

# RV-n-AMERICA 2015



## RV-n AMERICA

2018

PAUL GRENIER

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ISBN:

# RV-n-AMERICA 2015

## DEDICATION

*Dedicated to my wife, Carla, for her love, patience and navigational skills which guaranteed our safe passage all year.*



*I Love You...*

Happiness: is to have everything; you need.

Not, the need to have everything.

pjgrenier

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# PAUL GRENIER

## **PREFACE**

I would like to take a few minutes here to introduce you to my wife Carla and myself, Paul. We are both working on our second marriages and we are both retired. During Carla's working years she worked for an Orthopedic Group as a Radiologic Technologist. As for myself, I have worn a couple of hats. I graduated college and worked as a pharmacist for around twenty-five-years. At fifty, give or take a year, we both decided to officially retire from our professions. While in Connecticut we enjoyed square dancing and long weekends on our boat. To help us find our next work opportunity we travelled the east coast through Florida and back up again, we sold everything and moved to Florida eventually purchasing a Child Care Center in Greenacres, FL. About ten-years later we sold it and bought another in Titusville, FL. That facility ended up not being one of our better choices. By this time the square dancing was over and also the boat. I spent a few years as a Commercial Realtor, selling and listing, what else, but Day Care Centers. Carla, at this time, was retired. For myself I was challenged with few thoughts of how to fill the years I have left; Until a vacation we took enlightened me.

Our lives would never be the same again.



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1

2

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## INTRODUCTION

1  
2 Thank you for joining Carla and I for our FIFTH year as  
3 we Travel America in 2015. This dissertation is not a regu-  
4 lar literary piece or novel like “Betrayal” or “War and  
5 Peace.” On top of that, right from the onset I wish to make  
6 clear, I am no James Patterson, as you will soon discover.  
7 The resource material for this composition is from our  
8 Travel Blogs. A Blog is a mishmash of occasional entries.  
9 For you, the reader, to remain continually abreast of the  
10 timeline of the story, I am entering the day and month for  
11 your convenience. As we travelled in our motorhome, we  
12 would go on field trips to different venues in the area and  
13 then, quite often, do very little for a couple of days or even  
14 a week, which necessitates a date, from time to time, to  
15 avoid your feeling lost in time. I’ve tried to include as many  
16 photos as possible to make up for my lack of verbal exper-  
17 tise. This year we’ll be visiting a famous baseball diamond,  
18 a winery a glass blower, some Cathedrals and last, but not  
19 least a couple of iconic restaurants; and many more venues.  
20 Over the last eight-years we have travelled over fifty-thou-  
21 sand miles viewing so many places of interest and, often,  
22 just plain unusual points of interest. Please excuse my lack  
23 of literary talent, and hopefully you should enjoy the overall  
24 scope of the story and hopefully give you and your family  
25 some ideas for travel destinations of your own.

26 Paul

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1

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1

2 As I mentioned in the closing pages of last years' RV-n-  
3 America 2014 book we traded our fifth wheel RV for  
4 something a little bigger and much easier to handle.



5

6 Not everything has changed, however. Scoots is now a little  
7 older a little heavier and much tamer than a year ago. Since  
8 then, she's been de-clawed, an action we had to take, but  
9 that's another story.

10

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1 Dennis, my brother, has been spending a little more time  
2 with us as well. It's our hope that he'll embrace this life-  
3 style, at least on a part-time basis, and possibly spend less  
4 time in Boca.



5

6 I think everyone reaches a stage in their lives when they re-  
7 alize that it's time to try something a little different for the  
8 few years we might still have. Dennis, on the right, is now  
9 trying to map out his future. In the first book we men-  
10 tioned that it's not our goal to visit only the well visited  
11 venues in America, but rather, to discover some lesser-  
12 known attractions that could be equally interesting. As with  
13 2014, we will discover numerous churches, many with very  
14 interesting histories and or origins.

15

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## MARCH 2018

### Easter Sunday

30<sup>th</sup>. We, possibly like many of you, experience the Lenten Season with some daily sacrifices and, of course, all the obligations of the Holy Days. By the time Carla and I get to Holy Week, at least I, find myself wishing I'd done just a little more. But, now it's Holy Week. Usually in the evening, after viewing the local and national news stations, we'll search for a movie, if nothing else is worth watching. On Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday we try to find something appropriate related to the weekend. This year we found a good movie for Friday but the Saturday movie will be an annual event for us in the future. We found it on Netflix, but I will intensely look to try to acquire the DVD. *Son of God*. It's a two-hour production and worth every minute of watching. Hope you have a chance to view it someday.



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**APRIL 2018**



1  
2

3

4 I am always so proud of my kids, but sadly they don't share  
5 their everyday challenges with me as I would hope they  
6 might. Abby, our surrogate granddaughter, seems to have  
7 been in our lives for so many years now. A few years ago,  
8 she graduated high school and decided to take a year off.  
9 She's always had a yearning to draw and/or paint. We al-  
10 ways hoped the best for her in that field but very few are  
11 very successful. She's tough and has proven to have the te-  
12 nacity to continue with very little encouragement. As of to-  
13 day, she's been contracted to do several paintings, where  
14 she now gets paid for her talent.

15 She describes herself, in her own words as:

16 *I am Abby Pfister, a self-taught artist from Florida's space coast. My*  
17 *passions include painting and drawing. I enjoy all mediums but mostly*  
18 *use acrylic, gouache, pastels, and watercolors. Many of my paintings*  
19 *and illustrations include healing geometric symbols which have been*  
20 *considered sacred by many past civilizations. I enjoy using art to heal*  
21 *and express myself as well as uplift others!*

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1 *I am drawn to Sacred Geometry and esoteric knowledge. My art is a*  
2 *representation of the divine connection between all of us and primordial*  
3 *source energy. Many of my inspirations come from nature itself, these*  
4 *shapes and patterns lie in every leaf, cell, animal, building, and hu-*  
5 *man being. Sacred Geometry and art can be found everywhere in my*  
6 *daily life, a constant inspiration.*

7 As I looked over her website this afternoon, I was trying to  
8 think of anything I could do to help her along in her quest  
9 for success. As of this week I've had almost 135,000 view-  
10 ings to this blog. The last twelve months I've been averag-  
11 ing 70 views a day and I've had little to nothing to say.



12  
13 It is my hope that some of my visitors will take the initia-  
14 tive to visit Abby's' website. Her work is so creative and  
15 very original. Please take a couple of minutes and click on  
16 the link below the picture she created for us, and check out  
17 her portfolio of artwork. I call this beautiful painting "Crea-  
18 tion," I don't know if she might have her own name for it. I  
19 realize it is a little difficult to appreciate it's full beauty but if  
20 it had been a typical 16 by 20 you would be looking at a

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1 "sea scene" blanketed with ominous stormy clouds typical  
2 of what earth might have looked like after HE had finished  
3 creating the world's oceans. I would only hope that she  
4 might re-create this production as a full picture as opposed  
5 to the letter "G" portrait. Her work is a little different, but  
6 if you wanted something your phone could capture, then  
7 just take yourself to one of those big box stores, pay out  
8 \$9.99, take it home and hang it on your wall with full  
9 knowledge there are ten thousand copies of this item hang-  
10 ing in other homes everywhere. As I mentioned, Abby's  
11 creations are original and will grow on you not to mention  
12 her work is very pleasing to the eye. It was Saturday night  
13 before Easter Sunday. Nothing special, our usual meal of  
14 pizza, beer followed by, hopefully, a good movie. I went to  
15 the freezer to pull out a pizza and noticed it was not nearly  
16 as firm as it should be, but it was still very cold and it  
17 cooked up very nicely. All set to eat the frozen delight and  
18 it was off to the fridge for a couple of beers. Once again  
19 not nearly as cold and refreshing as they usually should be.  
20 By bedtime we knew we had a problem and by morning we  
21 were off to the plaza for a couple of 20-pound bags of ice.  
22 We were not shocked. It was only a couple of years ago we  
23 were forewarned that this would happen, but no one gave  
24 us the reason why. By Tuesday we had resigned ourselves  
25 to the fact that we needed a new unit, this living with ice is  
26 both expensive and does not quite do the job. We figured it  
27 would possibly go around \$3500 the good money was on  
28 the "more." On Tuesday the 3rd we would go to Alliance

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1 RV here in Wildwood, FL for them to install a new refriger-  
2 erator on Thursday. We decided on a residential unit; these  
3 run-on AC current and or batteries, not propane. At Alli-  
4 ance we sat down with Mike to go over options for the re-  
5 placement. The new unit would cost around \$1300 before  
6 installation, I could understand that. Then he mentioned  
7 we would have to remove and upgrade or inverter, to  
8 gadget that turns DC current into AC which is what the  
9 fridge needs to function. Okay with that, then he men-  
10 tioned the cost would be \$2700 before installation. I  
11 thought it was getting a little expensive but it is what it is.  
12 "Oh, by the way", he said, "you'll also have to add two ad-  
13 ditional batteries to your battery package, about \$250, once  
14 again, before installation." I'm still Okay, but it felt like we  
15 were in the process of buying a new RV. He said that  
16 would be about it except for the need to make a modifica-  
17 tion to the wall cabinetry that it would have to be fitted  
18 into, no options there, can't leave it in the middle of the  
19 floor and, of course, there's the expense of installation, the  
20 unit, inverter, cabinetry and, of course, the ever-loving bat-  
21 teries that would have to occupy one of our storage bins,  
22 under the coach, because the battery closet has no room  
23 for expansion. Oh, he forgot, additional wiring would be  
24 needed for the new batteries in this new location. All in all,  
25 with sales tax, of course, the job should come in around  
26 \$8000, more or less! I guess Paris would be out for this  
27 year. We were not really thinking of going to Paris this

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1 coming winter. He did assure us that these new appliances  
2 will never permit soft ice cream. The new fridge will save  
3 us on propane, which the old unit needed for cooling. The  
4 savings on the propane alone should pay for the fridge in  
5 about forty-four years. For what it is worth, we continue to  
6 enjoy the RV lifestyle. It's still much cheaper than living in  
7 a stick home. How's your refrigerator doing?



8

9 7<sup>th</sup>. Well, it's finally here! Not fully installed, but installed  
10 enough for us to go out and re-stalk the fridge. We arrived  
11 at Allison RV on Thursday evening to be serviced as early  
12 as possible. Well, not everything goes as planned. The elec-  
13 trician was not able to complete the installation by the end  
14 of Friday night, but he will be back on the job on Monday  
15 morning, we hope. We are optimistic, however.

16 8<sup>th</sup>. Movies we've watched. It is very seldom to brag about a  
17 movie, but the last couple of days we've been impressed.  
18 Saturday night we watched Bruce Willis in his flick called  
19 "Pay the Ghost." This is a must watch film. Sunday, we  
20 took ourselves out to the Brownwood Village, part of "  
21 The Villages." We spent an hour or so walking around; a  
22 village very similar to Mystic Village. Our purpose was to

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1 go to their movie house and view "The Quiet Place." Den-  
2 nis tells me it is also available on "On Demand" a viewing  
3 option we don't have. This also is a must-see film. You do  
4 NOT want to see this film alone! I did receive some good  
5 news on Friday. I've begun the final phase of Chemo.  
6 Turns out it will be completed by the beginning of May, in-  
7 stead of June. There's still a need for a PET Scan and then  
8 we must hand deliver it to my surgical team in Tampa, Dr.  
9 Rosemurgy and his staff.

10 10<sup>th</sup>. Well, the cooling beast is in. It's so big, and best of all,  
11 it came in under the projected cost, about \$7100. We did  
12 notice that when we bring in the slide holding the new  
13 fridge, the slide experiences a bump as it is being retracted.  
14 This is another issue we'll have to tend to probably end of  
15 this month.

16

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## MAY 2018

2 12<sup>th</sup>. Nice to be back again. Since my last entry in April  
3 much has happen. For one thing it's now May and Carla  
4 and I are in our twenty-second month here in Florida. To  
5 make matters worse the Web Site has been down for the  
6 last three weeks. I guess it wasn't the Web Site but rather  
7 the server. It's been A hair raising experience trying to log  
8 in each day to a message board stating "this Web Site has  
9 been deleted." On May 9<sup>th</sup>, I went in for my final chemo.  
10 The results of my blood work qualified me to skip the two  
11 booster shots I normally have after chemo, so the trip has  
12 finally come to an end. On the 29<sup>th</sup>. I went in for a PET  
13 Scan and within a few days we will transport the results to  
14 the surgical team in Tampa. If nobody finds any surprises  
15 we could be on the road before my birthday in June. Both  
16 Carla and I are so thankful for HIS watching over us these  
17 past twelve months. We've had an amazing life together,  
18 some years were a little more challenging than others, but,  
19 all in all, it's been a Wonderful Life. Once again, it's very  
20 nice hitting the keys again.



21

22

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## Lakeridge Winery



18<sup>th</sup>. Friday Such a beautiful day. Our hopes are that Saturday will be equally as nice. We've been going by signage on the highway advertising Lakeridge; a truly nice experience. This signage was at the foot of the driveway. As we looked ahead it was like tripping in California. In the back of the picture below, is a 250-gallon drum for aging wines. This system is no longer used and has been replaced with stainless steel drums as we'll soon see.





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1



2



3 The outside temperature today was 85, just perfect. What's  
4 hard to believe is that this vineyard began in 1988, by a  
5 CPA. This is the tasting bar; we'll return back here after the  
6 tour is complete and sample their products. They've been  
7 winning awards since they began in 1988, I think. Our tour  
8 will begin on the upper level. We'll traverse the catwalks  
9 from above so as not to get in the way of the workers be-  
10 low.

11



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1 This is Stuart, he'll be our guide on this tour.



2

3 Below are the newer two-thousand-gallon storage drums  
4 and even newer twenty-five-thousand-gallon drums.



5

6 The grapes are harvested, then thrown into this metal  
7 grinding machine where they are squished into a juice.

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1

2 This is the owner of the winery, forgot his name. He  
3 started as a CPA and is now into grapes. Below is his father.  
4 As the story goes only his father enjoyed the wine that  
5 he, the father, produced, but he was the owner's inspira-  
6 tion.



7

8 The grapes are harvested and collected and the process be-  
9 gins. This is a video we're looking at showing the bottling  
10 process. We'll see this machine again shortly. This winery  
11 bottles over 2.5 million bottles annually. Florida's hot, hu-  
12 mid weather is not conducive to using wooden kegs, there-  
13 fore the stainless steel insulated and individually cooled  
14 containers. On the next page is the bottling machine that  
15 does all the bottling. Just looking at the simple and small  
16 bottling machines you'd think this just a family operation.

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1



2



3



4 On the contrary; this is the seventh largest winery in the  
5 US.

6

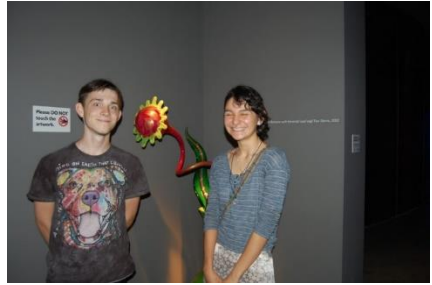
**Chihuly Creations in Tampa, FL**

7

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1



2 19<sup>th</sup>. This is our second field trip in the last 22-months. We  
3 are joined by Abby and beau Michael.



4



5



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1

2 This is a self-guided tour, and, as such, it's like walking  
3 through a museum. Below are just a small sampling of the  
4 many beautiful glass creations at Chihuly; Enjoy.



5



6 Above right is a ceiling arrangement. not an easy picture to  
7 take. Abby took so many of these pictures; almost feels like  
8 old times.

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1

2 It only took us about an hour to complete the tour when  
3 we came upon a video on the art of glass blowing. This  
4 should really be at the beginning of the tour, not the end.  
5 We never did finish the video since it was time for us to  
6 leave the studio and proceed across the street, to experi-  
7 ence the actual process itself. Below is one of the Chihuly  
8 work stations, but I'm sure it's not where all the big stuff is  
9 created.



10



11

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1 These two guys below, names I've forgotten, will demon-  
2 strate how to turn liquid glass into a piece of beauty. These  
3 guys, let's call the Blue and Grey, are working with two ov-  
4 ens. Blue is in the first oven which has a temp of over 2300  
5 degrees and behind him with a grey door you see the sec-  
6 ond oven with a temp of 2000 degrees. It's difficult to see  
7 clearly, but on that white marble slab are twelve 15-foot  
8 long glass rods with a strand of red in them.



10 Above, Blue has heated those twelve-inch glass rods and  
11 rolled them up and around a chunk of molten glass from  
12 the back oven. This oven has a constant supply of molten  
13 glass available to be worked into a new creation. After  
14 about ten minutes he has the colored glass rods in an al-  
15 most perfectly round design. Back, centuries ago, the iron  
16 table top used to be a three- or four-inch slab of marble,  
17 but that was then.



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1



2

3 The red molten material in the center are the glass rods.  
4 The guys will continue to stretch and twist this material for  
5 as long as they feel they need. I think we were expecting to  
6 see a flower creation, or vase but not to be. Instead, we saw  
7 the creation of a glass stalk. In the next several days they  
8 will be adding to this stalk other things of beauty and stick  
9 them to this stalk. Being seniors, we were hungry, so we  
10 found a grilled cheese joint, which was very good.

11

# PAUL GRENIER

**JUNE 2018**

1

2

3 5<sup>th</sup>. – Tuesday. We got started this morning around nine  
4 am. The trip went well. We drove through Florida and into  
5 Georgia around noon time. We're breaking a little more of-  
6 ten than in the past because of me. We arrived in Perry  
7 Georgia, at Cracker Barrel just a little after 2:30, following  
8 our schedule closely. Total mileage today was 280 miles.  
9 Weather was 88 to 90 and overcast. We are still in quest for  
10 cooler temps. Wednesday was a long ride but uneventful;  
11 Thursday made up for it.

12 7<sup>th</sup>. Thursday – Tuesday and Wednesday's rides were une-  
13 ventful which was just great but Thursday began with us  
14 witnessing a car speeding down an unfinished road going  
15 close to 100 mph. The minute I saw the speeding car I said  
16 "there's never a cop around when I see something like  
17 this." Within seconds at least a dozen State Troopers came  
18 screaming by at high speeds then a hand full of local police  
19 got in on the chase as well. They were out of sight within  
20 seconds so we did not give it another thought. About an  
21 hour later we were caught up in another slow traffic situa-  
22 tion. Low and behold it was speedy Gonzales with law en-  
23 forcement vehicles around him and his speedy car, causing  
24 our four-lane highway to be reduced to a single lane. The  
25 incident did break up the ride for this day.

26 8<sup>th</sup>. Friday - Today was another 300-mile trip. With no  
27 Cracker Barrel in the area, we settled for a night's stay at  
28 the local Walmart.

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1

## Neshonic Lakeside Resort

2

Today, Sat. 9<sup>th</sup>., we arrived at Neshonic Lakeside RV Park, and we're just a few feet away from the Wards'. If you look

3

4

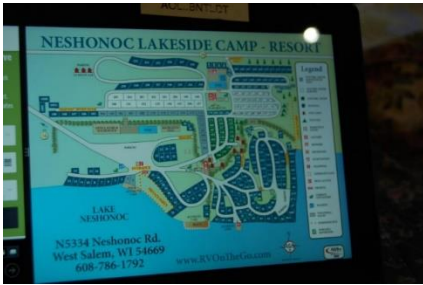
way over in the 3 o'clock position you'll see our coach.

5

Later this evening we'll be going over to their coach for

6

dinner.



8

The Neshonic Lakeside Resort is in West Salem, WI. It's

9

an Encore Resort, which are usually a step or two higher in quality than an average Thousand Trails Resort, and so it is

10

here. As you can see from the resort map this RV

11

Campground is spread out over many acres of land. We ar-

12

rived on Saturday but must leave by Wednesday. Our stay

13

may be short but full of memories of the campground and

14

our friends Tome and Sue. The high point of the property

15

is, of course, the lake. Tom and Sue lived on the shores of

16

this lake about 4-5 years ago before they sold it all to be

17

full-time RVers. On the next page you'll see the view we

18

had from our coach. Behind us were the Ward's coach and

19

just behind them was the upper-level pool which was active

20

from early morning until dusk.

21

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 Another view of the pool complex. There is also another  
3 pool area, equal in size but not quite as active, at the en-  
4 trance to the campground.

5



6 Here, as with almost all campgrounds, you'll find horse-  
7 shoes. a boat launch, Volleyball, recreation hall and many  
8 other outdoor activities. We did not use it, but each  
9 campsite also has a campfire ring and wood is for sale at  
10 the office.

11

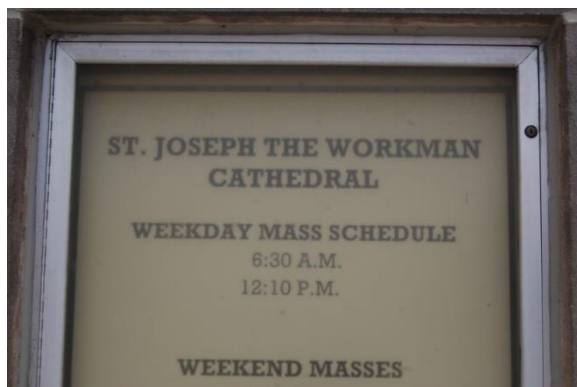


## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 This campground is not a year-round facility, winters pre-  
2 vent that. But many stay for long periods in trailers,  
3 coaches and cabins are available for rent, for those not into  
4 the RVing lifestyle.

### 5 St. Joseph of the Workman Cathedral

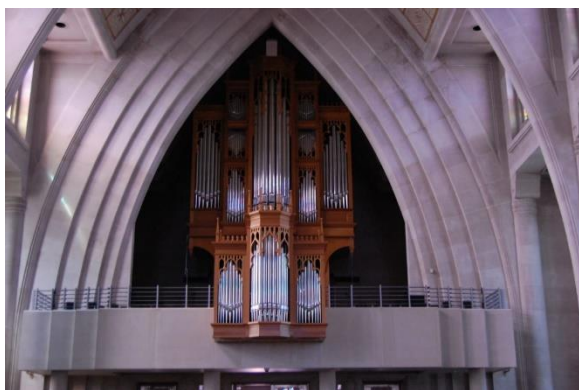
6 We did Mass today, the 10<sup>th</sup>, as opposed to our usual Satur-  
7 day. A little later we joined up with them again and toured  
8 W. Salem, WI and visited the St. Joseph the Workman Ca-  
9 thedral. I'll have a special blog on this venue in a day or  
10 two. I'll also have a special blog on our W. Salem tour as  
11 well. That evening Tom and Sue joined us for talk, game of  
12 Scrabble and Carla's famous pizza. It was a very enjoyable  
13 evening. No one kept score on the Scrabble game but that  
14 was just fine. It was in 1863 the parishioners of St. Mary's  
15 Church in Lacrosse, WI met and decided they needed a  
16 church. The German speaking parish had just been estab-  
17 lished in 1856, but, I guess, they were getting tired of hav-  
18 ing Catholic services in the local courthouse. Father Henry  
19 Tappert headed up this effort.



20

## PAUL GRENIER

1 As part of this effort, it was decided that French and Eng-  
2 lish members of the parish would remain parishioners of  
3 St. Mary's and the German speaking members would be  
4 members of the new church and parish. The new parish  
5 would be German speaking and under the patronage of St.  
6 Joseph, husband of Mary. Property was needed to begin  
7 new construction so the new parish collected \$1500 and  
8 purchased the land at Sixth and Main Streets.



9  
10  
11  
12 The new St. Joseph Parish would have Father C.J.F.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 Schraudenbach as Pastor. The parishioners wanted instruc-  
2 tional lessons for their children so a school was established  
3 in the basement of the church in 1864. Construction on the  
4 church did not begin until 1869 and all worshipped at St.  
5 Mary's in the interim.



6



7

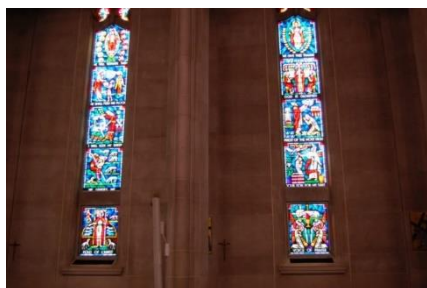
8 In 1868 La Crosse was designated by Pope Pius IX to be a  
9 new and separate diocese. The first Bishop of the Diocese  
10 would be Michael Heiss. He chose St. Joseph to be the Ca-  
11 thedral Parish of the diocese.

## PAUL GRENIER



1

2 By 1870 construction had finally begun on the new St. Jo-  
3 seph Cathedral. By 1875 the parishioners had finished con-  
4 struction and had completely paid for the construction of  
5 the new church.



6

7 Once completed new spires were added and by 1884 a new  
8 pipe organ was installed as well and the completion of a  
9 new school. Eventually all the buildings and facilities at St.  
10 Mary's Parish were moved into the new cathedral and St.  
11 Mary's would be associated with Lacrosse University. In  
12 1964 the Holy Cross School would be raised and in 1969 a  
13 new Cathedral School would be constructed.



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## Oriental Garden in Neshonoc, WI



2

3 There's not much to talk about in this blog. The Wards  
4 have taken us on a car-tour of W. Salem, WI. The day was  
5 just perfect for sightseeing.

6



7



8 The only time we got out of the car to experience a venue  
9 was at an open garden area that runs parallel to the La-  
10 crosse River. The garden was broken up by countries.

## PAUL GRENIER

1 Above, of course are Tom and Sue. This was an actual wa-  
2 ter-wheel. Not sure if it has any practical use, except for  
3 looks. Below are a couple of sight-seeing tour boats, possi-  
4 ble water-wheel-looking, not sure.



5  
6 I may be mistaken, but I think this is the entrance to the  
7 Japanese Garden section. There were many more pictures  
8 but they all seemed a little redundant. It was an excellent  
9 stretch of the legs.

### 10 The Rose Chapel

11 On the following day, as usual, Tom and Sue are great  
12 planners. As you have seen in the past, we tend to visit  
13 churches and Cathedrals whenever possible; today would  
14 be no exception. Today we would visit Rose Chapel at the  
15 Convent of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.  
16 Our tour guide would be Sister Sarah, a nun in residence at  
17 the convent. I will not go into detail on this venue since I  
18 will be devoting a special blog to it. Sister Sarah gave us a  
19 great amount of time answering our many questions on  
20 both religion and the Rose Chapel. We left the Chapel and  
21 picked up Tom who was having a physical at this time. The  
22 day was complete, as far as I was concerned, but Tom had

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 another venue he wanted us to experience, the Neshonoc  
2 Lake, where he and Sue once lived. It's been so many years  
3 since Carla and I have been on the water., it felt so good.  
4 The air temp was in the high 70's and the sky was blue with  
5 some intermittent clouds. A perfect day. He took us, Carla,  
6 and I, (Sue had to pick up her glasses) around the full cir-  
7 cumference of the lake. Some of the homes along the shore  
8 were awesome to behold. I haven't had such a full day in  
9 months, but it did not end after the lake ride. We got to-  
10 gether with them, once again, for dinner at a "pork restau-  
11 rant." Carla and I both had way too much to eat but every  
12 bite was delicious.

### 13 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

14 The next day, 12<sup>th</sup>, was strictly R and R. I did not realize  
15 how tired I could get. Just not used to having so much to  
16 do. Later that evening the Ward's did come over and we  
17 enjoyed a short card game or two of "King's Corner." The  
18 next day, Wednesday, was departure day for both families.  
19 We would leave just before 9 am going to Forrest City,  
20 Iowa, at Winnebago, around 1 pm.



21

## PAUL GRENIER

1 The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. We do this  
2 quite often, visiting a church or cathedral, today would be  
3 no exception.

4 *We enjoyed this day especially, because we were made to realize that*  
5 *every day is a gift from Him and as such, we should find venues that*  
6 *reflect our thanks for his giving us another day to enjoy.*

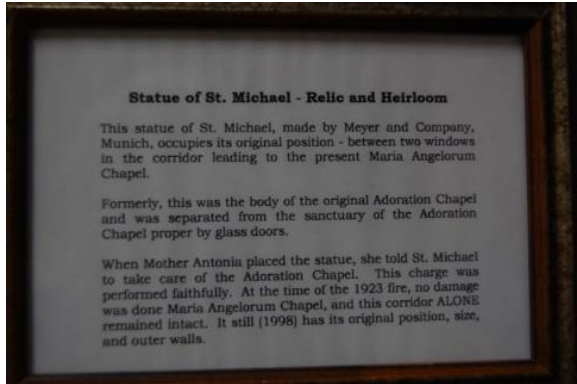
7 The Sisters are part of the Franciscan orders of priests, sis-  
8 ters and laity. It's a big complex and at present fifty nuns,  
9 of all ages, reside at the convent. It is also their corporate  
10 headquarters. The building above also goes back almost  
11 equally as long.



