

Bloomington Stories Podcast: Nailin'It with Rusty Peterson
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Guest: Rusty Peterson
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We used an automated program to create the transcripts.

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Home of Indiana University, rock quarries, cornfields, enchanted woods and injury lawyer canon Bloomington is a town has a term for its ability to lure one time residents back The Boomerang. There's something weirdly magical going on here in college Town nobodies Josh Bennett and Chris Coopersmith are going to get to the bottom of this place by listening to stories and writing every possible tangent along the way to what have you down your freshman weekend.

00;00;31;23 - 00;00;58;21

I built another section of the deck which turned railings as near it, and it's like the the four by fours are not exactly. They're kind of not, you know, they're tall, so they're not exact straight. Yeah. I mean, they're strange enough, but they're not exactly straight. So I have to, like, custom make the framing, which can be a real beast because.

00;00;58;24 - 00;01;22;10

Oh, wow, you got a you know, with one person, you have to measure the bottom, but you have to hold it three inches above the ground. Mm hmm. And then measure that correctly, cut it correctly, subtract the two buffers that are going on the side, and then you get to measure the new piece on top that is slightly bigger because of the two by four or the four by fours.

00;01;22;10 - 00;01;43;06

Kind of spreading out. Breaking out. Yeah. So it's kind of a two puzzle piece. Do you like it as a meditative or is it stressful or both? No, it's it's both. Like it can be very. The whole process is meditative. Really? Yeah. Except for digging those fucking footers. It. Those are BS. That's hell. Yeah. Because the opposite of meditation.

00;01;43;08 - 00;02;06;24

Using a placeholder. Yeah, we used to. Even my brother has this gas powered auger, I think is what it's called. And. Mm hmm. But even that, like, I think I told you last week we had that it was like a rebar that was in the ground that had probably been there for had been there so long that this tree root grew around the rebar.

00;02;06;28 - 00;02;26;18

Yeah. And twisted around it. Mm hmm. So it took forever to get the rebar out. But then after that, we're like, finally, you know, after an hour and a half or something like that. Working on that then. Then we have this root that is was twisted around it. So we had to cut through it long ways, like three times.

00;02;26;21 - 00;02;43;12

With what? With the auger. I have an oscillating saw. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. It was fucking sucked. Yeah. That's not meditation right there. No, that's like, bullshit.

00;02;43;15 - 00;03;17;08

It just reminds me of, like. I don't know, man. Like, you know, I just moved to a different house for the first time in, like, a little over a year ago, and think maybe it's almost been a year and a half. Let's see. Let's say a year and a half ago, I moved to this different house, and with the move, kind of came the sort of my retired from trying to learn how to build things like not actually, I'm sure I'll do it again, but like my old house was just a living testament to all the stages of my ineptitude, you know?

00;03;17;11 - 00;03;37;09

Right. And it's just funny because, like, you know, I bought this house, the house over on the over on what they call the hill of Bloomington, over near China North. All that. Yeah. School and everything. I rented that. I rented this house that was like a tiny little shotgun shack, and it was 600 square feet I think. And it was I wouldn't say it's a piece of shit.

00;03;37;09 - 00;03;57;24

It actually was like it seemed like just a sweet little tiny little cottage thing. I mean, I could tell it's like a old house, you know, wood paneling and just wood floors. And it was just the house. And I so I lived in it for a couple of years, and then I bought it for, like, my brother and I didn't know how to do anything.

00;03;57;24 - 00;04;27;23

And we started just like, tearing into walls. And I had all these big ideas and and I basically destroyed that house over the course of just destroyed it. I remember that like at some point, maybe this was before, but didn't you have like a party over there where you literally like chainsaw the the house and have. Yeah, that was right before we're going to chainsaw the house and halfway and I had when I say destroyed it it was like it was destruction with good intentions because I was like, oh I'm gonna I'm going to learn how to fix this.

00;04;27;23 - 00;04;50;11

Yeah, I'm going to take the wood paneling off and, and I'm going to see what's under there. And then you find out why they put wood paneling up, you know, because they're covering up this old shitty plaster and then, you know, best as as I'm sure I am sure I'm going to die. And then like, you know, so all that and then just just I can't even explain what a disaster it was in that house by the time I was done with it.

00;04;50;13 - 00;05;10;25

But it was a fun process. But it's kind of nice for me to get away from having to look at all the weird projects, all the weird sheds. I built in my back yard. Hey, it's a phone call. Should I answer it? Pro podcasting at its best. So all of that is way of saying like, that's like hearing you build this tech.

00;05;10;27 - 00;05;30;21

I mean, you've been talking about it for what, a while now. I'm really happy for you. And I remember the feeling of satisfaction, but also just brings up all this like, Oh my God, yeah, like my my neighbor asked me about it and it was my neighbor's dad. Actually, he's working on her house. And we were talking about it.

00;05;30;21 - 00;05;51;01

And he's you know, I think he complimented it a little bit. I was like, Oh, I see the things that I could have done better as like, sure, I wish. You know what? I'm never going to build another deck. But if I could, I wish I would have built a friend's deck first because I would have seen all the things that I would do better on my own.

00;05;51;04 - 00;06;08;07

That's all I see right now. But right now you have this deck that's not like you go. It's not like a song that you can rewrite a couple of times or delete. No, I can't go out. Delete that deck. Yeah, you got to do like me. You just got to turn around. Walk away from it. That's right. Go to a different house.

00;06;08;10 - 00;06;31;03

Somebody else's problem. When we when we first moved into this house, I was just stressed out and I just needed a shed. And I didn't pay attention to the measurements. And I ordered I had these guys come and built a shed. And when I got home from work, actually when they got here to build it, they were like, are you going to are you going to leave the check for us here or do you want to come back?

00;06;31;03 - 00;06;57;12

And I was like, Well, I'll go ahead and I'll pay you, you know, once, once the sheds built, he's like, We'll be done by 1:00 or like midnight or something. Yeah, I was like, Yeah, yeah. So I copy that. Here's the check, right? And then I came home and it was just like the shed was so big that I like the further, like the first three days, all I could do to accept it was look out the window through the blinds.

00;06;57;12 - 00;07;19;14

And just every once in a while, look at. And every time I did for the first couple of days, I could feel my forehead like sweat. And then I was like, okay, that's enough for today. It'll go back a little over here, just peeking through the windows. Yeah, Yeah, it was still there. Yeah. Because there is shame to it because it was did it cause like, like you thought you were like no go shed.

