag about, it's basically another parking lot campground, but the Valdez experience was well worth it. Just across the street from this campground is the Valdez Marina.



Mostly you will find here are private fishing boats, here to catch the Pink Salmon. Once the salmon season is over they'll move on to another part of the state. I had to include this photo. We boated for many years in our early life together, but if I ever felt the urge to revisit that lifestyle again, it would be with a vessel like the one above, Priceless! Back to Bear Paw.



Above are just a couple of shots of Valdez. It's just a village with only a few thousand residents, but very picturesque and friendly.



Not much more to say about Bear Paw or the town of Valdez. Other blogs will take you on our cruise to Mears Glacier and the fishery. Well there's not much to say about the fishery so here goes. This is just on the open sea side of the fishery, fish that were spawn here always return back here but can only get in from the fish ladder on the opposite side of this facility.



I was unable to take a picture of the fish ladder but the picture above shows the steel obstacle fence that allows water from the fish ladder to escape from the holding pond, but the fish are unable to escape. The purpose of this fishery is the preservation of the salmon fish business for the future. The fishery is ensuring that each new fishing season the salmon industry will have a thousand times more fish will be available in the future than would be caught this year. In short, the industry is sheltering the baby salmon from other predatory fish to ensure there will always be more salmon available for years to come. The new bore salmon, once old and big enough will be released from the holding tank by lowering the metal obstacle and letting them go free. In a couple of years or so they will return to spawn and the cycle continues.

AUGUST 2016

2nd- PALMER, AK @ Mountain View RVP
 5th- SEWARD, AK @ Stoney Creek RVP w 1 free day
 7th- HOMER, AK @ Heritage RVP w 2 free days
 10th- ANAHORAGE, AK @ Golden Nugget Camper Park w 2 free days
 13th- DENALI NAT'L PARK @ Denali RVP w 4 free days
 17th- FAIRBANKS, AK @ River's Edge RVP w 3 free days
 21st- TOK, AK @ Tok RV Village Campground, was here last month
 22nd- DESTRUCTION BAY, YT @ Destruction Bay RVP (again)
 23rd- HAINES, AK @ Hitch-up RVP w 3 free days, thankfully.
 27th- WHITEHORSE, YT @ Pioneer RVP (again) 2 free days
 29th- WATSON LAKE, YT @ Baby Nugget RVP
 30th- ISKUT, B.C. @ Mountain Shadow RVP - lower 48 can't be that far away!!
 31st- STEWART, BC @ Bear River RVP w 1 free day

8.02.2016- Traveling to Mountain View RVP



Leaving Bear Paw and traveling to Mountain View RVP in Palmer, AK. This means, since we're "parkers", we get up at 5:30, leave Bear Paw at 6:30 and hopefully find a place to have another breakfast or lunch a little later. About forty minutes from Palmer all our stomach was growling, or at least mine and we ran into the Sheep Mountain Lodge. From what I gather it has had the same owner since 1946, when it was founded. We all enjoyed a mushroom soup with a chunk of bread that was awesome. It was hard to tear we away with vistas like you see above.



Now, with full tummies, it's off to Palmer. We finally did arrive at Mountain View. We were greeted by the family garden growing jumbo everything. In the same venue were apple trees as well. We finished off this day with a "walking tacos" dinner at the pavilion with coaches 1-9 providing the dessert. The Winnebago leaders provided the Taco dinner. 3rd.-Was a full calendar. On our own we visited the Church of a Thousand Trees. It was a Presbyterian Church, one of the original buildings built in 1936, the year the migration to Palmer took place. It has since been enlarged, but the original structure remains.



By 10 a.m. we found ourselves at the Palmer Information Center for an excellent presentation on the history of Palmer. This too is an original 1936 home. It was typical of what the government was building for those that accepted the challenge of moving to Alaska to begin a new life there. One of the ladies giving the talk on the history of Palmer and a little more, had Lentz for a last name.



Her parents were part of the group that came to challenge Alaska. As it turned out her family owned the farm that we were to visit next. At this time, we were scheduled for an early lunch just down the street. We ate at the Inn Café and Steakhouse. The hotel portion is owned by someone else, but we had the owner of the restaurant serve us with some of her staff. The meal was delicious. This is her talking to Carla and Ron before the others in our group joined us. The room was very cozy, warm and friendly. Then it was off to the farm.

8.03.2016- Musk Ox Farm



This would be the Musk Ox Farm. This farm specializes in the breeding of the Musk Ox in hopes of domesticating it soon. The fur of the Musk Ox is very expensive and is called qiviut. This fur is thicker and warmer than anything else on the market, but, once again, is very expensive.



