

Big Easy Blues

We just don't travel in the summer. It's hot, and I don't do well in the heat. I am not like most Southern girls, they glisten, I sweat. I get mean and hateful and my husband just does not travel with me in the hot summertime.

All that taken into consideration, we decided to take a trip to New Orleans several years ago in the middle of July. I don't know why, he knew my personality at that time of year, but we went anyway.

My husband is a well traveled person and really never ever gets lost traveling, when he's by himself. But, with an inexperienced navigator at the stern, well?? We were traveling in my little black Lincoln. It was really too small for his big frame, but it just fit me. Of course, he was driving. He thinks I go too slow, too fast, tailgate other cars, so forth and so forth. Not much conversation on the way down except for the usual road rage brought on by crazy drivers and the HEAT!

We stopped just before we crossed the Louisiana line and ate lunch, in the car, from a drive through. We couldn't be late. They were only holding our hotel room until midnight????? Actually, the chicken salad I ate, was really good.

As we crossed Lake Pontchartrain I could see his knuckles begin to turn white and his mouth draw up in a tight line. I knew he was preparing for the heavy traffic ahead. Now when we travel, I am the navigator. I don't like being the navigator. I like to read, sleep, or just, I guess daydream. I don't pay too much attention to the road. But I am always the official person to make sure we get to our final destination. As we are speeding down the four lane highway, he says to me, "Remember and pay attention we have to turn off on exit B at the 146 mile marker." Exit B? Exit B? Oh my gosh we passed that five or six miles back. I took a deep breath and told him we had missed it.

Whiter knuckles and tighter mouth line as he growled at me. "Well, is that not great? How do you expect me to cross over four lanes of traffic and turn around? Can't you read a road map?" Sure I could read a road map. I was just trying to file that hangnail real quick. Must have missed it.

The next road sign we see - "Slidell 33 miles." Oh Boy. I am so so quiet.

So, without the skill of An-

dretti, he starts moving into the far right lane to turn off the busy freeway. He's nearly hit or nearly got hit two or three times, so I just close my eyes, put the road map over my face and PRAY!!

We actually have to go on into Slidell to make our turn around. The sun is beginning to set in the west and twilight is seeping in. Now, I say we are totally lost and will never find the French Quarter." He says "Read the MAP!" I don't know where in the heck we are? I know we are in a part of town that I

don't want darkness to fall on me. There are people with brown bags sitting on the streets, guess public drinking is okay here. I tell him to look and just about the time his eyes leave the street a shabbily dressed man walks in front of our car and pops the hood for my husband to stop, we missed a stop sign and nearly ran him over. Then we are rewarded with a hand gesture not becoming a gentlemen.

What is it about men? They will not stop and ask directions! I keep begging him to stop and he keeps saying, "Read THE MAP." Map? I have a map of the highways we are traveling, not downtown Slidell. I finally say, "If you will stop at that convenience store, I'll go in and ask directions." He informs me that if it will please me he'll go.

He tells me," Keep the car running and lock the doors. You could be molested, killed or worse down here." What in the world would be worse?

He runs back out in about 2 or 3 minutes with a big brown bag. I ask him what's in the bag and he tells me to never mind. Don't ever tell me that. I open the bag and look inside. Well, it's a red feather boa. "A feather boa?" I asked confused. He tells me, "The man inside was Andre' the Giant's brother, with a patch over one eye, and when I asked directions he said, 'follow your road signs buddy and what you want?' I was afraid he meant for me to buy something and that was the first thing I saw."

Well, to make a long story short, which I will finish later on, we found the Yellow Cab Company. WE HIRED A YELLOW CAB to take us or rather lead us back into New Orleans and down into the French Quarter.

I don't know how much he had to pay the cab, I would never ask. He just told me as he got back into the car,



Peggy's Take

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Promotes American Leadership in Space 50 Years Post-Apollo 11

The Moon Landing Continues to Inspire

In 1961, when President John F. Kennedy challenged the United States to go to the Moon within the decade, it seemed impossible. After all, some people at the time could still remember the Wright brothers' flight from one

"You do not tell anybody about this. Do you hear me?" Sure, I heard him. I could not wait to get somewhere private so that I could call all my family, my friends, his friends and maybe his employees about our trip to New Orleans on a hot day in July.

Chicken Salad

4 deboned chicken breasts cooked and chopped
1 cup sliced green grapes
½ raisins and ½ cup pecans
½ cup chopped celery
1 teaspoon curry powder
1 cup mayonnaise
salt and pepper to taste

** Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

sand dune to another at Kitty Hawk, and America's young space program was thought to be well behind that of the Soviets. But, in eight years, this country planted the Star-Spangled Banner on the lunar surface, where it remains today.

I was in my dormitory at Ole Miss on July 20, 1969, when I joined 600 million people around the world in celebrating this giant leap for mankind. Those of us who were alive then will always remember that moment. We do not know what historians centuries from now will remember about this era, but it is a safe bet that the Moon landing fifty years ago will never be forgotten.

America's Investment Paid Off

President Kennedy's challenge was a national call to action, and Mississippians were among the first to answer. The Saturn V rocket used for the Apollo Program

was tested at Stennis Space Center – then called the Mississippi Test Facility. In the nearly 58 years since the center's opening, from Apollo to the Space Shuttle Program, no Stennis-tested engine has ever failed a NASA mission. As Werhner von Braun, the leader of the United States' early space efforts, said, "I don't know yet what method we will use to get to the Moon, but I do know that we have to go through Mississippi to get there."

America did not go to the Moon just to beat the Soviet Union in the space race or because of President Kennedy's charge. We came in peace for all mankind to advance scientific, intellectual, and commercial progress. Technologies behind CT scans, intensive care monitoring equipment, GPS, and smart phones all have their origins in Apollo. The global commercial space sector alone, now valued at \$400 billion, is expected to grow to nearly \$3 trillion over the next two decades. The writers at Newsweek correctly called the moonshot "the best return on investment since Leonardo da Vinci bought himself a sketch pad."

The New Space Race

Throughout history, men and women have looked up to the night sky and seen their

heroes in the stars. We do the same today, but our heroes are not mythological. They are astronauts with names like Neil, Buzz, and Michael, who mapped new frontiers, and mathematicians like Katherine Johnson, who plotted the paths of the first space flights. These role models continue to inspire.

The United States is entering a new space race in the 21st century, and it is vital that we maintain our leadership to continue reaping rewards. As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee – which oversees NASA – I have outlined three clear priorities for the agency: first, the United States should remain the partner of choice for all spacefaring nations, second, this country ought to be the most attractive place in the world for new space companies, and third, America needs to stay ahead of rising space powers.

Our country faces growing challenges today. Under my leadership, the committee is working on a bipartisan NASA Reauthorization bill to accomplish these goals. The model of Apollo 11 and the missions that came before and after show our common purpose and potential. The Moon landing was not the close of a new age of discovery; it was the start.

ABSENTEE VOTERS for the Democratic & Republican Primary Elections August 6, 2019

The Circuit Clerk's Office will have extended office hours for qualified Absentee Voters, to-wit:

**Monday thru Friday
from 8 A.M. until 7 P.M.
and**

**Saturday, July 20, 2019 and July 27, 2019
from 8 A.M. until 12 Noon**

REMEMBER:

The Deadline for all qualified electors to cast
an absentee ballot will be
Saturday, August 3, 2019 @ 12 Noon

**SUBMITTED BY:
Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk**