

THE POSTSCRIPT

Room for more

By **CARRIE CLASSON**
Columnist

My husband, Peter, and I were traveling in Mexico when we suddenly found ourselves without a place to stay.

Over the years, all our accommodations while traveling have been quirky in one way or another, but they have all been pretty much what we were expecting, and we've never had any insurmountable problems.

This week, we encountered insurmountable problems.

When we arrived at the airport, the caretaker stood us up. That was not a good sign. We found other transportation and, when we finally found the caretaker, we were glad he had not come, as he was in no condition to drive and the car he would have driven didn't look much better.

Things got worse from there.

We were going to have guests join us, and the guesthouse was supposed to have two bathrooms. There was just one and it was filthy, along with the rest of the house. There were junked vehicles piled around the property, windows were broken, and everything was covered with a thick coat of dust.

"We can't stay here a month!" I said to Peter.

"We can't stay here at all!" Peter answered. I was relieved we were obviously on the same page.

"I want to go back to San Miguel!" Peter said before I had a chance to.

We had just left San Miguel de Allende, which we loved. But finding a place to stay—anywhere—was not going to be easy with universities on break and people finally taking vacations. Then I remembered how helpful the residents of San Miguel had been. I asked for help on their Facebook page.

Literally within minutes, a

man named Jorge said he had a one-bedroom apartment in a hotel with a fully equipped kitchen. "I am the owner," he said. He gave the address. It couldn't have been in a better location.

"This is going to be expensive," I thought. "How much for an extended stay?" I asked.

"30 dollars per day," he answered. "Housekeeping included."

"Well, that's not gonna be any good!" I said to Peter.

"It will give us a place to land and we can look for something better," Peter said.

We hustled out of town, sending a note to the absentee landlord in Europe, telling her we would be pursuing a refund. "And we'll get it!" Peter told me, in a tone that he reserves for the rare instances when he gets seriously angry.

Late that evening we showed up at "Casa de Los Soles," which means "House of the Suns," and Jorge was sitting at the front desk. "You must be Carrie!" he said, and I got a very good feeling.

He showed us the immaculately clean apartment. There was a bedroom with a balcony, and a rooftop terrace, and a place for me to write, and a fully equipped kitchen, and sunshine pouring into every room.

Best of all, there were suns everywhere. Smiling ceramic depictions of the sun in every color and style imaginable covered the three-story-high walls of the courtyard and the lobby and the stairs leading to our apartment. Every brick and stucco wall was covered in smiling sunny faces.

"How many are there?" I asked Jorge after he had shown us the apartment and after I had almost burst into tears at how comfortable and clean and charming it was.

"2,504," Jorge answered.

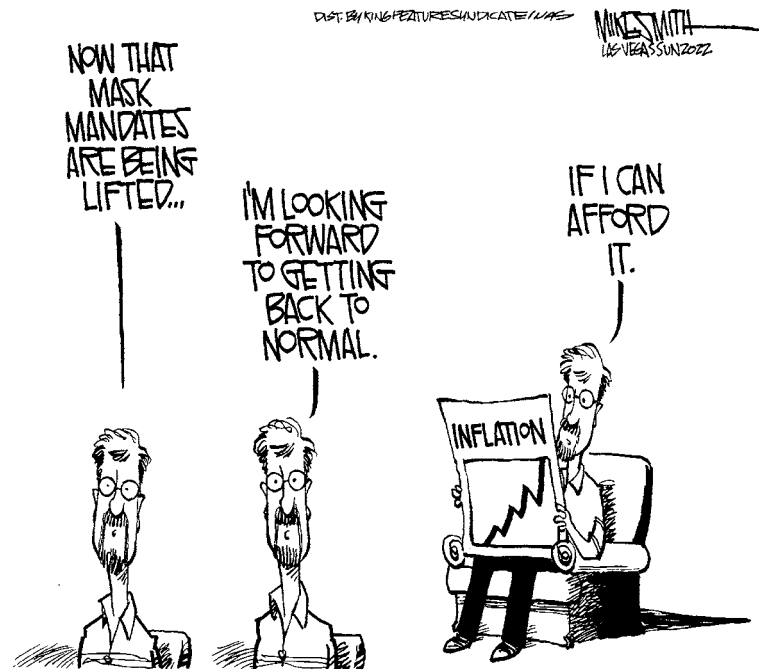
"Really!" I said, in amazement.

"But next week, I will get more," he added.

I couldn't imagine how there could be room for one more smiling face. But I knew Jorge would somehow manage to find room for more.

Till next time,
Carrie

Carrie Classon's memoir is called "Blue Yarn." Learn more at CarrieClasson.com.



By **LORAN SMITH**
Columnist

Mark Twain's time, 1835-1910, was a different time. People didn't need to lock their doors. Politicians, even back then, got the back of the hand treatment. Travel by railroad was the ultimate adventure. Everybody had a garden. Reading, writing, arithmetic and the hickory stick were staples of a society where a good name was preferred over great riches. When it came to extending a helping hand, the poor pitched in.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, Twain's birth name, lived through the Civil War. He lived to see all the original 48 states, except New Mexico and Arizona, admitted into the union. He enjoyed train travel and experienced movies created by Thomas Edison and the Wild West Show of Buffalo



The wisdom of Mark Twain

Bill Cody. William Faulkner said Twain was "the father of American literature." He gave us the "Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and the "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Less celebrated, but financially rewarding was, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." His writings and lectures brought him a lot of money which he lost by making bad investments.

