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BAGGAGE WOES

No doubt you've heard recent news stories about the increase in lost and damaged baggage at airports; unfortunately, this problem is expected to continue.

What can travelers do to avoid these woes?

"Take a road trip. Discover America and rediscover the joys of the journey," says Thomas Repp, Executive Editor of *American Road* magazine. *American Road* is a quarterly publication dedicated to exploring the joys of America's two-lane thoroughfares.

Some would argue that now is not the time to take a road trip, due to higher fuel prices. To those penny wise and pound foolish travelers Repp would reply, "A plane ticket would have cost me fifty dollars more than my road trip and then I would have needed to rent a car on top of that. More to the point for travelers, I would have missed the priceless opportunity to see some of the great places that our nation has to offer."

Repp's wife, Becky, says travel puts a smile on their faces that lasts for weeks.

Mr. Repp, says "There is nothing like the feeling of driving America's back roads. Time slows and stress slips away." Truly a precious experience in a pressured society.

However, when the Repps do travel via air, they suggest a few strategies that might help you minimize baggage loss or damage:

- 1) Travel light and only take a carry on. When that's not possible, make sure that anything valuable is in the carry on—not in any luggage that is going to be checked.
- 2) Keep luggage to be checked unlocked to avoid the likelihood of having the lock cut.
- 3) Avoid using a black suitcase. Pick out another color—it will be easier to spot in the sea of black bags circling in the baggage claim area. When that hasn't been possible, the Repps have utilized another means to identify their luggage (e.g. a Route 66 bandana tied to the handle).

*For more information about *American Road* magazine visit americanroadmagazine.com or call toll free: 1-877-285-5434. If you would like to arrange an interview with one of our staff, please contact Becky Repp at becky@mockturtlepress.com, toll-free at 1-877-285-5434 or via cell phone at 206-369-5782.