00;07;19;15 - 00;07;43;21

Yeah. Like I was like finally we moved into the house. I was like, oh, dude, I have a decent fenced in yard. Yeah. And then the shed, like, there goes a majority of the fenced in yard, right? Immediately. Yeah. It was pretty nice shed. That's pretty nice shed. Oh, dude, now I'm. I'm glad I got it. Now I totally accepted it and, yeah, I filled that fucker up.

00;07;43;24 - 00;08;10;12

You could do all kinds of nasty stuff in that shed. Oh, yeah. Do you ever know? Oh, yeah. You know, trust me, I know. Shout out to my brother. Helped a lot with the physical labor and also with, like, making sure I'm staying up to code and all that. Yeah, he knows about that. He is big help. But he also told me he's like, don't ever, just don't invite Rusty over here.

00;08;10;14 - 00;08;31;14

He did. Yeah, that's the funny thing is that Rusty Rusty, who is actually our guest and we get around talking to him soon, is, you know, he's such an amazing carpenter. Just really, truly like, I think of him. I've always I've always explained him to other people as I believe an artisan like his work is like not only impeccable, but he's also like an artist in the way he does it.

00;08;31;15 - 00;08;48;08

Yeah. Opinion. I agree he doesn't. But whenever like, he would come over, he live. We live right next to me. He live. We live like behind each other. And when he'd come over and see me doing this jackass stuff, he would be like, He like it. Like he would be like, Oh, great job, you know? And he would totally see the bullshit.

00;08;48;10 - 00;09;07;29

But to him, he could. He could enjoy somebody else's imperfect thing for what it was, you know, like more than his own perfect little thing. Totally into him. It was like watching, like, watching me try to build a tree house would be no different than if you were watching a my son build a tree house. He would say the same thing, like, Oh, it's great.

00;09;07;29 - 00;09;28;18

I love it. I love how you took that. Really interested to buy for and whatever. And he just likes that. But then he sees zones like you can tell because he built the house that we moved out of, which is another reason I want to move out. But he'll just when we would sit there and have dinner with him and his family, they, like you, would just see his eyes wander around the room from corner to corner and you could just see him process.

00;09;28;18 - 00;09;49;07

He's like, I was 116 out of an inch off there. Totally, totally. And he just couldn't completely relax into when when I first saw when I first got that house and again like really transformed into this amazing place ultimately. But my brother like my brother, my brother and I, we my brother and I just didn't learn how to do anything when we're kids.

00;09;49;07 - 00;10;07;18

Like, I'm just telling you, like, my dad is an intellectual. This is a man who, you know, who who, who lives in his mind. And he's right. He has a doctorate and he's super smart and and all that. So, like, I credit him with a lot of things, like, you know, I'm a teacher, you know, like, that's probably a lot of reason why and all that.

00;10;07;18 - 00;10;30;28

But, man, you'd like this is the way I. I remember it is. I remember coming down to the dining room table one night, and this is just my memory and it's good for Halloween. A post Halloween episode is we had this. We lived in this old house. It was old. It was a what he call the Sears Houses.

00;10;31;00 - 00;10;55;14

It was an old Craftsman house and it was in this old neighborhood. And my dad was sitting at the dining room table, and in my mind's eye it was like the lighting wasn't very good. He's got a butter knife. I'm telling some of this is true and some I'm sure it's completely imagined. But he's got a butter knife and he's got digital watch and he's cutting up a storm and he's trying to change the band on a digital watch.

00;10;55;16 - 00;11;19;24

Right. And he's like trying to use the knife to get the band out and put the new in. And he's like cursing real loud and he's the knife is like sliding past what he's trying to do and he's like cutting his hand. So it's like bleeding. He's trying to do a digital age. And whenever I think about not knowing how to do anything, I just think about that and I say, It's not your fault, kid.

00;11;19;27 - 00;11;36;11

You know what I mean? Yeah. Okay, let's go back to your house. And so when you're at the house and you and your brother were tearing it up and stuff, what kind of tools were using? Was it like a butter knife in a. All right, well, we'll see. Okay, So, so. So my brother. Okay, so I get you.

00;11;36;12 - 00;12;01;10

You say stop. What? So I got another stopwatch story. That's really funny, actually, but so my brother and I, we this is just so embarrassing, but, you know, like kind offers most people around town. No, kind offers a lot of people, no cleaners is just like it's the classic awesome old school hardware store You know, where you go in there and you can ask for anything.

00;12;01;12 - 00;12;23;01

They will give you 20 minutes their time to find a ten seat, ten cent screw. That's not act like it was a problem at all. And some somehow magically quickly figure out what level of knowledge you have about, Oh my God, act like they can read that in your eyeballs. I know. No matter how hard you try to dory like this, this fucking asshole doesn't know what he's talking about.

00;12;23;03 - 00;12;40;08

He's building his first tech. Well, right. Like they did size you up, but for the general part of the time, like, they won't treat you poorly for it. Oh, no. You know they might, baby. You a little bit about it. Like they might have to kind of hold your hand. Yeah. You're going to walk out with what you need.

00;12;40;14 - 00;13;07;00

Exactly. That's so true. Yeah. And so my brother buys us both, you know, like garage sale, you know, or garage, you know, the old garage attendants would wear those, like, zip up. Like. Like what do you call those one piece? Like zip up? Yes. A he buys each of those. He buys each one of those to wear while we're like, quote unquote, working on this house, you know, to at least make you look like you know what you're doing.

00;13;07;06 - 00;13;27;18

Yeah. So we're wearing these, like, jumpsuits. Did you wipe grease on your face, too? Which we might as well have, because I know, like, the fact that we went in decline over each of us wearing that, you know, and the fact that they're so good at sizing up who they're dealing with. Yeah. And I knew some of these guys already because I was in there for just piddly stuff cause I live nearby.

00;13;27;21 - 00;13;49;22

Yeah, but does the fact that they said they didn't say, get the fuck out of here. All right, get. Get the fuck out. Get out of here. Go put on some jeans and a t shirt and come back. We'll help you take those silly ass costumes off. Well, but you. They needed you there because you know that as soon as you walked out of there, they felt like after you for the rest of the day, we did them a solid.

