

Issue # 51 March 2009

Vacation Issue Continues

1-Mar-2009 Day 10



At Red Rock Park in New Mexico one of the rocks was cracked. This was another part of the park that was fenced off so you couldn't get to it.

02-Mar-2009 3:00pm Day 11

Continental Divide NM

While Mike and Petra are walking from where we stayed last night in Red Rock State Park that is only Red Rock Park now, I have been looking a fresh water pump. The last couple of days the pump has been getting noisier and noisier. I decided to see if I could find a new one.

After finding the nearest dealer was 120 miles north of Gallup, I looked for just an RV service place near Gallup. Red Rock Park was only 12 miles from where I stayed the on the 28th. Yes I didn't get far yesterday. Anyway they

told me they were 3 places in Gallup that fix RVs. Oh; "They" are Freedom Care who I call them when things are broken.

Since John and his family at USA RV Park in Gallup were so good to me I went there and ask before I went looking for a repair shop. John called DEWEESE Mobile Home & RV that I found was an appliance store because the RV business is so slow, and asked Kevin if he had a pump. He said that he sold the last on Saturday. Not to worry some were coming in by UPS at 11 o'clock this morning.

After going shopping for supplies I found the shop and got the pump. I told him what it was doing and he told me it might be the pump. On the other hand it could be just sucking some air from some where. I bought the pump anyway.

I just finished changing the pump and it still sound like an air hammer when it is pumping. I don't have the tools to take the hoses apart and refit them to see if it is an air leak. It may take a few days until I get to Albuquerque. I can live with the noise for a few days now that I have spare pump. Maybe both pumps are bad or maybe both are good and it is just sucking air from somewhere.

When Mike and Petra get here later I will try using Duck Tape for a temporary fix.



Later I put longer hoses on both sides of the water pump to stop the banging. It seemed to get rid of most of the noise.

Route 66

We have been kind of traveling down old Route 66 since I hooked up with Mike and Petra back in Flagstaff on February 23rd. This is day 8 with them. Think about it, I was going to find them and share a pot of coffee and then head back home.

I am thinking of being their support crew until Albuquerque around the 13th of March.

Being the support isn't hard but it isn't easy either. They figure out how far they want to walk the next day and then I go there and we meet. Sometimes they stay in the motor home with me and sometimes they get a hotel.

Last night we stayed at the RV park in the Red Rock Park. The two nights before they were in 2 different motels and I stayed at the USA RV Park. We were both in Gallup.

I walked down Gallup and we had coffee and I head back to my home and they headed on to find theirs. Then the next day, last night, we spent the night together at Red Rock.

I think I am going to work on my book a while because I don't think they

will be here until six o'clock because they were looking at 18 miles this morning.

3-Mar-2009 Day 13



We stayed at the Continental Divide. East of this point all water flows to the Atlantic Ocean and West of here the Pacific Ocean.

04-Mar-2009 Noon 65° Day 14

Grants, NM

I am in Blue Spruce RV park and set up here until tomorrow morning. It is a little windy but I am in between 2 other trailers that are blocking the wind so it is ok for me.

They are very friendly here. I got here a little before ten.

This RV park is owned by the same people as I used yesterday when I worked on the water pump yesterday. This one is much smaller. Most of the people here stay long term meaning for months at a time.

It is only \$15.00 a night but no Wi-Fi. I can handle one night with out Wi-Fi. Well, can't I? Maybe later I will go over to McDonalds and use theirs

Yesterday

I stopped at Bar 'S' RV Park yesterday and worked on the noisy pump and didn't make much difference to it. I

guess it will have to wait or I will have to live with it this trip.

Last night

We stayed at Blue Water State Park last night. We almost had the whole place to ourselves.



This is the lake at Blue Water State Park.

4:00pm

I do not have Wi-Fi here at the RV Park so I went over to McDonalds on the other side of the interstate. And I took off with my laptop backpack. I had forgotten how heavy that was, 20 pounds maybe. That is not a lot of weight but it does not fit well as a backpack. It works better as a wheel cart. But it works to carry things for a while.