With the help of Henry Hutcheson Rogers, an industrialist and philanthropist, he regained solvency after declaring bankruptcy. While bankruptcy did not require him to pay back his creditors, Twain chose to do so. Perhaps, that tells you more about him than his literary achievement and sage wit.

He was a writer, lecturer and humorist who once said, "No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot."

His commentary back then would resonate if he were living, writing and lecturing today. His insightful commentary and his sharp wit would make headlines just as they did in his prime years more than a hundred years ago.

Recently, I allowed Mr. Goo-

Back in the Day

100 Years Ago This Week
No Newspaper on file for this week

85 Years Ago This Week
Miss Emily Mathews Green, Washington's assistant postmaster and a member of a prominent family, died early Friday after an 18-day illness. She died at her home on Robert Toombs Avenue.

The Grand Jury appointed Mr. C.D. Bolton to serve a term of four years on the Board of Education, succeeding himself.

The Wilkes County Board of Commissioners reports total expenditures of \$42,982.68 for six months ending December 31, 1936.

Cordial interest is centered

in the announcement made by Mrs. R. Motte Smith of the engagement of her granddaughter, Lillian McCleaky Smith, to Mr. Enoch Bel Garrett, the marriage is to occur at the home of Mrs. Smith April 27.

75 Years Ago This Week
Work will begin next week on a beautiful new bus station at the corner of West Robert Toombs Avenue and Allision Street. This new facility will be a credit to the town and county. Work has already begun on another building located on the Nash property adjacent to the bus station site. It will be of brick and block construction, 40x100 feet, and will house the Buick agency of Mr. R.C. Nash.

The death of Mrs. Reba Irvin Gabbett has brough widespread

sorrow to the entire community. Services were conducted from, the Irvin home on Wednesday by Rev. H.C. Emory.

Rogers Stores is offering grapefruit at two for 10 cents; cabbage, 2 pounds for 9 cents; lemons, 31 cents per dozen; Lifebuoy soap 2 bars for 11 cents; 10 pounds of potatoes, 57 cents; and 5 pounds of oranges, 27 cents.

50 Years Ago This Week
Wilkes County is among 37 Georgia counties which have exceeded their 1972 Heart Fund goals. Under the leadership of Mrs. Addison W. Simpson, the county has reached 130.6 percent of goal, placing Wilkes' 12th in the state.

Army Sergeant Lonnie T. Mines, son of Mrs. Mattie I. Mines of Washington, recently received the Army Commendation Medal near Saigon Vietnam.

Mr. Ralph J. Lever resigned as pastor of the Tignall Baptist Church effective April 9. He has accepted a call from the First Baptist Church of Leesville, S.C.

The Wilkes County Health Department has announced that 11 food service establishments in the county hold valid permits to operate a food service facility. They are, Booth's Country Kitchen, Busy Bee Café, Tastee-Freeze, Washington Central School Cafeteria, Washington Primary School Cafeteria, Washington-Wilkes High School Cafeteria, Wills Memorial Hospital Cafeteria, Red's Grill, Jackson's Grill, Rayle Dairy Bar and Kid-die Korner Day Nursery.

25 Years Ago This Week
After an unexpected delay of several months, the previously announced air taxi and charter flight service based in Washington-Wilkes Airport is officially off the ground.

Most of the 32 members of the Washington Fire Department were present Monday night, March 10, when Fire Chief Alan Poss presented the department's personnel to the Mayor and

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Eighth week of session with the Georgia General Assembly

By **Rep. Trey Rhodes**
Georgia House District 120

(Trey Rhodes serves as chairman of the House of Representatives Game, Fish, and Parks Committee and is a member of the Banks and Banking, Economic Development and Tourism, Special Rules, and Ways and Means committees.)



The Georgia House of Representatives reconvened for another impactful week of legislating on Monday, February 28. The House had a full schedule all week, and we are counting down the days until Crossover Day, which is the last legislative day that a bill can pass out of one chamber and still be eligible for consideration this year. As such, we worked diligently to pass dozens of bills on the House floor in preparation for this critical deadline.

On Legislative Day 22, my colleagues and I passed historic tax relief legislation that would help millions of hardworking Georgians in our state. Our state's economy has

bounced backed exponentially over the last year, resulting in an unprecedented budget surplus of \$1.6 billion in undesignated funds. To that end, House Bill 1302 would fulfill the governor's plan to give these funds back to Georgia taxpayers. This legislation would provide a one-time tax credit for eligible Georgia taxpayers who filed income tax returns in both 2020 and 2021. Based on their 2020 tax filer status, single tax filers would receive a \$250 refund, head-of-household filers would receive \$375, and those who file jointly would receive a \$500 refund.

The House unanimously passed another bill to keep more hard earned dollars in the pockets of Georgians and reinforce our standing as a military-friendly state. House Bill 1064 would exempt up to \$17,500 in military retirement income from state income taxes for retired service members under 62 years old. If a military retiree continues to work and earns at least \$17,500, the retiree would be eligible for an additional exemption up to \$17,500 in state income taxes for a total exemption of \$35,000. If HB 1064 is passed and signed into law, it would become effective on July 1, 2022, and subsequently applicable to all taxable years starting January 1, 2022. We are honored that so many U.S. military retirees have already chosen to call Georgia home, and this

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