Full grown, this is what it looks like. The adults of the herd were not available to be seen the day we came to visit, so this ancestor of theirs had to suffice. This four-year-old OX is a member of the bovine family. It is part sheep and is smaller than a bison.



Like all field trips in this lifestyle, they come to an end and then it's back to the campground. Mountain View is basically just an open area providing water, electric and sewer to RVers visiting Alaska. For the little that it had to offer there were still quite a few seasonal campers there as well.



Center page above is a Halibut fish. Little did we know that in a couple of hours we would be having one of its cousins for dinner this evening. After spending a couple of hours at the Aquarium we were hungry so it was off to the Cookery Restaurant.



Carl, our server and owner of a Winnebago Brave 60's model, was nice enough to take our picture. This picture should make everyone hungry. Halibut over mashed potato with a sauce with a bunch of stuff in it...delicious!



Dinner was great and the dessert was equally as good but were tired so it would be time to leave. Instead of going directly back to our home, we thought we'd check out the location of our Church for tomorrow evening. Even in a town of only a dozen or more streets it's great to know where things are located.

8.05.2016-Seward, AK @ Stoney Creek RVP.



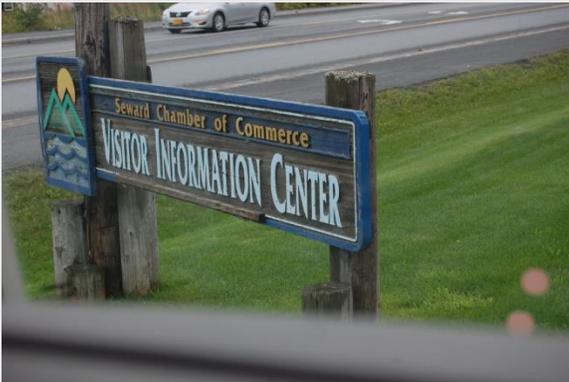
Thing to remember is that this is a tour, and I'm sure Winnebago is trying to get us sites at the best possible prices. Almost all the RV Parks we've stayed at in Canada, YT and Alaska are basically come park and go parks. Stoney Creek does offer very good Wi-Fi in your coach, almost unheard of, as well as, cable TV, not that we'll be watching much. Our trip to Seward, AK would not be that long, at 175 miles, but will take time. If the weather had been a little more cooperative it would have been nicer. We're climbing here to a little over 3000 feet. The fancy highway lights are not lighting at all. They serve as markers for the snowplows, so they'll better judge the edges of the highway.



When we do go over the top and back down to a lower level the scenery continues to amaze us. Such a beautiful state. As we entered Seward, we see Resurrection bay. Shortly we enter Seward, AK. Just a couple of pictures to introduce you to this picturesque town.



This would be one of the biggest hotels in town the Seward Hotel. Log structures, homes and commercial buildings abound. This one I took a fancy to since it almost looked original from long ago.



Inside Carla found a friend and they gave us directions to the Aquarium and the Cookery, a very nice place to eat. As always, she is always trying to find a friend for Scoots, I had to say no to this idea.



The Alaska Sea Life Center is a must see if you visit Seward. It's not the best nor the biggest we'd ever seen but it did give an awesome history of the efforts Alaska is pushing for in the name of ecology and the preservation of the fish and wildlife Alaska offers.



8.06.2016-Sat. Today we were supposed to visit Exit Glacier, but it's very overcast, rainy and dampish. On top of that I woke with a head cold, seems to be going around. Decided instead to stay home, make calls to home and friends and work on the blog. Sunday it will be up at 6 a.m. to travel 173 miles to Homer, AK. It will our turn to be parkers so we have the privilege of following Ed and Jan, our team leaders. Jodie and Dudley, our "Tail enders" he who follows last to ensure all the coaches make it to the campground. They're a little under the weather as well. It was only yesterday that Carla remarked that next month, on this date, our tour will have come to an end.

8.07.2016-Homer and Anchorage

7th We were on the road by 7am. We were parkers for this leg of the tour. We finally arrived in Homer a little after noon and, although the 173 miles did seem long at time, in general, it was an enjoyable trip. Most of our miles were as you see below, straight and narrow but fifteen, miles, were quite serpentine.



As you can see above we had to deal with not really showers, but a constant drizzle. Its venues like the one above that make the trip, no matter how long, very palatable.

8.08.2016- This would be a quiet day. We spent a little time visiting

8.09.2016- Last day in Homer. We woke this morning with the sun so strong not evening the full shade up front couldn't keep out its rays.