So I got to McDonalds around 12:30 for lunch and to use the internet. The connection was weak and the pay service that I could have use was spotty. As it turned out I never got online to check email. So if I-O-U an email you are going to have to wait for another day.

I have been visiting with the local people at the RV park. They are very friendly and you know I like to talk.

Tom the guy that owns this park and the one on the other end of town says he is the oldest living person that worked in the uranium mines that he knows of. Virginia is a retired truck driver who used to work as a guard at a prison some where near by. John, who checked me in, is a hiker or was.

Another lady was walking around look for a place to go to the bathroom. Oh, I didn't tell you, the RV park didn't

have water until just before I went to lunch. Someone hit a fire hydrant over the weekend and they were fixing it today. I guess getting city service out to do thing are slow here too.

The Pilgrims

Mike should be calling me soon. They should be in town about now yesterday they made good time. It was a nice day with wind at their back. I usually guess between 4:30 and 5:30 the phone will ring. I think Mike said they figured 18 miles today. That would be to this exit. Tonight is motel night for them. So 20 miles at 2.5 mph leaving at 8:30am should put then...lets see... $8.5 + 8 = 16.5$ so about 4:30pm. That is 5 minutes ago.

Internet

You know I am starting to have withdrawal not having the internet. I hope those guys let me stop somewhere I can get some tomorrow.

5:00pm

Mike just called. They are just past the road I am on at exit 81. They have maybe 2 miles to find a motel. In the mean time I will give some stats on my trip.

Trip Stats

Miles

Day	Date	Miles Driven	Num.Days	Mi. per Day
1	18-Feb			
2	19-Feb	250	1	250
3	20-Feb	381	1	381
4	21-Feb	363	1	363
5	22-Feb	481	1	481
9	26-Feb	599	4	150
11	28-Feb	16	2	8
15	4-Mar	253	4	63

Fuel

Date	Mileage	Miles	Gallons	MPG
19-Feb	9460	Start	24.902	Start
20-Feb	9936	476	55.586	8.56
21-Feb	10380	444	57.527	7.72

22-Feb	10719	339	52.251	6.49
23-Feb	11204	485	57.630	8.42
1-Mar	11564	360	43.876	8.20

7:00pm

Mike called and he had to go clear to the next exit to find a motel. I decided to wait until morning to hook up with them. The next exit is 4 miles. For me that is 2 hours there and 2 hours back making it eleven o'clock. I don't want to walk that far after dark. And I don't want to unhook the RV tonight. I think I will stay right here and rough it by eating the ice cream tonight. And I can watch what I want on TV too. ☺

05-Mar-2009 8:45am Day 15

Grants, NM, Days Inn

Again I have no internet service that works for me. This service here is trying to connect but it is having trouble to do so. Since I have trouble the last few places maybe it is my computer and not the services.

I have to think this having an internet connection while I am on the road so I don't get all stressed out. I just want to let everyone knows that I am ok and see what is at the next stop.

For now I will just let it go as is until it is available.

Noon, Sky City Casino RV Park

The Wind is blowing here. They are calling for 50 mph gust today. Mike & Petra are walking with the wind at the back. They will call if it gets too much for them to walk.



The view of a storm not too far away was a good thing to see. After the storms the winds seem to lighten up.

I tried the Wi-Fi here and it drifts in and out. It may be the wind that is causing the problem here. I will go to the office in a while and see what they have to say about it.

Mike had to get a new battery for his phone so he used mine today and I am charging his. I hope if he calls me he remembers he has to call his phone to get me.

Well I am going up to the Sky City office to see what is happening. Maybe get some lunch while there.

5:00pm

I went in the casino and played some slot machines for a couple of hours. The only thing I won was the right to leave my money in them.

Before I went up there I took some antihistamine to try to stop my runny nose. It has been running for days. I think I must have some kind of allergy. They must have kicked in because my nose stopped running and they put me to sleep. About 3 o'clock I got very tired. I came back to the RV and after lying down I slept for 2 hours. I am still

groggy now. Maybe after Mike and Petra arrive from their walk I will wake.

