

Walks of Life by Salvador Valdez

*I love my job. I work on bridges. You never know where the next bridge is going to be, what surrounds it, the view you get, the scenery around it, the height or where you will be staying while you work on it. Sometimes you work on bridges near a city or a small town, but never in a place like this, *The Pennsylvania Wilds*, truly God's Country; bears, bald eagles, deer, bobcats, and elk. No cell phones ringing — you go back in time where you could get lost if you don't want to be found.*

Since mid-July I have stayed at the Quehanna Motor Lodge in a nice cozy room. A place to eat and have a beverage is right around the corner. It is at this bar where I met people from all walks of life. You never know who you are going to meet, workers; locals, bikers, campers, doctors, lawyers, cops and tourists. They all come to enjoy a drink and/or a bite to eat.

Never in my life would I have thought I would meet the coolest, most friendly and hospitable and unforgettable people at a bar. I have met and made many new friends. These people have taken me in as one of their own and made me feel welcome in my new home here in God's Country.

Home is what you make of it. I love it here. It's a nice quiet place, a great place to bring up a family. I miss my family, my house, my home, and my pets all who are back home in Corpus Cristi, Texas. The consolation I have in working so far away from my family for such extended periods of time is that I am surrounded by wonderful people, those I work with and those I have met in this area. When my job here is completed and I return to my family and my home I will truly miss my new friends, but I will get to take wonderful memories and pictures home with me.

I take great pride in the work we did on the bridges in and around Karthuas and Central Pennsylvania. All corrosion has been removed and the bridge in Karthaus has been repainted with high tech paints. I can confidently say your bridges are safe for many years to come.

Next year, who knows where my walks of life will take me, where I will stay or what bridges I will be working on. One thing is for sure for me, it will be in PA and with the same group of guys as this year.

With today's technologies and high speed communication it will be easy to keep in touch with my new friends from God's County.

God Bless.

*Salvador Valdez
Corpus Cristi, TX*