

Friday Follies 1/11/02

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Hey!

So much to tell you since our last visit! WOW! In a nut shell, here we go....
Finally got to see "Lord of the Rings" and was thrilled with it. I remember going to see the animated version of the "Hobbit" many years ago and being terribly disappointed in it. THIS FILM IS EXCELLENT! If you have not already seen it, by all means, do so!

Right before Christmas we went to see The Lettermen perform their Christmas concert with the Virginia Pops Orchestra at Chrysler Hall. That was a terrific show! Interesting tid-bit...during the monologue, one of the Lettermen admitted he was one of the children/dancers next to Bing Crosby in the final scene of White Christmas. How cool is that?

Our Client/Christmas party was packed, but a hit again this year. It started at four and the last guests left at mid-night. Packed! Here are a few photos of decorations before the party. Sorry, things got too hectic to take any during.



Everything was fresh from my yard...
the Camellias, holly, pyrocantha berries and greenery.



Ma and Pa Clause *this* year.

Remember that JP and I had agreed not to give each other presents for birthday or Christmas since we were going on the New Year's cruise? Well, of course, he didn't stick to the rules. But, what he DID do was so NEAT.

While running with our Samoyed, "Gandalf the White," one morning, he spotted an old, ugly, rusty, pink bike piled in a heap on the side of the road waiting to be recycled. After examining it, he carried it home and then took it to a bike specialist. Turns out, it was a 1950's vintage bicycle-built-for-two. Very unique because you can steer it from the back seat as well as from the front seat. He took it to be sandblasted and then painted it himself in our neighbor's boat house. He had the bike shop rework all of the moving parts, ordered new tires and seats, and BOOM, there you have it. LOOK at this beautiful thing! It reminded me of Christmases long ago when you would wake up and see a shiny new bike waiting for you. I can still remember them all. Anyway, I am very proud of it AND of him!



Of course it is red, white, and blue!

We left the day after Christmas and drove all night to Mississippi to visit my family. My mom was feeling great, and we had a nice chance to visit...even though not long enough. I even got to go to one of the FATSO meetings.



(Remember me telling you about FATSOs, the “Friday Afternoon Teachers’ Stress Organization” ...a group of teachers and school administrators who get together every Friday)

And while home, I learned that my nephew, Allen, and his new wife, Meredith, are going to have a baby! (Remember me telling you about going to their wedding this summer and then Allen being whisked off straight from his honeymoon to fight the forest fires in Montana for six weeks?)



From Mississippi we drove to Orlando and spent a day at Disney World,



(Christmas with Walt!)

and then on to Ft. Lauderdale for a short but wonderful visit with Deloris and Bob. Dee and Bob, a former New York Yankee who played with Mickie Mantle, are the friends whose cat lived to tell about falling off the balcony ten floors up and landing on the palm tree downstairs by the pool. Actually made it to the newspaper in Ft. Lauderdale....Unbelievable!

Then, New Year’s Eve Day we boarded our Norwegian Sea cruise ship for a four day adventure...and adventure it was. It started raining immediately! New Years' Eve was spent down below in a nightclub, which, when you think about it, meant it could have

been anywhere in the world! But that was OK. We knew where we were, and it was still great fun!

Key West on New Year's Day was perfect! Perfect temperature, perfect sun, perfect environment. Sue, one of my very dear friends, just recently moved back to VA Beach from Key West, so I couldn't visit with her. And, Southernmost Seal, I looked for your name in the phone book and couldn't find it. I also did not know the name of your father's deep sea fishing company, so I couldn't look you up that way either. I had planned to pop in and say, "Hello," and maybe do a little deep sea fishing. At any rate. Key West was sensational. I fell in love with it and definitely plan to return some day.



Truman's "Little White House" is still used by Presidents and their staff. In fact, Collin Powell held an international diplomatic meeting there this year.



Key West is just sheer beauty everywhere you look. Scenes like these flowers were common and this place is my new dream home.



Hemmingway's place, Sloppy Joe's was great fun...crazy, fun characters from everywhere in that place!



But nothing on the whole trip compared to “Wastin’ Away in Margarettaville!” at Jimmy’ Buffet’s place. The bartender was from Virginia Beach and he just kept serving as long as I was talking about “home!”

From Key West, we sailed to Cozumel, Mexico, and even though it was cloudy, we enjoyed the day on the beach at the state park and had dinner at Pepe’s Grille. (Thanks for the tip, Lynda W. Fantastic restaurant!)



Here we are riding through the Myan Ruins with our guide, Clint, in Cozumel last year.

We got home at 3 a.m. Saturday and then Saturday night JP had to emcee the “Send-Off Dinner” for all of the local republican elected officials. The General Assembly began this past Wednesday, and every year there is a fund raiser to “send them off” to Richmond and wish them well. This year the program was a “Roast” of the electeds. It was a riot. JP did a great job as emcee, too.

Also in political news, Paul, Ken, Glen, Jim, John, and Jerry are all friends (and are all on this Friday list) who have been appointed by the new Governor-Elect Mark Warner to the Transition Team. Congratulations! And two more friends & co-workers have recently been appointed to prominent positions. The current Lt. Gov. John Hager, was appointed Assistant To The Governor For Commonwealth Preparedness, and the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Jody Wagner, was appointed State Treasurer. All are very deserving, and congratulations.



This weekend it is off to Richmond (the Holy City) for Mark's Inauguration! (I can't wait, Mark!) JP is squirming in his seat since Mark is a long time friend and a democrat. I am LOVING it! HA! We are going to a casual party Friday night, the Swearing-In and Inaugural Ball Saturday, and then today at lunch, I just got an invitation to an Open House at the Executive Mansion Sunday afternoon. How neat is that going to be...sharing that first special day with Mark and Lisa in their new home?

Actually, I tease JP, but we are both very fortunate to have friends in both parties who care enough to stay involved and who continually try to make a difference for us all. Good people are good people, no matter what political party they belong to...I think (hope) we all learned that lesson this past September 11th. I'll try to get photos of the festivities.

God bless.

Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent e-mails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday list.

PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. You tend to go through huge numbers of jokes that way.

Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day! If you would like to see a small portion of what I actually do, look up our homepage at www.chcs.pvt.k12.va.us and check out the Soundings section, a publication I produce four times a year which pretty much recaps most of what I am involved in.

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