The RV has been rocking all day because of the wind. With all this wind I figured those pilgrims would have blown in by now. Maybe the wind blew them to the next town. ☺

10:00pm

I am tired. After dealing with the heavy winds today and the big dinner I am sleepy. Mike & Petra were a little done in from the wind.

I decided not to go back in the casino and give them any more of my money.

The entertainment in the casino on March 14th will be Chubby Checker. I didn't know he was still around. How many of you know who Chubby Checker is?

Anyway I am going to get some sleep. Maybe the wind will let up tomorrow.

07-Mar-2009 8:00am Day 17

I went back to the casino last night and gave them another \$2.00. I only played penny slots. It took an hour and a half to blow my two bucks. That is a small price to play for some entertainment.

Now it is time to move on. The pilgrims will be here in a while to pick up their gear and then I will secure the RV for the road and checkout and I am out of here.

Later

Mike & Petra have been here and gone. It is cold and windy this morning. I show 40° and they are calling for winds up to 55 mph again. Yes, I said 55 MPH. This time of the year they get very heavy

winds. This year they say they are much heavier than normal. Some one said they have not had any rain since December so a fire could be a problem too.



Mike & Petra pose of a picture just before we walked down to the road. We took a tour to Acoma, NM the oldest continually inhabited place in the US.



Standing in front of the kissing rock you see Mike and Petra.

I have to go outside and fill my freshwater tank in this cold. You know one you could have fly down here and do

that form me. Did I say it was COLD and WINDY this morning?

Well I best get started!

09-Mar-2009 1:00pm Day 19

Dancing Eagle RV Casino Park

I am here this time of the day because they have a Bakery, Hardware Store, Grocery store and a RV park all at the same place.

We stayed here 2 days ago too and had breakfast in the restaurant before heading out on our day's journeys.

I think I have that fresh water pump fixed. Well maybe fixed enough.

Last night

We stayed at Jesses & Dino's place Hwy 6 Mini Mart between I40 and Los Lunas on NM route 6. I asked if there was any place we could park for the night and Dino say; "You can park along side of the building. No one will bother you." After the little kids on dirt bikes went to bed it was very peaceful.

Today as well as last night it rains. They need the rain. On the news the other day they were saying that parts of New Mexico has not had rain since last December. Everywhere I look things are very brown. This rain is very good thing here. The sun has been peeking out a little. It still looks like we will have more rain.

Mike & Petra are out walking Route 6 from where parked last night. They have a 3 day trip from Mesita at I-40 exit 117 to Los Lunas via Route 66.

Two days ago I tried the part of RT 66 they waked yesterday. That was from Mesita to route 6. My top speed was 17 mph. And that was when I was speeding. It is a very old stretch of the

Rt. 66 that is not maintained. It is about 10 miles long and it took me an hour. And I might have seen 2 pickups in that hour. It was very rough!

I have to get some propane and fill up the fresh water tank before I go find the pilgrims this evening. I like to make things get filled or emptied when they get around half. That way if we can't find a RV park we can boondoggle (dry camp), like last night. I think tonight might be that kind of night.

Hay, I think I have an internet connection! Nope, too weak! I guess I will do something else.

7:00pm Update

Today I think the fresh pump is fixed now. And my hand is healing. Oh, yesterday a cat jumped into Mike's lap and slipped so it grabbed Mike's hand with its claws to keep from slipping. Ouch! And blood. Later Petra stubbed her toe. So today I got even. I cut my hand while working on that pump. See, things still happen in threes.

Tonight we are in the middle of nowhere with a super view of the mountain sunset. Woops, I missed the picture of the sunset.

I pulled off the road where part of old Route 66 use to go over the river. Yes, it is just off of NM route 6 about mile marked 20. This is part of old U.S. Route 66. We are 20 miles from I 40 and 15 miles from Los Lunas, NM. This is tonight's home.

I am waiting for someone to come along and run us off. If not it is a super nice place to stay.

10-Mar-2009 4:50pm Day 20**Isleta, NM**

I am at the Isleta Lakes and Recreation Area RV Park. It is called "The finest Fishing and Camping Resort within 15 minutes of Albuquerque." And I should go out and enjoy more of it and stop typing. So far I have seen the convince store and the laundry room. It is time to walk around the lake. Maybe now!