12  
13 This is the reception hall. You'll notice Tom is absent, he  
14 had a doctor's appointment to attend. Within a few  
15 minutes we were greeted by Sister Sarah. She was totally  
16 knowledgeable of everything in the building and its history.  
17 In the bottom picture is a statue of St. Michael. In 1923  
18 and fire threatened to destroy the entire the St. Rose Con-  
19 vent, one sister died. The Statue of St. Michael (not shown)  
20 was to guard and protect the sacred chapels at this end of  
21 the convent. Even though the fire destroyed the entire west

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

- 1 wing of the facility and fire abruptly stopped when it ap-  
2 proached the St. Michael statue.

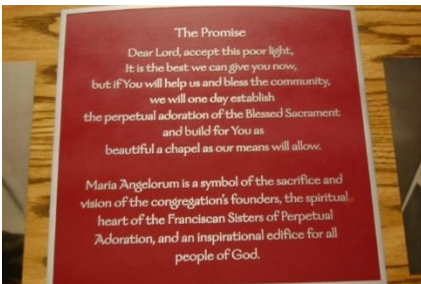


3



4

- 5 The Angel Gabriel is represented here was the angel that  
6 appeared to Mary way back in the beginning when he ap-  
7 proached her to become the mother of Jesus.



8

## PAUL GRENIER

1 In the previous page you see Sister Sarah talking to Carla.  
2 The pews and stations of the cross were all done by local  
3 artisans in Lacrosse, WI. That also includes all the wood  
4 furnishings like the pulpits. All the windows in the chapels  
5 are stain glass. They were imported from the Royal Bavar-  
6 ian Art Institute of Munich, Germany.



7

8 Back in 1865 a promise was made by Mother Antonia Herb  
9 that a chapel would be constructed and that "perpetual ad-  
10 oration" would also be promised. Since the completion of  
11 the original chapel and least two Franciscan Sisters or  
12 more, have been seen praying in the presence of the  
13 Blessed Sacrament since 1878.



14

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 The congregation, back in the late 1800's were not rich.  
2 However, if you take a close look at the construction, you'd  
3 only wonder how could they afford all this marble. The  
4 truth is that they couldn't. What you see is not Venetian  
5 Marble but rather concrete walls and ceilings, to resemble  
6 plaster. Every square inch of the concrete was meticulously  
7 hand painted, to resemble marble.



8

9 We're now in the back of the facility. I believe it forms a  
10 square with a privacy yard in the center. There is just too  
11 much to talk about in this blog, so I will cease.



12

13 Sunday, I spoke to both my kids today, the 17<sup>th</sup>. That may  
14 not seem like such a big deal to you but to me it's a red-let-  
15 ter day. Not only my family but the entire Ozdarski family,

## PAUL GRENIER

1 Cindy and, of course, Abby. Something we both enjoy but  
2 eat only rarely is French Onion Soup. Today we thought  
3 we'd treat ourselves, so we bought a couple of good size  
4 onions and made enough, we thought, to go for at least  
5 two meals. That did not work. The soup was so good, ex-  
6 cept for about a half bowl, all was gone in one sitting. We  
7 made the delectable dish in or Crock-pot. It did haft to  
8 cook for about four-hours, but it was well worth the wait.  
9 This will be our final day at Winnebago in Forrest City, IA.  
10 We have been told we must vacate the site by 8 am tomor-  
11 row morning and be on our way to Cedar Rapids, IA.  
12 We're looking forward to the trip. The folks there are closer  
13 than family. The MacDougall's' have been in both our lives  
14 for over thirty-years, they introduced me to Carla way back  
15 when.

16 Tomorrow, on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>., we're going on our first field  
17 trip in over a year, if not, almost two years. We'll be travel-  
18 ing with Abby and Michael, now her husband, and will visit  
19 Chihuly in St. Pete. We've been to this type of exhibit be-  
20 fore in Seattle but, to the best of our knowledge, Abby has  
21 not seen something like this before. We're now residing in  
22 Orlando, actually Clermont, at the Orlando Thousand  
23 Trails RV Park. We arrived a couple of days ago and are  
24 now living with 50-amp juice in this very big RV Park. A  
25 little glitch. We heard back from Abby and Michael, by text,  
26 that meeting on Friday was not possible. Plan B would be  
27 to reset the trip for Saturday. And as the best laid plans  
28 would turn out, Saturday was the best day to go to St. Pete.  
29 We arrived at Squaw Creek in Cedar Rapids, IA.



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Monday right about noon, just as we had pro-  
2 jected. It was a short and very uneventful trip. Four weeks  
3 ago, when we inquired into staying here for a this 2-week  
4 period we were told there were no site vacancies. It's no  
5 wonder, this is such an awesome park. At the same time, it  
6 looks like we're going to get some more rain. Will take this  
7 time to do a short blog on Squaw Creek Loop B.



8

9 What the campground does have is "Loop B" which is  
10 "first come first serve" accommodations. Carla and I both  
11 agreed that most campers in the Loop B would, most likely,  
12 be leaving on Sunday or at least Monday, and we were  
13 right. The pickings were very good. Sites available every-  
14 where, but that would not be the case by end of week. We  
15 were able to find a very nice site just about half way  
16 through the loop. We had no sooner set up camp when we  
17 had a call from Joyce MacDougall welcoming us and invit-  
18 ing us to have lunch with them. Chicken salad, corn and so  
19 much more, not to mention excellent company.

20 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>. Having eaten so well we slept equally as well  
21 last evening, we're planning to meet up with Don and Joyce  
22 in the afternoon and end the evening with dinner at their  
23 home. Just short of a feast. Mashed potatoes, native corn,  
24 pork loin so tender a knife wasn't needed and more. We ate

## PAUL GRENIER

1 very well then enjoyed their company till dark set in. Next  
2 day, Wednesday, will be our third day here in Cedar Rapids,  
3 IA, and the last two we've had rain. Everything here is just  
4 so green. I believe we're to have one more day of rain and  
5 that should be it, not complaining, Don and Joyce are treat-  
6 ing us like royalty. We're still kinda stuffed, so this evening  
7 we'll have a typical meal at home, hot dogs, with just the  
8 two of us.

### 9 Mandarin Spice Restaurant

10 Thurs., 21<sup>st</sup>, I believe we spent most of the day at home do-  
11 ing some shopping and taking care of some lose ends. Our  
12 day would culminate at the MacDougall's with a steak din-  
13 ner. Next day, Friday would be a quiet day for us but it was  
14 our turn to reciprocate on dinners, but where to take them,  
15 since this is not our neck of the woods?



16  
17 We would let them decide and decide well they did. A  
18 choice I would not have made based on the restaurant  
19 name; Mandarin Spice! What on earth would a restaurant  
20 with a name like that, serve? Was I ever surprised. Don had

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 Mongolian steak to die for, Joyce had orange chicken, Carla  
2 enjoyed sautéed shrimp and I feasted on teriyaki chicken,  
3 which I hadn't had for many, many years; Heavenly!

4 Saturday. As everyone knows our routine for Saturdays is  
5 generally to relax, Mass, pizza, and beer, and so it would be  
6 tonight. The MacDougall's' would be nice enough to join  
7 us just after we got back from church. As always, the pizza  
8 came out excellently and we enjoyed food, drink, and com-  
9 pany. for the evening.



10

11

12 Monday. We have just a little bit of we time before we get  
13 together with Don and Joyce for dinner at Noodles. We  
14 were joined by Duncan this evening, grandson to Don and  
15 Joyce. If I could buy a franchise, this would be it. Awesome  
16 food, great service, and a very friendly atmosphere.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 They discovered Noodles, and fell in love with the food  
3 and service as well. At the same time, it looks like we're go-  
4 ing to get some more rain. We will take this time to do a  
5 short blog on Squaw Creek Loop B. Here we are at the  
6 MacDougall's checking out Don's Pachysandra. Believe it  
7 or not there are one-hundred plantings. *Really miss those days,*  
8 *LOL.*

## 9 The Youngville Café,

10 26<sup>th</sup>, where we went for soup, sandwich, and pie it is on the  
11 Lincoln Highway; so, what is so special about this place and  
12 the Lincoln Hwy? This highway was the first highway in  
13 the country to stretch from the east coast to the pacific  
14 coast. It does go by different numbers along the way de-  
15 pending on the state and county it is in, but it is still the  
16 same road. Construction began in 1913 and was completed  
17 in 1928. The length of the road was 3389 miles long. It be-  
18 gins on the East coast, Times Square, NY and moves west-  
19 ward to San Francisco, CA. As the name implies it was  
20 dedicated to Abraham Lincoln. In short this was the Rt. 66  
21 of its times.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3

4 As I said the Youngville Café is located on the NW corner  
5 of Cedar Rapids, IA and was probably the Howard John-  
6 son or Cracker Barrel of its day. Below we are enjoying de-  
7 sert.



8

9 This is a very small establishment with dining for a small  
10 group in the back.

11

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 These are the actual gas and diesel pumps of that day.



3

4

5 We returned home, back to the MacDougall's and were vis-  
6 ited by a family of four deer. One of the two fawn this af-  
7 ternoon.

8 27<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday Speedy Chicken Day What an awesome  
9 day. For a guy who aspired of a "Parenthood" type family,  
10 this day was such a nice experience. The menu included a  
11 very special "speedy Chicken", potato salad, beans, and  
12 fruit salad. Paul and Ivy, Son, and wife to the MacDougall's  
13 with their three children also joined us. Duncan, grandson  
14 flew through quickly. He belongs to John and Meg. He's  
15 spending some quality time with the grand-parents. Every-  
16 one went back for seconds not to mention repeats on sev-  
17 eral of the wines produced by Paul.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 On Thursday it was meatloaf at the MacDougall's as we  
2 continue eating our way through this two-week stay, we will  
3 get to enjoy a meatloaf dinner with left-overs from the day  
4 before. An excellent meal enjoyed by all of us. As an extra  
5 Don has downloaded the final season of Downton Abby,  
6 which we ha never seen before. Today we enjoyed episode  
7 ten, the final episode. Carla and I really loved this series.  
8 Now it feels like our good friends have moved away, never  
9 to be heard from again; Sad! Or have they?



10

11 Friday was three venues today. St. Francis Xavier Basilica.  
12 This beautiful Basilica is in the Field of Dreams town of  
13 Dyersville, IA As with this venue and the last two, I will be  
14 having separate blogs on each of the three.

15

16

### **Field of Dreams field trip.**

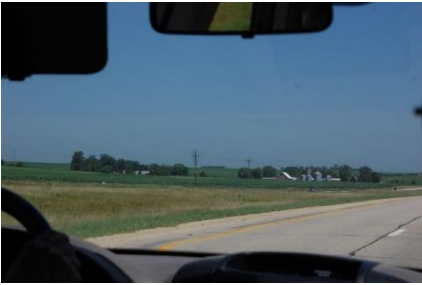
17 29<sup>th</sup>, the Field of Dreams venue is located in Dyersville, IA  
18 and short distance from Dubuque. These are just a couple  
19 of pictures of how beautifully green and lush this part of  
20 the country really is.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3 This is the farm house and the baseball diamond that's  
4 known to everyone. The movie made the farmhouse look  
5 considerably bigger, but it is what it is.

6



7 There's always someplace to pick up souvenirs. This place  
8 is no exception. We don't usually pick up stuff like this but  
9 this place was special.



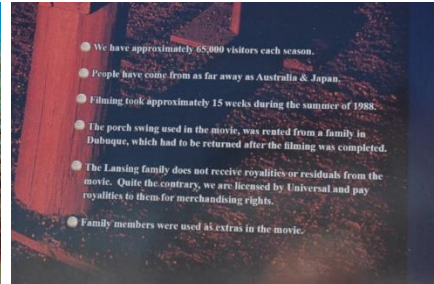
# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 The white picket fence, we're told was not in the movie but  
4 is there now. Families and kids, are traversing all over the  
5 property. Kids and Dads with baseball hats and jerseys on  
6 pitching from the diamond.

7



8  
9

10 The pictures explain themselves, the original owners of the  
11 property. Above are some stats on the property and the  
12 movie.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 Joyce and Don enjoying the luxury of an old fractioned  
4 glider; are these still made. And exactly how tall does corn  
5 grow? Carla is 5 ft. 3 in and the corn still has a lot more  
6 growing to do.

7



8  
9

10 The diamond and batter's box are in use but we did have a  
11 chance to walk the bases, which we did. Below is a faraway  
12 picture of the complex from the entrance. The remaining  
13 pictures are for your appreciation. Iowa is a state as green  
14 as Boca and you can see forever.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3

## Breitbach's Country Dining

4



5

6

7 29<sup>th</sup>, the Breitbach's Country Dining Restaurant is in  
8 Balltown, IA near Dubuque and just a short distance from  
9 Field of Dreams in Dyersville, IA. You must not visit Field  
10 of Dreams and skip this Dining experience.

# PAUL GRENIER

1  
2



3 The folks here have been serving the public since August  
4 1852. The current owner is Mike Breitbach. It's not that it  
5 hasn't had its share of challenges. On Christmas of 2007  
6 and October 2008, they had to deal with fires.

7



8



9

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 You will experience some of the best German cooking any-  
2 where, not to mention plate portions that will satisfy the  
3 biggest of appetites. Sauerkraut, sausage, and coleslaw are  
4 specialties of the house.

5



6

7 I enjoyed a half-pound cheeseburger with bacon and fries.  
8 Carla, Joyce, and Don enjoyed patty melts, with onion rings  
9 to die for. Even if you must travel out of your way for this  
10 eatery, you will not be disappointed.

## 11 Exploring Squaw Creek in Cedar Rapids, IA

12 This is our spot. Just looking at the pictures it's easy to tell  
13 the difference. A big plus here is that the park only reserves  
14 Loop A.

15



## PAUL GRENIER

1 Both Loop A and B offer electrical and water hook-ups, as  
2 well as, a very impressive fire pit. What B lacks is the sewer  
3 hook-up. Also missing is a cement pad, which is neither  
4 here nor there, as far as I'm concerned. The park does pro-  
5 vide a pump-out station, several in fact, just outside the  
6 park areas as you enter or exit the parks.



7

8 Kids are never forgotten. A very elaborate swing and  
9 climbing area is available to them and it's always in use.  
10 What you will not find here is a pool or even a pond, alt-  
11 hough I think there is a lake in Loop A if I'm not mistaken.

12

### St. Francis Xavier Basilica, Dyersville, IA



13

14

15 This would be the first church to be built in Dyersville, IA

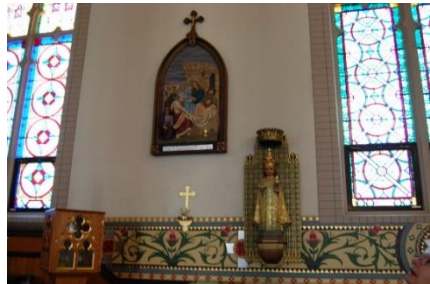
## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 back in 1862. Hard to believe that the cost to the parishion-  
2 ers, back then, would be \$100,000. One-hundred years in  
3 the future a new south entrance would be constructed to  
4 accommodate the handicap. The cost of this build would  
5 be \$130,000.



6

7 Even as the church was being built it had to be modified  
8 twice to accommodate the increasing number of Catholics  
9 coming to this area. Currently the parish counts approxi-  
10 mately 1800 families or about 5000 parishioners. As you  
11 can see, the church has three alters.



12

13 In 1956 the church was elevated to a Minor Basilica by  
14 Pope Pius XII. This floor marking reaffirms that credential.  
15 This is the Papa; insignia of the Tiara and Keys, this will  
16 make this church a Papal Church. The construction of this

# PAUL GRENIER

1 church was built in the Ruskinian Gothic Revival architec-  
2 ture.

3 One of the primary requisites to be honored as a Basilica is  
4 to be debt-free. The parish was able to maintain this debt-  
5 free status almost from the beginning.

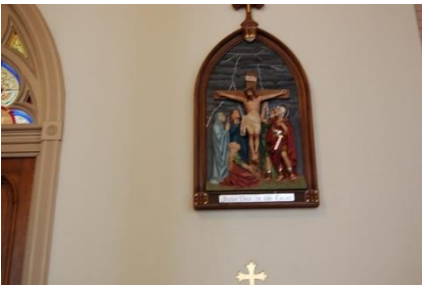
6



7

8 In 1935 the parish decided to build a rectory toward the  
9 back of the church. It would incorporate fourteen rooms.  
10 The church also offers the Tridentine Mass at twelve noon  
11 on Sundays, according to the 1962 Rite. This is the Altar of  
12 St. Joseph. The wood used in the construction of this altar  
13 was created using Bavarian wood.

14



15

16



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 Carla always enjoys the architecture in the ceiling. The  
3 church has 64 stained glass windows. This is the alter on  
4 the left of the main altar is the Altar of the Blessed Virgin  
5 Mary. The two steeples reach as high as 212 feet high. The  
6 seating capacity of the Basilica is 1000 people. At the time  
7 the church was dedicated it was only one of 12 Basilicas in  
8 the United States.

# PAUL GRENIER

JULY 2018

## Yogi Bear Resort, Mississippi

2<sup>nd</sup>. We are now enjoying Amboy, Illinois, staying at the O'Connell's Yogi Bear Resort, for five days. This is a member park of the Trails Collection (TC), a new group of resorts we recently signed up for guaranteeing us additional free stays on top of the many resorts we already have to choose from.



Just crossed into Illinois, this is the Mississippi River. Mississippi again and below is a visitor's station. Our coach, parked at the Illinois Visitors Station.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 All newbies must stop in here to register. They have our in-  
3 formation so this should not take too long. I did tell you it  
4 was Yogi Bear's Park. A nice beach area but for some rea-  
5 son it's closed today.



6



7

8 Unique but very small park rental cottages. There are no  
9 shortages of tent campers here.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2 This is a great park to just walk around in. Temp is around  
3 88 degrees with very little humidity.



4



5  
6

7 We met the folks that own this cottage, they've been com-  
8 ing back here for nineteen years and own several others  
9 that they rent out. Yes, this is a real palm tree, like what you  
10 might find in West Palm Beach, but could it really survive

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 this far north. We're about one-hundred miles west of Chi-  
2 cago.



3



4

5 Ducks of all ages enjoy this lake as well. Doesn't get much  
6 nicer than this. I'm sure we'll be back again someday, after  
7 all it is on the way to Iowa.



8

9 I love this cottage above. It's log-covered and probably a  
10 pine interior and looks so comfortable. This is the  
11 campground pier. Tomorrow Carla and I plan to take a

# PAUL GRENIER

1 walk around this lake and the walk begins right here.



2



3

4

5 Not sure, but from a distance I'd say that might be the  
6 Ranger Station, of otherwise known as a gift shop. Many  
7 campers come as a group and pitch their tents together.

8

9 **4<sup>th</sup>. of July...** Nothing planned today so we will go on a  
10 walk around the lake. This is the Warf so this is where we  
11 begin. The pictures of cottages are just that, no significance  
12 to them. It's amazing how unique the owners can get.

13 The Lakeside walk.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

This is a huge indoor activity building for the kids.



3



4

5 Above, like this is not something you see at every  
6 campground. You must pay extra to enjoy this water slide  
7 but it's very reasonable. Below is another pool area.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 Asked, what's biting, just catfish! We're told this is one of  
3 the must-see parts of the campground.



4

5 Such a beautiful waterfall area...awesome! Now we get back  
6 to our lakeside walk.



7

8 We're at the mid-point of our trek. I thought it would take  
9 much longer but that's not the case.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4 The campground does provide facilities for the tenters and  
5 even fresh water from place to place. We've reached the  
6 three-quarter point of our walk, the corn field. Carla no-  
7 ticed the beginnings of the corn cob here. We've finally  
8 gotten back to the campground, and it only took about an  
9 hour. We have a slight view of the lake from the coach!  
10 The walk was great but I'm ready to just veg-out for the  
11 next couple of hours.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## The Reagan Boyhood Home:

2



3

4

5 5<sup>th</sup>, The placard above explains that this house is not where  
6 he was born, that was a short distance from here, but ra-  
7 ther, this is where they lived mostly, for his youth. This was  
8 a mail-order hm from Sears and Roebuck. The buyers  
9 would pick out the home style they liked, place the order  
10 and in this case send in \$1500 and your house-kit would be  
11 delivered to you on your lot. All the wood and materials  
12 needed to complete the construction of the home would be  
13 provided in the kit. The buyers would, of course, have to  
14 find the carpenters to complete the job.

15



## PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 The furnishings are not all belonging to the Reagans, but  
4 are period appropriate. The fireplace was located in the par-  
5 lor. The rule in this home, as it was in my childhood home,  
6 the parlor was off-limits except for special occasions or  
7 very special guests; relatives, birthdays and possibly for  
8 Santa Clause as for my home back then. Ron and his  
9 brother Neil also known as "Moon", would get paid a  
10 penny for doing odd jobs around the house. Ron felt his  
11 brother Neil might be stealing some of his pennies. These  
12 pennies were important for the reason it would cost five-  
13 pennies to go to the movie house to see a movie. Eventu-  
14 ally Ron discovered a lose tile in the fireplace hearth so he  
15 would stretch his body from the hall over to the hearth and  
16 hide his precious coins. Remember no one was allowed to  
17 walk in the "parlor." To try to bring in some additional  
18 money Ron's mother, Nell, was an excellent seamstress.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 On the bed is the family bible. Mom would read from the  
3 bible almost nightly. This picture was taken of the Presi-  
4 dent and wife Nancy with brother Neil when they visited  
5 the family homestead while President. The reason they ap-  
6 pear to be not that comfortably sitting is that the curators  
7 of the museum home were not sure the bed could support  
8 all three, so they were pretending to be seated on the bed.  
9 Above. The quilt bed cover is not original to the Reagans  
10 but they did indeed have a very similar cover on the par-  
11 ents' bed.



12

13

14 This is a family picture of the Reagans. Jack and Nell  
15 Reagan with Neil and younger Ron Reagan. Below is the  
16 family living room. On the oval table would be a pair of

## PAUL GRENIER

1 glasses to remind the guide to tell visitors that Ron was vis-  
2 ually impaired until he was eleven when he tried on a pair  
3 of glasses in play only to find he was able to see properly.

4



5

6 Family dining room. In the glass case against the wall is a  
7 selection on China. Nell was a collector. On the occasion  
8 that she would provide a service to a neighbor or friend,  
9 seeing that many at that time were very poor, she would ac-  
10 cept a tea cup instead. The Reagans had a gas stove al-  
11 though this is a period model not theirs.

12



13

14

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 The unique piece of cookware can also be seen on the  
3 stove. Try and guess the purpose of the cookware. The an-  
4 swer is at the bottom of this blog. Dave, our guide, is now  
5 in the Reagan kitchen. He is holding a very useful tool of  
6 the day. None of us, not even Carla, could identify it. An-  
7 swer to this, as well, can be found at the bottom of this  
8 blog.



9



10

## PAUL GRENIER

1 The Reagan garage, in the back yard, has a Model T 1929  
2 which the Reagans used to own. Above, of course, is an  
3 early day ice chest. Most back doors would remain un-  
4 locked so when the ice-man came, if no one was at home,  
5 he would enter and leave the amount of ice the family  
6 needed as indicated on the sign: 25, 50 or 100 pounds of  
7 ice. The milk man also had such an arrangement as to de-  
8 liver the amount of milk the family would need and place  
9 the milk in the ice chest if they were not home. At the very  
10 bottom of the ice chest is a draw that collected the water  
11 from the melting ice. It was Ron's job to continually empty  
12 the receptacle so it would not overflow and must not spill  
13 any of the water as well. He did once. The penalty for spill-  
14 ing the collected water was to wash the entire kitchen floor  
15 area.

16 Answer on the cookware: a early toaster.

17 Answer on the tool in Dave's hands: An agitator for clean-  
18 ing clothes.

### 19 **Travel to Buchanan, Michigan**

20 7<sup>th</sup>, We're staying at Bear Cave Campground for 7 days a  
21 Thousand Trails Resort (TT). This will be a repeat visit to  
22 this park. Dennis once visited us at this RV Park. Carla tells  
23 me we'll also be revisiting Notre Dame again. It was an en-  
24 joyable visit the last time.



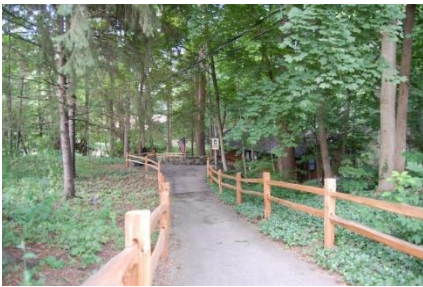
# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

## Bear Cave RV Campground

The next day is a revisit for us. For some reason it looked much nicer three years ago.



Above is the office.



Just a couple of pictures to remind you of the park. We're in a totally different location, you might call the cheap seats. When we got here, we were across the street with no satellite and no sewer. Come today, Sunday AM, the campers that were here were leaving so we moved to they're spot so now, at least we have satellite. This is a concern we did not have three years ago, July 20, 2015, on our last visit here. Hard to believe three years have go by so fast. This will be a seven-day stay leaving this coming Saturday.

## PAUL GRENIER

1 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday-Today is going to be much like yesterday,  
2 tomorrow and Friday, uneventful. But the fact is we're re-  
3 tired, so hanging around and just enjoying these beautiful  
4 days and low 80's temps is just our luck. Just got back from  
5 taking a few "current" pictures of the park, our site in par-  
6 ticular. This is our site. We made very good use of our fire  
7 ring.



8

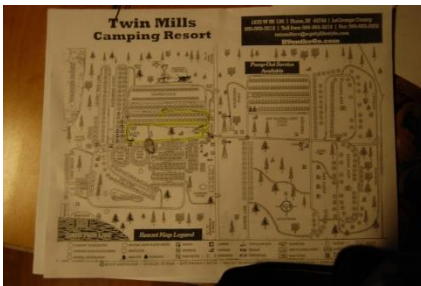
9 As you can tell from the dust on the car, this is a very dusty  
10 campground. This campground is worse than Alaska. Next  
11 time we come through here it'll be for no more than a 2-  
12 day stay. Even better there's a very big trip to Howe, IN. the  
13 next day, for five days staying at Twin Mills RV Resort  
14 (TI). (61 MI)



15

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 14<sup>th</sup>.Sat: We departed Bear Cave and arrived at Twin Mills  
2 by noon time. This was a very short but enjoyable ride to  
3 the tree-laden campground. The fire-ring at our site is sad, I  
4 might try confiscating one from across the road and leaving  
5 ours in place. There will be no TV this week. We are totally  
6 enveloped in trees. It is a very comfortable setting. I will  
7 check with Dennis on whether we are at war or what, of  
8 any importance, has happen. The coach is a little dusty but  
9 the car looks very much like it did when we traveled Alaska.  
10 Hopefully I'll get it washed in the next couple of days.  
11 Temps are projected to be in the upper seventies with 1-2  
12 day with a possibility of some rain. The campground  
13 graphic below shows how big this camping ground really is.



14  
15 Just a couple of additional pictures on this campground.  
16 This campground is a Trails Collection facility.

17

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2

Campground Entrance.

3



4



5

Another playground area for the younger kids.

6

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3



4



5

Above is a mini menu on fast food items that will be

6

cooked up for you if you want. It's closed today, most likely

7

open only on weekends when this place is packed. Bove

# PAUL GRENIER

1 and to the right is a snack shack office.

2 **Twin Mills Camping Resort**

3

4



5



6 18<sup>th</sup>. Below is the Class-B that our friend Ann Cunningham  
7 owns. She's is a 6-month full-timer.

8



9 **Travel to Jefferson, Ohio.**

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 19<sup>th</sup>, We will stay for only two days, since it does not look  
2 like there is much to do in Jefferson, Ohio. At Jefferson  
3 we'll be staying at the Kenisee Lake Resort. In the TT re-  
4 sort booklet, there's only one picture of this place, but it  
5 looks awesome. (Distance 268 MI)

6 20<sup>th</sup>. Friday Well, we're finally in Ohio. This was a 268-mile,  
7 six-hour trip and we're tired. So, we're taking 2 days here to  
8 rest up before we continue.



11 Kenisee is a very beautiful and well-maintained resort. I be-  
12 lieve it's only a Thousand Trail Park but could easily be up-  
13 graded to an Encore facility.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 It has two very big and beautiful lakes on the property,  
3 BUT, the wild geese have taken over the ponds as their pri-  
4 vate bath tubs, so all around the lakes are signs warning "no  
5 swimming."



