

Traveling into retirement.



I was enjoying things and traveling, sailing and cruising. But as time progressed, mom and dad were needing more help. It was amazing that dad was basically moms sole care giver. They did have home health come in once a week but mostly to check vitals. The had a lady that came in once or twice a week to help a bit too as mom became pretty much wheel chair bound. Dad was doing ok but I could not get him to quit driving.

The caddy he had when he moved to Dallas he totaled the day he came to sign papers for the house. I helped him and we got a very nice used one to replace it. Then a couple years later, he totals that one at the same intersection. This time the dealer talks him into leasing a new one. Then a couple years later they talk him into trading to lease another. Then the talked him into getting a Cadillac SRX SUV and a then that got some bad parking lot dings on it and he traded for another. Then he was turning right and did not yeild and a truck ended up running over his left front

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fender and hood. So this time I worked out with them that they would take him off leases and he would finance the new one so we would be able to be finally, someday out of \$800 a month payments. Then one day I get home and dad wants me to go to Cadillac topick up his new one. They had talked him into getting the newest model, almost exactly like the one he had half paid off. But they would not let him drive it home since he could not find his drivers license. Even after giving him a ride to house to look for it. Dads memory was getting pretty bad and I had to watch him a lot.

So I decided what they should do it sell their house and move in with me. But dd would not have it. He did not pay anything for his house! It was on a reverse mortgage. He did not understand that not having a payment did not mean it was free. But it turned out I sold my house and moved in with him and semi-retired. By time they required me to put roof on my house and with agent fees, I did not make anything on my house. Of the things I have done, that was most likely the biggest mistake I made.

It turned out the following spring mom passed and we had to put dad in a senior center. So there I was then living in his house that needed to be sold, only working part-time and not able to go back full-time. So I ended up tired of the BS for part-time and retired.

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It started out that I was going to by a truck and camp a bit and travel. But on my first checkout fo the truck and bed I had made in the back, I found a fun volunteer job as Camp Hosting in the National Park.



I had a nice tent that attached to the truck to give me a nice enclosed space and camping was fun.

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But they said I needed to have a trailer, as a tent and truck were not enough. So when I got back to Dallas, I found a nice 24ft trailer and headed up to the Chickasaw National Park to be a Camp Host for the summer.

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It was a great time and the weather so nice. It was quiet and just had to clean sites up when campers left. Help them get checked in and to know the rules.

The winter I went back to dad's house and got it ready to sell. Sold it before the next spring and headed back up to the park for a second summer. Then in September, I went to Tyler where Wendy lives and found an RV park for the winter. It became evident real quick that this trailer was not one for staying the winter in so I traded it for a larger and nicer trailer.

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This one had good insulation and was designed for residential living. So after spending the winter in Tyler, I again went to the Park for the summer. It was fun working around the campgrounds and using an electric golf cart to go around and clean and take care of things. There was a nice swimming hole in the group campground I took care of as well.

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It was a quiet life for the summer except on Fri n Sat. I pretty much did what I wanted when I wanted. I enjoyed this for the 4 years that I did it.