This is a view of the lake at the Isleta RV Park.

Well I am back. Tomorrow I will walk around the lake. They said it is two miles around. It was too cool to do it this late in the day and I didn't have my jacket with me. So I can do that tomorrow.

Another thing I might do tomorrow is hop on to the train and go downtown Albuquerque. There is this brand new looking train that stopped across the street today. I thought I would have to check it out. It looks like it would cost only \$1 for a day pass on Saturday.

I just checked the weekday price and it is also \$1 from here to down town Albuquerque. If you live in Santa Fe county it's free.

Now get this, if you buy your ticket online you get a dollar discount. So I went online and bought a D-Day pass for Isleta Pueblo to downtown Albuquerque for tomorrow. It cost one dollar and you get a one dollar discount. Yes folks, it was FREE.

And there goes the train for it last trip today. There are four cars including the engine. And they all look new! I am ready for my ride!

Mike and Petra are in Los Lunas tonight. They will meet me here late tomorrow afternoon. Then they too can get a ticket for next to nothing. They are in a different zone in Los Lunas so it would cost them \$2 from there. Sorry! ☺

This weekend I am going to the 2009 Gathering of Pilgrims in downtown Albuquerque this weekend maybe I will stay here instead of going to the hotel where it is.

11-Mar-2009 noon Day 21**Albuquerque, NM**

As you can see from this picture spring has come to Albuquerque.

I am sitting in the train station waiting for Rail Runner to take me back to Isleta that leaves here at 1:03pm.

I took this train to Albuquerque at 8:30 this morning. I walked over to find the Rio Grande Best Western. There was a Star Bucks there so I had coffee then returned to the train station.

On the way I walked through Old Town and saw there were a lot of Arts and Craft shops. None of them were opened yet when I passed by.

On the way back I got off of Route 66 (Central) and ended up on Lomas. When I started getting near 1st where the train station should be I started walking north to find Central. I asked Ron another walked how far it was. He pointed to the south and said it is four blocks. And told me I could get the free shuttle to the train station. It ended up being only six blocks.

We walked together for a while until he had to catch his bus. Soon I was back to the station.

While waiting the Amtrak train was setting on the track. While they were loading it up with fuel I asked one of the train workers; "How much fuel it took?" He told me that they were just topping on the tanks with 2,200 gallons. He said it uses 5 gallons a mile. And I thought 'Getting 8 miles to the gallon wasn't that bad anymore.' ☺

Anyway I found my train and got a ride back to the RV Park.



The Rail Runner was a neat train ride.

4:40 pm

Mike called me while I was in Albuquerque and said they got off to a late start today. I think he said they left

Los Lunas around eleven o'clock. About 12 miles so 5 to 6 o'clock I should be hearing a rap on the door.

I didn't take that walk around the lake yet.

12-Mar-2009 7:43am Day 22

RV Park at Isleta, NM

I am up a little earlier than normal so I thought I would edit issue # 50 and try to get it online for you to read. Hummm, why am I typing this and not doing that?

11:00am

I just returned from having breakfast with those pilgrims. I walked to the hotel from the RV park even though the free shuttle was available to me if I would call. It was a little cool but a nice walk.

Last night after dinner I put a dollar in a slot penny slot machine and in a few minutes I had \$4.78 and after a 30 minutes I had ZERO!

This morning I thought I would try again because I could walk through the casino and not have to walk outside in the cold. ☺

This time it started to eat up my dollar and then all of sudden... ding, ding, and ding! I was ahead! Yes, I was up to \$1.02! I cash in and headed out the door with my winnings.

In the Sky City casino I dropped about thirty dollars. I am getting smarter now. Last night I spent \$1.00 and was up to \$4.78 before I started to loose. This morning I got smarter and cashed in while I was up two cents. At least I can say I am ahead today.

Mike and Petra were down here to the RV park to do there laundry before heading to Albuquerque. I have decided to stay here one more night before heading to Albuquerque.

When I get there I am going to stay at the hotel where the American Pilgrim Gathering is located. They have parking for the RV so why not. I can't spend my whole life on wheels.

8:10pm

What a day. Mike & Petra were going to walk half the way to

Albuquerque today and the rest tomorrow.

They talked me in to walking with them for a while. I figured I could walk as far as the train station then ride the train back to the RV park.

On the way Mike ran over a batch of the sticker things that are about the size of rose thorns. Sand burs maybe? Anyway they gave him flat tires on his cart. Not just one or 2 holes, but 4 in each tire. He had a patch kit but it took a long time to patch 8 holes.



I think it took an hour to fix the flats.

That made me stop to think I might miss the last train.

While walking I was watching the trash along the road. I counted 14 right hand gloves and only 2 left. I was wondering why that was. Were the left hand gloves on the other side of the road?

I found a quarter, new pair of gloves, and some one's CD case for of CDs.

The CD case was clean and full. There was about 8 CD in it. Later I will listen to hear what kind of music I found. They ware with out labels saying what was on them. So I don't know what I have yet.

The gloves are white knit and size large. They are a little dirty from lying along the side of the road but look fine. Now I can let Mike keep my gloves because he lost his right one. Maybe one of those I saw along the road was Mike's other glove. So Mike lost a right glove too! So what's with loosing right gloves? ☺

We got pulled over for walling down the highway. Well, Mike & Petra did. When I caught up to them the police just wanted then to get off the road because they didn't want us to get hurt.





The police pull over walkers too!

And now back to the train. It looked like I was going to miss my train so stopped dilly dallying around and started to make every step count. I saw the train go by about where I had to be to get the ride. Mike told me I still had 20 minutes. I said good bye and started to walk just a little faster. I didn't want to walk too hard because I could get warned out and not make it. I could always get a hotel for the night or even call for a ride or something.

So I walked down the road turning the corner and cutting a corner or two. I finally got to the train 2 minutes before it was scheduled to leave. And it was 7 minutes late! Everything turned out just fine.

Mike called and said that they got where they needed to be and he said nothing about any more flat tires.

13-Mar-2009 10:30pm Day 23

Albuquerque, NM

This morning I left the RV Park and headed to Albuquerque for the American Pilgrims Gathering. I thought

it was going to be gathering for people who have walked or might walk the Camino de Santiago. Its main theme today was about pilgrimages for whatever reason.

You know a pilgrimage could just be to a place you love. For me a trip to Sedona every once in a while is a pilgrimage. It is kind of a journey to a place for a purpose. I even have this daily pilgrimage to get coffee in the morning. It is not as grand as walking across the USA as Mike & Petra. It is my pilgrimage.

There are many people here that are planning to walk in Spain as I did in 2007 and many others that have already walked. So far we have been doing a lot of sharing.

I had forgotten many of the things I went through preparing to walk the Camino de Santiago. I enjoyed people asking and sharing their thoughts.

If you would like to know about the American Pilgrims, Yes you got it, go to www.americanpilgrims.com

15-Mar-2009 9:00am Day 25

Yesterday at the American Pilgrims Gathering they had many presentations. In the evening I sat at a table with Mike, Petra and many other pilgrims. Some had walked the Camino and some were planning on doing so.

One lady and her mother were at our table. The lady was Sue Kenney a storyteller. She was going to tell a story to the group later. I thought after the humorous presentations the rest of the day I would fall asleep at the dinner table.

I had talked to her earlier and had no real idea of her storytelling. She had

her book on the table as did many others including Mike. I didn't even give it a second look.

After dinner then dimmed the light and she started to tell her story. Wow! She started talking and whole room got quite. People were listing! She just talked and told of her journey on the Camino de Santiago. She had me in tears of joy a couple of times. I now have 2 of her books and can't wait to start to read them.

After having breakfast with Mike and Petra I have packed up my stuff from the hotel and loaded it into the RV except for the laptop. You knew I still needed my Wi-Fi fix before leaving.

After lunch I will head in the direction of Woodstock. I have enjoyed my journey but I long to return home for a while.



On the way out of Albuquerque I saw this neat building. Since I was driving and taking a picture I didn't its name.

