Random Hardship List

Conditions/Environmental Issues (DIAMONDS)

1. There is a major storm heading into the Great Plains if you are in Denver or higher latitude, your driving distance is reduced by 300 miles today.
2. Blizzard conditions in the Rockies. All interstates are closed.
3. Recent rains have flooded the Missouri River watershed. If you are in a state that touches Nebraska, your driving distance is reduced by 450 miles today.
4. Unseasonable heat. If you are south of Denver, CO. You cannot drive in the daylight hours. Your driving distance is reduced by 300 miles
5. Major construction on the Interstate system. If you are traveling along any Interstate, your driving distance for the day is reduced by 300 miles
6. Fog in the mountains. If you are traveling at an elevation above 1000 ft above sea level, your driving distance is decreased by 300 miles today.
7. Major sports event in Phoenix. If you are traveling within a 100 mile radius of the city, your driving distance is decreased by 150 miles.
8. Unusually light traffic due to Federal holiday. You are able to travel an additional 150 miles today.
9. Phew. No issues today.

Mechanical Problems (HEARTS)

1. Broken water pump. You need to find a major garage or dealership that would have parts for your year, make and model. This will cost you about $500 plus any additional fees for towing, etc.
2. Flat tire. You need to find a garage or Sears within reachable distance (cab, walked, hitching) and get a new tire the right size for your specific auto. Cost: $100 for the tire. Additional fees for towing etc. may apply
3. Blower isn't working, so no heat or A/C, but that doesn't matter. You can still drive.
4. Old wiper blades. You have trouble seeing through the smeary windshield. Your driving distance is reduced by 90 miles today. Cost: $20
5. Car is running smoothly today.
6. Out of gas. If you don't have a portable gas can with you, you need to get gas or a tow to a station. $20 for 5 gallons, plus any fees for towing, etc.
7. Dead battery. Need to find a way to locate, pay for and install (or have installed) a replacement.
8. Poor cellular service. Any need you have to find businesses, routes, or other necessities in the neighborhood or ahead on the road is unfulfilled. (hint: where can you access free internet? a place that has internet *and* devices to use?)
9. Rattling sound under the hood is diagnosed by a friendly mechanic at the gas station. It's nothing to worry about.
10. You are pulled over by the police for a broken tail-light. $20 fine.

Personal Difficulties (SPADES)

1. Someone in the car has motion sickness. You can drive for only 4 hours total today.
2. Someone in the car has other GI symptoms that require frequent bathroom/roadside stops. You have no health insurance. You must find a local clinic or health provider for help. You can only travel for 300 miles today.
3. Someone in the car has a belly ache. You need to hit up a local drugstore for some supplies, but otherwise you travel on.
4. Someone in your car goes missing at a rest stop. You cannot continue driving until you locate him or her. Find the nearest police station or highway patrol and file a missing persons report.
5. Random Checkpoint by the Highway Patrol. If you are in a state with an E, an X, a Z or an S, your out-of-state license plate gets you pulled over for search and questioning. If you are in a state with just one of these letters, the delay costs you 2 hours and 120 miles today. If you are in a state with two of the letters, your stop is 4 hours and costs you 300 miles today. If you have THREE letters (welcome to Texas, y'all), your stop is 6 hours and costs you 450 miles today. If you are in Texas, you are also fined $100.
6. Wild card: see teacher

Economic Difficulties (CLUBS)

1. You were robbed overnight. Half your money for the trip is gone.
2. Your car was stolen. You are unable to continue for now. Find alternative methods of transport for the day.
3. Your job interview has been postponed. You are no longer sure you have a job waiting. Any funds you were counting on once you reach you destination are no longer guaranteed.
4. Your interview has been moved up a day. You need to try to reach your destination sooner.
5. Overdraft fee. $35. You may dispute it, but the money is gone for now.
6. Tolls on all toll bridges have risen by 25%. Budget accordingly.
7. Your cell phones were stolen. Payphones are your only way to make calls.
8. Lucky you! $20 bill found at the gas station.
9. Wild card: see teacher