6

7 I could have stayed here a little longer to enjoy it a little  
8 more but the two days were adequate.

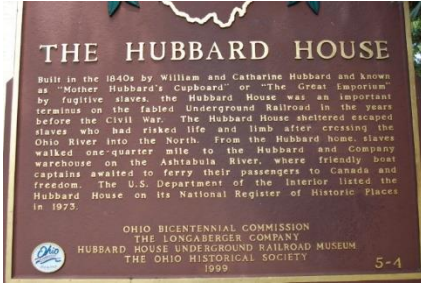
9

**Next Stop: The Hubbard House**

10



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 20<sup>th</sup>, the first thing we learned about this venue and where  
3 the Ashtabula town is located, is that nobody gets up on  
4 Friday mornings for anything. It did not matter whether we  
5 were here or in the downtown district, the earliest anyone  
6 comes to work on Fridays in 1 pm. OK, so it's 11 am and  
7 nothing happens here till 1 pm, so we decide to visit the  
8 shore line. Ashtabula is a coastal town and it sit on the  
9 coast of Lake Erie. Since there's no way to close down a  
10 beach area, we felt safe wandering in town meandering to  
11 find Lake Erie.

12



13

14 One of the unique features of the town is their Draw  
15 Bridge. It opens on the half hour and on the hour reli-

## PAUL GRENIER

1 giously. Evidently the bridge master does not have the lux-  
2 ury of sleeping in on Fridays as does the rest of the town.

3



4

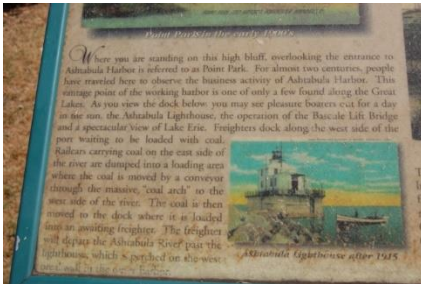
5 Carla enjoys it greatly when a town goes out of its way to  
6 add a homey atmosphere. Yup! So, to keep all these flowers  
7 blossoming and without the luxury of a Disney irrigation  
8 system, it's up to a single individual to walk up and down  
9 the streets with a long spout watering can and keep the veg-  
10 etation alive. The business owners on the far side of the  
11 town took pity on this person and began monitoring and  
12 watering the flowers in their neighborhood on their own. I  
13 wanted so much to visit this church; it was beautiful. But as  
14 typical for Catholic Churches, it's come and visit, but on  
15 our time schedule. It too was all locked up and they were  
16 not going to open at 1 pm either, if not all day.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 There's a museum here to visit if you wish, but time would  
3 not permit us to do so. It is said that in the museum is a  
4 block of Sea Glass that weighed in at over 200 pounds and  
5 was probably the largest example of sea glass in the coun-  
6 try; we just took their word for it.



7

8 Here we are on a roadway above the town looking down  
9 on the draw bridge. It's still not 1pm yet.



10

## PAUL GRENIER

1 This town has an essential port for both loading coal on to  
2 barges and having barges deliver coal to the town. The  
3 problem is that the deep-water basin is on the other side of  
4 the town. So, as you look at the picture above the coal was  
5 delivered behind the big buildings with the red roofs. So,  
6 about a hundred years ago the coal company decided the  
7 solution was with a conveyor belt that would take the coal  
8 from the far side and then convey it on a very long belt to  
9 where it could be used by the town. Below is Walnut  
10 Beach, which is really Lake Erie. Water temperature today  
11 was 65 degrees.

12



13

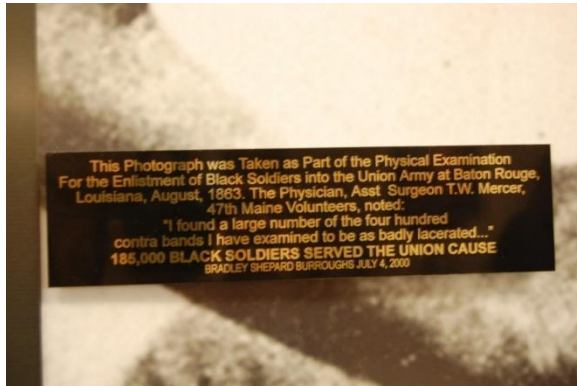
14 Above is a bag of sea glass the residents find in the beach  
15 sand. Below, of course, is the beach.

16

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2

3 The picture above describes the picture below as to how  
4 severely slaves were treated by their masters. I don't get  
5 very far with pictures at this venue because I was quickly  
6 informed that picture taking was prohibited. There's just so  
7 much to talk about as a result of our two-hour tour I could  
8 not possibly try to fit it in this blog.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 21<sup>st</sup>. We do an overnight at Cracker Barrel or Walmart.

3 22<sup>nd</sup> We're off to Sturbridge Village for eleven days staying  
4 at the Sturbridge Village RV Resort. We've built in some  
5 extra time for venues we've hadn't seen yet and want to re-  
6 visit, as well as, visiting family and possibly Fr. Michael Gill.

7

## Sturbridge Village

8 27, this place was so big and so informative, there's no way  
9 to even recap for the blog. What a great day. First day in al-  
10 most seven days with no rain in sight. Our goal today is to  
11 visit Sturbridge Village. Over the course of the day, we'll  
12 spend over three hours at the village, I took almost three-  
13 hundred pictures. It's not possible to download all those  
14 into this journal but I will try to pick out those with the  
15 most interest.

16

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

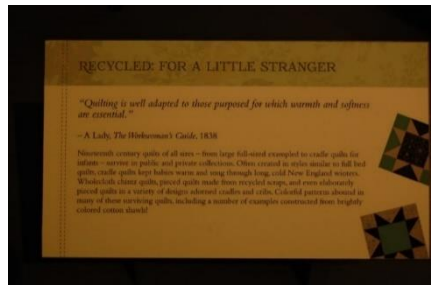


1

2 Above is the Village Museum. It gives examples of glass-  
3 ware, clocks and even uniforms.



4



5

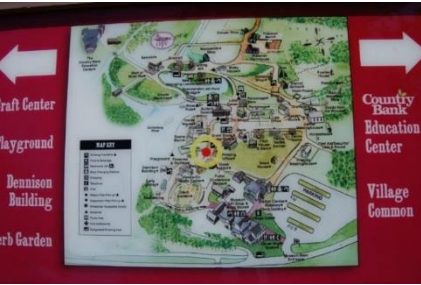
6 Left over materials are used back then for small purposes.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4

We'll come back to this place in a few more pictures.

5





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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5

It was closed the first time we walked by. As you can see

6

it's now open.

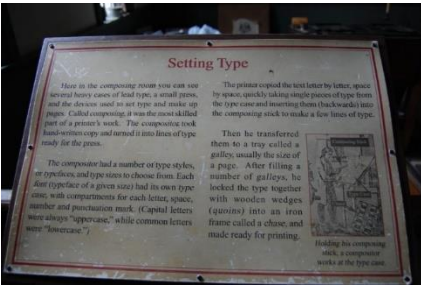
# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 This guy was so informative, I felt like leaving a donation  
3 so he could go out and purchase the items he so dearly  
4 craved for, in his presentation.

5



6



7 We keep running into this guy on the carriage. Not exactly  
8 Wells Fargo, but in its day...

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

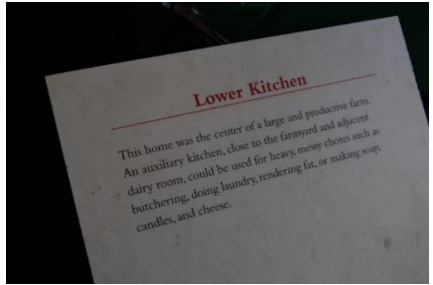
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# PAUL GRENIER

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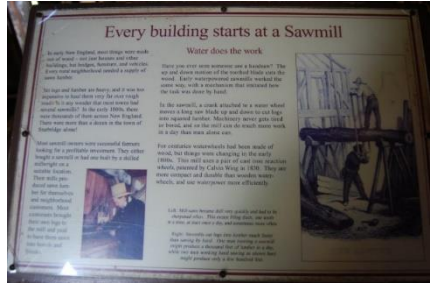
4 Great day for walking and being outside.

5



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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# PAUL GRENIER

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4



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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4



# PAUL GRENIER



- 1  
2 The clay potter's business. His kiln.



- 3  
4 The desks and benches in this classroom varied in size  
5 since a teacher, back then, would teach many age groups.  
6 Below...need I say more!



7



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 This man was so interesting, owever I was so tired from  
3 walking. I could write an entire blog just on the infor-  
4 mation he gave us. I asked him about the cost of a pair of  
5 shoes in those days, and he replied; About the same as to-  
6 day. Back then a man would work sunup to sundown, six  
7 days a week for a dollar a day. If he needed a pair of shoes,  
8 it would cost him about two dollars. In today's dollars a  
9 good pair of leather shoes, not imported, will run around  
10 200-300 dollars, or about one-third of a man's wages for a  
11 week, we just don't have to work so many hours. *I could go*  
12 *on, but!*  
13



14

# PAUL GRENIER

1



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3



4



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 A grist milling stone. There's always a gift shop.



3



4

5

## The Home of Saint Anne Shrine.

6 28<sup>th</sup>, Sat. This means it is Mass, Pizza and Beer night. What  
7 we attended was so far from what we were expecting. This  
8 is a destination venue. Not only does it have an indoor  
9 shrine Church, St. Anne Chapel, Gift Shop and on top of  
10 all that an outside pavilion where Mass is celebrated from  
11 June to September. This parish is over 130 years old. You

# PAUL GRENIER

1 don't have to be a member of this parish to feel the bond  
2 the parishioners have with this church. We came back on  
3 Sunday, after the last Mass to take pictures. Parishioners  
4 were still mulling around the grounds. As I was taking pic-  
5 tures, I noticed the parking lot filling up. Something was  
6 taking place, not sure what, but the pavilion was filled with  
7 worshipers.

8



9



10



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 The Augustinians of th Assumption, according to the  
2 Catholic Press, have run the parish since 1955. Originally  
3 two churches were established in 1883 One for the Irish  
4 and one for the French.



5



6

7 The parishes were combined in 1887. This is how St. Ann  
8 Shrine began. Msgr (Monsignor) Elzear Brochu pledged to  
9 St Anne that if he could regain his health, he would  
10 propagate her devotion by building a shrine in her honor.



11

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 The first claim of a cure came in 1887 with an influx of  
3 pilgrims added to the rolls of the parish. Msgr. Brochu  
4 found himself in need of additional help to keep the parish  
5 functioning. As a result he brought in lay associates.  
6 Filipino Assumptionists have occupied and maintained the  
7 Shrine since 2006.

8



9



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 **Patten Pond Camping Resort in Bar Harbor, ME.**

3

4 31<sup>st</sup>. The final leg of the itinerary. Here we'll be staying at  
5 the Patten Pond Camping Resort around Bar Harbor,  
6 Maine. This will be a fourteen day stay. A longer stay than  
7 all the others since this location and Bar Harbor are the ob-  
8 ject of the trip. Leave Aug 14<sup>th</sup>

9

# PAUL GRENIER

## AUGUST 2018

Wednesday, the 1<sup>ST</sup>., *What a great night to sleep.* Temps went down to 62 degrees; all our windows were open and it was chilly when we awoke this morning. Tom and Sue picked us up this morning and have planned a day of sightseeing. Our first venue will be Nervous Nellie. Our second and last stop will be Stonington, ME. It consists of several neighboring harbors and marinas in the area. As above, there's not much to say about this town so I'll designate this in a pictorial blog on its own.

### 1<sup>st</sup>. Field trip to Stonington, ME.

Located about thirty miles south of Bangor, ME. Our windows were open and it was chilly when we awoke this morning. Tom and Sue picked us up this morning and have planned a day of sightseeing. Our first venue will be Nervous Nellie. Our second and last stop will be Stonington, ME. It consists of several neighboring harbors and marinas in the area. As above, there's not much to say about this town so I'll designate this in a pictorial blog on its own. The pictures are quite nice. We had lunch there as well.



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3



4



5 The name of this restaurant was the Stonecutters Kitchen.

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Carla and I each had a Lobster Roll while Tom and Sue en-  
2 joyed the Lazy Lobster dish. The meals were delicious. We  
3 meandered around the town and took more pictures. We  
4 plan to have dinner with them this evening



5

6 Tom and Sue Ward and Carla. The Stonecutters' Kitchen.



7



8

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3

Just a bridge we had to cross going to Stonington.

4

5

## 1<sup>st</sup>. Nervous Nellie

6

Located about 25 miles south of Bangor, ME. As you

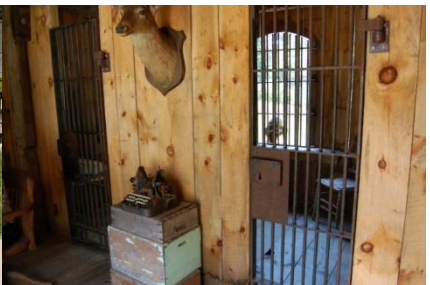
7

browse through the pictures, you'll understand why Nellie

8

might have been nervous.

9



# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4 In the ledger above the characters are entering facts for the  
5 town of Brockton, Mass. a town I lived in as a child. This  
6 does not look like the saloons I used to see in the show  
7 Gunsmoke. But it was a great day to walk in the woods.  
8

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2



3



4

5 Upper right would have been the village chapel

# PAUL GRENIER

## 1 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cadillac Mountain



2  
3 This picture above has nothing to with Cadillac Mountain  
4 but I had to stick it in somewhere. The left side of the lake,  
5 called Jordan Pond, has an exquisite place to eat, but it  
6 books up early and we were not able to make reservations,  
7 the pond, however, was pretty and wanted to at least men-  
8 tion it.



9  
10 You can't expect to drive up a mountain and not have to  
11 do a little climbing.

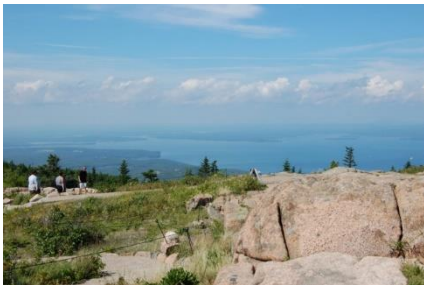
## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 I was not that sure of myself with rocks, I've had occasions  
3 to lose my balance, but today went well. There's a very  
4 small town by the water that is very difficult to make out.  
5 With the assistance of the "crop" feature I was able to en-  
6 large the town quite a bit but you lose a little sharpness.  
7 The town your seeing in the above picture is Bar Harbor  
8 Maine.

9



10

11 The mountain is not really that high, just about fifteen hun-  
12 dred feet ASL.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 It is, though, the highest mountain on the eastern coast,  
3 which, I guess is good enough for the record books.

4



5





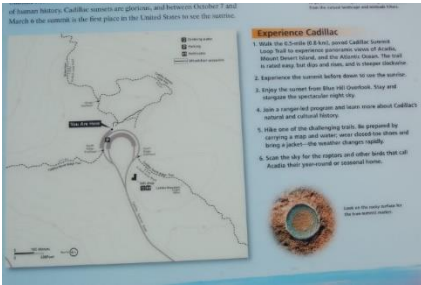
# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2 This is a national park so the roads are kept to a minimum.



3



4

# PAUL GRENIER

## SOUTHWEST HARBOUR

1

2 Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup>.: As scheduled, Tom and Sue picked us up  
3 promptly at 10:30 in the morning. Carla and I were just fin-  
4 ishing our last cup of coffee outdoors, under the awning.  
5 Beautiful day again today. Next two days projected for rain.  
6 The Ward's leave this area tomorrow as they will caravan  
7 through the Maritime Provinces. We will remain here until  
8 the 14<sup>th</sup>. As, like yesterday, they have two venues in mind.  
9 First will be a trip to Southwest Harbor about thirty miles  
10 south from here but will take us over an hour to get there.

11



12

13 The goal here is to just enjoy the area and take in the  
14 coastal Maine atmosphere. Tom has planned to eat at Beal's  
15 Lobster Pier. They've been here almost a hundred years  
16 and the size and taste of their food is a testament to their  
17 longevity.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 This is not a good picture I hope to have it replaced soon.  
3 A big item here is the Coast Guard. Right across the street  
4 is one of their major training and residential centers.



5



6



# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3



4 This was interesting. Each container holds ninety pounds  
5 of fish, *why 90, I don't know?* But this is where and how the  
6 fish are kept until the restaurant needs more fish when they  
7 run low. The fishermen come in all day long and keeping  
8 them in the water in these containers keeps them fresh. I'm  
9 sure it does not hurt to have the US Coast Guard across  
10 the street from your eatery. Time to say good-bye to South-  
11 west. Great food, beautiful town and we had excellent  
12 company on this trip.

# PAUL GRENIER

## 1 St. Joseph Church in Ellsworth, ME



2

3 4<sup>th</sup>. Mass is at 4:30 PM on Saturdays.



4

5 This church had its beginnings in the mid 1800's. The  
6 population of Catholics was so small, back then, that Mass  
7 was celebrated only 4 times a year.



8

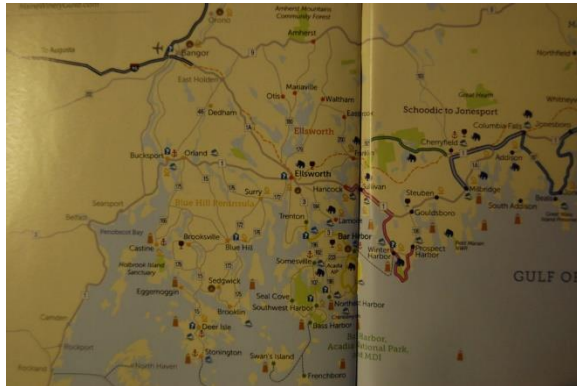
9 Many of the inhabitants were Indians. The language was

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 both English and Penobscot. One of the earliest priests  
2 sent to minister the church was weak in both English and  
3 Penobscot languages, his name was Fr. Bapst. The “Know-  
4 Nothing” individuals in the town did not take to Fr. Bapst.  
5 One evening they came to his residence, took him captive  
6 and tarred and feathered him. According to Catholic His-  
7 tory, Fr. Bapst is credited for being the only priest in the  
8 US to have been treated so inhumanly. He did survive the  
9 incident to the point that he served Mass the following  
10 Sunday and the day after. The incident was investigated but  
11 no one was held accountable. Four-years later he was reas-  
12 signed to Boston where he oversaw the construction of  
13 Boston College. As for the Ellsworth Church, it continued  
14 to grow, fortunately uneventfully, to where it is today.

15

### 16 Patten Pond RV Park (pictorial)



17

18 5<sup>th</sup>. As you can see from the picture above Ellsworth, ME  
19 is about thirty "slow" miles SE of Bangor, ME. Patten  
20 Pond RV Park is in Ellsworth. This is an above average RV  
21 park especially for Thousand Trails. Just wait till you see

# PAUL GRENIER

1 the lake.



2



3

4 I can understand paying to play air hockey, but pool also?

5 No wonder the table looks hardly used.

6





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2



3 Below is the office and general store.



4



5 8.5 Sunday- Carla's Birthday...We celebrate quietly since  
6 buying stuff does not work well with this lifestyle. We do  
7 try to go out to eat however. Today would be Helen's. The  
8 Internet had nothing but great things to say about the  
9 place, as did Helen's Website. It was a mixed bag.

10

## PAUL GRENIER



1

2 Only a thirty-minute drive from the campground. The in-  
3 side was very homey and inviting.



4

5 We ordered calamari which was not on the menu but they  
6 did serve it, only they had run out. So, we opted for the  
7 fried onions and were very impressed by the size of the  
8 portion. Bread soon followed which was heavenly. So soft,  
9 warm, and delicate you could cut it with a butter knife.  
10 Minutes later our salads. Carla had chicken parmesan, in  
11 general was good but the tomato sauce, she says, was thin  
12 and tasteless. Chicken and pasta were both good. I ordered  
13 their "Mix Grill." I was afraid it might be too much to hope  
14 for, and in a way it was. The shrimp kea-bob and the pork  
15 ribs were all you could wish for. Shrimp was cook deli-  
16 ciously well and the meat fell off the bones for the ribs. We  
17 should have stoped the meal at this point. Part of the meal

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 was a six-ounce steak. This is where they tried to over-  
2 whelm and not over please the patron. In all, the meals  
3 were good but I was hoping it would be a little more appe-  
4 tizing. Carla also tried the Wild Blueberry Pie. She's more  
5 used to the old-fashioned blueberry pies baked in an oven,  
6 the kind that comes out hot, thick and gooey. Maybe next  
7 time. We have had some excellent meals since arriving.

### 8 Bass Harbor Head Light (pictorial)



10 I welcome you back to Southwest Harbor, it's the 7<sup>th</sup>. We  
11 were here a few days ago with the Ward's. We ate at Beal's  
12 Restaurant that day. If you squint hard enough you can see  
13 it at the left side of the picture above. Below is the other  
14 side of the harbor.



16 Maine has seventy lighthouses that dot its coastline and this

# PAUL GRENIER

1 is one of them. Like all the lighthouses in the US they fall  
2 under the auspices of the US Coast Guard.



3  
4 This is the lighthouse. I know, I was expecting it to be six  
5 stories high and very awe inspiring, but when your over  
6 sixty feet above sea level you don't have to build a building  
7 that tall. At first, I thought this was the beginning and the  
8 end of this venue, until Carla spotted tourists standing by  
9 the water. We had to find out how they got there.



11 Carla's found the path to the water...  
12

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2

3 Now that's the life. a person or family that has made few  
4 mistakes in their lives. Now, instead of climbing a narrow  
5 stairway inside a lighthouse to the top, like the Jupiter  
6 Lighthouse, we cautiously walk downward.



7

8 Yea! like I was really looking forward to rock climbing.



9

## PAUL GRENIER

1 We're both a little pooped but we made it down here with-  
2 out incident. What an awesome trawler. A dream I had a  
3 long time ago until I realized only the one-percent can live  
4 that lifestyle, but I'm still content being part of the lower  
5 ninety-nine percent.



6

7 Yea, dream on!

8 Below, just a trawler boat. Asked Carla if the yearning for a  
9 lobster was still on her mind, she answered no. After two  
10 lobster dinners were both satisfied. Could go for a good  
11 swordfish dinner, we'll work on it. Whoever discovered or  
12 invented cropping should be given a medal.



13

14 This guy was an encyclopedia on global warming, ice age  
15 and rising oceans. What I did not realize was that the  
16 oceans will rise as the glaciers melt, from the bottom up.  
17 but what will really make the waters rise is the heating of

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 the oceans. Cold temps will cause the water to constrict  
2 and form ice. Warmer temps cause the waters to expand  
3 and swell up, thus giving the appearance of a whole lot of  
4 extra water but in reality, over decades its mostly to do with  
5 the same water expanding. Either way we're all going to get  
6 wet.



7

8

9 That's the end of the climate warming lesson for today, it's  
10 time to head home. On our way down here, the car was  
11 reading 96 degrees, but I doubt if it's any higher than 85 on  
12 the coast right here. This may look like a walk in the park  
13 for most of you but for me it was a small challenge. Now  
14 how high is high tide at times? The water marks on the  
15 rocks to the left of the picture indicate the water reaches up  
16 to the metal pier going out from the shore, a good fifteen-  
17 feet.



18

# PAUL GRENIER

1

2 This is downtown Southwest Port. Carla, once again en-  
3 grossed by flowers.



4

5

6 It's hard for us to pass up an ice cream shop, but whoa  
7 what a crazy business they have. Low on space, you find  
8 people eating in every nook they can squeeze a chair and  
9 table in. Their menu was enticing. Carla ended up having a  
10 tune melt, and I couldn't pass up the club sandwich. But  
11 came in super-sized. Mine was about four-inches thick. We  
12 were so full we took a pass on the ice cream. It's around 2  
13 pm and were still about twenty minutes from home. To-  
14 night, we plan to have a fire, cookout and an outdoor pic-  
15 nic.

## 16 10<sup>th</sup>. Acadia National Park-Thunder Hole-

17 Friday. Just a few pictures as we travel to the Acadia Na-  
18 tional Park to witness Thunder Hole. To get there we must  
19 go through Bar Harbor, ME



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2

3

4 The views from the road are just short of awesome. See  
5 everyone standing around, well that's thunder Hole. You'll  
6 see it better below. The idea behind this act of Nature is  
7 that the water gushes in, thousands of gallons of water,  
8 squeezes its way in that narrow canal above or below in a  
9 better picture, then smacks itself (the water) against the  
10 rock you see in the picture below. That's it in a nut shell, is  
11 the mechanism that makes the big thunder sound.



12

# PAUL GRENIER

1 What everyone seems to forget to tell you is that this all  
2 happens about two-hours BEFORE high tide, not at high  
3 tide as one might assume. The crowds still come even  
4 though many are very disappointed. Must be one of those  
5 Maine “got-cha” city folk tales.



6



7

8 There's not much else to tell, only that I hope you enjoy  
9 the pictures from this venue.



10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



3

Just a small gift shop, we're both ready for a root beer. After our root beer we must get on the road and find Wild-

4

wood Stables, our next venue.

5

6



# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4 At this point we're leaving Thunder Hole in search of the  
5 Visitors Building, otherwise the big Gift Shop. I thought  
6 this was it, but no. This is only the entrance to the "walk-  
7 way" to the visitor's Center. *Oh! forgot to mention*, it's a 52  
8 step climb up to reach the center and I'm exhausted and  
9 my day is only beginning. Up we go!!! Did make it up but  
10 not much to talk about there, the root beer shop was more  
11 exciting. Next stop The Wildwood Stables.

## 12 10<sup>th</sup>. Wildwood Stables

13 *8.10 Friday: The following text is courtesy of National Park Service.*  
14 *(NPS texts in italics)*

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2



3

4 *Forty-five miles of rustic carriage roads, the gift of philanthropist John*  
5 *D. Rockefeller Jr. and family, weave around the mountains and val-*  
6 *leys of Acadia National Park. Rockefeller, a skilled horseman,*  
7 *wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the*  
8 *heart of Mount Desert Island.*

9 *His construction efforts from 1913 to 1940 resulted in roads with*  
10 *sweeping vistas and close-up views of the landscape. His love of road*  
11 *building ensured a state-of-the-art system.*

12 *Rockefeller's interest in road building grew naturally from his father's.*  
13 *John D. Rockefeller Sr., the founder of Standard Oil, had built and*  
14 *landscaped carriage roads on his Ohio and New York estates. From*  
15 *his father the junior Rockefeller learned many techniques that he ap-*  
16 *plied to building his Mount Desert Island carriage roads.*

17

18 The park maintains a herd of twenty-four horses of differ-  
19 ent breeds to pull the carriages. The tourist trip to view

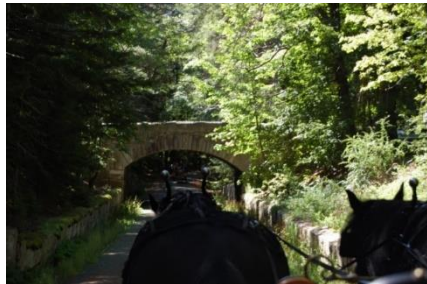
## PAUL GRENIER

1 bridges lasts about two hours then they are given a two-  
2 hour rased. They never work three shifts. About every  
3 twenty minutes the park employee, giving the tour, would  
4 stop in a shady treed area to allow the horses to rest a bit.  
5 Our trip included at least three steep climbs. At the top of  
6 each hill the tour Guide would give the horses a breather  
7 from the climb.



