

**SIDE 1 pg 1 of 1**

**WALTER:** [WALTER pulls the pack off his back and pulls back the cover flap and looks inside.]

What the...?

[pulls an old journal out of the pack]

My old journal?

[WALTER sets the pack down at his feet, opens the journal and begins to read aloud in an excited manner.]

June 3, 1970. My first day on the road has been great. The weather is cool but clear and I've come over two hundred miles from Detroit. Tomorrow I should get across the bridge and into the upper peninsula where highway 2 begins and stretches all the way to Seattle. I can hardly wait to get on it.

I have been intrigued with the variety of people I've met so far. Those who were kind enough to stop and give me a ride and those who, like me, were trying to get from one place to another as cheaply as possible.

[Lights fade out.]

**SIDE 2 pg 1 of 1**

[WALT is sitting on his backpack which is laying on the ground next to the highway and writing in his journal. JACK enters from stage left with a bicycle. On JACK'S left foot is a large white cast. WALT hears the sound of the bike and turns to look at JACK.]

**WALT:** Now there's something you don't see everyday.

[JACK stops the bike next to WALT]

**JACK:** And just what the hell do you mean by that?

**WALT:** I didn't mean anything. It's just that I've never seen anyone ride a bike with a cast on one foot.

**WALT:** My name's Walt.

**JACK:** I'm Jack.

**WALT:** You must be stationed at the air base I just passed by.

**JACK:** That's right.

**WALT:** Where you from?

**JACK:** New Jersey. Newark to be exact.

**WALT:** Kind of a rough town isn't it?

**JACK:** Got that right. Where you headed, man?

**WALT:** The west coast. Have you been there yet?

**JACK:** No, but I will as soon as this cast comes off. Only trouble is I'll just be passing through on my way to 'Nam.

**WALT:** How'd you break the ankle?

**JACK:** I didn't break no ankle. They broke some bones in my foot.

**WALT:** Who did?

**JACK:** The doctors at the base. They said I'd never fit into G.I. boots, so they broke the foot and reset it.

**SIDE 3 pg 1 of 2**

**MARIAN:** Are we taking that hitch-hiker with us when we go? I'm so sick of having him around all the time. I want it to be just the three of us again.

**GEORGIA:** Well, he is heading in our direction.

**MARIAN:** Does that mean he has to live with us? There are plenty of other people heading that way too. I can't believe we've let him stick around this long.

**GEORGIA:** Lighten up Marian, it's not that big a deal.  
Let's start putting things back in the bus.

**WALT:** Help! Help! There's a wild bear after me!

[WALT runs over and hides behind GEORGIA who stands frozen at center stage. MARIAN screams as DEBBIE jumps out from stage left growling and making clawing motions in the posture of a bear. DEBBIE then bursts into laughter as do WALT, then GEORGIA.]

**DEBBIE:** I never saw anyone move so fast in my life!

**WALT:** I'll protect you Marian!

**MARIAN:** You, you ...

[Marian pushes Walt to the ground.]

I hate you!

**WALT:** You should've seen it when I came busting in Debbie. The look on your face Georgia! And poor Marian! I'll never get to first base with her.

**GEORGIA:** Don't you think you'd better get up out of that dirt Walt?

**DEBBIE:** Well ain't you a sight, all down in the mouth and all.

**MARIAN:** I can't take it anymore. As soon as we get to Spokane you can drop me off at the airport. I want to go back to Boston!

**GEORGIA:** Now Marian, don't go on like that. We're going to San Francisco to spend some time with Lisa, remember? She'll be heartsick if you don't show.

**SIDE 3** pg 2 of 2

**WALT:** I'm sorry for upsetting you Marian. I didn't mean ...

**MARIAN:** You've done nothing but upset me since we stopped and picked you up! I wish you'd just take your pack and leave!

**DEBBIE:** What the hell's the matter Marian? You're getting bitchier by the day. You don't need to take it out on him.

**MARIAN:** I don't like his being here! This trip was supposed to be just the three of us traveling together. Why'd we have to pick HIM up?

