

Howdy Big Undie people what's cookin'?



We meandered along the big wide Texas roads wondering and waving as people passed us by all the while snapping photos of this big bountiful bus. Many thumbs up, many peace signs, small questions, long answers!, we cherish the moments.

The flavor of this months newsletter is pop cycles, snow cones, and frosted flakes. I only say it like that cause its catchy, and it fits with the fact that it has been chilly for us. Comming out of a hot environment and getting slammed by a colder one, was not really interesting as much as it was/is a fact.

And as we continued on our way it got colder, and the bus was crying out for attention.. Of course we tried to respond. I saw a garage along the 79 north and a little east of Palestine, and a bit south of Jacksonville.

Turned around and came back, and found Billy working under a big truck.

We asked if we could park up, and get some advice come mornin time, and so the next day Billy helped us work on a few things like the muffler which is pretty big and hard to get to.

↓ Brady, Billy, Irmj and Jason



We investigated an oil leak, but couldn't really be sure, and tried to get the proper amount of air in the tires. Thanks Billy for your kindness to strangers on the road. Driving up the road some more and we pulled into a tire place, we discovered that one of the back inside tires was completely flat.



↑ the first snow on the boot

And so after a half day wait, the company was able to get another tire for our bus which cost 360\$.

That was kind of tough, but hey, what can you do. They were some good ole boys and

did a great job, Thanks Tire guys.

↑↑ It was a cold day to change a tire,
⇐⇐but they did it ⇐⇐↑↑⇒⇒⇒⇒⇒↓



We had crossed into Arkansas at some point and in the night we pulled off the highway and slept in a Wal-Mart parking lot. In the morning the bus would

not start, but more because it was so darned cold. A man who had looked up the Big Underwear site called me on my phone and asked if we needed any help, I said sure if he wanted to help me jump the bus that would be great, so Rick showed up and was a real interesting character. We bought some starting fluid and that really helped start the bus, but anyways, after helping us, Rick invited us to take a hot shower at his apartment, and also to watch an interesting program about the pyramids, and then he loaded a bunch of food onto us and sent us on our way.

↓↓ Our only one and last picture with Rick ↓↓

Thanks Rick for your help and kindness.

Irmi and I decided that we should do an oil and lube job on the bus and after stopping at a very expensive giant RV store The manager Robert called a roadside truck lube place and got us a quick appointment to service the bus.

The kool thing was that this Robert guy new that we were not the types to service our bus at such an expensive RV place which was really incite full on Roberts part. Thanks Robert for helping us out.



Shortly we were in a big shop and having all kinds of attention paid to our glorious bus. New filters, oil change, lube and grease, and also new oil in the differential, and 450\$ left the big underwear safe. but we felt a lot better so hey! Thanks Petro lube. Here some photos at Petro Lube.....where we met a truck driver couple



But still the oil leak leaked and at a certain point it was just too much, so we stopped in Dickson which was now in Tennessee and we parked the bus next to a Best Western where we could catch some wi fi

and I started searching for a mechanic in the area. After talking to some bigger company's, I was able to get the number of a smaller shop which just happened to be in the area, so in a few hours we were parked at Mike Martins Truck Repair out in the countryside. Mike had a father and son team of mechanics working for him and these guys were pretty smart, within 20 minutes they had found the source of the oil leak.

To get to Mike we had to go through some serious weather



They proceeded to take the starter motor off of the engine, and showed us where the oil was leaking out, because there was no gasket, and also some bored out holes which are part of the product had not the little rubber ball gaskets that need to be present to prevent oil leakage, and since this system is an oil bath system, there always needs to be the proper gasket age. We had the starter rebuilt at



Anderson motors in Rhode Island and it would seem the rebuilder omitted these gaskets. By accident hopefully.

⇐ another cool photo from a road used mostly by trucks

Well, Thanks a lot Mike and Father and Son team, you guys figured it out, and that's why you made 150\$ in short time. But it is well worth it. Like Doctors take a patient and help the patient recover. Irmi and I Gratefully Thank You.