00;13;49;22 - 00;14;07;12

We did them a solid with that they deserved. They must have. Yeah, well, we go in there, we wore these outfits in there multiple times, but this one time we go in there and we're simply trying to hang a porch swing on the back of the in the back porch, like off the ceiling of the back porch. And we go in there.

00;14;07;12 - 00;14;29;20

We come in there and get whatever bullshit we want. We come go back to the house. We hang the porch swing. It's looking good. Go inside or rent a jumpsuits. We get some lemonade, come back out, and we both go to sit on a on the porch. The sports Rangers faces the backyard. We both sit down right at the same time as goes Ram, and the whole thing just comes crashing down.

00;14;29;27 - 00;14;56;24

And we just hit the both of us just hit the floor and our glasses fall down everything because we weren't even smart enough to know that, like, you have to anchor, you know, like, that's the level of Latinos we had about. So the fact that yeah, the fact that I can build yeah warriors that were just imagine did you guys have your still have your suits on when you're sitting on the porch swing.

00;14;57;01 - 00;15;19;02

Do we have what your your suits that you bought from. Oh absolutely our partner is that your one's, is the other one's is on. We had lemonade probably in the mason jar. Job well done. A

hard day's work and it's like an awesome. It's kind of those kind of moments though. It was funny, but those are the kind of moments that made me go around and just hate myself.

00;15;19;04 - 00;15;46;11

Right? Can't even do anything. And so we kind of talk about what happened with our situation. The recording, previous interview with a little thing called technology, and me to tell my version of the story. Your version of story, Tell your version my version is that we got we were fortunate enough to get this to have a guest named.

00;15;46;13 - 00;16;10;24

Can I interrupt you real quick now? Tell us the time, not how to build a clock. Go, you son of a bitch. You want me to tell you the time? And so. All right, I'll tell him this. I'm just kidding. No, no, it's okay. I'll tell you the time back in. Back in 1979. Uh huh, yeah. Go on, go on.

00;16;10;26 - 00;16;33;08

Don't worry. It's not like the recording is going. This is going to work. So well, the time and so the clock. Okay, what happened was just. Just fucking shit the bed, like in the bed because we had the best guess. It's all just fall mainly. Maybe like 10% zoom and 9%. Just. Josh, what a nightmare. Yeah, we. It's a Halloween.

00;16;33;08 - 00;16;59;08

It's is a Halloween special. Is that we got here We this I think is a great interview It was great so okay so the short story of it is that Bethany Robinson, who is I believe, one of the owners of JB Salvage, her father started JB Salvage, which is the local I think it's the only salvage yard in town for just like you take junk there to get rid of like metal and stuff like that.

00;16;59;10 - 00;17;24;17

And we had a really fascinating interview with her. Yeah. And then you started looking like you saw a ghost. When did you see the ghost? So I'm going to play a clip because I have a clip of the pre interview of been in. It's me being nervous because Zoom's acting kind of fucking weird. Yeah. And I'm not sure if it's recording and I'll play it here.

00;17;24;17 - 00;17;50;00

I'll just play the clip right now. Just want to. Hello? Just when you find out. Well, what I found out is I don't think we recorded long enough for it to convert to a recording, and it made me really nervous with my computer. Okay, the issues that I'm having today. So I really hope that our interview today is actually being recorded.

00;17;50;02 - 00;18;20;01

Oh, my. It says it's recording. I set it to record to the computer like I always do. I tested my speaker a microphone. I can hear you too. So. So that was kind of foreshadowing there. Yeah, it was kind of kind of foreshadowing. And as it turns out, the only recording that we have is me being nervous about it, not recording and then relieved that it is recording and then it stop recording, right, right after that.

00;18;20;01 - 00;18;50;22

And I spent the entire night after the after hour meeting, not wanting to tell you or anybody about it, just hoping that it would kind of like reappear here. I checked over and over again. I went I checked the following day and, um, yeah, it was gone and it was nowhere. There was just an empty folder of Zoom where usually all the recordings go that was completely empty.

00;18;50;24 - 00;19;20;11

So for the listeners, the kind of the way I perceive my or Josh and his working relationship is that he is as self self described perfectionist about most things really, and like building decks and, you know, making podcasts. So so he does a lot of the the the technical stuff and I'm like and is the classic like big ideas snake oil salesman guy.

00;19;20;16 - 00;19;55;24

And so but we balance each other out, I think, a lot of the time because, you know, because, yeah, because I'm a little reckless and Josh is perfectionist. And so, you know, I'm sure we get each other's nerves, but a lot of the time it just kind of works and works. Yeah. Yeah. But I was wondering when you found out, like, losing a great interview, I would think that on a part, like making a podcast, especially like both because you're on deadline, but also because obviously losing an interview, the recording of an interview is like the worst case scenario in the podcast world.

00;19;55;24 - 00;20;19;16

It's was devastating, you know, because like, it's like gone it, it's like a huge mistake that you can't fix. There's no fixing it. It's just accepting it. How does it feel now that you went through that you hit that We hit bottom with deleted an interview. And I'm actually glad that you asked because I'm I'm still it's still upsetting that we lost that interview.

00;20;19;18 - 00;20;48;02

It was really a good interview. But in a way, I'm glad that it happened. And I'm just curious. I'm not searching for you to give me the right answer. I'm just curious. And do was there any of that sense of like one of the things that I've had to go through a bunch of times is like, actually I got I went to a hypnotherapist and in the spring, I think it was the spring and one of the so she would like make these individualized recordings for me to listen to.

00;20;48;02 - 00;21;12;07

Like when I was going to bed at night, there was sort of for me and I remember where they like I am not a little bit, you may think you're a little bitch, but on the count of three you will sleep soundly and not realize what a little bitch you are until you wake up tomorrow, I'll stop crying and go to sleep.

00;21;12;09 - 01;03;09;17

Stop crying because you're a 52 year old man and you're acting like a little bitch, Idiot, loser, moron. Okay, so anyway, so you can't not accomplishing things being a quote, late bloomer.

Nice try, a little bitch. One of the things I want to go hang another porch swing you think something like that will never happen again, dumb ass?

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;28;14

You think he became somebody different all of a sudden? So let's talk about Rusty. Okay. Because he's our guest. Because he's our guest of the day. Did he have any idea that we were not having band practice when we showed up with a bunch of mikes and broadcasting equipment, usually a text threads before we are going to get together on Friday or such bullshit anyway, that I don't know if he I never know what you know, what's what anybody thinks.