**GEORGIA:** Because the three of us have been getting on each other's nerves!

**DEBBIE:** Yeah, I like having him around.

**MARIAN:** Maybe you like him a little too much!

**DEBBIE:** For Christ's sake Marian! Get off the jealousy bit will you? He's like a kid brother to me and that's all!

**GEORGIA:** Come on sisters, let's get together and have a group hug. We need some positive vibrations here!

**SIDE 4** pg 1 of 1

**WALT:** Excuse me.

**SYLVESTER:** Yes?

[stops swinging the bat and puts it on his shoulder]

**WALT:** Are you hitch-hiking?

**SYLVESTER:** You could say that.

**WALT:** What's with the baseball bat?

**SYLVESTER:** I like to swing it.

**WALT:** Do you play on a baseball team or something?

**SYLVESTER:** No, it just gives me something to do while I wait for a ride.

**WALT:** I can't imagine anyone stopping for a guy who's standing on the side of the road swinging a baseball bat.

**SYLVESTER:** Not many do, only the ones that want to.

**WALT:** Oh, I get it. You get to pick your rides, in a way. I guess you can't be in much of a hurry though.

[WALT takes off his pack and sets it on the ground.]

Feels good to have it off my shoulders. You mind?

[SYLVESTER gives no indication.]

My name's Walt.

**SYLVESTER:** Sylvester.

**SIDE 5 pg 1 of 2**

[Lights up on WALT who is sitting next to EDNA, an elderly lady who is seated as if driving a car.]

**WALT:** Thanks for stopping ma'am. Lovely day isn't it?

**EDNA:** Isn't it though? And you're welcome. I like to have company.

**WALT:** Well then, I'm honored to be your guest. Do you live around here?

**EDNA:** I do. About twelve miles up the road in Havre. Are you going that far?

**WALT:** Yes ma'am, I.....

**EDNA:** [interrupting]

Just call me Edna.

**WALT:** All right ma' ... Edna, and my name's Walt.

[a beat]

I know you asked a question but I don't remember what it was.

**EDNA:** You were going to tell me how far you were headed.

**WALT:** That's right! I must be getting old or...

[catches himself]

I'm sorry Edna. I didn't mean to ...

**EDNA:** Don't bother about it. The growing old part isn't so bad.  
It's the time alone that's troublesome.

**WALT:** You live by yourself?

**EDNA:** I've been on my own since May of '64 when my Ernie died.  
We were married for 42 years.

**SIDE 5** pg 2 of 2

**WALT:** That's a long time to be with someone.

**EDNA:** We were never apart in all those years. We couldn't stand to be away from each other even for one night.

**WALT:** Do you have any children?

**EDNA:** Lord knows we tried hard enough but I couldn't carry long for some reason.

[This is difficult for her to say and SHE broods on it after having spoke.]

**WALT:** [changing the subject]

I'm on my way to the west coast.

**SIDE 6** pg 1 of 2

**WALTER:** Mind if I come in Matt?

[Matt has back to Walter, packing a backpack]

**MATT:** It's okay with me.

**WALTER:** Your mom says that you're not going back to school.

**MATT:** That's right.

**WALTER:** After two years at college you're just going to bag it?

**MATT:** You could put it that way, or you might say that I was taking some time off.

**WALTER:** Matt, you don't just quit in the middle of something!

[WALTER's cell phone rings, he pulls it out of his coat pocket and answers.]

Hello? John can this wait a bit? I'm in the middle of a conversation.  
What? No, just mark all the sport shirts down thirty percent.  
I'll be there soon. Goodbye.

[to self]

sale is driving me nuts! This damn...

[to MATT]

What were we talking about?

**MATT:** You were giving me the old 'Don't be a quitter bit.'

**WALTER:** So why the hell are you quitting?

**MATT:** It's all just a big waste of time and money.

**WALTER:** We'll help you with the money. Don't lose sight of the big picture Matt.

**MATT:** That's just it; there never has been a big picture for me.

[Cell phone rings and WALTER answers it. MATT disgusted, continues packing.]



**SIDE 6 pg 2 of 2**

**WALTER:** Hello. Look, I can't be bothered now.  
You make the decision, that's what I pay you for. Goodbye.

[WALTER puts the phone away and addresses MATT.]

What about the idea of taking over the business some day.  
I thought that was the plan.

**MATT:** That was your idea, not mine.

**WALTER:** But Matt, the store's been in the family for three generations!

**MATT:** Well maybe it's time for some new blood then, because I'm really not interested  
in working a seven day week, fifty weeks a year for the rest of my life!

**WALTER:** So what are you going to do for the rest of your life?

**MATT:** I have no idea. But for now, my plans are to pack up and hit the road.

**WALTER:** And just what vehicle do you have in mind to use and how do you plan to finance  
this trip?

**MATT:** I'm not taking a car. I'm going to hitch-hike.

**SIDE 7 pg 1 of 1**

[Interior: Roadside Diner. WALT begins to take his pack off as LULU enters behind WALT from stage right with a small pack on her back. LULU is backing in as SHE yells out to stage right.]