This vessel was coming into dock at Homer. By midafternoon it had left. This morning the heads of our tour, Ed & Jan and Dudley & Jodie, treated us to an all-American breakfast of eggs, sausage, pancakes galore and so much more. Later this morning we had to pay a little attention to the coach. So, we did a good job of washing off at least a couple of layers of sand and dust. For dinner tonight it's going to be leftovers of the dinner we had at Lands' End Restaurant last night. We asked Scoots if she'd like to try Halibut, at \$60 a pound she gobbled it right up. We still have a little left for a meal in the future...awesome!



Everyone here has had a very enjoyable experience. We spent, as usual, a little time preparing the coach for our trip to Anchorage tomorrow morning. It's going to be about a six-hour ride, around 260 miles, and we'll probably arrive around 3 p.m. Right now, the sun is setting, but won't go black until around 11 p.m. and it's time to bring the Homer blog to a close. Next time we speak we'll be in Anchorage, Alaska. Our trip schedule has been updated and tweaked FYI. We have destinations arranged up to the end of September. Good news for us today, a friend we met last year in Orlando has found a buyer for their home and will be full-timing in the middle of September, *we wish them safe travels.*



Just as we expected, the morning fog was very much in our face for the next ten miles as we climbed our way out of Valdez to the top of the mountain engulfing Valdez. This was a very tedious climb but with Ed and Jan in the lead coach all I had to do is follow behind them and hope they had enough coffee to keep them wide-eyed. As it turned out all went well and, to my surprise, we were able to maintain a speed of just under 50 MPH for the entire climb. Within an hour after reaching the top of the hill dark clouds began to gather and we were fearful of the strong possibility of rain. Within a few minutes it did rain, but not that hard and only for an hour or so.



As you can see the clouds stayed for most of our trip of 280 miles, but they did little to dampen the majesty of land we were traveling through. Long story short, we just continued chipping away at the miles ahead in hopes of seeing signs for Palmer in the distant future.



8.07.2016- It was up at 6 a.m. and on the road by 7, because we were parkers for this leg of the tour. We finally arrived in Homer a little after noon and, although the 173 miles did seem long at time, in general, it was an enjoyable trip. Most of our miles were as you see below, straight and narrow but fifteen, miles, were quite serpentine. As you can see above, we had to deal with not really showers, but a constant drizzle. Its venues like the one above that make the trip, no matter how long, very palatable.



Homer, AK has an awesome marina; I mean like thousands of boats in their marina. This is a picture of maybe one-fourth of it. This has nothing to do with anything, just thought Abby would enjoy it.



This lighthouse just above the marina, I thought, might be very interesting, but it turned out to be a gift shop and saloon. This portion of Homer is called the "Spit." Go north on the Spit Rd, the only road, will bring you up to the Town of Homer, the place where people work. The spit is a very narrow strip of land that protrudes from the Southern portion of Homer, the "tourist" section.



Most of the shops on the "Spit" or either restaurants and charter boat offices. There are also a bar or two and a smattering of other businesses. In the picture above are halibut fish. The one being weighed here came in at fifty-five pounds. Another small portion of the marina. Needless to say, just about everyone here owns a small fishing craft.



Above is a picture of the last boat we had. Kind of miss those boating days, but it is a very expensive sport, fuel wise, make RVing look cheap. Shops, very small shops abound like these on both sides of the road, a tourist trap neighborhood.



A little further down the spit are these units. They're all clustered together but the clusters are widely separated so the water vistas are visible from the road. In the above picture is Ed, our tour leader, with his best friend, after Jan that is, Daisy. Tomorrow, Monday, he and Jan are going on a kayaking event. You notice we stayed home where it was at least warm.

8.10.2016-



Arrived in Anchorage. We left the campground early in the morning and this was one of our last visions of Homer. AK. Homer was an awesome visit. We had a chance to experience halibut. Our road to Anchorage was not always easy going. Road repair is a 24/7 activity in Alaska, this trip would not be much different.



The one thing that makes this 244-mile trek more palatable is the beauty we find every fifteen minutes, it never stops. The weed you see in the above picture is along all the roadsides. It's also a poor-man's calendar. As long as this plant has its colorful flowers, it is telling everyone in this geographic area that the first snow is at least six weeks away. More on this flower later.



This is Tom and Sue, friends of ours who are also taking this tour. They're living in a 2009 Winnebago Adventurer 38N. It's been a pleasure marking off the days with their company.

8.11.2016-Anchorage, Museum & Husky Homestead

Today, Thursday is going to be a full day. We are not expected to return from this trip until just after 4 p.m. Our bus driver says that his daughters call this place "u-see-ums." It was a delightful visit.



Inside we read about the history and heritage of the First Peoples. To their credit they began collecting all this history in photo and video at the turn of the century. Interviews with Alaskans on their parents and grandparents on what life and education consisted of back in their day. The Museum is redoing an entire area and moving many of its collections in clean-room like this to preserve them for a future date.