00;00;28;21 - 00;00;59;18

I wonder if this now would be the time to first admit that like when when we that we picture Steve when when one of us cancels practice and calmly sitting in his living room, like next to a fire in his fireplace and he gets a text message saying that that band, we can't practice. Yeah, you just calmly gets up, goes out side, starts sharpening his ax, which is so incommensurate with his personality.

00;00;59;19 - 00;01;25;13

Right. But. But it's a fear. It's a real fear, though. Yeah. From a mine. Well, he I mean, in fairness, he is like when we're together, he's sort of the adult in the room. Absolutely. You know? Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, he. I don't see him getting on a podcast and talking about how he doesn't know how to do stuff.

00;01;25;15 - 00;01;48;05

I think, like, he might be a little ashamed of us for doing that. Yeah, he's probably going to listen to the story of you putting at the porch, and he's going to. He's going to be shaking his head back and forth. Yeah, you know, words. You know, the man he saved the day and quickly, like his stories are super interesting.

00;01;48;07 - 00;02;10;10

And we should also mention that we had like, we went in with a bunch of podcasting equipment. Yeah. But most showed up without our instruments, with a bunch of our guests that we showed up here to his to his woodshop. Yeah. Where we practice most of them. And then when we when we showed up with all the equipment, pretty much only about one thing.

00;02;10;17 - 00;02;32;12

We only got one thing working, which was a mic. But that wouldn't even we couldn't even get it to fit on any of the mic stick. So what you're going to hear is you're listening to this. This interview is a bunch of make noise, and it's because I am holding the mic in my hand that in front of each person's face while they're there talking.

00;02;32;17 - 00;02;58;07

And I did that. We did that for about an hour or so, so much so that the next day my arm was super sore for just holding up the mic for that long. Yeah. So that's how professional we are right

now. Right. And he was just simply drinking his champagne velvet just watched, watching it happen patiently and telling some awesome stories like, Yeah.

00;02;58;07 - 00;03;16;14

And this morning the thing is, like, this morning I had a little a little spat with Eisa because he and his friends, he and his other like 13 year old boyfriends were out in the garage just like, just wreaking havoc just all day long yesterday. They want to build a go kart, you know, they want to build a go kart and the thing is, Ace is way smarter than I am.

00;03;16;14 - 00;03;38;21

So yeah. So it was like I might build, build go kart, you know, and it just got mess out. There is just like, like just spark plugs and screwdrivers and screws. And he spilled like then he started messing with my old moped and some chemicals spilled out. It is just fucking like I came downstairs this morning. The shit is a shit show.

00;03;38;21 - 00;04;01;14

He was. Friends are asleep. There's like, plates of spaghetti on the ground. The entire downstairs of our house smells like gasoline. I go to the garage and it's just insane and it's a mess. And I just realized that, like, that's probably how rusty perceived what we were doing. We were trying to set up the gas and shop. It just.

00;04;01;16 - 00;04;26;12

We're just. It just closed. Really pretty cute watching these boys play around with all these, like, he probably knew exactly how to how to put it all together, you know, as we were like fumbling around. We're like we're like it was like if you can imagine, like a like a race track, you know, like the pit crew know that nobody knows where any of the tires are, really.

00;04;26;12 - 00;04;50;19

But you're acting like we were we were really acting like we really knew. It was like we were like it was like a mob show. It was like, yeah, we were like improvising. There was an improv show where we were pretending like we were real paramedics. It was sort of like, like, you know, like, like the Three Stooges doing surgery or something like that.

00;04;50;22 - 00;05;14;25

I am a fool. Like, I don't know how. Now I'm starting to realize that. How many times that after a thing happens when I'm with other people, that when I leave, they laugh about it? Oh, well, when I do things with other people and I leave, I'm always just like, God, I even. Why did I do that? Why did I say that?

00;05;14;26 - 00;05;50;11

Why did I make that? Whatever? I know I got a real quick tell you because I want to introduce Rusty, but I was recently telling some people about this time in Brownstown, Indiana, where I pulled up this gas station right next to I think it's Brownstown, right next to 65 and pulled up to get gas. I go in and I go in to, like, get like a snack or something while the gas is pumping, which

of course, that you're not supposed to leave the gas pump behind, though this go in, there's these three dudes standing out front, like with polar pops, just big old like middle aged Brownstown do the polar pops.

00;05;50;11 - 00;06;13;17

And they just kind of stare at me and I walk in and I think to myself, those guys, I was like, These guys like, standing in front of a gas station. So I just wanted to along to sit and drink polar opposites from the gas station, right? And I go in, I get my snack, I go back out and I just drive right away, right off with the gas pump still connected.

00;06;13;20 - 00;06;35;04

And it is this all is all watch me drive off with this fucking thing. Just pop out and gas is spilling all over the all of it. I know my credit card is still running and that's that's the second time that it happened, but that's probably why they're standing out there. They're like, Right here. Let's go get a polar bear and watch.

00;06;35;06 - 00;07;14;28

Watch this shit. Right. This idiot from this guy's got Monroe County's from Bloomington. There's a good chance he's going to do some dumb shit for us. He wouldn't do that. So. Rusty. Yeah? Let's get him on here. Just get him on here. Let's do it. All right. To stop. Really? There's a story about levels, you know, check your levels if you want to go to when you go to another piece of gum, will you tell the story about going to a wedding where you were in a tree and you're naked?

00;07;15;00 - 00;07;43;08

You go right for the jugular. And if you don't want to do that stuff, if I only know part of it, the short version, I guess, is that there is this character around town. 20 some years ago, 24 years ago, a Turkish guy named Hakan Stoker, he was a brilliant pianist and was at Jacobs School of Music when I was attending IU.

00;07;43;10 - 00;08;30;27

And there was a group of people that would spend time just, you know, goofing and and I can love to do that. And at that point, he somewhere in there, he ended up getting married and the way they got married was there's intentional Community South, a town called La Florian for this is getting better and better and they I guess rented some space there a group of I don't know there were probably 20 of us I suppose met up down there.

00;08;31;00 - 00;08;59;03

We did a hike through the woods, you know, around that property and there was this clearing that they picked out that had one large tree in the center and then, you know, kind of a forested area around and McCain's plan was he and the bride and the the person marrying them would be in the big tree in the center.

