

## Chapter 9

### Stan's Vacations and Other Things

Stan has always enjoyed his vacation time. For several years he has traveled to a time share condo that mother and daddy own in Ormand Beach, Fl. It is about a mile from Daytona and about 45 miles from Orlando. Stan would plan his vacation from the time he came off the last one. He would give the dates he wanted off work, and then he would begin to save for his trip. He would save his change and then he would roll it and take it to the bank. He files his taxes as soon as he gets his W-2 forms and when the refund comes back, Stan takes the check, puts it away until time for him to leave. This is used for his spending money while he is in Florida. He would start packing about a week before it was time for him to go.

Mother taught him how to lay out seven days worth of clothes each day in their own pile. Each pile consists of a pair of underwear, a pair of socks, a shirt and a pair of shorts. When he packs his bag each pile is put in the suitcase complete. This way he knows that he has enough clean clothes for the week. Before he leaves Florida and heads home on the bus, he washes his clothes so when he gets home all he has to do is replace them in their drawers. How many of us do that? We save all our laundry to be washed after we return home. We could all take lessons.

The day of departure, mother and daddy take him to the Greyhound bus depot in the middle of downtown Atlanta. He buys his ticket to Daytona which is where he has to disembark. The trip is about fourteen hours long. He boards the bus and rides all night to Fla. When he gets to Daytona he catches a cab over to Ormand Beach and checks into the condo, which is located on the beach. He spends a week in the condo.

While in Florida, he is very quick to pick the perfect gift for Mother and Daddy. His taste and quality would be the envy of most people. He knows what they enjoy and spends great time and effort in making sure the gift is just right.

He enjoys going to Disney World and visiting the new venues especially Paramount Pictures. At Paramount one can pay a sum of money and be the start of one's favorite picture. This picture is recorded on a video and can be brought home as a souvenir of the trip.

Janet again recalled the time Stan went to Paramount. He wanted to star in the movie "Star Trek". When he came home he proceeded to tell anyone that would

listen that he had been in “the movies”.

Janet said, “I can still see the excitement in his eyes when he talked about it.”

Any time anyone came to the house he would have to pull out the video and the pictures of his movie debut. He was a “STAR”.

Janet said that it did not matter if it was the first time or the , the story was always special.

Stan’s days consist of visiting all the shops in Daytona, going to Disney World and walking on the boardwalk. Usually there is a tour bus that takes the tourist to Disney. One year there was no bus available. To Stan that was not a problem. He called a cab, which took him to the bus station in Daytona. He caught the bus going into Orlando. Once in Orlando he caught a cab to Disney. He stayed all day and did the tourist thing. Once the day was over he called a cab, had the cab take him to the bus station in Orlando, caught the bus going back to Daytona and caught a cab from Daytona to the condo. He did not tell mother any of this until he came back from Fla. Mother just about had a stroke.

This was the same child who was not supposed to be able to do the simple things in life. The brain how amazing. A man’s spirit how more amazing.

One year when Stan took his yearly trip to Florida, there was a new twist. When he got to the window to purchase his ticket he and mother were told that he would have a lay-over and that he would be changing buses. Mother was not happy. However, Stan in his ever popular self- belief told mother not to worry. He could handle this. He was not worried. Needless to say, he did handle it and arrived in Florida safe and sound. Once there his cell phone battery went dead. So he in his self-reliance set out to find a store that sold the kind of battery he needed. He started out in Ormand Beach. No one had the kind he needed so he continued walking going from store to store. He finally found one on the west side of Daytona about twelve miles away one way. He had walked the entire way. He also walked back the twelve miles to the condo. Again mother was not aware of this until he had returned from vacation.

Since that time we no longer think of Stan’s vacation to Florida as a mundane experience. He is always proving that he has many tricks and surprises in store for us. Sister Sheila decided that 2006 was the year Stan would fly to Florida instead of taking the bus. This decision was after 911 and after security at the airports have reached an all time high. No longer can family walk one to the gate. One has to go

thru security and be put under the microscope due to the stupidity of others who would put all in harm's way.

Stan did not seem daunted by this. He was actually excited. It had been years since he had flown. The trick was to make sure he did not miss his flight and that he got on the right flight. The airport in Atlanta is intimidating at best and can be scary at worst, even to the world's most seasoned traveler. Daddy and brother Barry took Stan to the airport. Barry talked with one of the customer service reps at the Delta desk. He explained that Stan was challenged, that he had not flown in many years, pre 911, and there was a concern he would not get to the right concourse.

The Delta rep hooked Stan up with his own personal customer rep. She made sure his bag got checked, got him to the right concourse, put him on the plane first and made sure he had a rep be at the Orlando airport to get him in a cab to go to the Condo. Stan of course loved his week of independence in Florida - but he took the bus back to Atlanta. When mother asked him how he liked flying upon his return. His response was classic Stan.

He said, "I liked flying fine, but I did not like the \$350.00 I don't have in my wallet. I would have rather spent the \$50.00 for a bus ticket."

Now, he flies down and back every year.

Stan takes his vacations as seriously as he does his bowling, his work and his money. If for some reason Mother has to use one of Stan's credit cards to make a purchase, he does not forget it. When the bill comes in he will hand it to her and let her know this particular bill is the one she made. While he is very generous with his family, he has learned that he must be stingy with the world. He pays his bills as soon as they arrive and he does not let anyone know much he is worth. The incident with the employee taught a very valuable lesson.

In the 1970's Sheila was living in Shreveport, Louisiana. Stan decided he need to visit her. The problem was he would have to fly alone. Was this really a problem? No!!! He packed his bags, bought a ticket, caught the plane and visited his sister. Upon his return he told Mother the only two things he had not ridden was a train and a ship. One of his dreams is to take a cruise when he retires. Knowing Stan he will accomplish this too.

One year Stan's television quit working. Did he moan and groan? Did he ask for his parents to purchase him another one? No way. He decided that he would quit

smoking. Every time he wanted to buy a pack of cigarettes he would put a quarter in a jar. At the time a pack cost \$1.25. Over a period of several months he had saved a little over \$400.00. He rolled his quarters took them to the bank, exchanged them for bills and went to the store and bought a new TV. He again proved that one can do what one sets out to do if the will is strong enough.