This is the entry way and gathering place for the beginning of our tour. Its grandeur is honorably deserved for the fine museum it is.

8.12.2016-Rainny and shopping to be done in preparation for out move to Denali, AK.



Traveling to Denali





13th we arrive in Denali, AK. Once we got settled, we spent the evening at a dinner theatre.



Fannies Kitchen, I believe was the name of the theatre house. The servers were the entertainment, and they were excellent. Ed, our tour leader, got to play the part of Dangerous Dan McGrew. This character was taken from one of Robert Service's Poems, The Shooting of Dan McGrew. It's too long for me to re-write it but Google it and you will enjoy it. Our next day, Sunday, would be a free day. We did Mass on Sunday this week. Our friends, Tom and Sue, invited us to go out to the 49th Brewery, which we enjoyed totally, possibly a little too much.

Aug. 15th- We visit the Husky Homestead Tour. This is the business of Jeff King.



As you can tell from the pictures, we enjoyed ourselves immensely. He breeds Huskies for his Iditarod team. He bred several generations and is breeding them for their performance when part of a sled team of dogs. What really made me feel bad was seeing how he overcame the solution to keep his dogs tied, keeping them outside and giving them each a doghouse. When we our Alaskan Malamute it wanted to be outside the worst way, but I could not come up with a solution to allow the dog to be outside and keeping him restrained without his getting tangled up with his lead. The answer was so easy. Take a two-hundred-pound rock of granite, imbed a metal rod in it then give the dog a ten-foot chain, they've been doing it for decades.

8.16.2016- Denali National Park Tour.

This would be a bus tour going into the Denali Park for sixty miles and observing animals in their natural habitat.



That we did see many animals, moose, bears and caribou not that far from our bus and to top it all we enjoyed the flight of a golden eagle by end of day. Awesome!!! Our stay in Denali has been more than anyone could expect, however tomorrow will be jacks up for a 111-mile trek to Fairbanks, AK

**8.17.2016- Fairbanks, Denali and Pioneer Village
Off to Fairbanks, AK.**



Our trip began with questionable weather, as you can see. On several occasions we raced twenty miles or so to the only location in the campground area to experience Denali. Most visit Alaska and the opportunity never presents itself. Our last hope was for an overlook on our way to Fairbanks. And once again HE was good to us and gave us the right conditions to experience this majestic mountain. At twenty-thousand feet and its overall size it is said that Denali is big enough to generate its own weather around itself.



All those hours exploring Denali National Park, and we find this twosome right on the highway to Fairbanks...Priceless! Skies are iffy for a few hours, but they finally broke in our favor. The rest of the trip was just as we want it, uneventful.



We finally make it to Rivers Edge RVP. These campgrounds are mush akin to the Motel-6 lodging of the past. It's a very short season and they pack us in as tight as possible since they know that most of their coach friends will only be here 2-3 days. This is the only serious building on the property. They do have pretty good Wi-Fi in the coach and a very decent laundry. At this stage thanks to the intermittent rainy weather many of us are fighting common colds. I went through it today and the next two days and am now letting Carla get some rest as she battles the bug.



Our first night here we attended the Salmon Bake. A country setting with excellent food. Did I mention that this was all you can eat!



The Salmon Bake was held at Pioneer Park. Just a few pictures to show you how interesting the venue is.



Dennis, hope you can appreciate this picture below. My father bought a car just like this, it was his way of telling family he was no longer part of the Chevy generation. It had everything a car could have, at that time, except power steering. It handled like a tank on really cold days.



Our tour leaders Ed and Dudley really can't pull themselves away from this car. These two individuals, with the help of their wives, gave twenty coach owners one of the finest vacations we could ever dream of experiencing.



Next on our list of things to do, courtesy of Winnebago, is to attend a production at the Palace Theatre. Originally this building, in its day, was Goldin's Grocery. It later became Palfy's Sheet Metal Works and Brewery. I could not understand combining a metal works business with a brewery...whatever. These four characters plus a piano player (not shown), put on such a great performance it would be hard for me to tell. It was over two hours of pure satire on the Alaskan way of life in general and then they wrapped it up with an Alaskan rendition of "Who's on First".



The entire day was awesome. As we finished the evening all could say to Carla is to get me home fast. The bug had set in about two hours ago and at this stage I was shivering all over. Two days later I was almost back to normal now taking care of Carla.

8.18.2016- Today I spent most of the day in bed trying to get over this bug. Tomorrow I would be feeling better but would spend the day helping Carla get over the same bug. Hopefully we'll both be better by travelling day on Sunday.

