

It's a Small World

Alaska

In 2009 and 2010 I worked in Ketchikan, Alaska during the summer. The first summer I was a bus driver for Alaska Coach Tours and the second summer I worked for Alaska Canopy Adventures and Alaska Rainforest Sanctuary as a driver and walking tour guide.

One of the zipline guides was a young lady who drove her Sprinter van up and was living in it on the property. It had Florida plates so one evening we started talking about where in Florida she was from. She said she was from Orlando and I said my sister lived in Lakeland and I said she was big into water skiing there.

This young gal, Kalie, said her dad had lived in Lakeland and was a skier. She also said he had been into boat racing. I said that my sister's husband had been a mechanic for hydroplane racers in Lakeland.

Now Kalie looked like she was maybe mixed Asian/Anglo, so I asked what her dad looked like back then. She said he was a little Asian dude with long hair. I asked, "Did he have an Irish Setter?" Her eyes got big and she said, "Yes! Casey!" I said I think he got that dog from my sister and her husband.

By the next morning we each confirmed it: I had met her dad a couple times in Lakeland, FL at my sister's house 35 years before. 35 years!

They had given her dad, Kenny, the dog because they weren't taking the time to groom her like she needed to be groomed. The next time I saw the dog, he had her looking spectacularly. Kalie said he had Casey before he met her mom and when they got married, Casey was in the wedding. He was by far her dad's prized possession.