



# My Work Day

An autobiography

## WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

On outline of my work day and just a little about who I am and why I suck.

Michael Collins

## My Work Day

I get out of bed at 4 am. I say get out of bed and not wake up because I don't really sleep, that is I don't sleep well. I sleep for an hour wake and lay there for about twenty minutes then sleep an hour and repeat until about 3 am when I end up laying there staring at the clock until I give up and get out of bed. I don't remember the last time I slept more than four hours in a row. Something in the back of my head says, "*your sleeping your life away.*" I spend the hour before I get out of bed thinking about the day and what I know about what's happening and what might happen on my route and after. I live in dread of the day, and I don't want to get out of bed.

I do get out of bed because no one is going to pay me to live and many people are waiting for their stuff. I deliver packages for a company as an independent contractor, but more on that later. I gather my clothes and go to the bathroom. I start the lather heater and do that thing everyone does while it heats up. I shave and shower completing the three Ss and get dressed. Every morning I look in the mirror and recognize the man staring back a little less. I'm not handsome nor am I cute. I did have a boyish look to me, but that went away ten to fifteen years ago leaving what could be best called a fat, awkward place holder where a person should be. I would say awkward is the best description, but more on that later.

Let me apologize now for all the "I" I'm using, but I just don't see a way to do this without saying "I." By this time it's about 4:25 or so. I make the coffee and gather my Every Day Carry or EDC stuff including my cell phone which is the most important part of my day and no I don't mean for social media or games but more on that later. The next part depends on the day of the week and what the weather is doing. On Monday the trash goes down to the curb. When it snows at night, I clean off the deck and the driveway. On cold days the car needs to warm-up. Before I go, I check the tires and the washer fluid. I clean out the car straightening the blanket in the back as well as the cords for my GPS, phone, and iPod.

When the car is ready, I pull out of the garage close the door that is I wait to see if the door closes. When it does, I pull out of the driveway and out onto the street. A left then a right then another left and a right I pull out onto a street by Springfield high school and down to State Route 91 A.K.A. Canton road. About 4:40 to 4:45 I stop at Speedway and pump gas topping off the tank. I start every day with a full tank. I also buy two to three bottles of Cherry Coke Zero and depending on the day I buy something to eat such as mini donuts or a honey bun. From there I go down 224 to Portage County line and drive down into Mogadore. A left turn near their high school and a right onto Gilcrest leads me to the warehouse. On the drive in I listen to The Talk of Akron WNIR. Before 5:30 they play this conservative talk-show ran by Mike Gallagher, and he is just angry about everything. I thought it was just the young that get offended as much as he does, but he's funny, self-deprecating and they also play the local news on his breaks, so I keep the station on. The parking lot is hit or miss on how much snow is cleaned off.

The next part depends on what day it is and what's happening inside. On Monday and every day at Christmas time we are busy, and I usually help the sorters sort the packages. One person scans and tags the package with a bar code and a number which coordinates with a pallet. I deliver to Medina, Ohio which is number 46a. On Tuesday we also have a busy day being what I call my Blue Apron day with more food packages then all the other days combined. I get there at 5 am, and while I'm not the first driver there, I am the first for our part of the business. I can't stand to just stand around and watch people work especially if this involves something tied to my work so I help when I can. The next step is to use my phone to scan my packages. The sorter sort mail bags after they do our packages and until they are at least halfway done I can't pull my car into the warehouse. Sometimes I can stop and get the car. The longer the wait, the bigger the chance there will be more drivers either waiting or pulling in despite the sorters not being ready.

When the packages are scanned, I upload the file and get the manifest. The manifest is set up to a route. I have done Medina for a little bit now, so I know my route and can give them starting and stopping points based on the packages. My goal is to start around Medina Road (18) and end on a road that would take me to SR224. My route covers anything with the city name of Medina covering most of the county. I once calculated that I average 10 packages every hour and

fifteen minutes, so on a day with forty packages, I'll have five hours of delivery time plus an hour for the drive there and back. If the trip goes past 2pm like on those days I have more than one trip, then I add an hour for the traffic. Some days end at around 10 am while others take 14+ hours. I pack the car numbering the packages by the manifest then packing them in the car the best that I can to maximize the space and number of packages that will fit. On days other than Monday and Tuesday I can usually get all of them in without any problem. The biggest problem is Walmart and heir small packages that take up almost the entire back of the car. When the car is packed I leave the warehouse and pull out into the parking lot where I add the stops into my GPS changing where I see a better way to go. I also take this time to check stops the system don't seem to know or for business hours for the rare business drop.