8:30pm, Boise City OK

After saying good-bye to my to my pilgrims friends I hit the road. I traveled North I-25 then east on US-56 and now I am in a Love's truck in Boise City, OK for the night.

US-56, US-278, OK-325, and maybe some other all go through the town square. It was getting dark and I figured I should get off the road for the night before I got all tangled up in that mess. I have got lost in the square in Woodstock so being a stranger here I don't want to press my luck.

Tonight I will sleep in the parking lot with the truckers.

Tomorrow I will head to Kansas with a stop at Edie's and Marcia's houses.

For now I will get some sleep

16-Mar-2009 7:36pm Day 26 **Hutchinson, KS**

I tried to get to Marcia today to wish her a Happy Birthday. Sorry Marcia I didn't make it. I thought I had updated all of my contact information so if I had to call some one I would have current information. The phone number I had for both Marcia & Edie are very much out dated. I thought I could drive right to Edie's from memory but no such luck. I have Marcia's new address but I am in Hutchinson and I think both Marcia & Dan work nights and won't be home anyway.

I have a temporary home in the Wal-Mart parking lot across from Lowe's and I am 50 feet from IHOP. I am all set. If I need plumbing parts, a new shirt, or breakfast I can walk.

I called Mike and emailed Marcia. One of them will have a phone number for me. And maybe the next time I will make sure I have current information with me.

Marcia called later and I gave me the phone numbers and directions to their

place and Edie's address. None of the information I had was current.

We talked a while and I didn't want to drive the 30 miles to her house after dark. I need some sleep first. We decided to meat for breakfast in the morning.

17-Mar-2009 Day 27

I-135 north of Hesston KS



While driving to Marcia's I had to drive into the sunrise. Note the heavy ground fog on the right side of the sun.

Today I visited with Edie and Amber for a while. More so with Amber because Edie was working and she was needed and we didn't get a lot of visiting because of it.



This is Me, Amber, and Edie in Hutchinson.

Sam was at Marcia's so I got a little time to visit with her and the kids before she had to live to go back home to Colorado. It was good seeing them. Marcia had to run off to work and so did and Dan had to the same a little latter. I sill had time to visit with them.



Marcia and Dan

I enjoyed my visiting with them even though it was so short.

Thanking you Kansas people for letting me visit you I really enjoyed my time with you.

After some resting tonight I am going to head for Iowa tomorrow.

18-Mar-2009 6:09pm Day 28

Just inside Iowa

I am sitting in a rest area on I-35 just inside Iowa. The sign say they have Wi-Fi. I may be too far away from the antenna because I show none. I fired up the generator to make sure the laptop gets a good charge. Using the 12 volt adaptor it is not keeping up. Maybe I will stop in another rest area tomorrow and get my Wi-Fi. Maybe I could just go to McDonalds and use theirs.

I don't feel like driving any more today.

Little Later

I went up to the building at this rest area and they do have Wi-Fi and it is a very strong signal inside. If you get 50 feet from the building it goes to zero.

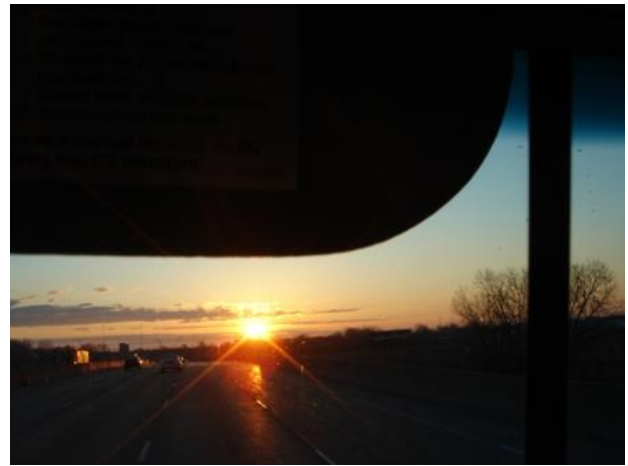
This is a metal building and they have two sources of Wi-Fi that I detected. Being that it is a metal structure it is like at home. The metal just drained the energy out of the signal and it only travels a short ways. Later I will take the laptop up to the building and get my Wi-Fi fix. If I don't get my fix tonight then maybe I get it tomorrow. Don't you just feel sorry for me? ☺

I basically just drove today stopping a couple times for a nap.

