

AAA to the Rescue

by Liz Gibbons

For over thirty-five years we have had AAA road service for our car(s) and there are many times when it helped get us on the road again. The latest was last spring when I had been driving at night, and in fiddling with the light dial I had inadvertently left the overhead light on in my car and drained the battery.

One time we were driving from Atlanta to Chicago. We had our tent and camping gear to stay overnight in Brown County State Park in southern Indiana. It is one of our favorite parks. Just as we got to the camp site the transmission on the car gave out. We had planned to drive to the Lodge for dinner, but we were going nowhere. Fortunately we had some snack food and a few sandwich fixings in the ice chest for snacking on the road. That quieted our growling stomachs. We located a pay telephone the next morning as this was before cell phones, and called Triple A. Our car was towed to the nearby town of Columbus. It would take some time to complete the work, so the auto shop agreed to keep our car until we returned from Chicago. A rental car got us on the road again. On our return to Columbus we picked up our repaired car. We intended to take a leisurely time getting home and perhaps stop overnight to see some sites in Chattanooga. As we ascended Monteagle Mountain in Tennessee, which is a somewhat treacherous part of Highway 24, my husband, who was driving, tried to downshift the automatic transmission to give us more oomph to get up the mountain. The car would not shift. He realized the transmission was still in trouble and said if we got to the top of the mountain, from there it would be downhill into Chattanooga and then on to Atlanta. There was enough gas in the gas tank, and if we did not stop for bathroom breaks or food he thought we would be able to get home. We inched up the mountain and got to the top and from there we thankfully made it into Atlanta that evening. Again we relied on AAA to tow the car to the transmission shop the next day.