We drove back to the abandoned Chinese restaurant next to the best western hotel and parked the bus for the night. In the night we sent out the Feb. news letter, and so that was good. We also celebrated the fixing of the oil leak, though not with beer, it was just too chilly.

Dumpster clown⇒⇒⇒⇒⇒

But we did wander over to a dumpster on the best western parking lot and claimed 7-8 big mirrors that were in fine shape and very useful for future art projects, so that was good. Then we had a hot whisky with honey. On one of these days Irmi had made her yummy bread as she does on many days, and so we did not starve during these cold wintery days that were continually getting colder as we slowly progressed in a north easterly direction.

Whenever there was snow the bus had a hard time to start

Brady looking out for road kills



I had been keeping a rough count of the road kill as we cruized along in Texas and Arkansas

and now Tennessee. Roughly 35-40 dead skunks, 25-30 raccoons, 5-8 hawks, a few buzzards, 15-20 deer, numerous smaller birds, an owl, a few marmots or ferrets, very few dogs, 3-4 cats, and so forth. Meanwhile all the Wal-Mart's were busy busy busy, and we noticed most people take the plastic bags, and do not bring their own bags. We also notice this in other supermarkets.

After Tea, coffee and internet we hit the hyway, and coming out of Nashville a big giant truck that was hauling two or three big giant tires side swiped us on the right side of the bus and knocked our mirror right off. The traffic was so thick there was no way to pull off, and there was also no way of catching the truck driver as he was nearly faster than even the cars, and I saw him disappear on the highway

going west. Irmi and I decided to go on a smaller road for awhile, mostly to look for a replacement mirror as it is very important to have mirrors while driving this bus.

After a while we found a junk yard and got a cheap mirror that I actually traded onto my left side and put that mirror on the right side, etc... and we were back on the highway. We passed by Louisville and caught the 71 going east found a rest stop and parked for the night.

*Another night between running
motors ⇒ ⇒ ⇒*

The next morning we enjoyed the ritual of tea, and coffee, and then started the bus up, and prepared everything for hitting the road, which we did.



Somehow this ole bus just keeps moving, we cruized along taking in the Kentucky landscape. At some point we crossed into Ohio, passed by Wooster where I had spent some time when I was about 18 years old, and I got a dog and named him dog, and he was a good friend for some years, any hoot! That's another story. We drove off onto a smaller road that paralleled the hyway and cruized along the Ohio river. *Ohio River and Brady* ∟



Lots of old houses and farms, with cows and horses, and chickens, cause I saw a dead one, as my road kill count continued to climb higher. Just before we closed in on Cincinnati Ohio we filled up the tank and got on the proper hyway, generally driving around 50 miles per hour, sometimes a tad faster.

The bus, the river, Brady and a cup of espresso ⇒ ∟ ⇒

It was still pretty chilly out, as in freezing. Inside the bus we had the heater going, and that is pretty nice. As I mentioned in earlier a lot of folks pass us by in their trucks or cars or big trucks or even mid size trucks, and vans too, snapping photos, waving and giving us a smile, some folks do not smile, but we smile, so that's nice. We are like mobile famous smiling persons. Are my comas and periods correct?



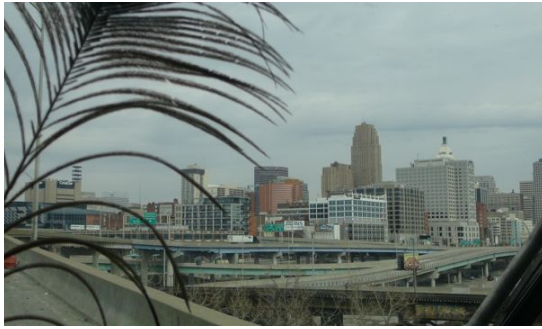
We had been going past a lot of snow, and it was cold, and the funny thing is we have really nice sun tans, so this really made it strange.

We understand that the eastern part of the states was experiencing a harsh

winter, and now we understood it first hand.

Towards the night time we pulled in somewhere and prepared our warm dinner in our warm bus in a cold truck parking lot.

The next morning after tea and coffee we continued on in an easterly direction. the bus was doing ok, not leaking much oil, and generally just being pretty amazing, right thru Ohio, and into Pennsylvania. As we drove along we viewed the old farms that are everywhere, and we even saw some quacker folks riding in a horse and buggy. We slept at a small truck stop that had internet.



New York State, which did not take to sudden we were in Connecticut. Onto a smaller road and thru some small New England villages we did go.



Somewhere on the road...

The next morning (after tea and coffee) we continued on our way thru the last part of Pennsylvania and into long to cross and all of a

New York State, we stopped to take a picture

Up to this point I had counted roughly 85 plus dead skunks, 60 plus raccoons, 50 or more deer, many many hawks and buzzards, a few owls, possums, minks, or ferrets,



squirrels numerous dogs and cats all dead from getting hit by cars or trucks. I have been pretty lucky, I have not hit a bird a mammal so far, though. Lots of butterflies, and other wonderful beautiful insects.

Brady sampling our underwear.

Our friends Johnny and Andrea live in Seymour Connecticut, and you may remember Johnny from the last news letter in Playa Del Carmen.

Johnny Fox is a long time magician sword swallower and vaudevillian, and his partner Andrea is a dancer and performer, together they are called Johnny Fox and April Sunshine, actually her name is not April Sunshine I just made that name up. Andr a's show name is Zela.

They play there show in many of the renaissance festivals that take place

between the east coast and Colorado. Johnny goes way back to the 70s in the vaudeville world, and he used to run a Freakatorium down in New York city for many years.

So after shoveling the snow out of their driveway we parked the bus and for the last two weeks of march we have survived the cold with wonderful meals, hot showers, and great company, Thank You Johnny and Andrea for being who you are.

Andrea organizing papers and Johnny patiently going through his socks

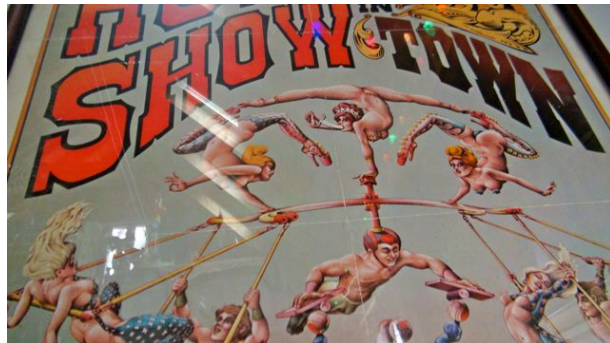


In the last moment when we pulled into Johnny and Andréa's it seemed like the bus was smoking more than usual, so we have been concerned about that, it may just be build up, or it may be that something has happened. We

have attempted to find a mechanic but have not found one yet. We hope to have the bus checked out soon. In the mean time Johnny has kept us busy with organizing the garage barn which houses his collections of freak and circus stuff to old and interesting antique things, and I'm talking a lot of old and interesting things.

One of the many cool older posters in the barn

We drove Andréa's mini cooper up to Providence Rhode Island and visited my son Toby and his sweetheart Flora, Rosie came down from Boston with her new sweetheart Jesse, so this was super,,,,, interesting!. Toby and Rosie's mother came and visited



also and we prepared a nice Mexican style dinner, yum yum.

⇐ family gathering with boy-and girl friends

I forgot my computer there, so to punish myself I left it there for a week, which really sucked. I have it now so all is ok. For us March was a month of extreme temperature change, I spent much time rubbing my hands together, I'm just went running.

We have spent almost two weeks organizing stuff and cleaning and packing and exposing stuff in the barn and though it will never look like it did in N.Y. when it was Johnny Foxes Freakatorium. It will be presentable and interesting to any visitor, Plus Johnny can get to his stuff and go thru it and maybe get rid of some of it.

We wish all of our fans a merry April and we hope to see each and every wonderful person along the way, Thanks for all the different responses we get, for us its mostly about friendship, which pretty much means if you pay us to come to your house, we will work for you.

We also are still accepting donations for not visiting.



after work picture..... and

.....good night everybody