19-Mar-2009 8:03am Day 29**180, Iowa**

I am in a rest area on I-80 just east of I-35 in Iowa. This Wi-Fi is a little stronger than the one last night So I can get my fix and update my blog.

So this is what withdrawal is like when you stop taking drugs. ☺ After about 4 days without an internet connection I start to feel I have to get online. It is like it is eating away at me and I keep looking for a sign that says "Free internet". It keeps pulling me in that direction. Then when I get connected I enjoy finding email from friends and family that show up from time to time. I also love all the junk mail. ☹



I am sitting here waiting for the sun to get a little higher in the sky.

When you drive into the sunset or in my cast the sunrise you can't see where you are going. You can pull the visor and block the sun but at sunrise you have to pull it down all the way to the dash board. When it is that bad you look for a rest area with a Wi-Fi and wait it



out. I found it! ☺

I stopped in a restaurant and I saw this bikers.

The sun is up and I have my internet fix and I am read for breakfast. After that I am heading for Maquoketa to see if I can find Steve and/or Wally.

20-Mar-2009 4:31pm Day 30

Yesterday I stopped in Maquoketa and visited with Steve for a while. I didn't stay long because he had a spring cold and wasn't feeling well. I went looking for Wally and he wasn't around so I head for home.



Once I got on the bridge across the Mississippi River on US-20 I knew it would be a couple hours before I was home.

Home

I got home around 7 o'clock and when I walked in the house it was cold. I turned on the heat and decided to go to Vaughan's to get something to eat. Anila was working and it was good to see someone from home. After dinner I came home and crawled in to my own bed.

Being on vacation is nice but as Dorothy said; "There is no place like home!"

Today I have been trying to catch up on my mail. You know bills come in even when you stop your mail for a month. I guess it just happens.

I called Aunt Annie and invited her out for dinner. We will go out and have dinned with Bill & Arlene. It will give me an opportunity to catch up with what has been happening since I left.

21-Mar-2009 9:23am 41°

I have been unwinding from all that driving. Yesterday I was working on paper work. I have more to do today.

When I got up this morning I decided to get the car out in front so I could drive it instead of the motor home.

Getting more than five times the gas mileage with car I figured it was the thing to do.

So this morning I went out and the battery on the car was dead. Not just a little dead but dead enough nothing happened, dead enough that I could not unlock it with the remote, and dead enough that the little light on the radio was not even flashing.

I tell you this while I wait for it to charge. I think I will just take the motor home for breakfast and then the car will be charged when it return. Yup, I think breakfast and coffee first. The other stuff can wait!

A & W

While on the road I ate at an A&W® in Junction City, KS. We used to have an A&W® in Woodstock a long time ago. I think it was on Seminary Avenue where Isabel's is now. While sitting there eating my lunch I was trying to remember what the "A" and "W" stood for. I just looked it up and this is what I found:

A&W® was named after its founder, Roy Allen, and his partner, Frank Wright. The two met when Mr. Wright was an employee in the original A&W® location in Lodi, California.

Source: <http://www.awrestaurants.com/footercontent/faqs.asp>

New Mexico Lottery

While in New Mexico I donated \$6.00 to the lottery. I bought 2 Road Runner tickets and won nothing. I bought a Power Ball ticket that could have yielded \$173,000,000 but nothing. I also got three scratch-off tickets. I just scratched off them. Wow I won \$1.00! Maybe I should drive back to New Mexico to collect my dollar. Does any one want to ride along? You have to pay for the fuel. Don't worry I'll drive the car.

It will get there using one fifth the fuel than the motor home. Well, any takers?

Trip Cost

I just finished logging all my receipts from my trip. I'll look at the numbers in a couple days to see how much I spent. I will report that to you in a few days.

Mail

I have a bunch of mail to filter through now. It looks like I have a few bills to pay. And I handle Mike and Petra's mail so that will be next to review.

