

1/9/07

Dear Roy,

I just thought after looking at the end of my last letter --- Red Tide. I wonder if there is a connection with that and the Crimson Tide --- University of Alabama. I won't pursue that.

By the way, you can wait for the letters I produce at the end of March and into April. We are going with a group of about 11 Maryknoll Lay Missioners to Cambodia. ( You just said no to Sri Lanka! ) I don't expect we will be photographed with Norodom Sihanouk. Besides his son is now king -- Norodom Sihamoni as of Oct. 2004. Papa Norodom holds the Guinness Book of Records position for the person who has held the greatest number of ruling positions in a government -- 9 or 10 --- dating back to 1941.

1-14-07

I'm ready for bed. I just sent a letter off to the editorial page of the Minneapolis Tribune. It is snowing outside for the first time this winter!! Tomorrow, I have the day off and will have to start by shoveling. Wrong!!! -- I have a snow plow that I haven't started since last year. We went to the Minnesota Science Museum. Wow that place is busy and lots and lots of neat stuff. I will continue my Florida writing in the morning.

I am glad you got the Smithsonian. Hope you are still getting the National Geographic too. Have to keep you in reading material. ☺☺☺

1-15-07

Hi. Well the day light is settling in the west. We got what looks to be between 3 and 4 inches. I started to shovel it, but went to the snow blower. No sense in all that pushing. Fixed the drip in the bathroom faucet. It was not like the old days. The faucet stems even got to be high tech --- or at least different that the 50, 60, 70s.

Florida 12-26-06

Well, after leaving the estuary research center, we went to a place -- Papa Joe's -- to try oysters. It was on our walk back to the Bryant House. Well, I guess they had closed for a week (maybe two before Christmas) and they had not received a new supply of oysters. So scratch that idea. I had shrimp. Not too bad.

Now Wednesday. Our bed and breakfast host was Bridget who had been born in Germany. Dusseldorf. Her husband, Ken, was from Wisconsin. He had a job in a company in Tallahassee and was gone till about Friday. On Wednesday morning, we had a nice breakfast with Bridget and Lisa -- a friend of Bridget from Germany. Her accent was much better than Bridget. She lived in Michigan for years and was just visiting.

The guest house, by the way, was built by a black man whose last name was Bryant. Here is a shot of it that I took one evening. This was a corner house and the porch



wrapped around to the right side as show here. Usually, their parrot, Einstein, sat in his cage on the corner of the porch.

inside the house was loaded with antiques. I agree they were pretty awesome. One document under glass in our room related to some activity of George II of England. A pair of antique candles and floor-height candlesticks in one parlor we price-tagged at \$20,000 each. Over-priced? They were ornate. Just not in demand. Here is a picture of that parlor containing a very pretty Christmas tree. However, a lot of the antiques just reminded me of items we saw a home. The curtains in our room we “professionally hung”. There was a notice that said we should not fool with them. The notice warned that the charge to rehang them was

Candle



\$100. Here is a shot of our room and the drapes. There was a bathroom with shower to the left.



O yes. This was the first house I had ever seen with wood walls. I know there was no insulation. But normally, I would expect sheetrock or plaster. The walls throughout the house were painted wood boards about 3 inches wide. The owner explained the reason they built things with wood. However, it was a painting pain I guess. The interior walls would start chipping

in a few years (5 years). Since they were planning on selling, they had painting planned after we left to go on for two weeks or so.



Another item that I thought you might like to see is Einstein. Einstein was the pet of the man and woman who ran the B&B. He stayed out in pretty cold weather, but was taken in when temps dropped below 40 degrees. Einstein was the pet of the man and woman who ran the B&B. He stayed out in pretty cold weather, but was taken in when temps dropped below 40 degrees.

His favorite meal was fingers so we did not get too friendly. His

favorite word was “Goodbye”. We heard say it several times during the stay in Apalachicola. However, when we left Sunday along with the other couple who had been in the B&B, he erupted in “Goodbye”s. Maybe he was glad to see us go.

Einstein is not always in the cage. On Saturday morning, Ken – the owner – was sitting on the front porch as Einstein sat in a nearby small tree about 5 feet off the ground. Ken said he enjoyed climbing in the tree and chewing leaves during the summer. The tree was bare and pruned on this day.

I asked about his flying capabilities. Ken said his wings needed clipping. Einstein’s wings would probably permit flying, but Einstein just didn’t know it. ☺

1-18-07

I just got your 1/15 letter. To clear up on misunderstanding when I wrote: This whole area was billed as “Florida’s Forgotten Coast” --- I meant the coast along the Panhandle of Florida.

If I had never mentioned it, Fidelity Asset Management – which deals predominantly with the growing reserve of foreclosed properties has one group in Denver which assists an interesting client --- the US Marshals Service. Fidelity does the title investigation for the US Marshals when the feds are taking ownership of property owned by, in our case, Minnesota “baddies”. I get an order of an owners & encumbrance report which the feds use to determine the past ownership of that property and the liens that exist. Unlike commercial banks, etc, the feds want not only a report, but all pages of all documents discussed in the report. (No trust.) Ultimately, we are getting some requires for other title work and closings. We always wonder how many of these places are environmental hazards. How would you like to live in a former “crack house”.

I will get this letter into the mail. Again, I think I am only up to about Wednesday noon of our trip. Things are going slow.

Ole had a car accident. In court, the trucking company's lawyer was questioning Ole "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine,?'" asked the lawyer.

Ole responded, "Vell, I'll tell you vat happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into the..."

"I didn't ask for any details", the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'"

Ole said, "Vell, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Ole's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule, Bessie".

Ole thanked the Judge and proceeded. "Vell as I vas saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and vas driving her down the highway ven this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I vas thrown into one ditch and Bessie vas thrown into the other. I vas hurting, real bad and didn't vant to move.

However, I could hear Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans. Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her, and saw her fatal condition, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes.

Then the Patrolman came across the road, gun still in hand, looked at me and said, "How are you feeling?"

"Now vat the HELL vould you say?"

Hope you are well and can wait for the next installment. I will try to write at lunch tomorrow.

Thank you for the prayers. You have ours. (Bev is laughing at you letter. "The feds don't have any romance.")