8.20.2016- SAT- Hard to believe that in 15 days this sojourn into America's last frontier will be coming to an end. Today



is our last full day in Fairbanks, a little town of less than 40,000 that offers so much. It offers all that one needs with the luxury of being able to go into town and come back without having to pack a lunch. This is the furthest North we'll be travelling. Next week, currently, we'll be back in Whitehorse, YT with a variety of stops along the way. Later today we'll be attending Sacred Heart CC for mass followed by only an apple turnover. You could not believe how sick I felt, only wanted to go to bed.

8.21.2016...Tok, Haines and the Alaskan pipeline



We travel south, for a change, to Tok, AK. The trip was 200+ miles on a basically straight road, dull at best. We did however, intersect with the Alaskan Pipeline at the Tanana River.



You guessed it-The Alaskan Pipeline.

8.22.2016-Arrive at Destruction Lodge just for an overnight. Parking was minimal most of us dry-camped. We were promised 30amp power, but they only provided 10-amp power. I think they've lost a major account. Neither of us are on our feet yet.

8.23.2016-We travel to and arrive at Haines, AK. We both need a rest. We're both under the weather. That will be the case for the next even days, at least.



Haines is just a very small community which manages to get all their work out of the way between Monday and Friday, few works on weekends. The school here has about three-hundred students, k-12. In a couple of days, we'll visit Skagway, which has 19 students K-12. The trip to Haines was, as usual, uneventful. We are ready for an oil change but that will have to wait till we get to the lower 48. The hitch-up RV Park we're in is a Good Sam's and is definitely a four-star resort. This was a well-deserved change that we all needed.



8.24.2016-Took a ferry to Skagway, Alaska then we did the White Pass Summit RR ride. Not much to see just lots of jewelry stores. We are still under the weather but getting better. Body chills seem to predominate every day. Our purpose for Haines is to take this ferry to Skagway so we can take a trip on the White Pass Railroad. In the picture above you can see one of two twin rivers. These rivers drop down to the Fjord we're in from six-thousand feet. High above are glaciers that are melting, and the water is filling the sea. About fifteen-thousand years ago in the last ice age this 6000-foot mountain was capped with snow and ice going up another two-thousand foot.

8.26.2016-Juneau and Mendenhall Glacier



We take the Fjord Express to Juneau, AK to visit Juneau, AK. We take the Fjordland Ferry to Juneau. While in Juneau we tour Juneau. We top the day off by visiting the Mendenhall Glacier. After that it was back on the ferry and back to Haines.



Did I mention we did a little whale watching? Would have been nicer if it were a little more accommodating and had come in a little closer, but it is what it is. It's not whale watching until you get one of these shots.



This was the Captain and owner of the ferry vessel with his daughter, also first mate and galley captain.



Juneau's downtown.



Some pictures of downtown Juneau. Above is a parking garage but the town folks wisely added the city library to the top level. This waterfall feeds into the Mendenhall Glacier Lake. In the foreground is the Mendenhall Glacier. Twenty years ago, we were told that the glacier extended to the land mass just off the tip of my right shoulder. One hundred years ago the glacier occupied the entire lake, but thanks to environmental warming this glacier, like so many others, is receding. As you can guess from the itinerary the tour from this point on is to basically get us all back to Prince George, BC, the last stop of our Alaskan Tour.

8.27.2016-The beginning of the end of sojourn.

27th and 28th ...Leaving Whitehorse at Pioneer RV Park



The scenery driving to Whitehorse never ends. We've stayed there on our trip going north and now we will spend a couple of day relaxing before we begin our serious trip to Prince George the end of the road. We are traveling south by way of another southern route. The vistas, however, never cease to impress.



We're on Rt 7 and eventually we'll jump onto the Alaskan Hwy Rt 1. Another glacier...Awesome! We continually see these throughout our travels.

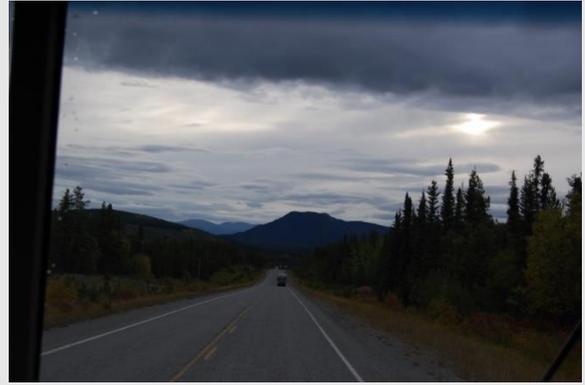


Look at these mountains. It's almost distracting. This is not Big Sky Country of Montana but it's near close to it.