Returning from vacation after being away for a month has chores.

23-Mar-2009 8:34am 36°

Today is the first Monday since returning from vacation. It is a strange day. I went to Anglo's for breakfast as I have many times in the past. There were only 3 customers in there. They are usually busy for breakfast. Then when I went to pay from my meal I had only \$2.00 in my pocket. I spent all my money while on vacation and had not gotten to the bank to refill my cash supply.

When I got to the ATM machine it wouldn't work for me. It acted like my card was sticking. I looked at my card and it is bent. Not to worry because it will expire in a few days anyway. I have my new one laying here in front of me so I can make another trip in a few minutes.

On the way home I saw no cars on the road. It was like a holiday morning. No wait, holiday morning have more traffic. It was more like one of the days in the movies when you are the only one left. I am not really sure I want to go back out side if all the other people are

gone. Just kidding! I remembered it is spring break time. The parking lot at the school next door is empty. That tells me it is a school holiday and spring started just 3 days ago. I best go get some cash and pay Anglo's before they come and get me.

Getting Caught Up

You know we never get caught up do we? I have been home from vacation since Thursday and I have many things I think I have to get done. I am going to try to do some of these things. One can only do one thing at a time.

We all have many irons in the fire but you really can only do one things at a time. Right now my thing is to type in the newsletter. I think I will stop typing and look through my vacation pictures. The other things can wait.

26-Mar-2009 3:00pm 58°

I finally finished with issue # 50. It contains the first few days of my vacation. If you are a subscriber you should have received an email telling you it was ready.

So far today I have doning nothing. I am resting up so I can do some nothing later. I want to be prepared when there is nothing to do. I am usually very good at nothing. After I returned from vacation I found I need some training at doing nothing. I have to run a few errands and I think I will go to the restaurant and maybe just sit there and do nothing but drink some coffee.

Believe you me there is nothing to it once you learn how to nothing. I guess if you learn how to do something that gets easier too.

27-Mar-2009 2:14pm 46°

Let's start of with a wine joke

Wine Joke - Apples and Wine

Beautiful & accurate poetry!

Women are like apples on trees. The best ones are at the top of the tree.

Most men don't want to reach for the good ones because they are afraid of falling and getting hurt. Instead, they sometimes take the apples from the ground that aren't as good, but easy. The apples at the top think something is wrong with them, when in reality, they're amazing. They just have to wait for the right person to come along, the one who is brave enough to climb all the way to the top of the tree.

Now Men... Men are like a fine wine. They begin as grapes, and it's up to women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable to have dinner with.

Source: <http://jokeoftheday.wordpress.com/category/wine/>

This morning I had coffee with Steve. I hadn't seen him this month because of being on vacation. He reminded that he only lives a block from me now. If I drive there it is a block. In a straight line it might be 200 feet. You can't get there in a straight line. It is a block if you walk or drive. There are all kinds of fences between us.

Later

I decided to pick up the trash in the yard. I have been meaning to that since I returned from vacation. I bought one of those "Grab It" things so I could do it effortlessly. I found after using it is was easier work than effortless. I used a 6 gallon plastic and filled it twice with waste materials and once with recyclable stuff. I may have picked up enough aluminum to pay for a postage stamp.

So if you are walking by my house and dinking a beer or pop from Aaluminum can it is ok to toss it in the yard.

I just ask that you throw it along the fence back far enough that it doesn't blow out in the street. I have a fence almost 3/4 the way around my lot so it could keep them from blowing around the neighborhood.

If I remember right there are 32 coke cans to a pound of aluminum.

Does any one know what they are paying for Aluminum cans now?

I have to get back to getting back to getting the pictures in this issue and get my head out of the cans. ☺

28-Mar-2009 6:10pm 34°

Today has been another lazy day and now it is raining. I have to go back in put the vacation pictures into this newsletter.

29-Mar-2009 noon 34°

I thought by now the snow would be gone. I guess I will have to go out and deal with it.



March 29th and we got hit with a spring storm. Under this snow was some green grass!

7:00pm

Most of that snow has melted. And I never went outside other than to take that picture.

Marty