**LULU:** I know, I know. You like it hot and black! Well so do...

[LULU turns and runs into WALT.]

I.

**WALT:** Uh..hi.

**LULU:** What's the matter? Ain't you never seen a hitch-hikin gal before?

**WALT:** No, I mean yes... but not one that looks like you.

**LULU:** You like what ya see?

**WALT:** I sure do.

**LULU:** Don't get yer hopes up less ya got yerself a big rig with all the trappin's settin' outside.

**WALT:** No, I've only got my shoes and thumb to get around with.  
But I could buy you a cup of coffee, if you'd let me Miss uh...

**LULU:** Lulu's the name. What's yer's?

**WALT:** I'm Walt, Walt Newman.

**LULU:** Why don't we just sit down at the table over there.

**SIDE 8 pg 1 of 2**

[Exterior: broken down van on side of the road. HOWIE in van in search of something]

**WALT:** I was just wondering how often you broke down.

**HOWIE:** Oh, not that often really. I think every car has its problems if you don't maintain it. Ah! Here we are.

[He exits van with a tool bag in one hand and a well worn manual in the other.]

And with my bible, better known as the Idiot book to guide me, there isn't any problem this old van can throw at me that I can't fix.

[He tosses it to WALT.]

**WALT:** The Idiot book. Now there's a name I can relate to when it comes to working on cars.

[WALT sits and thumbs through the book as HOWIE works on the car.]

**HOWIE:** I picked up a replacement belt a couple of months ago when I noticed how worn this one was getting. You see Walt, this belt runs a fan that is crucial to keeping the engine cool. Foresight is not one of my stronger traits, though I guess some of the Boy Scout must have stayed with me through the years after all.

**WALT:** This book's a trip. The guy that wrote it some kind of philosopher or something?

**HOWIE:** In a way. He advocates a simpler approach to life and uses the V.W. as a metaphor. It's design is so basic that you don't need to be a mechanical genius to keep it running...

[HOWIE pulls a corn cob pipe and lighter from his pocket, lights the pipe, and takes a long inhale, holding in the smoke. As he exhales he finishes his line.]

and that's the beauty of it for me. Why should life be so complicated anyway?

[HOWIE hands pipe and lighter to WALT. WALT lights and takes a hit.]

**WALT:** Amen to that brother!

**SIDE 8** pg 2 of 2

**HOWIE:** That's like preaching to the convert I guess.  
Come over here and give me a hand for a minute.

[HOWIE squats down in front of the engine compartment. WALT hands the pipe back to HOWIE, who sticks it back in his mouth.]

Take this screwdriver.

[HOWIE hands the screwdriver to WALT.]

Now help me roll this belt on to the pulley.

**WALT:** [WALT reaches with screwdriver into compartment.]

Like this?

**HOWIE:** That's it.

**SIDE 9** pg 1 of 1

**JAMES:** Would you like some potatoes son?'

**WALT:** Yes, thank you.

[WALT takes a helping and passes the plate to MARY.]

**JAMES:** Well, I can see your folks taught you some religion. May be there is some hope for you yet.

**MARY:** Now James, you promised not to be preachy.

[JAMES glares at her, then goes back to putting food on his plate.]

**MARY:** Tell us about your family Walt.

**WALT:** Besides my parents, I have five brothers and sisters. My twin sisters are the oldest and I have two older brothers. My younger brother is the only one still living at home.

**JAMES:** And how were you raised boy?

**WALT:** Beg your pardon?

**MARY:** He wants to know what church your family attends.

**WALT:** Oh. Well, my mother took us to the Baptist church when I was younger but I quit going when I was thirteen.

**JAMES:** And your father allowed you to do that?

**WALT:** Yes he did sir. You see my father came from a family that was Jewish and when I turned thirteen he allowed me to make my own decisions about attending church.

[JAMES is visibly affected by WALT's last comment. HE glares at WALT, pushes himself away from the table and stands up]

**JAMES:** I'm going out to do the second milking.

**MARY:** But you haven't hardly eaten.

**JAMES:** I ain't hungry!

[HE turns and stomps off stage left.]

**WALT:** Did I say something wrong?

**MARY:** No son, you didn't. Go ahead and finish your dinner. There's pie for dessert too.