00;08;59;05 - 00;09;37;28

And then everybody else in the wedding party would be in a tree that was in the surrounding forest. It was really cool for the ceremony. Yeah, it's a good idea. But the other part of the plan was that everybody would be completely naked birthday suit. And so that's what we did. So if I'm allowed to or if, if you're allowed to talk about this year on on the Internet, but probably not as I figured that oh man, I'm thinking through the mythology of Rusty Peterson in my head.

00;09;38;00 - 00;10;00;16

But one of the things is when you when your family thought you were abducted by a cult, is that something that you you can talk about or talk about? Yeah, that's not the most exciting story. Oh, okay. Okay. Well, I'm just trying to develop. I mean, I want to hear it. Yeah, but the thing is, I'm built. I'm building a case here.

00;10;00;16 - 00;10;35;03

Like. Like I'm working my way towards why you're fleshing out my character. Yeah. Did they drive by and see you naked at a wedding in a tree? And they're like, He's in a cult. So, yeah, this was between stints in college. I was living back in northern Indiana, and at that point, you know, when I was working in the factory and traveling and I got really interested in yoga and started just doing a lot of yoga and wasn't really sure what I wanted to do with my life.

00;10;35;05 - 00;11;05;17

I like the idea of intentional communities, you know, that was kind of a thing, I think at that point was intriguing. And I knew some people that told me about an intentional community in California in near Santa Cruz that was based around yoga practice. What is an intentional community? I think it's just it's called no, no, I don't know what it means to me.

00;11;05;17 - 00;11;28;10

It's it's basically like when a bunch of people get together around a certain set of principles, whatever it is, and they all like often more by some they'll sell, acquire land and they'll all live there somewhat communally. Is that seem kind of. Yeah. I think there's probably a lot of variation on what it is. But you know, there's, there's definitely a community aspect to it.

00;11;28;10 - 00;11;58;17

Probably, you know, maybe some shared meals and that sort of thing. This one, yeah, there was like a general cafeteria and then various living quarters kind of spread out on this mountainside. It was beautiful, overlooking Santa Cruz. And yeah, I mean, basically it was like I could live there and have to pay to live there. But I worked a certain amount every day, you know, certain responsibilities.

00;11;58;19 - 00;12;26;14

Yeah. You know, when I moved out there, you know, they'd been talking about it for several months before I decided to move out. Their parents never had any issues with it and told me that they had issues with it. But I'm sure in their minds they're like, What the hell is Rusty doing? But anyway, so I moved out there and probably within a week or two of moving out there was when the Heaven's Gate thing happened to you guys remember them?

00;12;26;16 - 00;12;50;18

Absolutely. I don't know if I do or not, actually. Yeah. So I think I believe there were a group that was down near Los Angeles and it was legitimately a cult, you know, and the charismatic leader, they all thought they were going, I think, to, to end up on a spaceship in space. Yeah, I do. I do remember this.

00;12;50;18 - 00;13;12;09

Yeah. And they all committed suicide. And I think they all had the same shoes on. Like, I can't remember what the shoes were, but there's something about them. And so, of course, national news. My parents see that. They say, well, they're like, there's a cult. They just committed a mass suicide in California and Rusty's in California. That thing sounds kind of like a cult, too.

00;13;12;09 - 00;13;30;01

And just kind of, you know, and spun out of did they drive down to try to break out? There were a lot of tense phone calls. You know, that kind of went like you're in a cult. And I would say, no, I'm no, what about me? Sounds like that I'm in a cult. Yeah, well, you wouldn't know it if you recall.

00;13;30;01 - 00;14;02;12

Well, I'm not, you know, So it's like there's this circular arguments and, you know, we wouldn't get anywhere. And and eventually, the way we could go on a big air. But my parents happened to know deprogrammed. She is. Well, yeah. So my aunt, when I was 16, my parents and my uncle and my parents, like, left my brother and I, 16, 17 year olds, which they would never do.

00;14;02;14 - 00;14;28;10

They're like, we got to go to Florida for a couple of days and, uh, rescue your. And she was in a cult. Yeah. So my aunt got involved with a it was kind of a Southern Baptist based cult, but she'd basically she had two kids and, you know, seemed to be heavily married to my uncle. And I was just like, wasn't coming home and like, draining their bank accounts.

00;14;28;13 - 00;14;56;12

And she was with, yeah, this really intense Southern Baptist group and at that time there was my dad was in contact with a lot of Amish and there was a guy who had come into an Amish community near where we lived, and this charismatic guy that somehow got into their Amish bank and basically rubbed the Amish bank God.

00;14;56;14 - 00;15;21;04

And so the the Amish had actually found this D programmer, and they'd come in to, like, work with the community to get out of this mess. So my dad knew about this to programmer guy, and so they talked to him and ended up meeting him in Florida and they kidnaped my aunt and, you know, had this apartment that the four of them were at or five of them were out for.

00;15;21;06 - 00;15;45;06

I think it was like three or four days where, you know, I guess his technique was to just keep like provoking and talking to my aunt, you know, to basically just challenge her, you know, the not the cult leader, but the D programmer. Right. And apparently my aunt was, you know, speaking in tongues and my not acting like man.

00;15;45;07 - 00;16;22;14

Yeah, yeah. And about yeah, several days into it she was in the bathroom. My man's a large woman, but in a few seconds, apparently while she was in the bathroom by herself, she busted out a window and ran to a payphone and called the police on my mom. And had. On your mom and dad? Yeah. And at that point, you know, the D programmers like out of your is gone and police come and arrest my mom, dad, my uncle, and so my aunt's husband.

00;16;22;16 - 00;16;53;02

So my mom's this is my mom's sister and my dad's brother is the husband of my mom's sister. Mm hmm. And he comes and, you know, doesn't present charges. And they release my parents. Your dad's brother is the husband of your mom's sister? That's right. Yeah. So pretty tight. Tight bunch there. And. Yeah. So then, you know, they basically missed their shot and everybody went home.

00;16;53;04 - 00;17;23;17

And what happened with your aunt? Yeah, she ended up coming back and living, you know, with her family, and I think they got past it themselves. But it was always this, you know, big, you know, dark spot for the family. And definitely, I mean, yeah, we weren't extremely religious. I think my mom would have liked for us to attend church more.