8

9 *An Integrated System: Rockefeller participated in the construction*  
10 *process. He walked areas staked out for road alignment and observed*  
11 *work in progress. He knew the laborers by name and used experts to*  
12 *design the bridges and engineer the roads. Throughout it all, he paid*  
13 *rapt attention to the most minute details, from the placement of coping*  
14 *stones to the cost of a running foot of road.*



15

16

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

### 1 *State-of-the-Art Roads*

2 *Acadia's carriage roads are the best example of broken-stone roads—*  
3 *a type of road commonly used at the turn of the 20th century—in*  
4 *America today. They are true roads, approximately 16 feet wide, con-*  
5 *structed with methods that required much hand labor.*

6 *The roads were engineered to contend with Maine's wet weather. Stone*  
7 *culverts, wide ditches, three layers of rock, and a substantial six- to*  
8 *eight-inch crown ensured good drainage. Rather than flattening*  
9 *hillsides to accommodate the roads, breast walls and retaining walls*  
10 *were built to preserve the line of hillsides and save trees. Rockefeller,*  
11 *naturally gifted with the eye of a landscape architect, aligned the roads*  
12 *to follow the contours of the land and to take advantage of scenic*  
13 *views. He graded the roads so they were not too steep or too sharply*  
14 *curved for horse-drawn carriages.*

15 *Road crews quarried island granite for road material and bridge fac-*  
16 *ing. Roadsides were landscaped with native vegetation such as blueber-*  
17 *ries and sweet fern. The use of native materials helped blend the roads*  
18 *into the natural landscape.*



19

### 20 *8.10...The Carriage Roads Today*

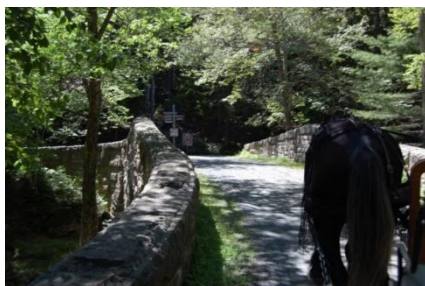
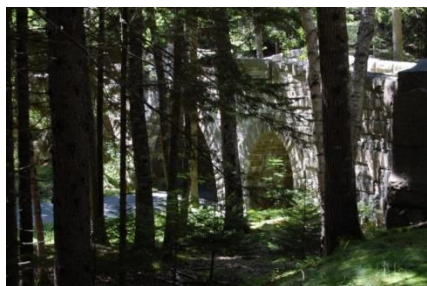
21 *Maintaining the extensive carriage road system is no easy task, and*  
22 *the National Park Service could not do it alone. Between 1992 and*  
23 *1995, an extensive rehabilitation of the carriage roads was financed*  
24 *by federal construction funds along with matching private funds from*  
25 *Friends of Acadia, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting*

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinc-*  
2 *tiveness of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities.*  
3 *Woody vegetation was removed from roads, shoulders, and ditches,*  
4 *and drainage systems were reestablished to arrest erosion. The crown*  
5 *and subgrade layers were restored, and new surface materials were ap-*  
6 *plied to replace thousands of cubic yards washed away over the years.*  
7 *Coping stones were reset or replaced, and some of the historic vistas*  
8 *that once greeted horseback riders, carriage drivers, and walkers were*  
9 *reopened.*

### 10 • *Bridges*

11 *Rockefeller financed 16 of 17 stone-faced bridges, each*  
12 *unique in design, to span streams, waterfalls, roads, and*  
13 *cliffsides. The bridges are steel-reinforced concrete, but the use*  
14 *of native stone for the facing gives them a natural appear-*  
15 *ance. Over time, the stone cutters grew very skilled and*  
16 *Rockefeller often requested them not to cut the facing too well*  
17 *lest the rustic look be lost.*



18

19

20 *To ensure that the carriage roads will continue to be maintained close*  
21 *to their original condition, the park has formed a partnership with*



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 *Friends of Acadia. In 1995, Friends of Acadia established an en-*  
2 *dowment to help protect the carriage roads in perpetuity. Each year,*  
3 *the organization contributes more than \$200,000 from this endow-*  
4 *ment to the park for carriage road maintenance.*

5 *Volunteers working under the guidance of Friends of Acadia contrib-*  
6 *ute thousands of hours cleaning ditches and culverts, clearing brush,*  
7 *and assisting park staff with other restoration projects. The commit-*  
8 *ment demonstrated by Friends of Acadia in maintaining the carriage*  
9 *roads is only one of many ways the organization helps support the*  
10 *park.*

11 *A portion of park user fees, authorized by the Recreational Fee*  
12 *Demonstration Program, also helps fund carriage road maintenance.*



13

14 *Between 2001 and 2004, federal funds and park user fees paid for a*  
15 *major re-pointing, cleaning, and water-proofing of all carriage road*  
16 *bridges within the park. User fees have also funded annual projects,*  
17 *including repairing stone walls and opening overgrown vistas. More*  
18 *than one hundred vistas have been cleared in the past ten years.*

- 19
- 20 • *Roadside Grooming and Landscaping*  
21 *Rockefeller employed a crew of foresters to remove debris from*  
22 *the roads and roadsides. Nationally known landscape archi-*  
23 *tect Beatrix Farrand consulted on planting designs to frame*  
*vistas and bridges and to heal scars left behind by carriage*

## PAUL GRENIER

1           *road construction. The Fire of 1947 destroyed much of her*  
2           *work.*

3   Rockefeller employed only local road and bridge builders.  
4   Once the Park authority was created workers from all over  
5   the country were employed for the roads and bridges, but  
6   when it came to projects on his property, he insisted only  
7   local talent be used. The town and state appreciated his em-  
8   ployment strategy and in thanks would go along with al-  
9   most all of his ideas for the park.



10

11   *Signposts*

12   *Cedar signposts were installed at intersections to direct carriage drivers.*  
13   *The posts were stained with Cabot's shingle stain #248.*

14   *The lettering was painted first with one coat of flat yellow paint, then*  
15   *with another coat of enamel yellow. Today, numbers that match maps*  
16   *and guidebooks are attached to the signposts and help carriage road*  
17   *users find their way.*

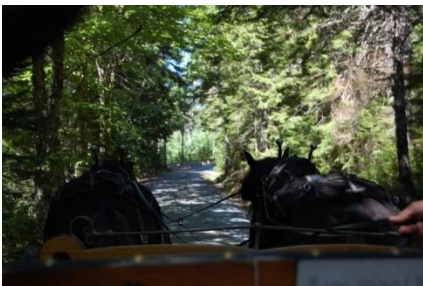
## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 Most bridges were constructed in about one year. This one  
3 was much bigger and took a couple of years to construct.  
4 Rockefeller insisted that at the ends of each bridge tree  
5 should be planted, if none were there already, so the horses  
6 could rest and, most importantly, the riders could stop in  
7 shaded comfort to admire his construction abilities.

8 Below would be the residence of the gatekeeper. If a guest  
9 would come, they would arrive at the closed gate and with  
10 his whip would swipe the arm of the bell to announce to  
11 the gate keeper that they had arrived. The gatekeeper would  
12 then come out, unlock the gate and let them in.



13

14 *Gate Lodges*  
15 *Two gate lodges, one at Jordan Pond and the other near Northeast*  
16 *Harbor, ornament the roads and serve as impressive welcomes to the*  
17 *system. A third gate lodge was planned at Eagle Lake, but was never*

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *built. During carriage road construction, engineer Paul Simpson and*  
2 *his family lived at the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge.*



5 These rocks were sheared off from the tops of the moun-  
6 tains and carried by the glacier of 25,000 years ago and de-  
7 posited in the lower portions of the park.

8 • *Coping Stones*

9 *Large blocks of granite lining the roads serve as guardrails.*  
10 *Cut roughly and spaced irregularly, the coping stones create a*  
11 *rustic appearance. These coping stones have been affection-*  
12 *ately called “Rockefeller’s teeth.”*

13

14 The roads were initially constructed to provide a culvert for  
15 water from the rains could drain off. If this were not done

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 the water, much of it, would have nestled in the ground  
2 and when the winter cold temperatures would come the ice  
3 could easily destroy the roads.



4

5

6 Below we are returning home and our trip is virtually done.  
7 Of the almost seventy bridges that were constructed on the  
8 Rockefeller grounds we only experienced three on this trip.  
9 A couple of "bridge pictures" were incorporated in this sec-  
10 tion from our other travels in the park area.

11



12

13 The carriage barns.  
14 14<sup>th</sup>. We left the campground one day early so we would  
15 have no pressure getting to the Webb RV Dealership to  
16 have a couple of small fixes to the coach. It needs an oil

# PAUL GRENIER

1 change and the generator needs fluids and a new filter.

2 **16<sup>th</sup>. Prouty Beach & Campground, Newport, VT**

3



4



5



6

7

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## 16<sup>th</sup>. Downtown Littleton, NH

2

Thurs. Downtown Littleton. Below is the Thayer's Hotel.

3

It's is now a B&B but it does not matter. It was there on

4

the third-floor balcony, as seen in the picture below, that I

5

proposed to Carla. The very next day we went across the

6

street to the Parker Market Place where she found and pur-

7

chased the dress, she wore on our wedding day.

8



9

10

The Parker shop was owned, as we discovered, by the wife

11

of the son (Stanley Parker Jr.) of the man I worked for in

12

the sixties and seventies as a pharmacist.

13

14

# PAUL GRENIER



Dog sleeping in store.

1  
2

3



4  
5

6 Porfido's used to be, and I'm sure still has the best pizza in  
7 town. Spent many a dollar there during my single days at  
8 the time. Below is Chutter's. It used to be called Parker  
9 Drug Store, where I worked as a pharmacist, but that was a  
10 hundred years ago.

11



12



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 Up is Chutter's inside. Looks much better and more excit-  
2 ing than the Parker Drug Store.

3



4



5

6

7 Above is Pollyanna, the Littleton child mascot. Once again,  
8 the Thayer's Hotel...good memories.



9



# PAUL GRENIER

1

2 This is the Democratic bench. The Trumbpican bench is  
3 on the other side of the doorway. We enjoyed a couple of  
4 hours touring Littleton again and reliving memories so old  
5 they're prime to be forgotten. It was about a mile up from  
6 Littleton off the Franconia Road that we owned our first  
7 home, on Morrison Hill Dr I believe. On many occasions  
8 we enjoyed a picnic in our back yard when I came home  
9 for lunch with Michael sitting on the edge on the picnic  
10 blanket. Like all trips they come to an end. The following  
11 pictures are from our drive home.



12

13

14 **16<sup>th</sup>**. I purchased another t-shirt and Carla purchased a box  
15 of "chocolate covered orange peel" candies from Chutter's  
16 Candy Store.

17

## **Picnic at Prouty Beach with Mark and Jodi**

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 Above are Mary Ann, Carla and myself.

4



5

6

7 One very nice plus for this campground are the sunsets.

8 **18<sup>th</sup>.** Sat. Things to do most of the day but did meet up  
9 with Mary Ann for Mass at 4PM.



10

## PAUL GRENIER

1 View from the front steps of St. Mary Star of the Sea Cath-  
2 olic Church. After Mass we shot over to Mary Ann's for  
3 grinders and a movie.



4

5

6 Best part of the day was the ride home. Turns out someone  
7 owns an Elk farm.



8

9 This farm was home to not just a couple of elk but for an  
10 entire herd of them. I was later told that the owner of the  
11 farm owns a local restaurant as well as another farm raising  
12 buffalo. I couldn't see any "do not feed the animals signs"  
13 so Carla started feeding the Elk.

14

15 **22<sup>nd</sup>. The Alpine Lake RV Park Corinth, NY**

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 I should have additional pictures in the days to come but  
2 for now this is our location in this big RV Park.

3



4



5



6



7

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2

3

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 **25<sup>th</sup>. Saturday**- It was a very delightful experience. Father  
2 Simon was the priest saying the Mass. He could easily have  
3 been heard without a mike, but most of all, the parish was  
4 participating 100 percent, very seldom these days. I don't  
5 usually offer the Websites of the individual Churches we at-  
6 tend, but I'm thinking about doing just that. It's just a vil-  
7 lage church capacity only maybe 400, but they know how  
8 to make you feel at home. We were told that, as a parish,  
9 they will be traveling to Auriesville, NY for a conference at  
10 the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs. This was our field trip  
11 this last week. They will have the conference in the Coli-  
12 seum which holds between 6500 to 10,000 worshipers.

## 13 25<sup>th</sup>. Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine



14  
15 If we were going to be here for this conference, I might try  
16 talking Carla into going.



17

# PAUL GRENIER

1

2 This Shrine is located in Auriesville, NY. This area was  
3 known as the Mohawk Village. in the mid 1600's three Jes-  
4 uits missionaries came to this area to try to convert the Mo-  
5 hawk tribe. These priests were: Father Isaac Joques, Father  
6 Rene Goupil and Father John Lalande.

7



8



9 Eventually all three we're tortured and killed by the Mo-  
10 hawks. In honor of these priests the Jesuits have con-  
11 structed this Shrine. In the picture to the left is the Coli-  
12 seum, resembling the coliseum in Rome. It is big. It  
13 measures 257 feet on the diameter. It can accommodate  
14 from 6,500 to 10,000 pilgrims. As you approach the Coli-  
15 seum, you'll notice monuments and creative floral and  
16 shrubbery designs scattered all over the property. An inside



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 view of the Coliseum. In the center you will notice four al-  
2 tars placed edge to edge. Each altar represents each of the  
3 three missionaries. The fourth altar represents Saint Kateri  
4 Tekakwitha, just recently sainted.



5



6

7

8 **25<sup>th</sup>.**

9 This monument is dedicated to the visions at Fatima. This  
10 monument commemorates the children lost through abor-  
11 tion. Concerning this picture. Back over three- hundred  
12 years ago Fr. Joques, one of the martyrs, whenever he  
13 could break away to find a quiet place for prayer and devo-  
14 tion, he would carve crosses into trees and the name of Je-  
15 sus. Those trees have died off so in commemoration of this  
16 action crosses have been placed on selected trees on the  
17 property.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 Statue of St. Kateri. She wasn't a religious, but was a fer-  
3 vent believer. This came about at age 16. Long story short  
4 her parents were killed and she joined a Mohawk tribe that  
5 accepted Christianity. In her early twenties a plague struck  
6 the village. St. Kateri and she was the first to join in and  
7 care, as best she could, for those that were ill. As a result of  
8 her helping the sick during that epidemic, she too suc-  
9 cumbed to the illness. Her face, because of the illness, was  
10 heavily puck-marked. Within minutes of her death her face  
11 no only cleared up of all the imperfections her complexion  
12 was perfect.



13

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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9

An outdoor Station of the Cross. This venue is so memorable of the Church we attended during our stay in Sturbridge, Mass. Below there's always a gift shop. It was a little disappointing considering its size.

# PAUL GRENIER

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4

## 27<sup>th</sup>. Fort Tigonderoga

5

Mon. There's always a Visitor's Center.

6  
7



8

You find some in the beginning and some as you leave the  
9 venue area. Fort Ticonderoga is at the start of our advent-  
10 ture. Carla always enjoys a beautiful flower arrangement.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 Natural defenses for the fort are: 1. Land mass upper left in  
3 the above picture is Mount Independence. 2. Land mass to  
4 the right is Mound Defiance. 3. The body of water in front  
5 of the fort is Lake Champlain. The photo below gives a  
6 short description of the importance of the first two areas.  
7 This young man is preparing the evening meal. He called it  
8 "Mess." What does the word Mess actually mean. "Mess  
9 Hall" I understood. But using the word "mess" to describe  
10 a meal I found puzzling. He couldn't help me on this either.  
11 Hard Tack was also being served with the meal; see second  
12 photo down.



13

# PAUL GRENIER

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Humble tools like picks, axes, and shovels were some of the most important weapons wielded by French soldiers at Carillon between 1755 and 1759. Chopping, hewing, drilling, splitting, hammering, hauling, breaking, and sawing wood and stone built the defenses that protected French troops from English attacks. Many tools they used are similar to those we use today, while others are more unfamiliar. All of these tools had to be brought to Carillon and some came from as far away as France. With these tools the French army reshaped the land and built a fortress that defied the English and protected New France.

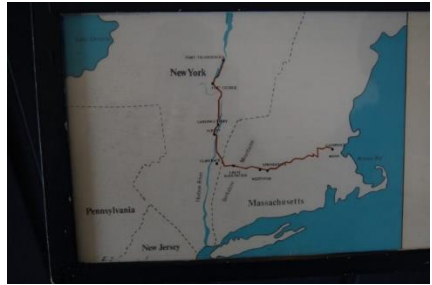
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# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



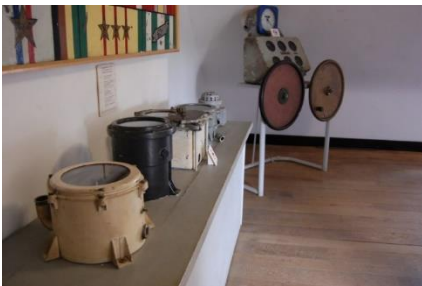
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4 Above is an example of Indian writing for those times. De-  
5 livering cannons and munitions from Fort Ticonderoga to  
6 Boston, Mass; a 300-mile journey in the winter of 1775.  
7 Trip, I believe, was done in thirty days.



8

9

10 We spoke and learned about this type of gun (second rifle

# PAUL GRENIER

1 down on the back wall). Originally, as I mentioned before,  
2 I thought this would be a sniper rifle, but no, it's used to  
3 hunt fowler.

4



5

6



7 These two guys are making and repairing shoes and boots.

8

9





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

2 Gentleman above is repairing clothing. Photo below are  
3 typical of the "winter clothing" needed by the troops. Sec-  
4 ond photo down are summer/spring clothing on the wall  
5 hanger.



6



7

8

9 This photo to the left has little to do with anything. This is  
10 a photo of a "woman" who wanted to carry a gun and be  
11 part of this man's army. Ironically, she was able to serve her  
12 full term of two years and hid her femininity at the same  
13 time. She was given an honorable discharge and went on to  
14 the stage and wrote a couple of books on her times in the  
15 army.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



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4

5 The purpose of this picture is the flag at half mast, unlike  
6 the flag flying above the Trumpblican White House. After a  
7 great deal of pressure from White House Aids and Veter-  
8 ans associations Trump gave in and allowed "his" flag to go  
9 to half-mast.

10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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## 27<sup>th</sup>. We explore Lake George.



2



3

4 Mon. Travel back in time and view the beauty of Lake  
5 George's Southern Basin the way people did over 100 years  
6 ago, from the decks of our authentic Sternwheel Steamboat  
7 Minne Ha Ha.



8

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3

The Calliope, powered by steam from the vessel's boiler, serenades you as you board. Enjoy beautiful views of the Adirondack Mountains and see stately homes along the water's edge. *This post is courtesy of the Lake George Steamboat Co.*

4

5

6

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# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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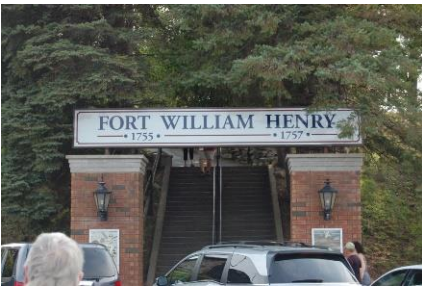
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# PAUL GRENIER

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3 Not this time around, maybe in a couple of years we'll ex-  
4 plore this fort. We ended this long and exhausting day with  
5 an Ice Cream from the Hershey stand in this center. After  
6 writing this I had to ask myself, "What makes Lake George  
7 so famous." First its size: over 2-miles wide and 32-miles  
8 long and only 200-feet deep. Next; its clarity. The water is  
9 crystal clear. Formed over 10,000 years ago by melting glac-  
10 iers. And last; it is protected as a Wild Forest Preserve. Nati-  
11 ve Americans called this body of water "lac-ta-roc-te". It  
12 was later called Lac du St. Sacrement by Fr. Joques. Finally  
13 in 1755 it was given the name Lake George, after King  
14 George II of England.

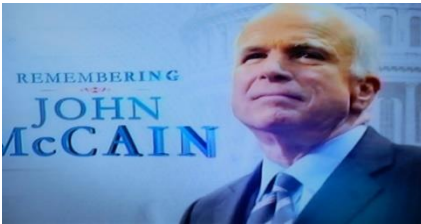
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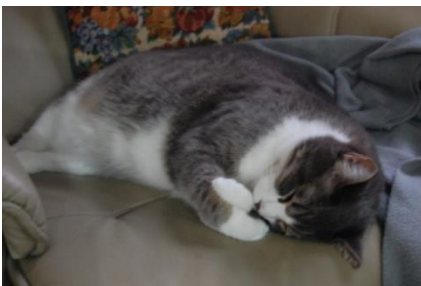
**SEPTEMBER 2018**

2 **1st. The John McCain Funeral**

3 celebration for certain Carla and I were not invited to this  
4 historical event. I apologize for the graininess of many of  
5 the pictures. I was fortunate, many years ago, to have pos-  
6 sessed one of those ultra-high-definition Samsung TVs,  
7 that unfortunately we have no longer. Our present televi-  
8 sion just does not have the quality picture our old set did,  
9 but for this blog it's passable. At a future time, I may come  
10 back and insert some comments and subtitles, but for now,  
11 it's mostly pictures.



13 Ivana and Jared Kirchner were in attendance but not so for  
14 her father, the President, Donald Trump. Scoots, our cat,  
15 decided early she was not that interested in this event.



17 All these pictures, except for about that last six images are

# PAUL GRENIER

1 in chronological order.



2



3

4



5

6 Scoots is still not interested, unlike Carla and I.



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2



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4 . I found this image fitting to end this blog.

5



6

# PAUL GRENIER

1

## 14<sup>th</sup>. FDR Library

2 The grounds here are impeccably well manicured.

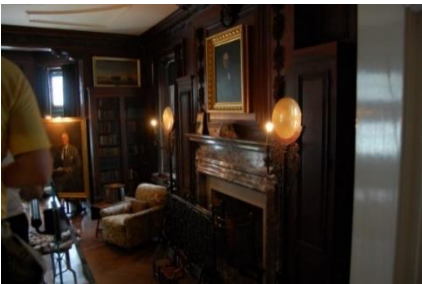


3



4

5 Above left is the FDR garden.



6

7

8 The FDR Gardens and some pictures of a few of the  
9 rooms in the house.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 Above and below; the FDR home library.



4

5 The Snuggery "The Dining Room"

6 FDR was crippled suffering from polio. The family bed-  
7 rooms were on the second floor. Personally, I would have  
8 relocated the bedroom to the first floor, not that the house  
9 wasn't big enough, but getting back. In order for him to get  
10 to the upper level he had a dumb waiter installed. The con-  
11 tractor installed the unit and wanted to electrify the waiter,  
12 but FDR said NO! He weighed about 180 pounds and his  
13 chair another 50 pounds not to mention the weight of the  
14 dumb waiter. Every evening he would move his chair into  
15 the dumb waiter and manually use the ropes you see in the  
16 picture and raise himself using upper body muscles to the  
17 upper level. He was remarkably strong for his age and his  
18 being handicapped.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 The Chintz Room

The FDR Bedroom

3



4 Eleanor Roosevelt's Bedroom  
5 hood Bedroom

FDR's Boy-

6  
7



8 Above the back of the home. Below the front of the home.

9

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 Springwood as it looked around the time James Roosevelt  
4 (FDR's father) purchased it. He (James Roosevelt) and his  
5 wife really wanted to buy a home with property in Rhine-  
6 beck, NY, but homes and land were too expensive so they  
7 settled on Hyde Park for the family homestead.



8

9 Above and below are the FDR gardens at their home and  
10 where FDR and wife Eleanor are buried.



11

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Above-the entrance to the library. In the pictures to follow  
2 are just a small fraction of the hundreds of posters FDR in-  
3 itiated to spur on the war effort.

4



5



6 The caption above is there to give the reader a small insight  
7 into how, even as a President, grounded he was both as a  
8 politician and family man. The FDR Presidential desk.

9



10 The 1936 Ford Phaeton. This car came equipped with a

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 gadget that, when initiated by FDR, would deliver a  
2 "lighted" cigarette for him while he was driving, yes, the car  
3 was set up for him to drive even though he had no lower  
4 body abilities. FDR was an avid model builder. He had  
5 built hundreds in the collection in the Library.

## 6 14<sup>th</sup>. The Vanderbilt Mansion



7  
8

9 The Mansion driveway, what else! The Visitors Center.



10

11

12 Above is our host greeting us at the mansion entrance.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



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3

The after-dinner room for the men.

4

In this foyer there are three doorways. The one to the left is where the men would retreat to after dinner.

5

6



7

8

The gals, on the other hand, would settle into the room opposite from the men and socialize, in the room you see above. Some random pictures of some of the other 50 rooms in this building. Between the two room described

9

10

11



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 above is basically a very elegant gathering area. From here  
2 they would gather until summoned to the dining area.



3



4



5

6

7 The Grand Dining Room above. Right is a picture of the  
8 men's gathering room to the left of the chair and to the  
9 right of the other chair is the lady's room.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 Ceiling height on the first floor is eighteen feet. Looking  
4 down the stairway of thirty-nine steps to the second level.  
5 In the picture below is the upper level. Some pictures of a  
6 few of the rooms on this level. This would be the main  
7 sleeping area for the one per center's attending. If you did  
8 not qualify you slept on the third level along with any single  
9 women and female staffers. Single men would be sleeping  
10 in the now Visitor Center. Below would be the Vanderbilt's  
11 sleeping quarters. Not exactly shabby. Myself, I'd probably  
12 have a difficult time trying to get to sleep with all the opu-  
13 lence in this room. It did not seem to bother these folks.



14

15 Down deep they wanted to shape this new country in the  
16 image of England where the upper 2% ers would control  
17 properties and industry and provide an opportunity for

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 Americans to follow to appreciate their place in this world  
2 working for this new class of individuals, as indentured sa-  
3 vants. This is really a bit much. No wonder it could not be  
4 sold. Unlike other venues from the past the furnishings in  
5 this mansion are all authentic and all were part of the  
6 household at that time.



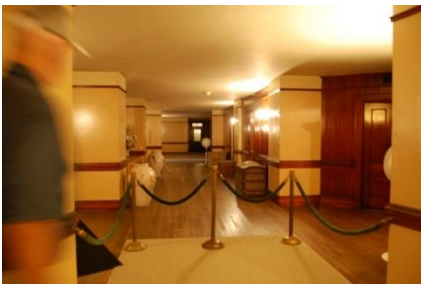
7



8

9

10 Going down to the basement level. Kitchen



11

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 Above is the staffers Dining Room. They ate as well as the  
4 folks above. Food was about the same, they drank from  
5 crystal glassware and they enjoyed very generous Christmas  
6 gratuities. A few worked their entire lives here and many  
7 had over ten years employment. They were treated like  
8 family.



9

10 Frederick Vanderbilt, the owner and builder of the man-  
11 sion, knew how important it was to keep and appreciate all  
12 their staffers. Once electricity became readily available, he  
13 was asked if he wanted to electrify the freezer closet, which  
14 until now, was the privy of the house "ice cutters." He de-  
15 clined to have it modernized since he would have to lay off  
16 the two staffers who maintained the unit.

17

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



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4 Views from the back of the mansion. You can see the Hud-  
5 son River in the distance.



6



7

8 The mansion had fifty rooms and over seven-hundred  
9 acres. As big as that might sound it was considered their  
10 cottage to retreat to during the hot summer months. As the

# PAUL GRENIER

1 story goes the Vanderbilt's were filthy rich and the next  
2 generation were fortunate enough to double their wealth.  
3 Then came the third generation. They specialized in enjoy-  
4 ing their inherited wealth. It did not take to many years for  
5 this generation to realize the cottage was expensive to  
6 maintain, and quite honestly, they were tired of going there.  
7 The widowed wife of the grandson to Frederick was left  
8 several million in cash which she kept but decided to sell  
9 the estate. It went on the market for \$350,000. She never  
10 got a bite on the property. She then lowered the price to  
11 \$250,000 with the same results. It wasn't until FDR, a  
12 neighbor not that far away in Hyde Park approached her to  
13 donate the land and property to, which would soon be, the  
14 National Park Service which she did. Before the NPS ac-  
15 quired the estate, she confiscated all the valuable and aged  
16 wines the mansion had acquired prior to turning over the  
17 keys to the property.

## 18 18<sup>th</sup>. The Timothy Lakes Resort.

19 On this site map we're located in the upper section marked  
20 in orange of the Southern section of this campground. We  
21 should be quite comfortable at this location. We've got  
22 sewer, cable, electric and satellite line of sight...awesome!



23

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 In a couple of days, we hope to get an early start and go  
2 into the city and experience the new tower and possibly  
3 Liberty Island, the Statue of Liberty.

### 4 19<sup>th</sup>. Our Pocono Property

5 Wed. We hope to trip over to Newfoundland. We have  
6 some land in that area that I foolishly purchased many  
7 years ago, and will probably have to die to get rid of it, but  
8 nonetheless it's worth checking it out again since we're cur-  
9 rently in the Poconos. The property is only about a forty-  
10 minute ride from here so we should be back in no time.



11

12 20<sup>th</sup>. Thurs. Very chilly night last night, temps dropped to  
13 52 degrees. Today would be a field trip day. Only 62 out-  
14 side so it's a good day go travel. We're off to Newfound-  
15 land or Sterling, not sure right now, to witness the property  
16 we've owned since 2006. This property is in the Pocono  
17 Springs Estates. We have frontage of 85 feet and go back  
18 200 feet. The front of this property lies in Lehigh County  
19 while the back resides in Dreher County. Confusing, I  
20 know! I believe our property begins at the yellow 15 MPH  
21 caution sign and extends to the right. All in all it covers  
22 0.41 acres, not very big by how it looks because it drops

# PAUL GRENIER

1 down a slight slope from the road and is suitable for a very  
2 small home fairly close to the road. Being close to the road  
3 is not a problem since the road has very little traffic. I  
4 would like to see a small log home with a bedroom upstairs  
5 with a full basement much like the log home we had in  
6 Maggie Valley. This property in the Pocono area could not  
7 support a structure like this even if we could afford it. I still  
8 enjoy the memories. The property does go deeper but it  
9 slopes off quite a bit which means having and maintaining a  
10 back yard is not an option. For a stretch of half a mile  
11 you'll find only two other properties with homes on them.



