



SMILEY ANDERS

Advocate
columnist

They never made it to the chapel

The opening of the New Orleans Jazz Fest on Friday and granddaughter Mandy's upcoming June wedding remind me of this story:

Years ago I knew a couple in St. Francisville who told of their wedding plans:

He worked the Gospel Tent at Jazz Fest, and knew the members of the Dixie Cups, the New Orleans singers.

The idea was to hold the nuptials in the tent. At a signal, the audience would start snapping their fingers in rhythm, and the Dixie Cups would sing "Chapel of Love" as the bride entered.

The pair split up and moved to different cities, so the wedding never happened.

But wouldn't it have been cool ... ?

Which reminds me

Shortly before the 1998 Spanish Town Mardi Gras parade, I was discussing my impending nuptials at a neighborhood party.

"Why not get married on a float?" suggested a neighbor.

As the party flowed on, the idea grew in intensity.

We could let krewes bid on the right to have the ceremony on their float!

The vows would be given as the float paused in front of the judges' stand!

One lady knew an unconventional pastor who would be happy to do the wedding!

As the excitement reached its peak, my fiancée, Lady Katherine, arrived.

She had driven in from New Orleans and was inclined toward sober reflection, if you get my drift.

We were married the day before the parade by Judge Bob Downing — with both feet on the ground.

For the birds

Andy Sobert says that one night during a local TV news show, the line across the bottom of the screen announced that "some public agency was going to 'tweet' so-and-so regarding a certain problem."

"Do we now have *birds* under contract?"

Well named

Readers have said that in listing appropriate names, we overlooked one right under our nose: Advocate food columnist Corinne Cook.

Jay channels Abe

David Madden says Secretary of State Jay Dardenne, "a man of many talents," portrays Abraham Lincoln in a "conversational debate" with Robert E. Lee at the Old State Capitol at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The short play, commissioned by the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission for Louisiana, will be performed as a dramatic reading.

Also, "by popular demand," Oneal Isaac and Steve Crump, in full costume, will perform the short play "Lincoln Lives," about three meetings between Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

Both shows are free.

War story

Tom Terrific points out that in my mention of World War II columnist Ernie Pyle, I indicated he was in the Pacific when he was shot on April 18, 1945, because the

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ec- ing, calling it "awfully simplis-
sla- tic" with "no rationale."

on Board member Doris Alexan-
the der was not present at Tues-
ir- day's meeting.

he In other business, school offi-
— cials announced two summer
er programs designed to help stu-
dents improve their scores on

building and positive rein-
forcement.

The School Board's Jump
Start summer program will
run from June 1 to July 9 and
will offer activities such as
reading, sports, and field trips
to students who will be in first
through fifth grades next year.

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war in Europe had ended.

Tom says the German surren-
der wasn't signed until May 7,
and on April 18 "the fighting in
Europe was still going strong."

Worthy causes

■ A "Seize the Day
Run/Walk" for the Epilepsy
Foundation is Saturday on the
Old Front Nine at LSU. Race
day registration is at 7 a.m., or
pre-register at
<http://www.seizethedayrace.org>.

■ Lakeshore Lions sponsors
a "Clays for Children" shoot-
ing event Saturday at Hunter's
Run in Port Allen.

Proceeds go to the Lions
Crippled Children's Camp, Eye
Foundation, and other Lion
charities.

Call (225) 752-1264 or e-mail
baldeagle_37@cox.net or
dekr_ferrara@cox.net.

Special People Dept.

J.E. and Betty Lanoux, of
Gonzales, celebrate 60 years of
marriage today.

Thought for the Day

Sissy Crapanzano offers

this quote: "The real art of
conversation is not only to
say the right thing at the
right time, but also to leave
unsaid the wrong thing at
the tempting moment."

Second the motion

You might recall Bruce Ed-
wards' limerick in the Thurs-
day column, about the lady
from Pointe Coupee whose
nose was so long she could dial
a phone and pick up pecans
with it.

I termed Bruce's effort
"stunningly awful."

Lisa Sisson says, "Our
son Ryan, a Marine stationed
at Camp Lejeune, N.C., sent
me a response to the
'world's worst' limerick sent
in last week by Bruce Ed-
wards:

"The lim'rick about Pointe
Coupee

Wasn't the best that you'll
see.

It mentioned a nose,
And wasn't verbose,
But was stunningly awful in-
deed."

Write Smiley at P.O. Box 588,
Baton Rouge, LA 70821, fax to
(225) 388-0351 or e-mail
Smiley@theadvocate.com.