With all these colder temperatures we continually find small farms here and there. Road reconstruction never disappears. Alaska is preparing for a big celebration in the near future. Watson Lake can't be much further.

29th...Watson Lake at Baby Nugget Campground

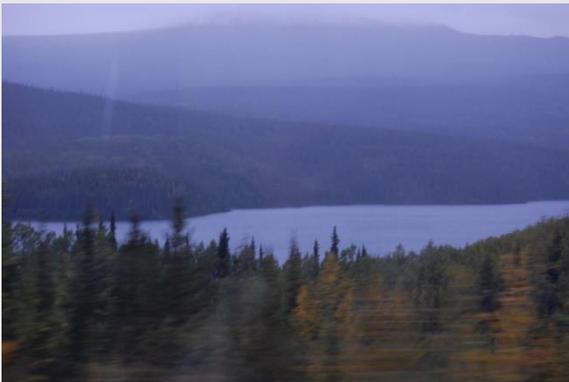


We had a very nice stay in Whitehorse and even enjoyed an awesome BBQ steak cookout. But as you can see from the above picture the only way to leave Alaska is to get back on the road each day. This would be a slightly longer trip at almost 266 miles. There's only been a few of these but they sometimes cause us to arrive a little later in the day than usual.



As always Alaska has thousands of these beautiful lakes. Many, however, are not clear water but rather glacier water which is embedded with ash and other impurities.

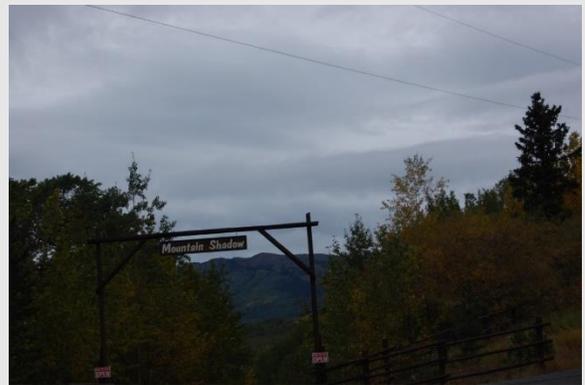
8.30.2016-Iskut, BC at Mountain Shadow RV Park



In a few miles we'll be pulling off the road to experience Jade City. It's one of the biggest producer of finished Jade in the world. I would like to say that the roads eventually began to look like our superhighways, but no. This is about as good as it ever got. For this reason we'd probably not ever do Alaska again.



What you see is what you get, this is Jade City. Many here do very well as far as income. I did as a young girl in the gift shop if she ever got to the big city, she said once, she went to Whitehorse. I felt bad about that but in its own way this is small paradise. Told her she wasn't missing much.



The one thing is for sure, Mountain Shadow does lie ahead, question is; how far.

8.31.2016-Stewart, BC at Bear River Campground



Iskut would be another one of those drive, eat sleep and go venues. Our trip today is under 200 miles and we'll be traveling through mountain-views and glacier country, can't wait. Wow! The picture was great but you should have been there live.



A little further down the road and we still have low lying clouds. Above is a turn-out. Just a place to get off the road and rest up or spend an evening if needed. Below is, once again, fire weed. It is fully in bloom which is telling us the snow is only a couple of weeks away, or so goes the tale.



Glacial rivers are everywhere. We have seen fishermen from time to time so I guess the ash does not affect the fish that much.



No, this is not Bear River, a few miles to go, just a road workstation.



The book was right, glaciers are in our face. These are just so beautiful. To think that the snow trapped in these structures could be thousands of years old in some areas. Every day they melt away and calmly drain into North Country Rivers and streams.



These falls are hundreds of feet tall. The water to make these falls come from melting glaciers. We've seen pictures of glaciers from fifty years ago all in their great glory and size, not so much these days. Still many insist there's no Environmental changing going on.
Construction of a new turn-out.

SEPTEMBER 2016

9.02.2016-Smithers, BC at Riverside Municipal RV Park.



Little villages, like this one pop up from time to time. It does have electricity but I'm sure many of the inhabitants are living off the grid.



We continuously drive in and out of these clouds. Occasionally we do see on-coming traffic and once or twice a day we even get passed, generally by one of our fellow travelers. Throughout these seven weeks the first rule of surviving and to monitor the mechanics of your coach closely. So many of these homes as we travel. There's little work. It could be that they do like Carla and I, enjoy each day as it comes and always prepare for surprises.



Once again more farmlands. Such a short growing season, about three months, how do they do it?



Imagine having this view from your porch to enjoy each day...Awesome! It would be great to just sit around and contemplate such a pleasant thought, but remember winter is coming and it does get to be thirty below in this area. So, we take the pictures and get back into the coach, put it in gear and continue on looking for Prince George, BC.