12



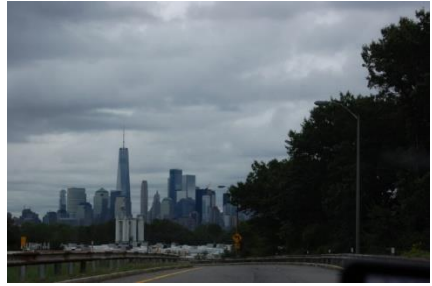
13

14 Properties here are all part of the Pocono Springs Civic As-  
15 sociation. There's a beautiful lake which I don't have a pic-  
16 ture of, since my battery was dead at the time. If there's any-  
17 one interested in this area this property is for sale at a very



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

- 1 good price; HOW ABOUT FREE!
- 2 **23<sup>rd</sup>. Sunday** Overcast, cloudy but most of all it's only 53
- 3 degrees. It's chilly, no it feels cold but it's a field trip day.
- 4 We plan to trip to NYC and experience One World Center.
- 5 We drove to Jersey City to pick up this ferry.



6



7

8

- 9 This picture tells of many stories. First it is cloudy, chilly
- 10 but were getting very close to our destination; One World
- 11 Center, NYC. Once we get there by ferry we'll view the
- 12 tower, observatory, oculus and memorial. For the most part
- 13 this will be mostly pictorial, as opposed to text.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 Doesn't this look like Carla has found an old friend? Not  
4 so! He made the mistake of wearing a Notre Dame jacket  
5 and the two of them are discussing the Savior Touchdown  
6 Statue on the ND campus by their football stadium. Our  
7 travels do empower us to speak on many topics, this one  
8 was powerful on both sides. Turns out he lives in the city  
9 and is a devoted sport fan of every kind. Below you see our  
10 "yellow" ferry coming into dock to pick us up and bring us  
11 to the city.



12

13 I've always had an affinity towards marinas and boats, it's a  
14 great lifestyle but expensive.

15

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



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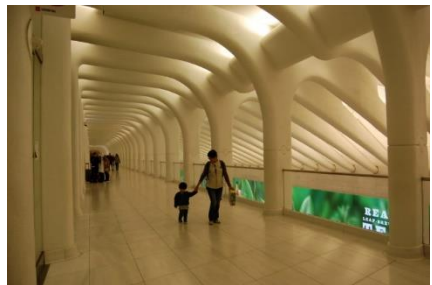
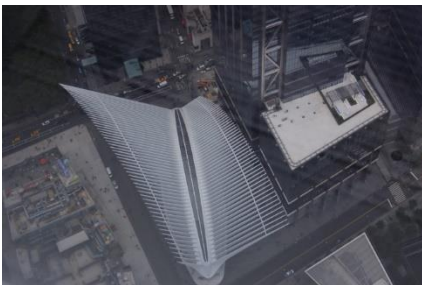
2 Above is Governor's Island then you have the image to the  
3 left. Cropping has to be the "poor man's 200mm telephoto  
4 lens." It was my hope to visit Ellis Island but it's like the  
5 Grand Canyon. You can visit it, view it and then it's let's  
6 go. We just don't have the time to afford a visit, possibly  
7 next time.



8

9

## 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Oculus at Freedom Tower



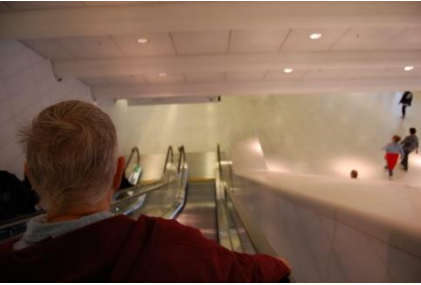
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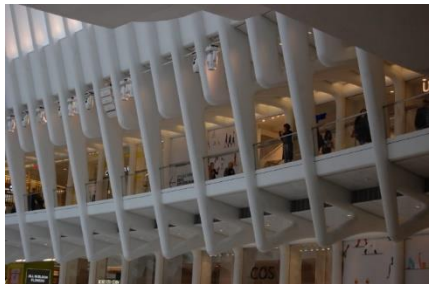
1 A view of the Oculus from the Observatory floor of the  
2 Freedom Tower.



4



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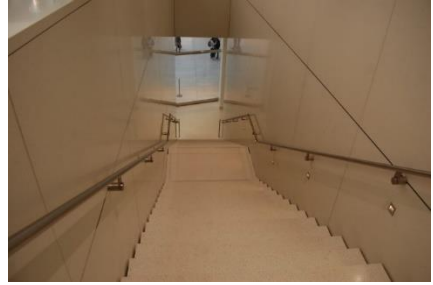


# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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Views from all the windows of the Tower.

5

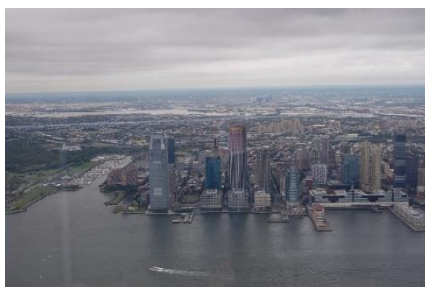


# PAUL GRENIER

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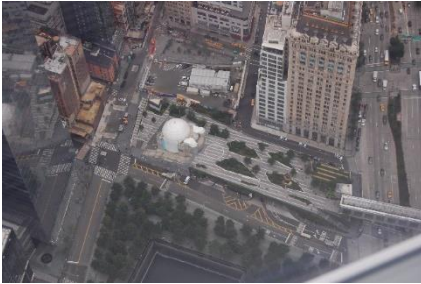
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Above is the Oculus of the Freedom Tower.

6  
7



# PAUL GRENIER

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This is Governor's Island.



2

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4 Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty, in the foreground and the  
5 ferry depot.



6

7

8 Once again, I enjoy boats and marinas. Can't even imagine  
9 what the dock fees might be.



10

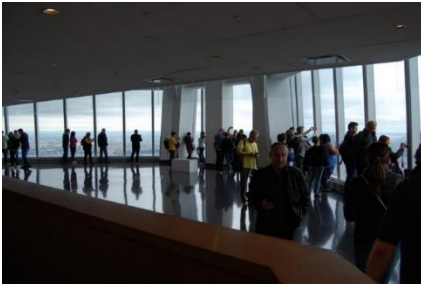


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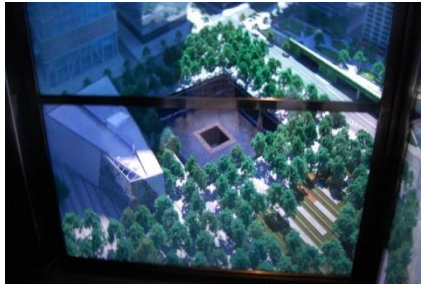
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4

5 Once you step into one of these elevators, you'll be  
6 whisked up 102 stories in 27 seconds and, believe it or not,  
7 you'll never notice you've started going up. Once the ride  
8 begins the walls ignite with a very fast documentary of what  
9 the area looked like from the 1600's to present; *awesome!*

# PAUL GRENIER

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4 This is the Oculus as seen from the outside. Below: Just a  
5 quick view to visualize how deeply underground we're at.

6

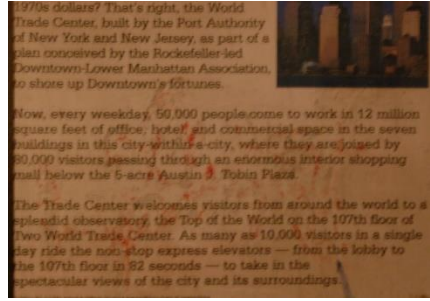
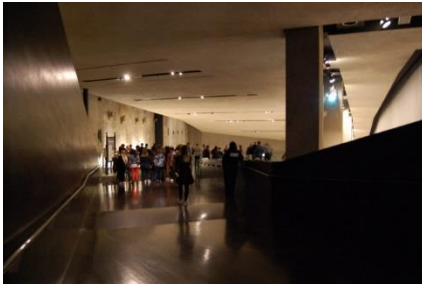


7

8 Not to dwell on what was, but it's important not to forget  
9 how we were defiled.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



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3



4 The painted tiles on the wall are a group effort commis-  
5 sioned to replicate the blue skies on 9-11. The Box Column  
6 remnants: Steel columns, known as box columns for their  
7 rectangular shape and hollow center, provided structural  
8 support for the Twin Towers and created their distinctive  
9 facades. At the end of the recovery period following 9/11,  
10 what remained of these columns was cut to a level eleva-  
11 tion, leaving the remnants visible here. The North Tower  
12 footprint was outlined by 84 columns, but the South Tower  
13 footprint had only 75 columns since preexisting train tracks

# PAUL GRENIER

- 1 passed across its footprint. (This text was taken from a
- 2 plaque I photographed but due to available light did not
- 3 print well.)



4



5

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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5

6 This is a surly. Its construction was to prevent the Hudson

# PAUL GRENIER

1 River invading the Towers.



2

3 The South Tower Column- Now going outdoors



4



5

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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4

## 24<sup>th</sup>. Bushkill Falls in Bushkill, PA

5

Monday; Temperature this morning is 52 but we will wait

6

until it reaches 59 before we leave the coach. The trip to

7

Bushkill Falls in the town of Bushkill, PA, is only about fif-

8

teen-minute ride from our site; a breath of fresh air from

9

yesterday's two-hour trip to NYC.

# PAUL GRENIER

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2



3



4 The nice thing about this venue is the wooden walkways.  
5 We will find these covering ninety-percent of the walk we  
6 will be taking. Below are the options we have with four  
7 trails. Green was the shortest at about 20 minutes. We  
8 chose yellow. Yellow, they say, would take 45 minutes, but  
9 in actuality took about 75 minutes. Each trail comes with  
10 its own challenges as you will read in a few pictures from  
11 now.



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2

3 The pictures are in the same order as our walk, hope you  
4 enjoy the walk. We came home exhausted just like yester-  
5 day, it should not be that hard on you, the reader.



6

7

8 We're approaching "LOOKOUT MAIN FALLS". In all I  
9 believe we'll see four different waterfalls and water basins.  
10 560 feet-Yes, we are as high as it looks in the picture. You  
11 should try climbing all these d\_\_ n stairs. Going down was  
12 not that bad, whenever you go down, you must come up!

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2

3 We're approaching "THE TOP OF LOWER GORGE  
4 FALLS."

5



6  
7



8 People rarely volunteer so why should this day be any dif-  
9 ferent. So, I asked the kind lady and she said yes.  
10 Above is the path we just came down. I think we're at the

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 bottom, but we'll see! ...Mistaken!



2

3

4 We're both a little pooped, good time to stop. This walk-  
5 way offers few benches. Below is the bottom of MAIN  
6 FALLS.



7

8

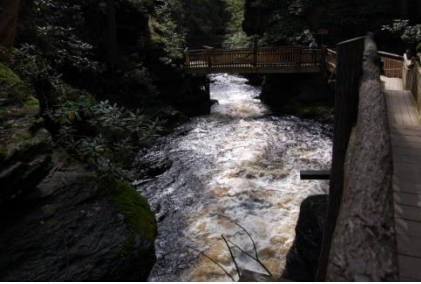
9 They were so kind to at least warn us of the challenges of  
10 the two other trails. Yellow, as you see below was our  
11 choice. I could barely handle this trail so we made the  
12 proper choice.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 There seems to be a never-ending array of stairs going  
4 "down." I don't look forward to the trip up in a few  
5 minutes. The picture below is one of the best pictures, I be-  
6 lieve, I've ever taken.



7

8 Approaching "UPPER CANYON." Did you hear the word  
9 "up?"



10

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 Above. This portion of the river is called "ADAM'S  
2 FLATS."

3 It's just that, a very flat area with the river running nicely  
4 through it. There's the sign I've been waiting for; but it now  
5 means we have to climb our way out of this canyon.



6

7

8 Yup! We're starting to go up.



9

10

11 We've exhaustingly come up a long way, but not there yet.  
12 We stop about every fifty feet to catch our breath and ap-  
13preciate the views. The walking is starting to get a little  
14 more challenging with the gravel and slate path.

15

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 Almost there. So tired I'm having trouble pushing the but-  
4 ton to take the pictures. Carla's had it also.



5  
6

7 The gift shop and snack bar. The fries we're awesome, so  
8 crunchy!



9  
10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

2

## 30<sup>th</sup>. Lynchburg RVP in Gladys, VA

3



4

5

6 Sun..This is a Thousand Trails RV Park. The roads may not  
7 be paved and we do not have 50amp service but the park  
8 roads are wide and clear of overhanging branches. We do  
9 have satellite service which few sites have since this is heav-  
10 ily wooded. This park covers 161 acres with an eleven-acre  
11 lake. The number of sites is 223. It has all the rest of amen-  
12 ities of most parks. This will be a 5-day stay leaving this  
13 coming Friday. For such a short stay we still have a couple  
14 of venues we want to experience.

15



# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2

3 When we arrived here, we were scheduled to leave tomor-  
4 row morning, but due to a scheduling conflict we've de-  
5 cided to extend our stay by one day.



6



7

8

9

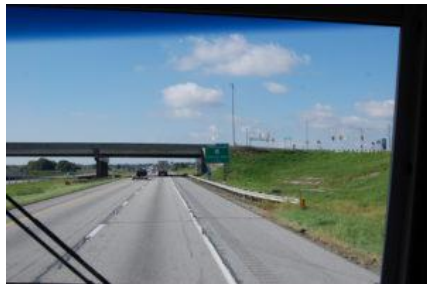
# PAUL GRENIER

1 This means we'll be jacks-up on Saturday morning. Today,  
2 the 30th, we will leave Woodstock and drive 150 miles to  
3 Gladys, VA. We'll be staying at the Lynchburg Thousand  
4 Trails Campground.



5

6 We arrived in Lynchburg all in one piece. The trip was very  
7 pleasant especially a fifty-mile segment of it on US 29. It  
8 was a 4-lane divided highway which looked like it was  
9 carved right through the Shenandoah National Park. In  
10 general, the roads rated a 9+. On our trip down here, we  
11 saw highway signs for the President Woodrow Wilson  
12 Presidential Library and Appomattox, VA the courthouse.  
13 This would be the location that General Lee surrendered.  
14 The road up is littered with farms both big and small, beef  
15 cattle in general.



16

17

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 The views come in so fast, unless you're riding with a camera  
3 in your lap, it's hard to catch them all in time.

4 As we traveled south, we were in constant view of the  
5 Shenandoah Mountain Range and to the west were the Ap-  
6 palachia Mountains. Just prior to our leaving Walmart we  
7 met a very nice couple who had just gotten married about a  
8 month ago. They were traveling North to attend their  
9 daughter's wedding. She, in a past life had been a RVer for  
10 sixteen years and had talked her new husband into the life-  
11 style. They mentioned that their home base is in Bowling  
12 Green, FL where they spend their winter months. I'm sure  
13 we'll be seeing them again. I think she said the campground  
14 there at is Arcadia Peace River RV Park.

15

16

# PAUL GRENIER

OCTOBER 2018

## 2nd. Appomattox National Historic Park

Tues. Today looks to be another beautiful day with temps reach no higher than 77 degrees. Our destination is Appomattox Court House (2-words) and Museum. To explain the 2-word item. "Courthouse" refers to just that a court house while a "Court House" makes reference to the county seat; FYI!



This is the actual looks of the McLean House. It was in this house and location that the signing of the surrender of General Lee took place with General Grant. There's so much to this venue this is just an intro to our visit there. I should have a blog or possibly a pictorial on this venue in the next day or so. I'm fairly certain that the plaques below will reintroduce you to this part of our history.

In April in 1865 as many as 65,000 troops were encamped on these grounds. Below just a little history on this part of our history. It would have been too much of an ordeal for

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 me to try to summarize what the National Park Service has  
2 already articulated in the text to follow. The NPS text is in  
3 *bold / italicized* print. If the print you see is not *italicized* then  
4 those words are mine commenting on the pictures either  
5 above or below my text.

6 *General Robert E. Lee realized that the retreat of his beleaguered*  
7 *army had finally been halted, U. S. Grant was riding toward Appo-*  
8 *mattox Court House where Union Cavalry, followed by infantry from*  
9 *the V, XXIV, and XXV Corps had blocked the Confederate path.*

10 This field is just about a half mile from the McLean House  
11 when up to 65,000 troops were encamped both on this side  
12 of the road and the other.



13

14

15 *Lee had sent a letter to Grant requesting a meeting to discuss his*  
16 *army's surrender and this letter overtook Grant and his party just be-*  
17 *fore noon about four miles west of Walker's Church (present-day*  
18 *Hixburg).*

19 Over to the right in this field is a path that we're directed to  
20 experience.

21

22

23

*Grant, who had been suffering from a severe headache, later remem-*  
*bered that upon reading Lee's letter the pain in his head had disap-*  
*peared. He stopped to prepare his reply to Lee, writing that he would*

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *push to the front to meet him.*

2



3

4 A monument dedicated to the Confederate soldiers, mostly  
5 North Carolina, in the battle in this area.

6 *The location of the meeting was left to Lee's discretion. After reading*  
7 *Grant's letter, Lee, his Aide-de-Camp Lt. Colonel Charles Mar-*  
8 *shall, and Private Joshua O. Johns rode toward Appomattox Court*  
9 *House Marshall and Johns rode ahead of Lee in order to find a place*  
10 *for the generals to confer.*

11 In those times, around 1865, those who died in battle were  
12 generally buried where they had died.



13

14

15 In the 1960's the government decided to have a special  
16 cemetery plot for those that died. As you can tell they could

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 only find the remains of a little more than a dozen men. All  
2 but one were Confederate soldiers. You'll notice the first  
3 monument which bears the Union Flag was a Union sol-  
4 dier.

5 *As Marshall passed through the village, he saw Wilmer McLean in*  
6 *the vicinity of the courthouse. He asked McLean if he knew of a suit-*  
7 *able location. Then McLean offered his own home.*



8

9

10 Above. The picture on the left is the McLean house in  
11 1865, the one on the right is the current version of that  
12 house with 150 years of improvements.

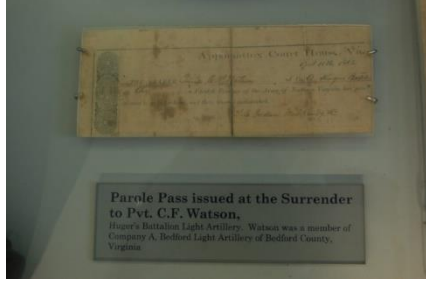
13 *After seeing the comfortable country abode, Marshall readily accepted*  
14 *and sent Private Johns back to inform General Lee that a meeting site*  
15 *had been found.*

16 At first, I thought this was an early picture of the Surrender  
17 Event, then I realized that "colored pictures" would be way  
18 into the future. But, none the less, as you enter the McLean  
19 home to the left is this room. It contains many of the origi-  
20 nal furniture but the signing desks are reproductions. The  
21 real stuff is in a national museum.

22 *Lee arrived at the McLean house about one o'clock and took a seat*  
23 *in the parlor. A half hour later, the sound of horses on the stage road*  
24 *signaled the approach of General Grant. Entering the house, Grant*

# PAUL GRENIER

1 *greeted Lee in the center of the room.*



2

3

4 The day after the Surrender signing it was decided that the  
5 Confederate soldiers should have parole papers for his men  
6 to carry with them so as not to be assumed to be deserters.  
7 So, they immediately got three presses, two are shown, and  
8 began drawing up over 35,000 forms for the confederate  
9 men.

10 *The generals presented a contrasting appearance; Lee in a new uni-*  
11 *form and Grant in his mud-spattered field uniform. Grant, who re-*  
12 *membered meeting Lee once during the Mexican War, asked the Con-*  
13 *federate general if he recalled their meeting.*

14 A Parole Pass for C F Watson. This picture is the best I  
15 could do, remember this pass is over 150 years old.

16 *Lee replied that he did, and the two conversed in a very cordial man-*  
17 *ner, for approximately 25 minutes. The subject had not yet gotten*  
18 *around to surrender until finally, Lee, feeling the anguish of defeat,*  
19 *brought Grant's attention to it. Grant, who later confessed to being*  
20 *embarrassed at having to ask for the surrender from Lee, said simply*  
21 *that the terms would be just as he had outlined them in a previous let-*  
22 *ter.*



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2

3

4 The surrender meeting happened in April but prior to that  
5 Grant and President Lincoln had a meeting. In that meet-  
6 ing had asked General Grant to be considerate to General  
7 Lee. They both knew that the Lee surrender was going to  
8 happen the question was how much longer. The Confeder-  
9 ates were basically starved into surrendering. It was Lin-  
10 coln's attitude that the surrender terms would go a long  
11 way in re-unifying the country. Lee had only two personal  
12 choices; win or disperse his army.

13



14

15 *The terms would parole officers and enlisted men but required that all*

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *Confederate military equipment be relinquished. The discussion be-*  
2 *tween the generals then drifted into the prospects for peace, but Lee,*  
3 *once again taking the lead, asked Grant to put his terms in writing.*



4

5

6 Some of the other room in this historic home. Most of all  
7 the furniture is authentic to the house. This is a personal  
8 likeable picture. The unit is so small that unless you were  
9 looking for it you might not see it. It's a scaled down wood  
10 cutting table with saw for the nearby fireplace" FYI! Below  
11 is the formal eating area with the best of the family dish-  
12 ware. Above is reality. This is where the family, most likely,  
13 ate most of their meals. This is a "Neo-Classical" home,  
14 meaning that as you climbed all those stairs in the front of  
15 the house you actually walked in onto the second floor of  
16 the home. The dining table above would be found on the  
17 bottom level.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 Once again above is the informal eating area. Below is the  
3 kitchen. In that time-period it would be normal to find the  
4 kitchen area located to the side of the home. The reason  
5 for this would be in case of fire.

6 *When Grant finished, he handed the terms to his former adversary,*  
7 *and Lee -- first donning spectacles used for reading-- quietly looked*  
8 *them over.*

9 This picture, to the left, only merits a small entry since the  
10 NPS person was just there to be helpful so Carla needed  
11 some help on the local bugs. As his dissertation went on,  
12 he got into kitchens. Having been exposed to this infor-  
13 mation years ago with our Gettysburg trip on how and why  
14 kitchens were not usually part of the living portions of a  
15 typical home, he began talking about fires. He mentioned  
16 the majority of fire related burnings began in the kitchen.  
17 He then went further on to say; the majority of deaths for  
18 women were related to fire. The heavy clothing with multi-  
19 ple layers made it very difficult for a woman on fire to dis-  
20 robe and shed her clothing in order to save herself, sad!  
21 *When he finished reading, the bespectacled Lee looked up at Grant*  
22 *and remarked "This will have a very happy effect on my army." Lee*  
23 *asked if the terms allowed his men to keep their horses, for in the*  
24 *Confederate army men owned their mounts. Lee explained that his*  
25 *men would need these animals to farm once they returned to civilian*

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *life.*



2

3

4 Once again, I asked the NPS gentleman, about the little  
5 teepee structure to the left of the main home. (For what it's  
6 worth, I already knew the answer.) I knew he would tell us  
7 that this structure was used to preserve foods keeping them  
8 cool by letting a stream of water flow through the structure.  
9 He was nice very forth coming with his answer. It was an  
10 "ice house." That's not what I had expected and I told him.  
11 He confirmed my understanding but enlightened me by ex-  
12 plaining that Virginia has very few underground streams do  
13 to all the rock, slate and marble in the ground, therefore no  
14 stream cooling. Inside the ice house a hole would be dug,  
15 possibly as deep as 20 to 24 feet deep. During the winter  
16 season chunks of ice would be cut up and carried to the ice  
17 house. Once filled with enough ice to last the hot summer  
18 months the ice would be covered with hay to shield the ice  
19 from the summer heat.

20 *Grant responded that he would not change the terms as written (which*  
21 *had no provisions allowing private soldiers to keep their mounts) but*  
22 *would order his officers to allow any Confederate claiming a horse or a*  
23 *mule to keep it. General Lee agreed that this concession would go a*

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 *long way toward promoting healing. Grant's generosity extended fur-*  
2 *ther.*

3 The partially grassy area in the center of the picture is the  
4 original Lynchburg to Richmond Road. Why is this worth  
5 mentioning? In order to get to either destination you had to  
6 go through Appomattox. For years this brought a great  
7 deal of commerce and settlers to Appomattox, until! The  
8 railroad. Prior to the railroad taverns, eateries and rooms to  
9 board were all doing a very nice business.

10 (Just think of it, in 1865 sixty-five thousand Union troops  
11 walked down this road to Appomattox.)



12

13

14 The towns folks fought bitterly to have the train station lo-  
15 cated in this general area, but the powers to be had their  
16 own opinion. The RR Station would be three miles from  
17 this location. Three miles may not seem that much since we  
18 can drive there in about five minutes but back then people  
19 had to walk. Not everyone on the train would, from that  
20 time on, stay on the train until their destination, and the  
21 town had to remake itself. The picture above is the current  
22 Lynchburg to Richmond Road. Needless to say, both  
23 Lynchburg and Richmond grew exponentially thanks to the  
24 railroad.

## PAUL GRENIER

1 *When Lee mentioned that his men had been without rations for sev-*  
2 *eral days, the Union commander arranged for 25, 000 rations to be*  
3 *sent to the hungry Confederates.*

4 In addition to feeding the Confederate Soldiers, this day  
5 since they were hungry, this parole pass would permit them  
6 to eat at no charge at any and all government installations  
7 these soldiers came across as they made their way back  
8 home.

9 *After formal copies of the surrender terms, and Lee's acceptance, had*  
10 *been drafted and exchanged, the meeting ended. Before he met with*  
11 *General Grant, one of Lee's officers (General E. Porter Alexander)*  
12 *had suggested fighting a guerilla war, but Lee had rejected the idea. It*  
13 *would only cause more pain and suffering for a cause that was lost.*  
14 *The character of both Lee and Grant was of such a high order that*  
15 *the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia has been called "The*  
16 *Gentlemen's Agreement." **Courtesy of the National Park service***

17  
18 The Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Lincoln a  
19 couple of years ago and the South was not accepting it.  
20 This surrender hopefully would unify the North and South  
21 and hopefully allow the Emancipation Proclamation to be  
22 further enacted. Lincoln would not live to see this happen.  
23 Only two days after the signing President Lincoln would be  
24 assassinated.

25

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 This was the local jail.

The McLean home. An-

3 other picture of the County Courthouse with its Knee and  
4 hip killing steps.



5

6 This would be the General Store, and then some. It's a reg-  
7 ular Ace Hardware place. Yes, this is also the post office as  
8 well as a Pharmacy. The little yellow shed to the right is an  
9 attorney's office.



10

## PAUL GRENIER

1 All kinds of stuff from dishes to fireplace needs, even some  
2 farming supplies.



3  
4 Once again, the Lynchburg Richmond Road right through  
5 the center of Appomattox. The gentleman above is a re-  
6 tired doctor with a great deal of time on his hands. We sat  
7 and tolerated him for twenty minutes and he was still ask-  
8 ing folks who they were and where they came from. If I  
9 wasn't certain that the Kentucky Fried Chicken Colonel  
10 had died, I'd be certain this was he. This volunteer was re-  
11 ally good. Got right to the facts. He saw that most of us  
12 were seniors and we did not have time to spare. He went  
13 into just enough detail, but not overly so, to paint an awe-  
14 some picture about the logistics of the Union forces and of  
15 course the confederates as well as the impact the railroad  
16 had on the town. He was a pleasure to listen to.

### 17 **5<sup>th</sup>. Friday- Our last day at Lynchburg RVP**

18 Feeling quite a bit better today, to the point that I spent  
19 about two hours prepping the coach, windows, hose and  
20 hose trays, for our departure tomorrow. I still had energy to  
21 spare so I took out a new brush we bought a while back  
22 and began soaping up the coach and hosing it down after-  
23 wards. Felt so good I continued and did the entire coach,



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 except the roof, still get dizzy climbing. The coach had not  
2 been thoroughly washed down, except for the occasional  
3 down pour courtesy of Mother Nature, in over two years,  
4 SunCruiser looks good. Finished up any loose end on any of  
5 my blogs as well. For all the trees and bushes all around our  
6 site we had excellent satellite reception all week. Today I'm  
7 tired, time to go to bed. Next time we speak we'll be in Ad-  
8 vance, NC staying at Forest Lake RVP a TT property.