00;17;23;20 - 00;17;49;19

Yeah, but definitely my dad and brother and I growing up weren't that interested. And after that it was like there was no talk of church anymore. It was just kind of like, put a chill on all that, which is fine by me. But it also, I think, you know, I gave them a pretty healthy suspicion of cults. So was there like, you know, like Christmas, you know, to get together after that was like, Merry Christmas.

00;17;49;21 - 00;18;10;05

Haven't forgotten. You're in a cult three years ago. I mean, yeah, it just put a big chill on the relationship. Bob Dylan always said he just knew he he knew he wasn't robbers. Ammerman and Hibbing, Minnesota. He just knew that that's not where he belonged. And he was somebody he belongs to. He was somebody else. But like, I know it's not that intense with you.

00;18;10;05 - 00;18;39;01

Like you're you really tightly your family and stuff, but it does seem like you really needed to go explore the world. Like, did you feel that way in high school or did you just kind of figure it out when you went to college that, oh, I want to. Oh, no. Yeah, definitely teenage years. Yeah, it just had this building felt like need to get out and explore and looking back on it, you know, I really appreciate being brought up on a farm.

00;18;39;04 - 00;19;04;16

I hated the work when I was a kid, but I mean, I see the value in it now and I wouldn't want to grow up any other way, I don't think. But yeah, by the time I was a teenager, I couldn't wait to get out, you know? So that really was what? Yeah. Is that common for farm kids too, Like of your generation that they wanted to get off the farm or, or were you a little bit because I know I can go either way I mean yeah but at the end of the day there's just not a lot of them left.

00;19;04;16 - 00;19;26;06

I mean, there's a lot of active farms. Yeah, I got the same, same kind of feeling or sense of view too, because the stories I've learned over the years of like, just like taking off on bikes and going like states through states and then you like, sleep on top of buildings and things like that, like on your truth.

00;19;26;12 - 00;19;51;05

That's not normal behavior for regular. Yeah, yeah, yeah. But enviable. Yeah. Just to wrap up the not that that that story will necessarily make it on here but so as I was having those conversations with my parents while I'm in California and they think I'm in a cult right, then they, they say, Well, we think you should go talk to the D program.

00;19;51;12 - 00;20;05;25

Hmm. I was like, Why am I going to go talk to the program? You know, I don't want to go talk to the program. Why? I mean, if he wants to come to me, I'll talk to him. And I'm not going to pay the money to go talk to a program. Okay? We'll send him up to talk to you.

00;20;05;26 - 00;20;28;14

Fine. All right. I'll talk to the program. And before he made it up there, my dad had a stroke. Oh, my God. And so I packed up and moved back. He was in the hospital for a month and a half, maybe two months. And after that, we just didn't really talk about it. And I didn't even know that your dad had a stroke.

00;20;28;20 - 00;41;30;11

Had for recovery is pretty miraculous. But he was you know, he was in pretty bad shape for a while. It was really interesting for me because I feel like, yeah, we definitely were prone to argue and I felt like he was.

00;00;00;00 - 00;21;12;14

Fairly hot tempered. Mm hmm. After his stroke, he totally mellowed out, like I, like, changed his personality for the better. I think he was still himself, you know? But he. He didn't get worked up like he used to. Do you think it changed, changed his, like, perspective or like, you know, just recovering through it or like, literally kind of changed his brain a little bit?

00;21;12;16 - 00;21;32;05

I've never talked to him about it. It was one or the other. I don't know, maybe a combination, but it's a terrible thing to happen. But I think ultimately, just from observing, I think it's maybe good for him. Yeah, man, that's true.

00;21;32;07 - 00;22;05;29

So this boat. Yes, this boat. So, uh, uh, let's see. I guess. Yeah. I finished my bachelor's degree at IU, and I decided to stay in Bloomington, decided I'd rather be a carpenter than anything I was doing with a degree. So it's kind of just work and jobs and had a lot of freedom. And some of the friends, you know, that go back to the quarries late at night.

00;22;06;02 - 00;22;31;00

Well, one in particular, Greg, where he lived just around the corner from where we're at right now on 11th Street. And and Chris and I both lived right here at that point, too. So we were all kind of right here in this neighborhood where we are right now. Yeah. He he had a plan to build a sailboat in the yard there, which he did, and it was over.

00;22;31;07 - 00;22;53;03

Probably better part of a year, I think maybe even a year and a half. He built this 24 foot long Sharpie style boat, and it's a flat bottom with a keel that swings a the center board. And I'd go over and help him whenever I could. And he just kept chipping away at it and turn out. Yeah. Pretty little boat.

00;22;53;06 - 00;41;34;20

And then was like, well, what he can do.

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;30;01

Greg, You wouldn't take it down Mississippi to New Orleans. I thought that sounds like a good idea. And another friend of ours who had moved out to Bloomington and was living in Maine at the point came back in the time that we could all three actually do the trip ended up being in the middle of winter. So I already was like, the way you said it, maybe you're just in the zone, but you're like, So he builds this boat and he wanted to take it to New Orleans.

00;00;30;02 - 00;00;54;28

I thought that would be a good idea. Lake sounded brilliant to me at the time. We'd we'd done a couple of river trips, those guys and I in the past, nothing that involved. But yeah, it was appealing at the time. Yeah. The trip began with. We had to figure out how to get this boat on Evansville Sing. It's a heavy boat.

00;00;54;28 - 00;01;36;09

I don't know how much it weighed. Is heavy. Greg built this medieval looking car out of wood. He built the wheels out of wood. And with this cradle that he put under the boat and winched it up onto Mark Hagerty's car trailer. And then we strapped it all down. Everything seemed good and got it out on Highway 37, going south, started getting up to speed, got about 40 miles an hour,

and a part of the cradle broke and the boat shifted backwards, which meant it pulled the tongue of the trailer up, which meant it lifted the back of the truck up.

00;01;36;11 - 00;01;57;09

Yeah. And so I remember as I was talking on the phone to my wife now, but girlfriend then Emily, you know, just is very poor. And I was like, Yeah, here we go. We go. And I look at the, the rear window and everything is just like flapping around like, like a big snake behind the truck. This is on 37.

00;01;57;09 - 00;02;21;15

Yeah. Right, right out just off of Vernal Pike. There used to be an exit. I'm just picturing the people, you know, watching this as a driver. Next to you or something or behind you. Right. I was watching that. I would say, What are those fucking idiots doing? Somehow Greg was driving. Somehow he managed to wrest control and get it off to the side of the road.