Sept. 3rd 4th...Prince George, BC at Hartway RV Park



We were scheduled to stay only twenty-four hours in Smithers, BC. Today, the final leg of this Alaskan Vacation would be today. We awoke early since we would be parkers on this final leg. Our destination is Prince George, BC some 205 miles from here.



The clouds did finally break up, the sun also rose to greet us and the coach was humming on these final miles. Everyone was ready for this episode to end. It was unimaginably exciting and challenging. In no way could visiting Alaska from a cruise ship ever hold a candle to what we experienced.



We continue to enjoy all that BC has to offer on these final hours of our trip.



The roads improve one hundred percent. All of us are tired and looking forward to just remaining in one campground for a couple of days and sleeping late for a change. Finally, we see Prince George.



This is a city not a village or hamlet. If we were spending some extra time here and if we were rested up the Prince George Curling Club looked very exciting. The coach is encrusted with sand and dust. Once in the states we have an appointment to have some minor repairs completed. I'm not sure if I'll ever get the coach back to its original shine. We will be spending three full days in P.G. and everyone needs it. Tomorrow, the 4th, we will enjoy a social hour at 5pm and a Farrell dinner at 5:30pm. Just when we all thought we would be sleeping in on the 5th, departure day, we're told of a breakfast being sponsored by the leaders of this caravan. Nothing fancy, coffee and pastries. It was a mixture of happy and sad times. This has been our family for the past seven weeks and after today we will never see many of these folks again. There is a dozen or so I'm certain we'll be crossing paths soon.

9.05.2016-Leaving Prince George... going to Williams Lake.



Working hard trying to get to the original layer of paint. Not sure if the HHR will ever be shining red again, can only hope. What do you think of these roads?



A waterwheel, something you don't see very often. Rain again, what else is new. Williams Lake is just up the road.





Rivers and streams continue to amaze us. Below is a gas station we stopped at on our way up, gosh, how time flies. Turns out that soon this area is to be developed into a first-class ski venue.

9.07.2016- We're back!

So many emails and calls asking me what happened to the Blog? In a nutshell it outgrew its server, or something like that. Now we are on a new high-speed server, however, you might not notice the difference. The blog will take a couple of months to bring up to date, but I expect time is something I'll have an abundance of.

So, here's what has happened. We finally left Alaska as well as the Canadian Provinces and headed south to Washington State. Spent three weeks there enjoying the area and doing nothing. After three weeks we left Washington for Oregon.

We were only there a day or two when we received a call that my brother Dennis had a stroke from a bleeding aneurism. After Carla and the coach was settled in I made plans to fly to Boca, Florida to be with Dennis. My brother Richard, in San Jose, CA, was doing likewise. We both spent four days with him then we both left. Once I got back to Oregon, Carla and I began planning out a trip, cross-country, back to Boca to help Dennis with his rehab. By that Thursday our GPS had a better route and we were on our way. Eight days and fourteen hundred miles later we arrived in Wildwood, FL in time to experience hurricane Matthew. Our first day in Wildwood we rested, second was preoccupied with the hurricane and we're now making plans to store the coach in Boca for the next twelve months. That's the time the doctors say Dennis will need for a good recovery.

You would think I'd be happy to once again live in a very nice condo in Boca, but the Motorhome lifestyle is so addictive. It is our goal that, with a great deal of work on Dennis' part and with His grace, Dennis will someday experience, for himself, the truly unique lifestyle Carla and I enjoy every day.

9.14.2016- We made it to the Flying J in Hope. It turned out to be very quiet after 10pm. The trip up had a couple of mishaps. We had stopped for a break at one of the pull-outs alongside the highway. After fifteen minutes it was time to continue. At the edge of the roadway were two washout areas and nothing to do but to go very slowly to minimize any rocking action to the coach.



What you see above is what happened. Dishes came flying out of the above cabinet like something you'd see in the RV movie. The views for the rest of the ride were awesome. As you can see for the picture the road, we travel is very acceptable. Every few miles posters on the side of the road ask drivers to pull-over and let faster vehicles pass us.

9.15.2016-Arrive in Prince George, YT



We drove through Quinsell, YT, on our way to PG and witnessed an awesome fair.

9.16.2016- Arrive in Dawson Creek for 3 days
Just one of many rivers we've crossed trekking to Dawson Creek.

9.17.2016- Dawson Creek Murals



Mile Zero Marker in Dawson Creek of the Alaskan Highway.

9.20.2016-It's all about Dennis from now on.

It was just five weeks ago Dennis was telling me how excited he was having seen and driven a motorhome he really was interested in. Not that the one he saw was it, due to the condition it was in, but one like it; but that was five weeks ago.