## 9 6<sup>th</sup>. Tripping to Advance, NC

10



11

12 Above is just a very small sampling of the incredibly beauti-  
13 ful farmlands we view every time we get up and drive off to  
14 another location. Not sure how early in the morning these  
15 folks get up to prepare for these yard sales. No lack for pa-  
16 trons, every yard sale has a good number of shoppers.



17



# PAUL GRENIER

1  
2 When we drove by this sign, I told Carla, would anyone  
3 rent a Porta Potty thanks to this sign? Within five minutes  
4 this truck drove by us, *go figure!*



5  
6  
7 Caswell County Rest Area. As we made our way south, I  
8 needed a break and we pulled into the Caswell County Rest  
9 Area. This place is so pretty it's almost a destination. Below  
10 are two chairs; we call "Coke" chairs. We had a cocktail ta-  
11 ble with tow tall chairs at our log cabin, a \$600 expense, but  
12 guaranteed to last a lifetime. They have been constructed  
13 from recycled Coke bottles.



15

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 We spent about twenty enjoying this venue. Chairs, tables  
3 and benches are generously located all over this property.  
4 The inside of this building was as nice as any beautiful  
5 home could be. This is a very big, clean- and sold-out park.  
6 Many of the campground roads are paved, Awesome!

### 7 **7<sup>th</sup>. Sunday -Relaxing at Forrest Lake**

8 with a cook-out. Improving the blog & journal appear-  
9 ances. Just did a little shopping and now that we're home, I  
10 have to get back to updating the Web Site. I have just been  
11 enlightened on some new formatting options this Web Site  
12 is now offering and I've made a few changes I hope the  
13 readers will find helpful. I've just discovered the drop-down  
14 menus on Journal, Opinions and Travel are not as sensitive  
15 to touch as I was hoping for.

16 The trip to Forest Lake Preserve took about three-hours  
17 but three very pleasant hours. We got here safely and not  
18 that tired.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 I could not imagine the steaks would come out so good.  
4 We took our time and let them sear for quite a while. After  
5 about thirty-minutes time was up and it was time to serve  
6 up the potatoes and carrots.

7



8  
9

10 As you can tell this is a very big campground and for the  
11 next five days it is 100% sold out. It's amazing we got such  
12 a great site. more to come.

13

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2

3

4 Camp lake and mini golf park. This is the adult lounge.

5



6



# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 This is Hairston Hall. It's a small venue for church services  
4 and meetings.



5



6

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 This hall is the Forest Lake Store and Grill. Also serves as a  
4 youngsters lounge with gaming machine, pool (also pool table  
5 in the adult lounge) and even an air hockey table.

6



7



8  
9

10 Friends of ours, [Adventure detour ahead](#), are full-timers and  
11 just moved up to a Solitude fifth-wheel.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3

4 At this point our quest is for a historical site. This would be  
5 a quarter-mile walk in a mosquito infested forest area. This  
6 is the first time in five years that we've had to deal with  
7 mosquitos.

8



9



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 It took a while to find this historic site. It's actually an original  
4 structure. A tobacco barn. After walking almost forty-  
5 five minutes we noticed the tobacco barn was just a minute  
6 walk from our coach, going in another direction.



7  
8

9 Finally, we're home again. Now it's time to download the  
10 pictures and finish off the RVP blog.

## 11 **8<sup>th</sup>.Monday- Carla and I take a walk.**

12 We have just finished taking a walk through this beautiful  
13 campground. This walk would take us through an infested  
14 area of mosquitos but ultimately, we did locate the historic  
15 site. I don't think we've ever had a campground with such a  
16 site, we did not see it, but we're told this campground also  
17 has a shelter just in case something unforeseen comes in

## PAUL GRENIER

1 this direction. We have three days of rain in the forecast so  
2 no much more should be forthcoming.

### 3 **9<sup>th</sup>. Childress Vineyards**

4 *As I have done in the past the text presented in bold/ italics is cour-*  
5 *tesy of TripAdvisor. All texts in "plain type"*  
6 *would be my own comments. By opening the doors to Childress Vine-*  
7 *yards in 2004,*

8 Hurricane Michael cometh! Childress Vineyards.  
9 We are listening carefully to MSNBC on all the hurricane  
10 warnings. We will be rearranging our travels to Umatilla,  
11 GA from Yemassee. Yemassee, from experience, has a very  
12 high-water table and the ground in their lower basin mud-  
13 dies up easily. Right now, we are preparing to go to the  
14 Childress Vineyards.



15  
16

17 *NASCAR team owner Richard Childress fulfilled a longtime dream*  
18 *that grew from the days when he first began racing in California and*  
19 *visited wineries with friends.*

20

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2

3 This is the Winery Store Room. They also have a couple of  
4 clubs you can join for, what I thought, was quite reason-  
5 able; around \$200 to \$250. These clubs come with many  
6 benefits, especially if you're into wines.

7 *What began as camaraderie and good times soon became an engaging*  
8 *passion for world-class wines and then the visit on to build a world-*  
9 *class winery.*

10 The Banquet Room used for weddings mostly.

11 *After looking at options in California and New York, Richard chose*  
12 *farmland in Lexington, NC located less than five miles from his*  
13 *RCR Racing operations.*

14

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3

4

5

6

7

8

This is the Bristol Room. I was pleasantly surprised at the menu prices. I imagined them to be much more expensive than they were.

*The location situated Childress Vineyards as the gateway to the Yadkin Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA), North Carolina's first federally designated region for grape growing.*

9

10



11

Walkway at the beginning of our Winery Tour. The gazebo

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 below may be used or rented for special occasions.

2 *Childress Vineyards are one of the most prominent wineries in the*  
3 *state's re-emerging wine industry that has grown from 21 to more than*  
4 *100 wineries since the year 2000.*



5

6 This is another Bristol venue for big events. As our tour  
7 guide said, everyplace in the winery may be rented except  
8 for Richard Childress' office. Below is the first step in the  
9 processing of wines; the removal of stems and exterior skin  
10 coating.



11

12

13 The building we were in originally was over 35,000 square  
14 feet in size. We are now in the basement of that building.  
15 Wine is stored in these aluminum vats for as long as six

# PAUL GRENIER

1 weeks. Temperatures down here are really chilly. This en-  
2 hances the fermentation process. Below the holding tanks  
3 are being cleaned out and eventually sterilized prior to new  
4 wines enter them.



5  
6

7 The aluminum containers store most of the wines they pro-  
8 duce. The better and more expensive wines are stores in  
9 the wooden kegs. Each of these wooden kegs cost about  
10 one-thousand dollars each and may be used only once.



11

12 Above is Mark. He runs and controls almost every process  
13 in the wine making business at Childress.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 This room is for their top-of-the-line wines. Each of these  
4 kegs is being exposed to the ground which, once again, en-  
5 enhances the wine fermentation process. Below is the Chil-  
6 dress Library of specialty wines. This room is always locked  
7 and very few enter as well.

8



9



10

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2  
3



4 One acre of vineyards can produce four-thousand bottles  
5 of wine.

## 6 **12<sup>th</sup>. Friday-Hurricane Michael is gone.**

7 Yesterday, as the storm was in our area, we took a ride to  
8 Mocksville, NC. Over the course of the trip we counted  
9 over a dozen huge trees that were taken down through the  
10 might of this storm, even though the storm here was just a  
11 lot of water and some, not that strong, winds. Half the  
12 trees had fallen in the roadway blocking one full lane or  
13 more, everyone proceeded cautiously, warning on-coming  
14 traffic of the impediment. On our way home, about 1000  
15 feet from the entrance to the campground another tree  
16 came down. We sat patiently, in the car for about an hour,  
17 waiting for the obstruction to be remedied.



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 14<sup>th</sup>. Today we're planning a trip into Advance, NC to go to  
2 a Wells Fargo Bank. Around here we don't talk about cities,  
3 more like towns or villages. Sat., we attend Mass at Saint  
4 Francis of Assisi CC. Our time here is quickly coming to a  
5 close. We have nothing worth mentioning planned the next  
6 couple of days. It's jacks-up on Monday morning, and  
7 heading to Pride RV Campground in Maggie Valley. Total  
8 capacity might be barely 200. Around here we don't talk  
9 about cities, more like towns or villages. Regardless the  
10 Pastor gave an excellent homily and the parishioners are  
11 very friendly.



12

13

14 At Mass yesterday, I was fortunate to speak to Fr. Eric  
15 Kowalski. I mentioned to him how, last week, he spoke of  
16 how fortunate this parish is for having, not one relic, but  
17 two. I knew every church had the one relic, but why two.  
18 St. Francis, as some might know, was cremated. The Ro-  
19 man Catholic Church has his ashes. The Bishop, I believe,  
20 offered to give this parish a second relic, that is, ashes of St.  
21 Francis. In the picture, to the left, is a statue of St. Francis.  
22 To his right and above is a small wall stand. It is on this  
23 stand that his ashes are displayed. The first relic is embed-  
24 ded into the alter. The parish history in a nutshell.

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Way back in 1958 the parish was established. It had a total  
2 of three families enrolled as parishioners. Long story short  
3 by the year 2000, under very frugal leadership, the parish  
4 was able to free itself of all its mortgages on the buildings  
5 and the associated lands. In 2010 the parish had over 300  
6 families. In 2017 Fr. Eric joined the parish as the parish's  
7 new pastor. He came from a very big parish and relishes his  
8 new life shepherding the parishioners in his new home. In  
9 the picture above is Fr. Eric Kowalski.

## 10 15th Pride RVP, Maggie Valley,NC



11

12

13

14 Pride is a privately owned park, not a Thousand Trails  
15 Property. For that reason, we must pay to stay. Visiting  
16 Maggie Valley was very restful but in the future, I'm going

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 to recommend staying no more than 3 days, just too expen-  
2 sive.



3



4



5



6

# PAUL GRENIER

1



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7

What the pictures above and below do not show are the overcast skies we left at Forest Lake in Advance, NC. Carla loves flowers, especially wild flowers. Virginia devotes a great deal of highway to natural coverage.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



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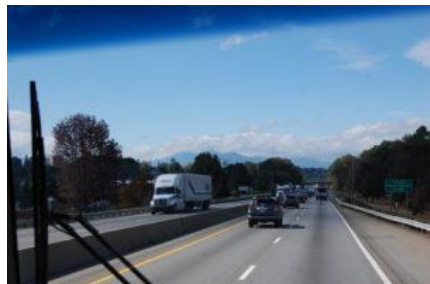


3

4 We've been in North Carolina for a short time but the road  
5 and landscape had not changed much. Seeing the sign for  
6 the Blue Ridge Parkway was very reassuring. In this picture  
7 look at the car in the distance. This dude got pulled by five  
8 state trooper cars. Being caught by one state trooper is bad,  
9 five is indescribable.



10



# PAUL GRENIER



1

2

3 The mountains in the far distance begin appearing on every  
4 corner we take. Below is the sign we've really been looking  
5 for. We find ourselves reminiscing on a couple of trips we  
6 took we Abby back in days gone by, when we had the log  
7 home.

## 8 **17<sup>th</sup>. Ice Cream in Maggie Valley.**

9 Today has a very distinct chill in the air, but we should get  
10 used to it because it will only get colder, both during the  
11 day and evening. We had been quietly doing busy work,  
12 Carla reading and I with the blog, when we decided to ven-  
13 ture out and seek out an ice cream cone. We had some ice  
14 cream in the coach, but no sugar cones. After that we  
15 would try to locate a log cabin we once almost bought, but  
16 that's a story in itself. Earlier in the day Carla had put to-  
17 gether her famous French onion soup. That was such a  
18 pleasure to eat when we got back from our escapade. We  
19 just had a Prevost Marathon pull in next to us. We're 39  
20 foot and it comes in at 45 feet. At 2.8 million he paid more  
21 in taxes than we paid for our coach including taxes. They  
22 up 'ed and left by nine am next morning. Must be nice to  
23 pay \$50 to stay overnight at a campground. *Forgive me; just a*  
24 *little envious of the one-percenters.*

25

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 **18<sup>th</sup>. Very chilly night, last** night, about 40 degrees.  
2 Even chillier last night and today. Saturday and Sunday  
3 night coming up are scheduled to be in the mid-thirties.  
4 Doing very little today. We worked on our travel plans for  
5 2019 and Carla through together her beef stew for this  
6 evening's dinner. Nothing like letting the crockpot do all  
7 the work, but it does take all the right fixings to bring the  
8 meal together. Our site with a much bigger coach to our  
9 right (not shown). *Nice to have money, should have studied harder!*  
10 We. Just spoke to Abby and we'll be meeting up with her  
11 and beau Michael, in January in Texas. More on that in an-  
12 other blog in the future.

### 13 20<sup>th</sup>. St. Mgt of Scotland Church.

14 Sat St. Margaret of Scotland Church built by Fr. Michael  
15 Murphy. And a call from family. We've been here before,  
16 several times. This time I would like to present a little his-  
17 tory on this fine church. The history will take up too much  
18 space for the Journal, so I'll build a blog on the subject.  
19 Temps Fri. night came in at 37 degrees, more on schedule  
20 for Sat. night.



21  
22 builder of St Margaret of Scotland Church. This will be a  
23 very shot blog on the history of Fr. Michael Murphy. Mi-

## PAUL GRENIER

1 chael Murphy, prior to becoming a priest, was a business-  
2 man. He came to North Carolina in 1950. He was also a  
3 wealthy man. In the years that followed he financed and  
4 built several churches in the towns surrounding Maggie  
5 Valley; he was known as the "Apostle of the Smokies."  
6 Long story short in time he bought 33 acres of land in  
7 Maggie Valley. On these 33 acres he built a 25-unit motel.  
8 Shortly thereafter the bishop gave him permission to build  
9 another church. In 1969 the new St. Margaret of Scotland  
10 Catholic Church was dedicated. The name was chosen in  
11 honor of his mother Margaret Murphy. The name, which  
12 was a second choice, was chosen because "She always fed  
13 the poor and he always fed the poor." The facility was built  
14 to accommodate 200 parishioners at one service. The par-  
15 ish, at that time, was hardly big enough to fill the church,  
16 even if it wanted to. In reply to the size of the church he  
17 commented, "I did not build the church because of the de-  
18 mand, I built it for the future- strong so it will last for ages.  
19 Someday, it will be full every Sunday." The bishop there at  
20 that time often urged Michael Murphy to become a priest.

21 After some thought Murphy enrolled and studied at St.  
22 Meinrad Seminary in Indiana and was ordained on May 11,  
23 1972. Now, Fr. Murphy, was age 80 when he was ordained.  
24 News of his ordination sped around the world. Fr. Murphy,  
25 believe it or not, continued to operate his Falling Waters  
26 Motel. In 1981, with help from the bishop, it was con-  
27 verted to the Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center.  
28 Even to this day it continues to be a popular retreat spot.  
29 Within a year after his ordination, he was assigned to be  
30 Pastor of the St. Margaret of Scotland Church, which he  
31 had constructed. Fr. Murphy presided over this parish until



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 his death. He was 99 years old. The parish hall he had built  
2 on the land he donated to the Church, was named Murphy-  
3 Garland Parish Hall. St. Margaret's has a strong push to try  
4 to have Fr. Murphy Canonized. In the "book for the sick  
5 and departed" a message reads that "should your request be  
6 fulfilled, please call the parish office. The Internet has  
7 much more on this awesome person, I have only provided  
8 some of the highlights on his life. Upon entering a new  
9 church, I always look for the "book for the sick and de-  
10 parted." A parishioner pointed it out to me. She also quietly  
11 mentioned that it is a miracle book. Not having the time to  
12 inquire why, I just took her word on it. There it was smack  
13 dab at the foot of the Alter area, in the front of the church.  
14 The church is now half full and praying the Rosary. I hate  
15 standing out in a crowd, but did it anyway. So many are ill  
16 and so many are no longer with us. After five-years of do-  
17 ing this, I have it down to almost a science; basically, imme-  
18 diately members of the Ozdarski/ Grenier families and  
19 then family members needing special mention; even get a  
20 chance to add a couple of non-family individuals as well at  
21 times. The purpose for this in so many churches is both al-  
22 truitistic and self-serving. So many are forgotten within a few  
23 weeks of their passing. Purgatory is probably over crowded  
24 with "forgotten souls." Should either Carla or I go, I know  
25 we'll have each other's backs after the fact. My self-serving  
26 interest is that should I survive Carla, I dread the thought  
27 of being one of those forgotten souls. I have no doubt I'd  
28 be forgotten shortly by any remaining family members. For  
29 this reason, it's a matter of self-preservation after death.  
30 Even though many of the us listed in these dozens of  
31 churches have not departed yet, I feel we could all use a  
32 prayer or two from time to time.

## PAUL GRENIER

### 1 **21<sup>st</sup>. Sunday-Carolina Landing in Fair Play, SC**

2 We've done all we can, we're ready to go. We will leave to-  
3 morrow morning to drive to Fair Play, SC. Tonight we ex-  
4 pect temps to drop to 32 degrees. We took in the fair and  
5 the temperature did not improve by even one degree. We  
6 bought a couple of gifts and quickly got back into the car,  
7 and drove home before we caught a cold.

### 8 **22<sup>nd</sup>. Monday-Travel Day to Carolina Landing in Fair** 9 **Play, SC.**

10 We slept this morning till 8AM, we were just slightly fro-  
11 zen. The coach did do quite well. Coach electric heat was  
12 set for 69 and it did well. We arrived a Carolina Landing in  
13 Fair Play, SC just a little after noon Monday morning. We  
14 woke this morning to very low temps. As an example of  
15 how cold it was just look at the picture above. Our car  
16 looked the same (not shown). All that was left to do was to  
17 detach from electric and disconnect the cable connection  
18 and I came in so cold. Other than that, the day was awe-  
19 some. Carla looked to her phone and it was 36 degrees in  
20 Maggie Valley while it was 64 here in So. Carolina.

### 21 **23<sup>rd</sup>.Arrive at Carolina Landing**

22 Below is a schematic on the Carolina Landing RVP. Tues-  
23 day-dinner with Ann Cunningham at Applebee's. We had a  
24 delightful lunch with Ann Cunningham this afternoon. We  
25 met Ann a few months ago and promised to touch base  
26 with her on our travels back to Florida. She's not a full-  
27 timer yet, best reason for that would be the beautiful home  
28 she has here in South Carolina. As nice as it is though, I'm  
29 still set on the lifestyle we're enjoying. Please

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1



2

3 I'm going to skip Carolina Landing do to missing infor-  
4 mation.



5

6 24<sup>th</sup>. Hope to Experience Four Waterfalls



7

## PAUL GRENIER

1

2 This area is peppered with large estates, homes and so  
3 many log homes. The road to the falls is just a tad bit wider  
4 than our HHR car.

5 **Riley Moore Falls**-Our first field trip for this area. After  
6 traveling an hour and being lost most of the time we almost  
7 gave up. Finally, we found the road to the falls but just  
8 looking at the road made our decision for us. Not friendly  
9 looking so we skipped it.

10 **Brasstown Falls** was very enjoyable. The walk to the falls  
11 was acceptable and the view were awesome. You'll also find  
12 a blog on this as well in the next couple of days.

13 As we travelled to Issaqueena we saw a roadhouse sign for  
14 "Moonshine ." I'm not naïve, even I know what moonshine  
15 is. But, how often do you see signs for it? See the blog on  
16 "Distillery."

17



18  
19

20 The roadway finally does come to a parking lot, or at least a

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 parking area. We were told to take the easier path to the  
2 left; however, I see only on path. About two-hundred feet  
3 along the path we were given a right and left choice, we  
4 went left, of course



5  
6



7

8 We begin our trek down this narrow path. In the distance  
9 we can hear the falls, or at least we think that's them. A  
10 beautiful stream is to our left and if you look carefully,  
11 you'll see Carla in the picture above, in the distance. I'm  
12 trying to keep up.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2

3 The path here is cleared of debris, but it is loaded with tree  
4 roots. Finally, the falls come into view.

5



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7

8 The falls are in full view, but to get better views we do have  
9 a slightly treacherous path.

10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



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6 We hang out for a short time and take a few pictures then  
7 decide to go back to the car. On our walk here was mostly  
8 downhill but the way back we must go up.

9

# PAUL GRENIER

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2



3



4



5 Along the way are cleared area for campers. Not the type of  
6 camping we're into. The path is still going up but we're sure  
7 we're getting closer to the parking area. Below our trek  
8 comes to a close



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2

3

4 The road to this location was very relaxing and would be  
5 awesome if we were timelier with the foliage. The couple in  
6 this RV were from Lake Placid, FL. Lake Placid is known  
7 as the Mural City. They were not full-timers but did spend  
8 a good part of the year traveling. I did a blog on Lake  
9 Placid about three years ago.

10 **Issaqueena Falls** would be next. It was just a short dis-  
11 tance from where we were and well worth the trip. I'll have  
12 a pictorial blog on this as well.

## 13 **The Legend of Issaqueena**

14 Many versions of the story of Issaqueena exist. One such  
15 tale tells us Issaqueena was a Cherokee girl who fell in love  
16 with an Oconee Brave, while another regales the story of a  
17 young girl named Issaqueena who was captured by the

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Cherokee and given the name Cateechee.

2



3

4 *“Cateechee” then met and fell in love with a white trader named Al-*  
5 *lan Francis. Yet another variant has Issaqueena falling in love with a*  
6 *white silversmith named David Francis.*

7



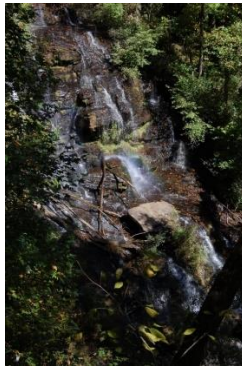
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9

10 This is a covered bridge that spans the stream leading to  
11 the falls. This is a very small narrow stream. How it man-  
12 ages to transform itself to such a beautiful waterfall baffles  
13 me. Early on we begin seeing the beginnings of the falls not  
14 to mention the beautiful sounds of water falling freely. As  
15 you walk through the covered bridge to the other side you  
16 come to an observation area looking down to the stream  
17 and looking out over the hills.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 *Regardless of who Issaqueena fell in love with, the numerous adapta-*  
2 *tions all end roughly the same way. Issaqueena overhears her tribes-*  
3 *men planning a surprise attack and sets out ahead of the braves to*  
4 *warn her lover — naming the local landmarks of Mile Creek, Six*  
5 *Mile, Twelve Mile, Eighteen Mile, Three and Twenty, Six and*  
6 *Twenty, and finally Ninety-Six along the way. The towns of Six*  
7 *Mile, Ninety Six and the creeks still exist.*



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*She then marries Allan/David/Oconee brave and starts a family. The family then builds (depending on the story) either a “stumphouse” home or a home on Stumphouse Mountain, just north of what is now Walhalla. Her tribesmen, still seeking revenge for their spoiled attack plan, finally track down Issaqueena and chase her through the woods. She eludes her pursuers by leaping off a nearby waterfall. The tribesmen, believing her to be dead, call off their chase and Issaqueena, who had actually landed on a ledge and hid out of sight behind the great wall of water, was able to return safely to her family and live happily ever after.*

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 *The rendition with the Oconee brave has them both throwing them-*  
3 *selves over the falls rather than die at the hands of the Cherokee while*  
4 *the narrative with David Francis has the happy couple ending up in*  
5 *Alabama.*

6 *The Legend of Issaqueena is a prime example of local lore shaping an*  
7 *area but historians frequently disagree about how much (if any) truth*  
8 *is surrounding the story.*



9

10

11 The trail to the falls is steep at times but not dangerous to  
12 most visitors. I, on the other hand have recently become a  
13 klutz at walking, and am slightly more cautious than most.  
14 The downhill path Harkins the thoughts of having to walk  
15 this same path, next time, going all the way uphill.

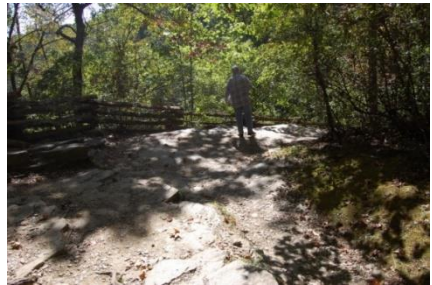
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## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 *For one, according to local author and Cherokee language historian*  
3 *John Currahee, the name “Issaqueena” is actually the transplanted*  
4 *Choctaw word “isi-okhina” meaning “deer creek.”*



5

6 *“(The legend) may have some vague factual basis but the Indian*  
7 *maiden’s name was not given until 1895 when she was called ‘Ca-*  
8 *teechee’ in an essay,” stated Currahee. “It was not until 1898 that*  
9 *Cateechee became Issaqueena in a poem, the duality explained by say-*  
10 *ing that Issaqueena was a Choctaw captured by the Cherokee and*  
11 *given the name Cateechee among the Cherokee.*

# PAUL GRENIER



- 1
- 2 What it looks like from the top of the falls



- 3
- 4 *“Both the poet and the essayist owned up to inventing the two names*  
5 *out of thin air, although the poet seemed to know that Issaqueena did*  
6 *come from the Choctaw language,” Currahee said.*  
7 *The poem Currahee was referring to is the epic “Cateechee of Keowee”*  
8 *penned by J.W. Daniels in 1898.*  
9 *No matter which — if any — version of the legend a person chooses*  
10 *to believe, the 100-foot waterfall itself is truly a fantastic sight for all*  
11 *and should not be missed. Story credit - Easley Progress online*

- 12
- 13
- 14

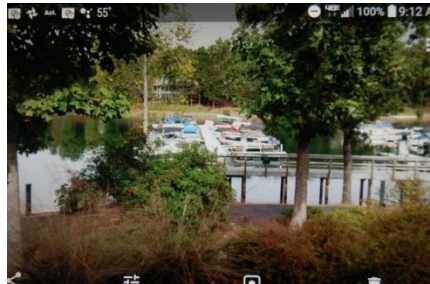
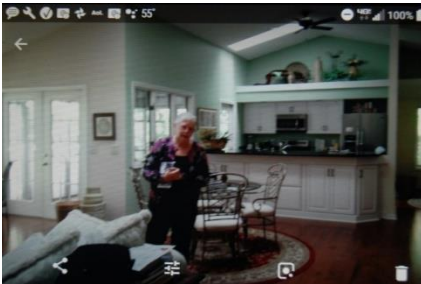
# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

## 1 24<sup>th</sup>. We visit with Ann Cunningham



2  
3

4 Applebee's in Seneca, SC. We had a delightful lunch with  
5 Ann Cunningham this afternoon. We met Ann a few  
6 months ago and promised to touch base with her on our  
7 travels back to Florida. She's not a full-timer yet, best reason  
8 for that would be the beautiful home she has here in  
9 South Carolina. As nice as it is though, I'm still set on the  
10 lifestyle we're enjoying. This is Ann's home. It's no wonder  
11 she is not a full-timer RVer.



12  
13

14 The mariner which only charges \$700, not a month, but  
15 yearly for dockage; awesome!

16

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2

3 This trip will ultimately bring us to three separate venues.  
4 We were just casually driving on our way to the next water-  
5 fall when this sign jumped out at us. I mean, could you just  
6 drive by without checking out some "Moonshine?" The  
7 first of the three venues was this typical *general store*. It sold  
8 everything from grass seed to liquors. We were there only a  
9 few minutes when the storekeeper told us of their other lo-  
10 cation was bigger and had a better selection; so off we  
11 went.



12

13

14 Just up the road from the country store was this very sym-  
15 bolic western town. It wasn't just a façade; all the store-  
16 fronts were occupied. Some of the units had, sheriff, barber  
17 shop, ammunition and a restaurant/B&B. Below, I'm not



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 sure. A little too small for a "tiny home!" I'll let you con-  
2 template other options.



3

4

5 The views from this part of the world are awesome! We're  
6 up high enough so we can see for miles. Below is the sec-  
7 ond venue. This property is years of creative building and  
8 plantings. Above is a silo with an herb garden in the fore-  
9 front. Rows and rows of grape vines, not to mention other  
10 plantings. This is the area in the back of this building.  
11 Mostly used for large group meetings and weddings.



12

13

14 The storekeeper back in the original location was right.  
15 Much more stuff to look over and purchase. Jams and liq-  
16 uors are very noticeable.

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Yes, we did not leave empty handed.



2  
3

4 Below is another gathering area, smaller than the outside  
5 area. The fireplace was awesome.



6  
7

8 The views are as awesome as the plantings around the  
9 property.



10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

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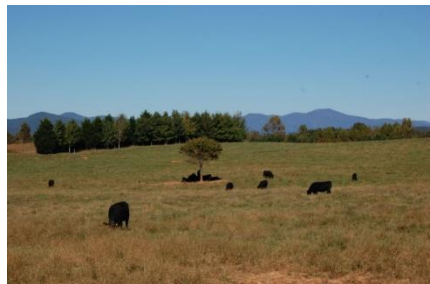
2 Our third and last venue in this area was just up the road,  
3 where else, was a distillery. Ben was the barkeep. The store-  
4 keeper gave us his name. I have a feeling this is one very  
5 big family operation, I might be wrong, but I feels like it.  
6 More vineyards.