00;02;21;15 - 00;02;58;22

And we pulled it over into the Wal-Mart parking lot and got it stabilized and limped back up to the neighborhood with their tail between their and rebuilt it and reinforced it all. It took a few days, but we got it pretty solid. And then we took it down to Evansville and put it in. But again, this is beginning of February, So it's it's cold there, you know, or we start going down the Ohio River and, you know, it's snow and some and we took we were we were pretty avid dumpster divers at that point.

00;02;58;22 - 00;03;22;02

So we, you know, gathered a bunch of food and before we left and we had a couple of tall five gallon buckets. And it just so happened that it was perfect diameter to fit pies in, like and there were always pies in the dumpster, you know? Right, Right. And so we had several five gallon buckets for about five bucks to amazing.

00;03;22;05 - 00;03;52;08

We were burning a lot of calories. It was cold as pie buckets didn't last very long. It was freezing your ass off, destroying pies, pretty much. Yeah. We get in a little ways. We're down south of Illinois. There's a big section of shiny national forests along the river there. It's really beautiful. There's not much around there, but we had a day where it was really choppy water, some wind.

00;03;52;11 - 00;04;13;19

It was kind of uncomfortable. So we pulled off in this one town that was there, this little town called Golconda, and just spent the day waiting for the wind to die down. And it did in the evening. And so we had we had running lights. We thought, well, we'll make a little progress, you know, in the evening, cause really kind of pleasant.

00;04;13;21 - 00;04;38;29

And it got dark or motor along and we didn't really think we had to worry about staying in the shipping channel because it was a flat bottomed boat. You know, we only need about, you know,

a foot and a half of water really to move around. But we're going along. I'm down in the little cabin, I'm down in the cabin here, thump, and I look down and there's a little water trickling in.

00;04;39;01 - 00;05;00;18

Now you're up as a, Hey, we're taking on some water. And before too long, no bigger thump and some more water coming in. So it's coming in in the dark on the Mississippi River. Yeah, we're in the winter in February. Yeah, it's the middle of February. Ice cold water pouring in there. And I grab a bucket and I start bailing a pie bucket.

00;05;00;20 - 00;05;27;13

Fortunately, the pie bucket was empty. Yeah. Start bailing. There's another solid crunch and we start moving. And the water just is gushing in. I keep bailing because I don't know what else to do, but I'm obviously not keeping up with it. And this is. Yeah, one of those moments where I think, All right, this is how I die.

00;05;27;15 - 00;05;54;27

And meanwhile, while this is going on, we have a wetsuit and John is putting on the wetsuit at the point where I finally decide this is pointless to keep bailing, I put my head up. John jumps over the side with the wetsuit on and the water comes up to his waist. So yeah, calm down a little bit. Grab anything dry embedding bedding like that.

00;05;54;27 - 00;06;21;04

We can find and jump in the water. It's instantly it's like painful, cold, like icy water and walk into shore. There is nothing around right in the middle of the China National Forest, but there's tons of driftwood. So we build up a big fire and get warmed up and talk about what we're going to do. Greg is for the main builder of the boat.

00;06;21;04 - 00;06;50;23

Greg wants to hike back to that town. We were just there and buy a chainsaw and cut off the river. Really? Yeah. He he was done. But the notion of just giving up at that point to, you know, put all the effort in and we we were just getting started really. I would in those situations, I mean not exactly like that, but it would just be like, why did I make this same mistake again?

00;06;50;26 - 00;07;13;06

Here I am again, I should say that every time I get on a boat, basically. But yeah, so we get warm enough and we're not going to manage well staying out there. And it was probably about we just five miles back to that town. So we get to find the road and we start walking back to that town.

00;07;13;08 - 00;07;44;18

Now, do you have any like at this point, do you have any like dry stuff, like any food or water or anything like that? I think yeah. I think we had water bottles full and we'd gotten dried out and warmed up by that fire. So we were we weren't feeling terribly uncomfortable, just a little bit

brighter, I guess as we're walking down that road, a state trooper comes up and we tell him a sad story and he's like, Get in, I'll give you a ride.

00;07;44;21 - 00;08;13;09

Okay. So he gives us a ride. There's one hotel in town and he goes to this town. You know, it's probably one in the morning, one stoplight town. He's going through like 70 miles an hour, like, whatever. Yeah, this is great. Yeah. Give us a red light and spend a night in the hotel. And next day, John's brother drives down from Saint Louis with some battery powered tools and a handsaw and stuff like that.

00;08;13;09 - 00;08;38;22

And we go back out to the boat, and it just. It was my birthday, actually is February 14th, and it happened to be one of those February days where the sun came out and it was like 60 degrees. It was just like a beautiful day. So we built up this huge driftwood fire and we would take turns going out to the boat and, you know, you could be in the water for like 20 minutes before you're shaking uncontrollably.

00;08;38;22 - 00;08;57;02

You know, we tried hooking ropes up to the mast and pulling the boat over on its side so we could expose the holes. We spent a long time doing that, and it just started popping and cracking like it was going to pull apart. And it was getting late in the day. We were kind of we give up, but we tried one more thing.

00;08;57;02 - 00;09;18;06

We put a couple of large pieces of driftwood and we made like a little frame over the front of the boat and we had this hand powered winch on the front of the boat and we ran rope up to that frame and used the winch to pull the front of the boat up out of the water enough to expose the holes.

00;09;18;09 - 00;09;41;08

And we just used plywood and roofing tar and drywall screws and just slapped patches of and then got the boat floating and we bailed it out. And by the time the sun set, we were drinking beer on the fire and feeling pretty good about it. So amazing. That's amazing. What? Whatever happened to the boat? Well, we took it to New Orleans.

00;09;41;08 - 00;10;10;03

And you continued the trip. Yeah, we spent another probably a month and a half. We finished going down to Ohio and went all the way down to Mississippi and all the way to New Orleans with the patchwork plywood patches held. And that's amazing, isn't it? Is amazing. So you'd say it took like a month and a half. It was probably a better part of two months or until it was like getting to be full on spring by the time you got there.