Four weeks ago, he was at home and was experiencing a strange sensation. Pain in his arm and the sound of wind coming from his ear. Not knowing for sure he dialed 911 stat and managed to get himself outside within seconds of falling to the ground, he was experiencing a stroke; but that was four weeks ago today. Last night we attended a meeting to instruct caregivers on the neurological struggles our love-ones are challenged with and the types of services available to them if they need them. Today was a red-letter day. The last few days we've been making plans for him with home health care workers. In addition to that we've been cleaning in preparation for an in-house inspection from his case worker and others

involved in his rehab. Ambulance service will be needed for him to continue his rehab after he leaves the center on Nov 4th, that's still work in progress. Our goal is to keep him at HealthSouth since it is the best facility in South Florida. To our surprise we were told that could now enjoy liquids without adding thickening agents, awesome! That alone would have made our day but then we were also told that he would be taken off the "puree" formulated meals and could now enjoy finely chopped meals, thank you God! His verbalization is doing very well and evidently his swallowing muscles are strong enough for the switch to a slightly more solid food program. A couple of days ago I had asked if salt could be part of his diet, for many reasons; he loves everything with salt on it, food taste better, the sodium will retain fluids and could help when he has to pee and lastly the salt might increase his blood pressure, which currently is low and causing concerns. Tomorrow, Friday, Dennis will visit home for the first time in thirty days. The rehab crew joining him will evaluate the condo and make recommendations that will help Dennis be safe when he come back for good in two weeks. Once we know which bedroom is selected to be the most patient friendly, we will begin refurbishing it to meet his needs. Prayers for Dennis are greatly appreciated. Great parking, not to mention the sunsets, Sub Way for nourishment and awesome views; precious!

9.18.2016- Wooden Bridge



9.19.2016- Dinner and group picture at Mile Zero

9.20.2016-Serpentine Belt disintegrated. We had just come down from a very steep hill onto a semi-circle bridge when the incident happened. I had just about parked the coach safely just after the bridge, going up another hill, when the first Canadian stopped to help us.

He was awesome. He had a name and number in his phone for his cousin Archie. The coach was disabled, we had no cell service and were not sure if we could reach our Road-Service provider, so his offer to help was very appreciated. He left us within a few minutes but promised he'd take care of us. So now I paced up and down behind the coach waiting for Archie. Within five minutes another Canadian in his Mercedes stopped in front of the coach and offered to help. I said I thought I had it under control, but he insisted on at least trying to reach his in-law Archie to help us. I confirmed that I felt sure that Archie had already been contacted, but he said he would follow-up on it with a phone call. Still waiting for Archie to show up, then comes a Canadian Mounty. He was very pleasant and offered to contact the local tow person, who else but...Archie! I told him I felt Archie might be on his way, but he said he was obligated to make sure someone was coming for safety reasons.

He reassured me that to tow would be short since there was a truck repair shop at the top of this hill. Archie tow service did show up, at least one of his associates, a family member. Within thirty minutes of his arriving I was safely at the truck shop. My having a spare serpentine belt saved me three days of waiting for one to be delivered and I was at Muncho by 4 p.m.

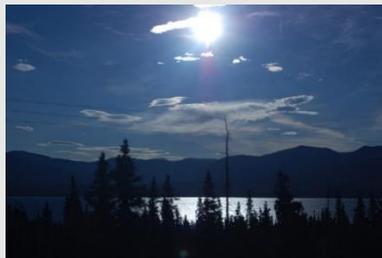


Once we had our serpentine belt replaced, we were back on the road again.

21st -Arrive at Muncho in fog and misty rain.



22nd -Arrive at Watson Lake, YT and hope to visit Laired Hot Springs, Rancho Falls



9.21.2016-Our stay in Tok, AK came with a free day. That's a day we can sleep a little later and not have to travel. A few in our group adventured to Chicken, AK, but we opted to enjoy this day as much as possible. Watson Lake, YT @ stayed at Baby Nugget Campground

23rd - 26th- Whitehorse, AK & stayed at the Pioneer RV Park

26th- Arrived at Destruction Bay and stayed at the Destruction Bay RV Lodge.

27th - 28th Arrived in Tok, AK and stayed at the Tok RV Village for two days.

29th - Arrived at Bear Paw in Valdez, AK.

9.30.2016 Saturday-Goes without saying it's our Church, pizza and movie night.



While in Valdez we would attend the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church. The church, I know, is not much to brag about, but I kind of like small churches. Of the forty of so parishioners that were in attendance at least six were from the WIT group and another twenty were visiting from other states, mostly from Florida.

OCTOBER 2016

10.07.16- We're back!

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That's all for 2016