

## PIARIST EXPERIENCE

### Thursday, September 1, 2016

I started out from Iowa shortly after 6 a.m. and drove straight through, making several stops along the way. I arrived approx 9:30 Kentucky time. It was an easy drive...interstate most of the way.

I was happy to arrive when I did...it got dark mighty fast driving those last few miles through the mountains. The tune "*I'll be coming around the mountain when I come*" still plays through my head.

### Friday

Slept in late. After morning coffee set out to find the grocery store and a pharmacy. I forgot one of my meds. With the later accomplished it was now time to stock the refrig. I then thought I would try and find the school. Well, after getting directions (three times from different folk) I arrived at the school. I learned quick that everything is "just down the road a piece". And the second stoplight is three miles down the road. Located next to a location can be two miles "just down the road a piece." Spent the afternoon getting acquainted with the people I will be working with. Audrey Collins is Out Reach Coordinator, Ed head maintenance, Mike, Justin, John also maintenance.

### Saturday finished unpacking

Missing Mass is no excuse for me...I walk down the hill from the house across St. Martha's parking lot and there I am.

Labor Day weekend rested from all labor and went touring the neighboring towns. It was FLEA MARKET and YARD SALE weekend. People set up in any vacant parking lot available.

### Tuesday

Helped sort boxes of school supplies and other items Father Tom (principal of the Piarist School) picked up in Pennsylvania where he gave an appeal talks over the weekend. The afternoon I mowed grass at the school. This was an adventure in itself. If you have experience with a zero radius turn mower you know how touchy they can be. Well, this one was very touchy. I finally got the hang of operating the machine. That was soon cut short because I almost rounded it down a hill. I left it sitting tipsy on the edge and went to get help. Ed came to my rescue and he finished mowing the area. I guess he was afraid I would lose the mover in the creek bottom...I told you it was touchy.

### Wednesday

We head out to a double trailer site to prepare side A being attached to side B. We needed to reattached the wheels to side A. After seeing how the wheels are attached, In the future I will do my best to avoid following a trailer down the road. We succeed in the task all the while keeping an eye out for rattlers, copperheads and black snakes. I was assured if you see a black snake chances are you won't see a copper head or rattler...black snakes will fight and kill them. Black snakes are our friends if that can be said about a snake. Spent the rest of the day mowing more grass...on the flat.

### Thursday

Back up at the trailer site. Today we were to rip off the plastic and boarding that covered side B from the elements in preparation for attachment. The open side of A was not covered and had not been covered for three and a half years. So the critters and elements took its toll on it. The people were living in side B only. There is A LOT of work to be done on the interior, replacing all of the flooring and walls. That should start happening next week. We needed to clear the way for the mover to bring A over to B. We did find a couple of snakes hiding under some metal sheeting. Mike quickly took proper measures to dispose of the small copperheads. I mowed another area after lunch.

### Friday

Moving day for the trailers, but I stayed back at the school and helped Audrey with some more sorting. After lunch I went with a few of the students to a battlefield to watch a reenactment. Not sure what teams were involved in the battle. I think James Garfield led the charge for one group. People walked around in period costumes and others sold period items to those interested. Got back to the school later than planned, one student fainted and we had to wait until her grandmother arrived to pick her up. The temperature was and has been in the low 90's and of course humidity along with it. Another quiet night reading. The TV hasn't been hooked up yet and won't be until the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Saturday

Laundry day. Threw a load in the dryer and set out in a different direction to find another church. Made it to the town ok, but, here again, "down the road a piece" was not very helpful. I gave up returned to the house. Time for a nap and later Fr. Tom and I went out to dine.

### Sunday

Morning mass was at 11:15 so gave me time before I walked down the hill. I drove out for quick bite and did more sightseeing. Didn't know if I would see anything different than days before. Mountains and trees start to look the same. Happened on a couple of funeral processions. Yes, even on Sunday. Passed a cemetery where people standing alongside a gravesite and noticed a couple of tents already set up for the next one. Cemeteries on side hills is something to see. No laying to rest on flat ground. I am sure precautions are taken so that the deceased don't roll down the hill. Driving along the countryside I spotted small cemeteries here and there nestled back from the road in the trees. These are family plots where at one time a family lived. I spotted others that were next on properties of family members still living. Ted said his aunt wanted to be laid to rest under the front porch of her house. I noticed that 99.99% of the tombstones were decorated, some more elaborate than others, but it was hard to find one that was not decorated.

That is a short summary of the past week. I will start anew on Monday.

Hope all is fine. Sure will be glad to get back and find the leaks taken care of.

God Bless y'all

F.D.