7



8



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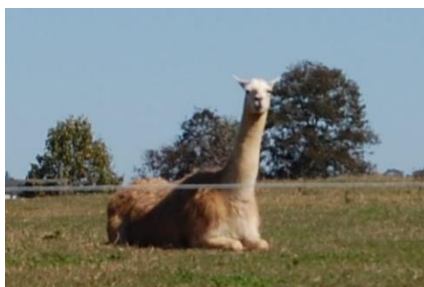
10

11 Last time we saw Llamas was in a farm in Maggie Valley.

# PAUL GRENIER

1 What is it about Llamas?

2



3  
4

5 Our last look of mama Llama. It's time to leave. Off to our  
6 final destination which would be "just down the road." For  
7 more information on this venue:

## 8 **10.25 Thursday- Rain!**

9 Yesterday was R and R and today it's raining. The coach is  
10 ready to go. We will leave tomorrow morning and head out  
11 SE to Yemassee, SC about 175 miles in distance.

## 12 **27<sup>th</sup>. The Oaks in Yemassee, SC**



13

14 We woke up a little earlier than usual this morning and for  
15 that reason we were able to get on the road by 8:30. The

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 trip would be longer than usual around 260 miles. Surpris-  
2 ingly we got to The Oaks a little after 1pm and we're all set-  
3 tled in in 1:30. We are here for only 2 nights and will leave  
4 Monday morning for Florida. Excellent travel day temps  
5 around 55 with bright blue skies. This is a Thousand Trails  
6 property which means it's another freebie. I don't think in  
7 two days I'll get around to take another bunch of pictures  
8 on this campground but I'll give you a link to visit the blog  
9 I did on this place on Oct. 2015, almost exactly three years  
10 ago to the week.



11

12 Saturday means, of course, Church, Pizza and Beer. St. An-  
13 thony's is in Ridgeland, SC about a 20-minute ride from  
14 here.



15

16 This is a picture of the inside of the church. Evidently, I  
17 never took a picture of the outside, hope to fix that tonight.

## PAUL GRENIER

### 1 **30<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at Rose Bay in Port Orange, FL**

2 We spent last night at the Walmart in Kingsland, GA. It  
3 was much quieter than we were anticipating. Temps  
4 dropped to the low fifties and, inside the coach, the tem-  
5 perature was at 64 at 3am this morning. I wasn't too con-  
6 cerned since I was sleeping soundly, except for Scoots  
7 climbing on me on the bed looking for shelter under the  
8 bed cover from the cold. I decided to just turn on the elec-  
9 tric heat, oops! Forgot we were boondocking; therefore, no  
10 electricity. Normally I would just turn on the generator, but  
11 we're sharing this parking lot with eight other RVs all in  
12 close proximity. Generators are noisy. My neighbor in back  
13 of us made his feelings felt when he came to the coach last  
14 night to ask us when we were planning to turn it off.



15  
16

17 This was one of the two signs that we've been looking for.  
18 We'll spend a little time in Georgia but the sign we are re-  
19 ally looking for is Florida.

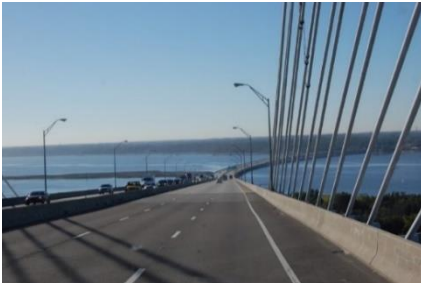
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## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 I was a little taken back by the question, since a Walmart  
3 parking lot has no rules, you get what you pay for, and  
4 you're not paying anything, you have to accept the condi-  
5 tions as they present themselves. We went without the gen-  
6 erator; just snuggled up a bit more. We arrived in Port Or-  
7 ange after travelling 136 miles right around 1pm. We got a  
8 nice site with good Wi-Fi and Satellite. We are having a  
9 small problem with the electricity but that should resolve it-  
10 self. We've called Carla's sister a couple of times and we're  
11 waiting for her to call back. Tomorrow morning it's blood  
12 work, Walmart (fix light) and it's time for us to get haircuts.  
13 We will be here for two weeks and it's a Thousand Trails  
14 "Trails" facility. Basically, it's a freebie. Awesome high-  
15 way/bridge infrastructure in Jacksonville, FL. The "Bow  
16 Tie Bridge." We cross this bridge and we're welcomed by  
17 the St. John's River Bay.



18

# PAUL GRENIER

## 1 29<sup>th</sup>. Monday-Travel Day to Kingsland, GA

2 We got a scheduled late start today to go South to Georgia.  
3 Originally, we were supposed to go to Jacksonville, FL, but  
4 the thought of dealing with Jacksonville at the end of this  
5 trip was something to think about. Kingsland is about  
6 thirty miles North of Jacksonville. We'll deal with this city  
7 with an un-tired attitude. We tried to settle in at Cracker  
8 Barrel but their lot was a little too tight, so it was off to  
9 Walmart.

## 10 31<sup>st</sup>. We VOTED today

11 This is such an important day. Every two or four years  
12 every citizen has the right to make themselves heard by ex-  
13 exercising his/her right to vote.



14

15 This is such an important day. Every two or four years  
16 every citizen has the right to make themselves heard by ex-  
17 exercising his/her right to vote. This year is especially im-  
18 portant. Many are adamant that some tweaking is needed at  
19 all levels of government. If the changes don't take place the  
20 way I've voted I can at least say I made the effort to alter  
21 the course of local politicians, the House as well as the Sen-  
22 ate. This voting by mail is so simple and intelligent. Our



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 ballots are mailed to us in a timely manner, we have more  
2 than ample time to complete the form and, most im-  
3 portantly, we have the option to Google, for a clearer inter-  
4 pretation of the amendments. Even, should the day come  
5 that we decide to stay planted, we will continue to vote by  
6 mail. It's also the anniversary of my cancer operation-  
7 Twelve months ago I underwent a duodenal Whipple oper-  
8 ation. It's been a long twelve months as I continue to get  
9 back to normal. After twelve months I don't feel I'll get  
10 back to "normal," but rather I should concentrate more on  
11 accepting the way things are, my new normal. Don't get me  
12 wrong, I am very happy that things have gone as well as  
13 they have. The alternative was not an option. It's just that  
14 there are days in which I don't feel the doctors did not  
15 quite put me back together after seven hours on the table;  
16 but it is what it is.

17

# PAUL GRENIER

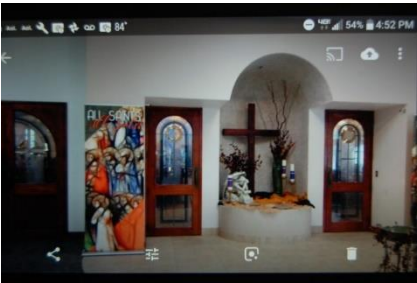
1 **NOVEMBER 2018**

2 **1st. All Saints Day**

3 Epiphany is located in Port Orange, FL. Guess we've been  
4 here in the past when we had the trailer on Seabird Island.



7 Today was a Holy Day of Obligation therefore we go to  
8 church. We attended Epiphany Catholic Church at their  
9 12:15 Mass. Carla says we'd been here before but I could  
10 not recall that event.



13 This is such a beautiful church; I find it hard to think I  
14 could not recall being here before. Look carefully and you'll

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 notice that the pews are circular.

2 1<sup>st</sup>. Mary Ann's new toy



3

4

5 After Mass we went out for lunch at a Mexican restaurant. I  
6 was a little leery about the menu but my meal was excellent.  
7 When we got back to Mary Ann's, she told us of her new  
8 toy; an electric trike. We both fell in love with it. She loves  
9 it and so did we. Both Carla and I had the opportunity to  
10 test it out. Reluctantly after a good ride I did bring it back  
11 to her. This is not a toy; it can reach speeds of up to fifteen  
12 miles per hour. On top of that, in Port Orange, she can use  
13 it both on the roads and on the sidewalk. I would not take  
14 it on I-95 however.

15 **2<sup>nd</sup>.** Three days left...This is the most important midterm  
16 election in generations. So important that nothing get in  
17 your way to go out and vote. Even those politicians vying  
18 for local and state wide elections are all important. Carla  
19 and I are planning on a shrimp and junk food Tuesday as  
20 we plan to watch the winner on all the races. Such a shame  
21 in this day and age to see what Georgia is trying to suppress  
22 the votes. Likewise for Kansas. Imagine moving the voting  
23 location to a location outside the city limits! Please go vote!

# PAUL GRENIER

1 On another subject in a few minutes, we plan to leave and  
2 spend some time with Mary Ann, Carla's sister. We are  
3 planning to take her with us to church this evening. Usua-  
4 ally, we have pizza and beer on a Saturday evening but to-  
5 night we're go out to Culver's for dinner.

6 **3<sup>rd</sup>. Sat. Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church**



7

8 Our Lady of Hope is located in Port Orange, FL. We used  
9 to attend this church back in the days when we had the  
10 cabin on Seabird Island, Florida. Just a couple of pictures  
11 from one of our stays on the Island.



12

13

14 I could not resist the urge to dig back into my stand-alone  
15 hard drive and search out a few pictures from days and

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 nights gone by. Seabird Island is located about six miles  
2 south of Daytona Beach, FL



3

4

5 Yes, we enjoyed a fairly large dock just off from the cabin.  
6 It really wasn't a cabin, but just a fifty-year-old trailer, but  
7 oh the memories we have from our many stays there.  
8 Above Dennis and a chunkier version of myself enjoying a  
9 lazy afternoon. Below is Mary Ann (Ozzie). She had the  
10 trailer next to ours. Can't make out what she just caught.



11

12

13 Yes, that's brother Dennis as he shows off one of his finest  
14 catches; a shark!

## PAUL GRENIER

1 **3<sup>rd</sup>.Saturday** would mean Mass, pizza and beer; but not to-  
2 day. Yesterday was a quiet day, many things to do. Had an  
3 Eye Doctor's appointment, and he took my glasses so new  
4 lenses can be inserted in them. I do have an old pair but  
5 hardly fill the bill. Today we would spend some time with  
6 Mary Ann. We'll be picking her up at 3pm for Mass at 4pm,  
7 she has many before Mass prayers. After mass she treated  
8 us to Dinner at Culver's Restaurant in Port Orange, FL.  
9 They specialize in Wisconsin Beef only and it was truly  
10 great tasting. It's not exactly one step above a McDonald's  
11 but a little lower than a Cracker Barrel. The onion rings  
12 were especially good.

13 **4<sup>th</sup>. Sunday** Pork dinner with Mary Ann at the coach. We  
14 did all the usual Sunday things, today we had our pancakes  
15 with strawberries in place of syrup, I know, we're really liv-  
16 ing life on the wild side. Around 1pm we picked up Ozzie  
17 at her home and brought her to the coach for a pork din-  
18 ner. Carla, as usual, put on an awesome dinner. For dessert  
19 we all enjoyed ice cream with strawberries and strawberry  
20 sauce, delicious! Tomorrow she and Ozzie are going shop-  
21 ping. I've mentioned how the Wi-Fi is just not doing it with  
22 Netflix in the past. So today, after breakfast, we tried to  
23 change the Dish Settings so we can get Netflix through  
24 Dish instead of using our Wi-Fi. We were successful. We've  
25 watched three movies, two more than we usually watch in  
26 twenty-four hours, with no down time or buffering; heav-  
27 enly.

28 **5<sup>th</sup>. Monday** It's your obligation to vote tomorrow. Hard  
29 to believe voting day is in less than 24-hours. Today Carla  
30 and Mary Ann got together and did a little shopping, I

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 chose to spend quality time with Scoots. We skipped our  
2 pizza night last Saturday Night so we'll be doing pizza and  
3 beer tonight.

### 4 6<sup>th</sup>. Voting Day- By mail

5 7<sup>th</sup>. Day after voting day. In all it was a good day for the  
6 Democrats. Not so much for the fact that there are more  
7 Democrats in Congress, but to the fact that we now have a  
8 check on the Executive Branch of the government. Now I  
9 would have to go to Texas. Robert Francis "Beto"  
10 O'Rourke was so dynamic, I thought for sure he would  
11 take Texas, but for a Democrat in a red state he did awe-  
12 somely. *I hope to see Beto in a couple of years for the 2020 Presiden-*  
13 *tial Elections.* Next Georgia.

14 A statement from CNN summed it up nicely.

15 *Democratic candidate Stacey Abrams is not conceding the Georgia*  
16 *governor's race to Republican candidate Brian Kemp, arguing that the*  
17 *high stakes contest is too close to call. CNN has not projected a win-*  
18 *ner in the Georgia governor's race, but Kemp is ahead in votes with*  
19 *99% of precincts reporting. "I'm here tonight to tell you votes remain*  
20 *to be counted. There are voices that are waiting to be heard,"*

21 Abrams told supporters early Wednesday morning gathered  
22 in Atlanta. In a statement provided to CNN, her campaign  
23 cited several specific reasons why she is not conceding, in-  
24 cluding that three of the state's largest counties "have re-  
25 ported only a portion of the votes that were submitted by  
26 early mail" and four other large counties "have reported ex-  
27 actly 0 votes by mail," according to the campaign. To-  
28 gether, it said, the seven counties "are expected to return a

## PAUL GRENIER

1 minimum of 77,000 ballots."

2 *...He (Kemp) dismissed critics alleging that he weaponized state law to*  
3 *suppress the minority vote as "outside agitators." A lawsuit filed*  
4 *Tuesday in a Georgia federal court by five state voters asked a judge to*  
5 *strip Kemp of his powers over the midterm election -- including any po-*  
6 *tential runoffs.*

7 My hopes and prayers are for Abrams, only time will deter-  
8 mine this outcome. It's hard to believe voter suppression  
9 would still be in our vocabulary in these modern and en-  
10 lightened years. Good luck Stacey!

11 **8<sup>th</sup>. Thursday** Another nothing day. Mary Ann took us out  
12 for lunch after she let us use her washer/dryer. Once again,  
13 we opted for Culver's. Yesterday was a nothing day also.  
14 Basically, were here to kill time until we align ourselves  
15 with our reservation schedule. Nice thing is that we're in a  
16 Thousand Trails campground so it's a free stay.

17 **9th. Friday Christmas at Mary Ann's**, Carla's sister.



18

19

20 The picture above has nothing to do with Ozzie's Christ-  
21 mas. Rather, it's a picture for my brother should he ever



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 start thinking of relocating to a less expensive neighbor-  
2 hood, Mary Ann's neighborhood. Below is a picture of C's  
3 restaurant the place we went to for Christmas breakfast; we  
4 had excellent meals.



5

6

7 The view from Mary Ann's lanai. It's a beautiful, well-main-  
8 tained neighborhood of very affordable housing. Besides,  
9 it's hard to beat an HOA or Association dues of \$20.00,  
10 that's twenty dollars a year. Below we get a night light and  
11 canvas bag as gifts.



12

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 We gave Mary Ann a head-rest pillow, Scoots, on the other  
4 hand, got a folding playpen and cat-grass. This was an awe-  
5 some gift. Each book of the fifty books, tells of everything  
6 you need to know about each state.



7  
8

9 Thank you, Carla. This is a Triple A (AAA) product.



10

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

2 She gave me a seat riding cushion and Carla got a classic  
3 RV pillow. Ozzie below got a Walmart Card.



4  
5

6 A classic RV gift name-card. A carpet the coach deeply  
7 needed to help keep the coach cleaner. Below a gift to us of  
8 two classic Curling Stones, from the past.



9



10

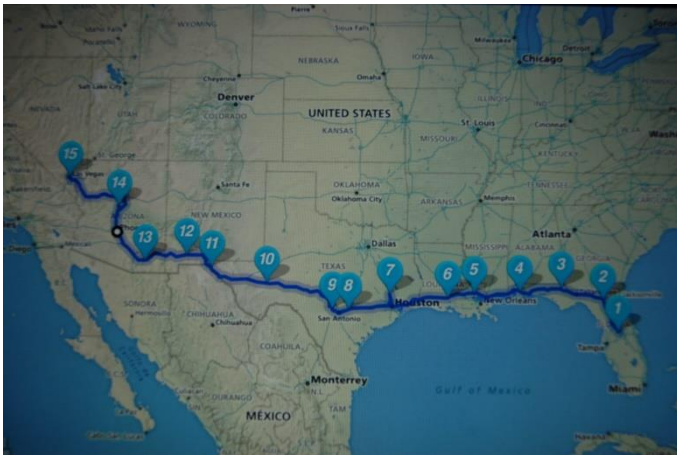
# PAUL GRENIER

1 A couple of pictures of Mary Ann's neighbors. There's a  
2 more in debt coverage of this beautiful day in my blog;  
3 "Mary Ann's Christmas" or do it the easy way by clicking  
4 from the right column "Resent Posts."

## 5 10th. Travel Schedule updated for 2019

6 This is still a work in progress but so far, we've planned to  
7 go as far as Verde, AZ just south of Flagstaff, AZ. It's  
8 beautiful country and we hope to meet up with our former  
9 Director, Cindy, relax and enjoy her company and family  
10 for a few days. Of course, this is Saturday. We chose to Go  
11 to Epiphany. Mass was followed, of course, with pizza,  
12 beer and a movie

13



14

15

16 We might even cruise up and revisit the Grand Canyon  
17 again. It won't be quite the same this time since Abby will

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 not be with us. Number #9 in the travel plan above is  
2 Lakehills, TX. We're still looking for that perfect spot for  
3 up to fall back on some time in the future and this might be  
4 pretty close. Voting, fishing and beautiful sunsets. Temps  
5 vary, depending on the season from the lower 40's to high  
6 80's. Not sure about humidity. Imagine it's a dry heat. At  
7 least we'll experience Texas in February.

### 8 **13th. Sunshine Resort**

9 What a beautiful and well-organized campground. As we  
10 checked in, in 'T'T' tradition, we were given a campground  
11 packet and told which site was assigned to us. Just a thirty  
12 second walk from the clubhouse, pool and everything else.  
13 It's also known as Vero Beach Encore, but is located in  
14 Fellsmere, FL. The picture below is a site-plan on this  
15 campground. We're occupying site 190.



16

17

18 As you can see in the picture this campground is an En-  
19 core. Encore parks are also members of the Equity Life-  
20 style Properties group. In a nut shell Encore parks are simi-  
21 lar to the Marriott Hotels, four-star properties. Thousand  
22 Trails RVParks would be grouped as similar to a Motel-6 or  
23 Holiday Inn type properties. There are five-star hotels as  
24 well as five-star campgrounds. Some, I've been told charge

# PAUL GRENIER

1 from \$100 to \$1000 night. I'll have to take everyone's word  
2 on these since we'll never have reason to experience these  
3 properties.

4



5

6



7 Our site #190 for our stay. Great location, 50 amp and sat-  
8 ellite access... awesome!

9



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1



2



3

4 These camp style homes dot the campground everywhere.  
5 This is one of 'TT' most beautiful parks and annual resi-  
6 dences are popping up everywhere



7  
8



9 Another campground gathering place. Also used for

# PAUL GRENIER

1 dances, bingo library for books and DVD's and most im-  
2 portantly the mailroom.

3



4



5

6

7 Both above and below is the office where we register when  
8 we arrive.

9





# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

2 **15<sup>th</sup>. Lunch with Abby and Michael**

3 Lunch with Abby and Michael at Dixie Crossroads  
4 This walking bridge, we think, is part of the Florida Bike  
5 Trails and it spans I-95. Above is at the entrance to Dixie  
6 Crossroads. This gator is harmless, they say. We all had ex-  
7 cellent meals at Dixie. Just before we all departed, we took  
8 a walk around the Dixie building. Could not pass up the  
9 park bench for a photo-opt. Behind the building was a  
10 huge outdoor mural. A "young couple" we met as we ar-  
11 rived at the eatery was nice enough to take a picture of the  
12 four of us.



13

14

15 **16<sup>th</sup>. Friday-**Hot Dog Day at the campground. This com-  
16 munity meeting room, just across from our site, is the hot  
17 dog night venue. Below is our current site. This room was  
18 literally filled with campers from the RV Park. The menu  
19 was simple, inexpensive and very good.

20 **17<sup>th</sup>. Saturday-** Quiet day; just church, pizza and beer.  
21 Very chilly, very nice at night. I have hopes to clean up the  
22 coach today in preparation of our leaving on this coming

## PAUL GRENIER

1 Tuesday for Pompano Beach, FL.



2

3

4 This weekend we would attend St. Sebastian Church. The  
5 Pastor Fr. John Morrissey. We first met Fr. John about  
6 three years ago. He had just finished his homily and noticed  
7 us. After ending his homily, he noticed us and spoke to the  
8 gal next to Carla. At the end of the Mass the gal asked if we  
9 had time to join Fr. John in the rectory with other parish-  
10 ioners. We did and met many of the parishioners. If it were  
11 not for us being RVers and if we were in the market for a  
12 new church to attend, St. Sebastian would fill the bill. It  
13 was memorable seeing him again.

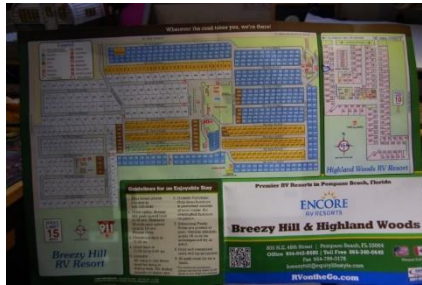
14 **18<sup>th</sup>. Sunday**-For us it was up bright and early this Sunday  
15 morning as we were planning to visit my brother Dennis in  
16 Boca Raton, FL. It has been six months since we left the  
17 Boca area, and even though we telephone regularly, there's  
18 nothing like a visit.

19 **19<sup>th</sup>. Monday**- Just another day, watching grass grow.

20 **20<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday**-Travel to Pompano, FL

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 We got up early this day, don't know why? By 10am we  
2 were on the road. We were told could not enter the park  
3 until 2pm so we had to kill some time. Carla noticed the  
4 right rear tire looked low so we called Sam's in Fort Pierce  
5 to see if they could check the tire for us. The Sam's auto  
6 technician was good and fast, yes; the tire needed some air.  
7 After getting the tire straightened out, we could not pass up  
8 having lunch and possibly do-little shopping, awesome!



9  
10

11 Highland Woods is a Thousand Trails Property located in  
12 Pompano, FL. We will be staying here for five-nights leav-  
13 ing on the 25th. As a result, this will be a free stay for us.  
14 This is very big campground. It's made up of three parks all  
15 either next to each other or across the street. It looks like  
16 they could have about 1500 sites altogether. What we were  
17 not told is that all reservations go through the Breezy Hill  
18 Resort; we found that out the hard way. Nothing fancy  
19 here, but who cares, we're just here for Thanksgiving and  
20 visiting with Dennis. Dennis is aggressively looking a new  
21 home in Broward County.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2

3 Above is a section of a Solar Farm that is being fitted with  
4 solar panels. Below is another section that is further along  
5 with panels. This parcel of property must be over one-hun-  
6 dred acres, really big. Next time you're traveling north just  
7 past Ft. Pierce, FL look to the west, Driver's side, and you'll  
8 see it with no difficulty.

9 **21<sup>st</sup>. Wednesday**-Today will be another watch grass grow  
10 day. A little shopping at Walmart and we're waiting for 1st  
11 Choice to re-install a part in our bed to assist in raising the  
12 bed up when needed. They lost this part three years ago  
13 when they installed our satellite system. Today they will fi-  
14 nally finish the job.

## 15 **22nd. Happy Thanksgiving Day**

16 We hope everyone had the luxury of spending time with  
17 family, friends and love ones.

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1

2 As for Carla and we plan to spend a good portion of the  
3 day including dinner, with my brother Dennis, this time  
4 with him should begin around 10 or 11 am. As you know  
5 we are residing at Highland Woods Resort. This, believe it  
6 or not, is an Encore property. The big plus for this location  
7 is that we're only about a fifteen-minute ride from Boca,  
8 where Dennis lives.



9



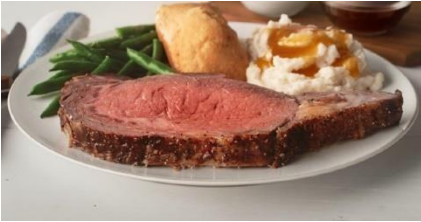
10

11 Kiesha, Dennis' caregiver, joined us at this Thanksgiving  
12 Dinner as well. It was a happy occasion but we could not  
13 help but remember those family members and friends who  
14 are no longer with us. As you can see in the bottom picture,  
15 we did not have turkey. For Carla and I it was a real feast.  
16 Dennis opted for Prime Rib this year for the Thanksgiving  
17 meal. This meal was a freebie for me, Keisha would do any

## PAUL GRENIER

1 washing or at least place the dishes in the dish washer. As  
2 the official dishwasher of the family, I was off the hook for  
3 this meal and Boston Market provided the meal, so no one  
4 had to cook either. The meal was so good, you could cut  
5 the meat with a folk.

6 Picture is courtesy of Boston Market:



7

8 Above left is what Boston Market saying you will receive,  
9 above right is what you actually get. Much thinner than is  
10 seen in the above picture. It's not to say it lacked excellent  
11 taste, because it did, it's just that you will get a much thin-  
12 ner piece of meat. We got the same thickness, or lack of  
13 thickness, in all four meals. Four \$15.99 size is everything.

14 **23<sup>rd</sup>. Friday-** Deck the halls at Dennis'.

15 Morning jobs. A little after noon will find ourselves at Den-  
16 nis' where we were hoping to find his Christmas decora-  
17 tions from last year. It only took a couple of hours since all  
18 the decorations were in his condo. We were on our way  
19 back to the coach around 4pm. We will be visiting Dennis  
20 again tomorrow to do Christmas since we'll be leaving on  
21 Sunday and our Florida sites from Sunday on will be about

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

- 1 four-hours from Boca. *Same schedule just different map formats;*
- 2 *a map and satellite format below.*



3

- 4 We spent a little time today trying to expand our 2019
- 5 travel schedule. Same as the first schedule it begins in Flor-
- 6 ida but this time it takes us to San Francisco. Ultimately
- 7 this schedule will go on beyond San Francisco and, right
- 8 now, it goes to Cedar Rapids, IA. Our tracking program
- 9 we're using, Rand McNally, allows us to only plot 25 way-
- 10 points. The waypoints we've outlined are projections only,
- 11 but we'll nail them down in the next few weeks with dates
- 12 and campgrounds.

## 13 24<sup>th</sup>. Visit w Dennis, Christmas and Mass



14

## PAUL GRENIER

1 We woke a little early this morning in anticipation of a visit  
2 from Dennis and his caregiver Camille. They would be vis-  
3 iting us here at the coach. By 11am they were here. It was  
4 so nice that we spent the entire visit outdoors. It was an af-  
5 ternoon enjoyed by all. Temps, for a change were around  
6 78 with a constant breeze blowing between our coach and  
7 the one next to us. At 1pm we drove to his condo to share  
8 an early Christmas with them. We topped off the afternoon  
9 by attending Mass at Dennis' church followed by, of  
10 course, Pizza and beer. For a change we attended Dennis'  
11 Church, John the Evangelist CC in Boca. It's a beautiful  
12 church, but attendance is about the same as most churches  
13 these days. St. Vincent de Paul has them all beat without a  
14 doubt.



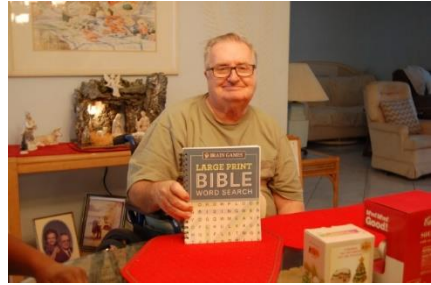
15  
16

17 Some additional pictures on Dennis' Christmas.

18



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

3 I must have taken us at least 5 minutes trying to pry this  
4 gift from its skin tight container

5



6  
7

8 Super-size package of 24-inch Twizzlers, just what he  
9 doesn't need, but it's Christmas. Below is an audio book of  
10 that infamous book "Fear." Dennis has difficulty reading  
11 small print; we have no doubt he'll enjoy listening to the  
12 audio version of this book.

# PAUL GRENIER



1

2 Above a cap from our travels and Scoots' gift to him a cat  
3 laden head rest pillow.

4 **25<sup>th</sup>. Sunday** Travel to Alliance RV

5 We were up early and were on the road by 8 am. Refueled  
6 twice and had a bite to eat at a local Checkers fast food. Ar-  
7 rived at Alliance around 2:30, got a nice spot and relaxed  
8 for the rest of the day. The ride was much longer than I  
9 had expected, thankfully it was uneventful.