00;10;10;11 - 00;10;32;02

Yeah. The further south we got on the Mississippi, the warmer it got, the more sickness there was on the boat. It was, Yeah, sickness. Really? Yeah. I mean, you know what? You're basically camping like that. You know, for several months. I mean, you try to be clean, the end up getting kind of sloppy and didn't take much of the river water to cause intestinal distress.

00;10;32;03 - 00;10;44;11

Oh, diarrhea and puking. Yeah.

00;10;44;13 - 00;11;09;24

Sorry. Sorry. If I wasn't clear. Yeah, just stick it right in the pot market. That was really. That's an amazing story. Yeah, I was glad I did it, but I wouldn't do it again. And now a mellencamp moment. What do you think about when I see John Mellencamp haven't crossed paths? I've never even come across him in town.

00;11;09;26 - 00;11;37;22

Yeah, I only have the. The. The story of the only time that I ever saw him is I was walking with a client of mine when I was a caseworker out of a doctor's appointment. And John Mellencamp was standing outside of the building, of course, smoking a cigaret outside of the doctor's office. And I heard another guy walk up to him and go and said, John, do you have a motorcycle?

00;11;37;24 - 00;11;48;02

And John, without even a break, didn't look at the guy at all. Just inhale off a cigaret and he's like, I got 15 of them.

00;11;48;05 - 00;12;09;16

Well, this story, you're so good at that. The way you say that, it's like you can't you have to be from the same region from that guy to do what you do with a I mean, he's from Seymour. I'm from Bedford, right? Yeah, right. Like cross over there. Okay. Kissing cousins. So I, I do have a mellencamp adjacent story.

00;12;09;17 - 00;12;37;28

Yeah, perfect. Back in the day, there was a guy in town. Everybody called him Prank call Paul. I love it already. Well, okay, if. If you don't say the thing, I'm going to ask you if it's the same thing afterwards. Okay, So Branco Paul and this other woman and Emily decided So this was Mellencamp was selling his house.

00;12;37;28 - 00;13;08;02

It was out in 46. I think it'd been his house for quite his first house. Yeah, it was on on. It was just on. The market is listed as the house for sale. Right. And so Paul concocted this story where he was new money, his family had been in some sort of manufacturing business or some I yeah, I can't remember exactly what the company was, but and he was seriously interested in buying Mellencamp's house.

00;13;08;05 - 00;13;37;13

And so they set up an appointment with the realtor and they all get dressed up, ridiculously dressed up bright like dumb, you know, like probably some white patent leather shoes and just, you know, ridiculous, right? It's amazing. And they go to meet the realtor and the realtor picks them up to drive them out to the property. So they've got, you know, a 15 minute car ride where the realtor gets to chat them up about who they are and what they're doing.

00;13;37;16 - 00;14;16;23

Oh, my. And Paul's just making it all up as he goes, right? They get to the property and there's security guards that interrogate the realtor and them about making sure that they're serious buyers. And I don't know how just knowing Paul and imagining how they all appeared, how they pulled it off. But they convinced them, you know, and they ended up, you know, on a you know, like an hour walk through the place, including a sit down at the table with several people to talk about finances and everything else.

00;14;16;26 - 00;14;47;12

But in the midst of this, as they're getting a tour through the house, they're walking by the pool table and Emily pocketed the eight ball from the pool table. Oh, she and that's about the best of that story. That's amazing. Was that what you were thinking of? Well, no. I'm distracted by the fact that then we got one of middle camps balls, But.

00;14;47;15 - 00;15;04;23

So prank call Paul. One of his sticks was that you'd be talking to him and all of a sudden you look down, there would just be a stream of pee coming down his leg, you know, I don't know. But it was just a stick. It's beyond Kirkwood. And he would just be talking to you. And with that, he would keep eye contact with you and you have shorts on there.

00;15;04;23 - 00;15;28;05

Just keep running on his leg. But it wasn't. That's incredible. I think we got some good shit and I'm terrified. Well, it's funny. It's it's been I've really enjoyed it because just as we've known each other for a long time, you know, and we've hung out, I've been playing and music and all these things, so I've heard these stories both times, but they never get old to me.

00;15;28;12 - 00;15;46;20

But it's fun to hear them all in a row. And it just, you know, it's just like, holy shit, that is a good that's a life of full of adventure because. Yeah, I felt the same way about listening to podcasts already. It's like I know a lot of stories you guys have brought up, but yeah, none more of them.

00;15;46;20 - 00;18;40;27

And, and the animal drawn out in full context. I love the story. Hey, thanks to everybody for listening to Bloomington stories. We really, we really, really appreciate everybody who listens and.

00;00;00;00 - 00;00;22;21

Yeah. We were always open to hearing your feedback or just hearing from you. If there's stuff you want and would like. If there are people you'd like us to interview or if or if you have any feedback or whatever, we're always we'd always love to hear from you. We've got Instagram stories, Instagram, Plimpton stories, Facebook. If you're feeling super in love with us, we've got now have support.

00;00;22;21 - 00;00;44;17

Bloomington stories. What is it Josh is like? Is it a link on our on our it'll be on our show notes and I'll put it in a Facebook. But it's it's support Bloomington stories link and it's buy me a coffee basically thing where you you like you can I don't know you can click it you can click as as low as like \$5 or something and yeah, a portion of it goes to us.

00;00;44;17 - 00;01;08;27

But we've made the carbon neutral thing too. So some of it goes there. Yeah, we're trying to, our goal is to retire by 2025. So if we can just get you to support Bloomington stories, just make our dreams come true. What else? Thanks to Bethany Robinson for when I finally told her that we were delighted that we didn't that her recording didn't didn't take she was so she was basically up.

00;01;08;27 - 00;01;28;17

Shit happens and then she was like, one, two. And I was like, You wanna do it again? She's like, Yeah, any time that's get her on here, we'll get her on here. Great stories. Yeah. Do the walk of shame. So it'll be hard to see her after that. And always thanks to Ty Price for giving his feedback about the episodes.

00;01;28;17 - 00;01;53;17

He's kind of our. He's kind of one of our secret weapons, I would say. Yeah, yeah. So follow us and give us some leads. Anything, any suggestions? We are welcome. Elle And please consider rating and review reviewing our podcast and whatever platform that that helps a lot too. So thanks a lot. Yeah. See you next time. Thanks for listening to Bloomington stories.

00;01;53;19 - 00;02;18;24

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00;02;18;26 - 00;02;39;00

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