LOTTERY

Winning lottery numbers for Tuesday, April 21, 2009:

PICK 3: 9-7-6

PICK 4: 9-6-9-2

Unofficial notification; keep your tickets.

AROUND BATON ROUGE

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD: 2:30 p.m., School
Board Office, 1050 S. Foster Drive.
To hear a report on district ac-
creditation.

METRO COUNCIL: 4 p.m., Council
Chambers, 222 St. Louis St.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

APRIL 21, 2009

LIBRARY READING: 5 p.m., Old
President's house at LSU. LSU
graduate Elise Blackwell author
of "The Unnatural History of Cy-
press Parrish," "Hunger," and
"Grub," will read.

ROAD WORK

■ Perkins Road closed between
Raymond Avenue and Christian
Street for overpass repair. After-



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How Earl wooded the church vote

Stories about Gov. Jindal's visits to churches around the state remind us that politics and religion are hardly strange bedfellows.

It takes a skillful politician to appeal to Catholics in south Louisiana and Protestants in north Louisiana at the same time.

One of the most skillful at working both sides of the altar was Gov. Earl K. Long.

About religion, he famously said, "I consider myself 40 percent Catholic and 60 percent Baptist, but I'm in favor of every religion, with the possible exception of snake-chunking."

"Anybody that so presumes on how he stands with Providence that he will let a snake bite him, I say he deserves what he's got coming to him."

A.J. Liebling, who wrote so insightfully about Uncle Earl, pointed out that "snake-chunkers" weren't likely to vote. ...

As the tongue twists

Jim Nichols adds to our seminar on the Atchafalaya River and its pronunciation:

"When I was in grade school in Oklahoma, probably about 9 years old, my family came back to Baton Rouge, where my dad grew up, to visit my grandparents."

"While driving on U.S. 190, my dad said he would buy an ice-cream cone for anybody who could correctly pronounce the name of the next river."

"None of us could ever get Atchafalaya right, and my dad let us try until we got to the Mississippi River bridge."

"I think he was so tickled at our tries that he bought us all ice cream anyway!"

Incarceration blues

Harry McCauley, of Lafayette, tells of reading about a 45-year-old Lafayette man, a gang member, being sentenced to 102 years in prison.

The district judge required him to have three years of "supervised release" at the end of his sentence.

Harry wonders how much supervision a 147-year-old man will need.

Clean escape

Vernon Yielding says our story about the wrong car being "decorated" at a wedding reminds him of this story:

"When I was in the Navy, my wife and I decided to get married."

"At the reception, a lady came up to me, handed me the car keys to her and her husband's new Oldsmobile, and said, 'You kids take my car, but do not tell anyone!'"

"When the time came for us to depart, I told my wife to head for their car."

"When I looked over at it, her Dad's car had been completely 'decorated!'"

"We headed to New Orleans for a two-night stay, all we could afford."

"Our wedding night meal was two oyster po-boys. We had doughnuts for breakfast. Forty-six years later, I still get these on our anniversary."

Thank-you notes

Mel Prust thanks neighbor Don Hunter for the help when Mel's car failed to start due to a dead battery:

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Casey if their neighbor's project was very spooky.

"She said, 'Well, it was just a picture of a witch and a skeleton hanging on the wall, and there was a sign that said, 'Be aware: ghosts and goblins ahead.'"

"I turned to Austin and asked him if he was scared of the haunted garage. He said, 'No, I wasn't scared. I don't know how to read.'"

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dressed and ready for church, I was teaching them that we are to be quiet, say our prayers and listen to Father tell us about Jesus."

"My 3-year-old asked, 'When I get big, can I get cookies at Jesus' house?'"

What's so scary?
An early Halloween story from Billy Gibson:

"My 7-year-old daughter Casey and 4-year-old son Austin went down the street to see their friend's newly decorated 'haunted garage.'"

"When they returned, I asked

for "Christian singles 21 to 65" is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Western Sizzlin on Airline Highway in Gonzales. Call Kathy Boudreaux at (225) 281-3893.

Special People Dept.
Joseph and Rita Giordano, of Fordoche, celebrate 63 years of marriage today.

Childspeak revisited
Kendall C. Hebert says her 3-year-old has a unique description of the sharing of bread during the Eucharist:

"While getting my children

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"I tried to lift the hood, but the safety latch wouldn't let me. Don went to his house and got a long tool to release the latch. Then he got his pickup and jumper cables and got me started."

Mel says Don's final act was to offer him some free advice:

"Go to the battery store and get a new battery."

Go west
"Western Singles Night Out"