The drive out is Flipping crazy with most people seemingly trying to commit suicide by car in their daily commute to work. 77 north with all the construction becomes the set of Fast and Furious with everyone Tokyo drifting and weaving back and forth from lane to lane. 65 becomes whatever speed you can achieve no matter what the weather. On the last part of my trip out there, I do exit 137b crossing over the end of 21. This is where four lanes become two or what is commonly known as a bottleneck and snarled traffic. I find the earlier I get out there, the less of a problem it is. The exit enters 18 Medina road that leads me to my first stop.

I find the stop and pull into the driveway. When I can, I don't pull in, but on the busy roads, there is no choice. I mark the time on the manifest as well as FD for Front Door, SD for Side Door and so on. My usual first start is at 6:30 to 7:00 am which means in winter it's dark. I carry a flashlight, and the company's app uses the flash on the phone. I find the package on the phone and using the app I place the package, note what door and take a photo of the package at the door. In the dark those pictures suck. The app doesn't allow the flash to work or that just might be my phone's issue. I don't know. When it's raining I and not in a covered area, I bag the package. The company provides bags, but they suck so I buy my own. Usually blue recycle bags from Walmart. When complete I check the manifest then my GPS and go to the next stop. I plan my route around necessities such as bathrooms and food.

What I usually don't see or plan for are the people. Outside of two people with guns I have never met a nasty or mean person in Medina. Well, maybe one or two but the majority are nice and what do they get for their trouble. My awkward, don't know what to say self. I don't know how many times I've left a stop wondering why I just said what I said and thinking, "*yeah they probably think I'm nuts.*" On my best days, I'm awkward and hard to follow, and there aren't that many best days. I spend my days playing my iPod listening to music, audiobooks, and podcasts. The music is a mix of Motown, 60's to 70's rock and other family-friendly selections. My goal is to listen to music I like while not playing anything that would offend people.

No profanity, heavy metal or Rap. I do listen to those kinds of music, just not while working. The same thing with the audiobooks. Most are history books or autobiographies read by the author, such as *If Chins Could Kill* by Bruce Campbell or *It Takes Two* by the Property Brothers. I also have Anna Kendrick's book, and *You're Never Weird on the Internet (Almost)* by Felicia Day. Most of the history books are on American History, and most of them set around the civil war. The only podcast I listen to is ID10T, but that one can be problematic with Chris Hardwick dropping the "F" bomb a lot.

Sometimes I turn off the radio and just listen to silence while I think about my crappy writing. I write in my head as I drive around trying to remember plot ideas so when I get home, I can type them down into a story format. I would say 70% of all my stories come from driving around. The longer the drive, the less of a chance I'll be able to remember ideas that just sounded so good on the road.

When I make my last stop, I check the phone to make sure it sent all the information. If not, then I usually exit the app and start it back up but usually, nothing goes wrong, and there are no more packages back at the warehouse then I'm finished with my day. That is my work day. The first thing I do is call home and see if we need anything from the store. I also check on the

idea of stopping for lunch. Our usual lunch is the two-whopper deal from Burger King but sometimes its Taco Bell or a whole chicken from Giant Eagle. If I need to stop for groceries then its either Acme, Giant Eagle or Save-A-Lot. From there I go home. I get the mail, put the trashcan back up next to the garage on Mondays, put the car away and take anything inside that goes inside.

Inside I do anything I need to do such as laundry although I try and do that on the weekends. Then I sit down with my laptop and check email, then Twitter. I only Tweet on my laptop with my phone being only for work. While I do this, I have the TV on with the Roku on YouTube. I watch for new stuff from such channels as City Steading, Tim Pool, Collider, and other content providers. When all that is done, I shut everything off and do a little typing. My goal is to finish anything I'm typing by 5 pm so I can edit and post by 6 pm. I also type a daily message and post that when done. This includes fixing dinner which can be as simple as burgers to complicated dinners with the instant pot and five or more sides.

After dinner, I either keep working on the stories or shut everything down and watch TV until it's time to go to bed around 9:30 where I lye back and try to sleep. What usually happens is I type until my eyes hurt from staring at the laptop. This is what my usual weekdays are like. Not many changes from day-to-day with most of the changes being around how many packages there are and just how long it takes to get the day started. This also includes my hyper anxiety and how much I worry about my stops and having to talk to people. Even typing this is making me rethink about posting it, but when all is said and done this is who I am and trying to do anything else wouldn't be me. I did leave somethings out. Most of those things involve other people who don't deserve to have me talk (type) about them without their approval. This is my story and how I see it.