10 **27<sup>th</sup>.** Waiting in the waiting room at Alliance.

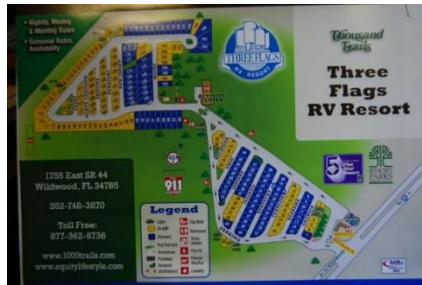
11 It's about as boring as it could be, just sitting in a big room  
12 as the techs work on your coach. Today they'll be pulling  
13 out the slide on the passenger side to reinforce the slide  
14 plate which allows the heavy slide to glide in and out with  
15 very little friction. This will be a two-day job which means  
16 we'll be staying at a motel tonight and tomorrow night. We  
17 should be all back together again by Thursday.

18 **30<sup>th</sup>. Friday Three Flags-Wildwood, RVP**

19 We've been in the area, Wildwood, FL, for a few days, but  
20 hanging out at Alliance RV as they remedy the passenger  
21 side slide and an oil change. It's taken three days and we

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 must go back on Monday for them to fix a hole they acci-  
2 dentally drilled into the side of the injured slide.



3

4

5 We are now staying at Three-Flags RV Resort in Wild-  
6 wood, FL. Alliance is just five miles from here. Needless to  
7 say, this park feels like home. For six months they let us  
8 stay here for a very modest price while I finished chemo  
9 and radiation. Wednesday and Thursday nights were spent  
10 at a motel called "Sleep Inn." A little pricier than what we  
11 usually opt for but was worth every penny. Just down the  
12 street from the Inn was Hungry Howe's. We'd never eaten  
13 there before or any of its franchises but I'm ready to go  
14 back. We both decided on the buffet. I was delighted with  
15 every item I chose. Salad, spaghetti, 2 slices of pizza, 2  
16 pieces of Bowie bread and corn; awesome! I even went  
17 back for seconds on the pizza. That was just about it for  
18 something to Wright about. Forgot, I did take some camera  
19 pictures. This contraption would eventually pick up the  
20 slide, which weighed in at over 1/2 ton, so the techs could  
21 repair the slide skids which were on the bottom of the  
22 slide, which is why the slide had to come out.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2 To lighten the weight of the slide furniture components in-  
3 side had to be dismantled, cloths removed for the closet  
4 and draws relocated to other parts of the coach.

5



6 This is about what it looked like. Needless to say, both  
7 Scoots and I were getting a little depressed. Fearing she  
8 might go catatonic we both spent a little time talking her  
9 through this ordeal. One saving factor was her new porta-  
10 ble condo, a gift from Carla's sister Ozzie. In the end we all  
11 survived the trial, especially the coach. The oil change was  
12 on schedule for today, Friday and Monday they plan to fin-  
13 ish repairing the hole the placed in the slide.

14

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## DECEMBER 2018

2 1<sup>st</sup>. **Saturday**...A Cat in the Hat Day.



3

4

5 George H. W. Bush passed last night. So hard to believe  
6 that this is the beginning of another new month and ap-  
7 proaching the closing of 2018. We began the day with  
8 shopping at Walmart; can you believe \$208.00. We had to  
9 replenish some staples but very rarely to we spend that  
10 much at Walmart. Looks like light rain is on schedule for  
11 the rest of the day. Later, as always, it will be church and  
12 pizza. As for myself, today I'm a little bored. My next-door  
13 neighbor, on the other hand, is busily working with the  
14 tools. His pastime is creating wind-chimes from beer cans.  
15 I am so thankful that I have a purpose in life, especially in  
16 these older years; Writing a blog, I accept few will read, in  
17 hopes that I will reflect on these precious memories in the  
18 year 2032 as I approach ninety. Hopefully I'll still have the  
19 mental acumen to access this Web Site in those later years;  
20 doesn't this beat building wind-chimes?

21

# PAUL GRENIER

1 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sunday



2

3

4 Above is the patch for the 3.5-inch screw that was used in a  
5 2.5-inch wall. Hopefully paint will be sprayed onto the area  
6 and hopefully it will blend in with the twelve-year-old paint  
7 job of the coach. Below is a tree sap stain. We're hoping the  
8 paint technician will be able to buff out the remaining rem-  
9 nants of this stain. Lunch at Texas Roadhouse.



10

11 Most likely, this will not be our Christmas Season Dinner,  
12 that should be a little closer to Christmas. We found our-  
13 selves with a gift certificate, from my daughter I think, and  
14 it had a balance on it, and was getting dusty. We had some  
15 shopping to do and the best stores in the area are in Lady  
16 Lakes, FL a few miles from Wildwood, FL. If Lady Lakes

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 sounds familiar it's because this is where I came for both  
2 chemo and radiation only a few months ago, but that's in  
3 the past. Today was a beautiful day and our shopping went  
4 better and faster than expected. When we arrived at Texas  
5 Roadhouse, I ordered the same meal as Carla. This is the  
6 same meal she had when we found ourselves in Elmira,  
7 NY. Only difference between hers and mine was rice in  
8 place of the potato. Aside from the generous portion of  
9 potatoes were the beef tips. Sauteed exquisitely in a bed of  
10 onions and mushrooms. Not the least of the dinner were  
11 the bread rolls everyone loves. TR is a little like Kohl's for  
12 us today. You buy something and you leave with a gift cer-  
13 tificate to put towards another meal or two in the future;  
14 awesome!

### 15 **3rd. Pres. Bush at the Rotunda**

16 We spent most of our day at Alliance again, except this  
17 time we were able to remain in the coach as they made  
18 their small fixes. The paint job on the coach came out great  
19 and they even fixed the defect I inflicted onto the coach by  
20 using the rough side of a sponge. To my surprise all they  
21 did was to buff it out. Those circular buffers are awesome.  
22 The rest of the day was spent watching #41 at the Rotunda  
23 in the Capitol. We treated ourselves to night out eating at  
24 Hungry Howe's again. Once again, it's not somewhere  
25 you'd bring someone on a first date, it is better than a  
26 McDonald's but definitely not as good or as nice as an Ap-  
27 plebee's.

# PAUL GRENIER

1



2



3



4

5 In the picture (above right corner) is Jim Baker, a life-long  
6 friend of George HR Bush. He took his passing very hard.  
7 He gave two eulogies one at the National Cathedral and the  
8 other at St. Martins Episcopal Church in Houston, TX.

9 Above- George W and Jeb with wives look on at #41 is  
10 laying in State at the nation's Capital. George HR will lay in  
11 State for the next two days.



# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

## 1 5<sup>th</sup>. Service at the National Cathedral



2

3 SHHH! Trump is just resting his eyes. All commentators  
4 agree that the President and Ivanka either did not know the  
5 prayers of the service or did not bother to read them in the  
6 memorial program in his hands.



7

8 Former President Jimmy Carter and wife. I apologize for  
9 the picture, MSNBC, that I know of, did not give me a  
10 close up on them. Below, once again, #41's life-long-friend  
11 Jim Baker. Jim Baker, at the service for #41 at the National  
12 Cathedral was extremely emotional of his passing. Turns  
13 out they'd been close friends most of their lives. So many  
14 stories told of his life at the White House and in Maine.  
15 The story goes that he once took Putin out for a ride in his  
16 speed boat. With three- three-hundred horsepower engines  
17 for power Putin had a white-knuckle experience. They were

# PAUL GRENIER

1 going so fast it took several minutes for the secret service  
2 to catch up to them.



6 Union Pacific, on their own, took the initiative to repaint  
7 the locomotive in the same colors as Air Force #1 and reg-  
8 istered the name of the locomotive to "4141", for the day,  
9 the 41st President of the US.

10 **6<sup>th</sup>. #41 Laid to rest at his Presidential Library and**  
11 **Museum.**

12 We did a little shopping and then we watched the final day  
13 of #41 off the DVR. Blogs and pictures will be coming on  
14 #41 in the next couple of days. #41 will be transported to  
15 College Station where he will be interred next to his wife  
16 Barbara and Robyn their child that died decades ago.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



1  
2

## 3 8th. Travel to TT Orlando, RVPark

4 We did get up around 7am but could have slept a little  
5 longer, if that luxury was still an option for us. Orlando RV  
6 Park is one of 'Thousand Trails' biggest parks.



7

8

9 They have relatively new rules. Under no circumstances can  
10 you arrive even fifteen minutes early, as we did, and expect  
11 to stay even in the huge parking lot. We were told to get  
12 out and come back in fifteen minutes. I think it's the only  
13 park in the 'TT' gallery of properties with such stringent  
14 rules. The ranger who directed us to our site mentioned  
15 that the campground has almost nine-hundred sites with  
16 over one-hundred-fifty more in the planning. Just a few  
17 random pictures of this beautiful campground.

# PAUL GRENIER

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4 8<sup>th</sup>. Clermont, FL is St. Faustina

5

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015



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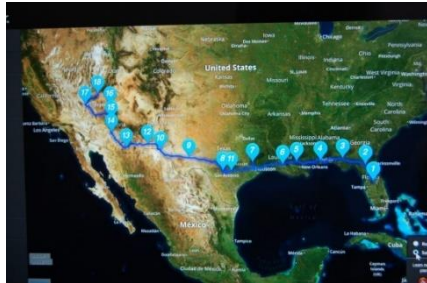
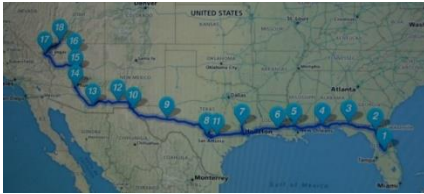
2

3 The church we go to in Clermont, FL is St. Faustina. It's in  
4 a plaza and they're renting about ten-thousand square feet  
5 for services over the weekend. Thing is that this church is  
6 struggling hard to build a new building but funds are short.  
7 It's time for the Diocese to come in and give these parish-  
8 ioners some assistance. What the Diocese does not realize  
9 is that the services this church is providing *is standing room*  
10 *only*. The big difference is that parishes like St. Vincent de  
11 Paul are fortunate to be pulling from the Villages. St.  
12 Faustina is a working man's church. With all the money St.  
13 Vincent and St. Mark's bringing you'd think they could  
14 share some of it with a struggling Parrish like St. Faustina  
15 This parish is not looking for a multi-million over built  
16 building meant to impress even the two percenters; They  
17 just want their own building so they don't have to keep  
18 throwing away six or eight thousand dollars a month to a  
19 landlord for the luxury of the use of his rental unit. You  
20 would think the Diocese would feel the same way. Like  
21 everything else the rich always get preferential treatment  
22 and those that struggle are told to work harder and save  
23 more. It's not my Parrish, we're full-time motorhome peo-  
24 ple, but I do feel for these parishioners. We make St.

# PAUL GRENIER

1 Faustina our Parrish of choice for the four to six weeks  
2 each year as we camp in Clermont for Doctor appoint-  
3 ments and to wait out some of the bad weather up north.  
4 Only wish I had either the political clot or financial re-  
5 sources to give these folks a helping hand.

## 6 11<sup>th</sup>. Expanding our 2019 travel schedule



7

8 We deleted quite a few stops due to necessity. Our focus  
9 for 2019 will be Utah. So much to see in such a beautiful  
10 state. We kept all he stops up to and including Grand Can-  
11 yon Village. From there it would be Utah, but it wasn't that  
12 simple logistically. Utah is very big with only two good  
13 campgrounds to choose from in the southern portion of  
14 the state. We found ourselves at the Grand Canyon in the  
15 middle of March, a chilly time of the year and we were  
16 about to climb to higher elevations with even cooler temps.  
17 Our predicament was to squander a couple of more weeks  
18 somewhere till the temps warm up a bit. The solution was  
19 to go to Las Vegas for two weeks. Thousand Trails has a  
20 campground in Las Vegas that would be free to us for at  
21 least two-weeks. So, on March 22nd we'll leave Grand Can-  
22 yon Village and travel to Vegas, a longer than normal trip

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 of around 275 miles but we can do it with a couple of addi-  
2 tional coffee breaks. On April 5th we'll depart Vegas and  
3 trip to St. George, Utah.

4 12<sup>th</sup>. Wed. Decking the halls.



5

6

7 We thought today would be just another quiet day, but we  
8 surprised ourselves. Walmart and shopping were our first  
9 duty. After that we were off to Target. Scoot's suite, new  
10 this year, looked blah, and the coach in general needed  
11 some additional Christmas décor, so today we made those  
12 updates. Carla noticed it first; Scoot's had no Christmas dé-  
13 cor on her suite. Then after Scoot's was so decorated the  
14 coach began to look blah. Target had strings of lights for  
15 sale so we ended up buying three sets of them. You can ac-  
16 tually have up to eleven sets attached to one plug in.



17

# PAUL GRENIER

1 The coach began to look alive and in the Spirit.



2

3 Temps outside have been very cool so Carla warmed us up  
4 with her French Onion Soup for dinner this evening. Ear-  
5 lier this morning, after putting the clothes in the washer,  
6 Carla wanted to see if we could find the Russell's who were  
7 supposed to be here as well.



8

9 All we had to go on was the model of their new Fifth  
10 Wheel and their grey truck. Luckily within fifteen minutes  
11 of meandering in and out of these small campground road-  
12 ways Carla spotted it. It had been over two years since we'd  
13 last met up with them. Above is a picture of dad (Scott)  
14 and Kora. No picture of the three of them yet.

## 15 **14<sup>th</sup>. FRIDAY CALL FROM DWIGHT**

16 We were just sitting around when the phone rang; it was  
17 from Dwight Smith. So nice to hear from him again. It was



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 a call of mixed messages. Dennis, his cat, had to be put  
2 down this year. They were life-long mates. At 86 even he  
3 has a few problems, but like all of us, he's dealing with  
4 them. His big trip of the year was Quebec City. The high  
5 point was the St. Anne de Beaupre Cathedral Quebec. He  
6 found it very exciting. We're hoping our paths will cross in  
7 2019. Dwight became a part of our life when we met him  
8 on our Alaska Tour.

9 **18<sup>th</sup>. Christmas in 7-days.**

10 **20<sup>th</sup>. Another day of showers.**

11 Just like everyone else on the east coast, we're stuck inside  
12 as it pours outside. Half hour ago, we were in a "tornado  
13 watch window", that wasn't to reassuring. The Window is  
14 scheduled to last for another two hours, so if I don't finish  
15 this entry; well, that will be that! Since we have to rely on  
16 satellite and satellite relies on clear skies, television is possi-  
17 ble but not very enjoyable. Nice thing about MSNBC they'll  
18 repeat their "breaking news" every two hours so what you  
19 miss at 10am you'll catch at noon. Today we've opted to lis-  
20 ten to Christmas Carols, a very nice change. We just fin-  
21 ished listening to some Perry Como oldies. I know, you  
22 younger readers are asking Perry Who? (Google it!) Only  
23 five days till Christmas, can that even be possible? Once  
24 again it will be jacks up come this Saturday morning. We'll  
25 be traveling to Arcadia, FL staying at the Riverside RV Re-  
26 sort. Our stay in Clermont has been relaxing and beneficial,  
27 with so many retailers close by. A week ago, I had all my  
28 shopping done, since then I've returned just about every-  
29 thing and opted for other choices. Our Christmas', thanks  
30 to our lifestyle are simple, to say the least. Many of our gift

## PAUL GRENIER

1 choice are mostly one level above stocking stuffers, but  
2 are very humorous. This all relates to that saying: "*Happiness*  
3 *is to have everything...*" you know how it goes.

4 **21<sup>st</sup>.** First day of Winter and we have strong gusty winds.  
5 Since early morning we've been experiencing heavy gusty  
6 winds. All morning the coach has been nudging us from  
7 side to side as a result of the heavy winds. We did get a  
8 break around 10am with some windy weather with no rain,  
9 and I took advantage of the break and brought in the septic  
10 hoses and water lines in preparation for our departure Sat-  
11 urday morning, tomorrow. The trip tomorrow is about 180  
12 miles and should take about 4 hours. This will be our first  
13 time staying in Arcadia.

14 **22<sup>nd</sup>. Saturday.**

15 We left Orlando RVP in Clermont, FL this morning  
16 around 8:30. I'm happy to say this was another uneventful  
17 ride.



18

19

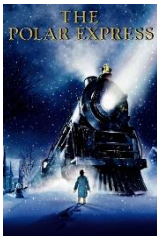
20 We gassed up at a tight Shell Station and about twenty-five  
21 miles from Port Charlotte we dropped in to a Cracker Bar-  
22 rel and had an early lunch. We arrived at Riverside

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 RVResort in Port Charlotte, FL, shortly after noon. This is  
2 one of the nicest, if not the nicest campground, we've every  
3 stayed at. I'll try to get a blog on it in a couple of days. By  
4 2:30 we were getting ready for church at St Antonio CC.  
5 The sermon was enjoyable, funny and to the point. I doubt  
6 if it lasted longer than ten minutes. The church was rela-  
7 tively new and beautifully designed. Once again, the church  
8 was full, unlike what is commonly found in churches these  
9 days.

10 Every family has certain traditions, even small families like  
11 Carla and I. Almost every year we make plans to watch 'The  
12 Polar Express and, of course, It's a Wonderful Life.

13 The Polar Express Movie



14

15 Every family has certain traditions, even small families like  
16 Carla and I. Almost every year we make plans to watch 'The  
17 Polar Express and, of course, It's a Wonderful Life. To-  
18 night, was the Polar Express night. Yes, I've seen it possi-  
19 bly a dozen times, and will never tire of it. Your next ques-  
20 tion might possibly be; Do you believe? The answer, of  
21 course, is yes! Not in the mind as of a child, but more im-  
22 portantly in Him. All my life, in so many ways, I've found  
23 myself in situations I felt were not solvable, yet, to my dis-  
24 belief, a solution would present. itself. Some, I would say

## PAUL GRENIER

1 might just call it luck, but no, picking the right lottery num-  
2 ber requires luck. What Carla and I went through this last  
3 year required a great deal of believing.

4 Believe, we will always "believe." We only hope all those  
5 who read these blogs will never stop believing either.

6 The Polar Express had to do with gifts also. As it was men-  
7 tioned in the movie "*friends are the most important gift you could*  
8 *have.*" Friends I've not had that many, more since I've mar-  
9 ried Carla, but each is very important to me. More im-  
10 portantly all of us could always use closer ties with family, I  
11 know I could. I will always "believe" that that situation  
12 might someday improve. In the movie the conductor men-  
13 tions "*Where the train is going is not that important, getting ON the*  
14 *train (of life) is what matters.*" Carla and I embarked on this  
15 train of life almost thirty years ago, and it's been one heck  
16 of a ride. Even though many don't really understand the  
17 challenges and rewards of this lifestyle, it is awesome, and  
18 neither of us ever want it to end.

### 19 **23<sup>rd</sup>. Reservation change on Christmas Eve.**

20 We were scheduled to leave here, Riverside RVR, on the  
21 29th. Now we'll be staying until the 31st. We cancelled our  
22 reservations in Wauchula, since it has a tendency to turn  
23 muddy with even a small amount of rain. Tonight, would  
24 be an It's a Wonderful Life night. For the most part I do  
25 enjoy this movie. My only concern on the movie is Uncle  
26 Billy. I could wright an entire blog on Uncle Bill, but I will  
27 forgo that for now; It's a personal reflection and not worth  
28 the time to type out.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

## 1 24<sup>th</sup>. Christmas Eve.

2 Carla let me sleep in this morning, that is till 8:30, then we  
3 bided our time until the Christmas Vigil Mass at 3:30. It's  
4 not the same as it used to be either when I was a child or in  
5 those days with my kids. The magic was even there when  
6 Abby was a bigger part of our lives; *I miss those days.*

## 7 25<sup>th</sup>. Christmas

8 Great night for sleeping. Woke up this morning to find the  
9 temp in the coach at 61 degrees, decided to turn on the  
10 heat. We woke up this morning around 8am and, for a  
11 change, I made breakfast. After lunch we took a stroll to  
12 visit the Peach River.

13



14



15

## PAUL GRENIER

1 Below is a blue thing-of-a-majig. Guess why it is used for.  
2 Answer later in the blog. In the big package is my main gift,  
3 a buffer. Not the inexpensive one I thought I would get,  
4 but much nicer. Over all we were pretty well matched and  
5 the gift giving went well. Before opening we enjoyed break-  
6 fast, then made few family calls wishing all a Merry Christ-  
7 mas. Below would be Carla's main gift, a photo album with  
8 150 pictures of our 2018 travels; a gift of love more than  
9 anything else.



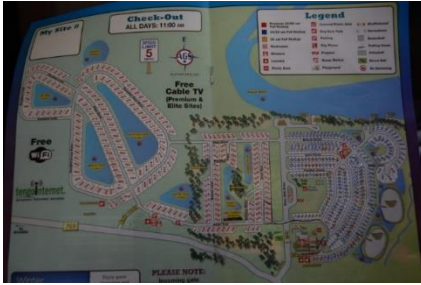
10



11

12 Scattered on the table are most of the rest of our gifts. It  
13 was a very nice day, but as I mentioned in a previous blog,  
14 It's just a tad bit more exciting with young ones in the mix.

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015



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3 The thing-of-a-majig. It's a little stub you place in back of  
4 your phone to hold it upright, or in my case, most times, to  
5 take pictures of a picture on the phone, since I don't know  
6 how to transfer pictures in any other manner

7 Peace River is located in Port Charlotte in the town of Ar-  
8 cadia, FL. To say the least this is one of the best we've ever  
9 stayed at. It's a Thousand Trails property in their Encore  
10 collection.



11  
12

13 It doesn't get much more relaxing than this. Many of the  
14 residents here, many annuals, have towable boats of all  
15 sizes on the grounds.

# PAUL GRENIER



1  
2

3 I doubt if I'll ever forget the thrill of driving a boat; if only  
4 I were younger! Excellent dockage here for putting your  
5 boat in the water. The Resort has all the attributes we're  
6 both looking for, should we ever we get older, except that  
7 it's in Florida.

## 8 **29<sup>th</sup>.Moving to a new site, same park.**

9 We've never done this before. according to the old sched-  
10 ule we were supposed to leave Riverside and travel to



11

12

13 Wauchula. If you remember some of the old blogs on  
14 Wauchula, you'll remember that the park has a very high-  
15 water table. The last time we were there we had to be



## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 towed out, an easy way to spend one-hundred dollars. The  
2 last couple of weeks have been very rainy and we did not  
3 want to chance another mishap. Christmas was very nice  
4 and yesterday we celebrated a bit by going to the movies.  
5 This is a luxury we do only 2-3 times a year. Can you be-  
6 lieve we paid over nine dollars apiece for a matinee show-  
7 ing! I'm beginning to sound like my father; unbelievable.  
8 To get back to our move today, since I have very little else  
9 to talk about our total distance was about five-hundred  
10 feet. On our way to the new site was the propane filling sta-  
11 tion. We have a twenty-gallon tank but usually only refill it  
12 once a year. Now we are fully ready to travel. We'll be con-  
13 tacting Alliance again since the slide on the driver's side is  
14 sticking a bit, always something.

### 15 **30th. New Year's Eve.**

16 We still haven't gotten out to eat at Texas Roadhouse, but  
17 hopefully maybe in couple of days. I was going to call Alli-  
18 ance to make the rug repair to the slide but Carla suggested  
19 calling the guy who installed the carpet itself three years  
20 ago. We did contact him and we hope to meet up with him  
21 on this coming Thursday.

### 22 **2018 has come to a close.**

23 **Hope to see you in 2019!**

24

# PAUL GRENIER

## AFTERWORD

1  
2  
3           First, I would first like to thank you, for purchasing  
4 this publication, and secondly for sticking it out to the final  
5 pages of this transcript.

6           It was never my intention, at any time in my life, to  
7 ever attempt to write anything of this magnitude. As I have  
8 mentioned in the very beginning, our decision to embark  
9 on this awesome and ever satisfying lifestyle had nothing to  
10 do with writing a book. Our initial reason was to finally ex-  
11 perience all we could in the years we have left. So many lit-  
12 tle stories had occurred in the last twelve months but, un-  
13 fortunately, they've slipped from memory. Without a doubt  
14 many of them would have added a little more levity to this  
15 text if I could only remember a few of them. In anticipa-  
16 tion of another RV-n-AMERICA I have been much more  
17 diligent in recording many more of the details of our trav-  
18 els. So, many little mishaps that all RVers come face to face  
19 with on a daily basis and resolve them all eventually, will  
20 now have a home in print next year. Looking back on many  
21 of them, not all though, I realize that it was just Him re-  
22 minding me that this carefree lifestyle is not meant to be a  
23 free ride.

24           Carla and I, like many of you, had finally reached a  
25 stage in our lives where we felt we might be able to enter-

## RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1 tain retirement. This could have happened a few years ear-  
2 lier if it hadn't been for the Great Recession. There is just  
3 so much to see in this great country, both big and small, yet  
4 we have seen so little of it.

5 A great deal of my free time, that's the only kind of  
6 time I have lately, the last month, has been devoted to this  
7 manuscript and being more diligent in documenting are  
8 current travels, and how have we travelled this year. We hit  
9 the road early this year after diligently waiting for tornados  
10 and severe weather in the mid-west to subside. Our pa-  
11 tience paid off in spades. We, once again climbed to new  
12 heights and at times found ourselves more than three-hun-  
13 dred feet underground, exploring caves and caverns for a  
14 change. In many of these underground worlds we walked  
15 for miles, sometimes in spaces as big as a basketball court  
16 but, other times however, the spaces were so limited that  
17 even walking upright was difficult with very few inches to  
18 navigate the narrows of these worlds. We, however, did not  
19 spend all our time underground

20 Our travel experiences are even richer now knowing  
21 my parents and Carla's folks are looking in on us from that  
22 ultimate Campground Above.

23 This manuscript is being re-written from the original  
24 blogs in January 2023. From this vantage point in time, I  
25 wish to thank you for being tolerant of this story, especially  
26 as it pertains to stories and remembrances of my brother

## PAUL GRENIER

1 Dennis. What I know today, but not back in 2018, is that  
2 my brother, who wanted so much to enjoy the lifestyle we  
3 take for granted, sadly, will leave us behind the day after his  
4 76<sup>th</sup> birthday and join my mom and dad in that everlasting  
5 campground above.



6

7 For now, it's time for me to close by thanking you  
8 again for allowing me to share with you so many of our ex-  
9 periences this year and previous years, some of the venues  
10 coming up next year, but not all, as well as the acquisition  
11 of our new "home."

12 God Bless and have safe travels every day. P. J.

13

# RV-N-AMERICA 2015

1

## THE AUTHOR



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I, like many my age, graduated high school and soon after graduated college and got married. Within a couple of years I was blessed to have a beautiful family , son and daughter. However, partially my fault I failed parenting and should have tended more closely to the daily needs of my family more attentively. I pray regularly to Him and hope my kids, might forgive my fatherly failures someday.

7

8

9

10

I trudged along in this Pharmacy profession for 25-years and, in the eighties, even had my own pharmacy. My soul however, way down deep, had a yearning to spend less time indoors and more time outdoors. By the time I turned fifty I knew a change was needed, especially after enduring one of Connecticut's worst winters on record.

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So at age 50, Carla, my wife, and I went in search of a warmer climate and hoping to find a business opportunity before we ran out of money, and starved to death. As fate would have it He guided us faithfully and we eventually purchased our first Child Care Center in center in Greenacres, FL then a second in Titusville, FL. I also began a second career as a Commercial Realtor, brokering what else but, child care centers, of course. We did okay, but as my Broker would attest to, I did not set the world on fire, but with excellent commissions we kept our heads above water.

17

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Within a few years the novelty of getting up early, wiping noses and lacing shoes was wearing thin and Carla was opting for retirement. I and Real Estate were getting along well until 2008, you remember; the Great Recession. We were heavily invested, at that time, in, what else of course, real estate, especially one very expensive log cabin in Maggie Valley, NC.

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With many prayers to Him, He got us through that period in our lives decently. But even I, who could not fathom the possibility of retirement, was getting a little jealous of all the free time Carla was enjoying. This next phase of our lives would have to be our last and best, because of our age. We intended to free ourselves of the shackles of home ownership and job responsibilities by enjoying, at least, for a few years, the RV lifestyle. After almost ten-years of traveling I now, find myself, feverishly typing, and fully retired, writing about our travels assuming that James Patterson probably started out this way as well, many years ago.

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Moral here is that HE hears all our prayers.

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Paul

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# PAUL GRENIER

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## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

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4 Miracles of St Jude,

5 RV-n America 2014,

6 RV-n America 2015

7 RV-n America 2016 / 2017

8 RV-n America 2018

9 RV-n America 2019 (soon)

10 All publications are Amazon eBooks and reasonably priced.

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