

Blue Mud Chronicles

November 8, 2008



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“Union, Justice, Confidence” [State of Louisiana Motto]

Did you know? In 1861, Louisiana seceded from the United States of America but became a separate Republic for about six weeks and only later did it join the Confederate States of America.

The state has been overseen by ten different flags, starting in the 16th century, including when Hernando de Soto (*Conquistador!* [For all you Arkansans]) claimed the region for Spain; as well as Bourbon France, under the Union Jack of Great Britain, in the Republic of West Florida, beneath the Tricolor of Napoleon and finally the United States of America. Ironically, it was the Spanish who built many of the colonial structures, probably the best-known or most recognizable buildings that still stand in the "French Quarter" of New Orleans. In 1803,

Louisiana was purchased from the cash-strapped Napoleon I for \$15,000,000 by U. S. President Thomas Jefferson (in theory, anyway, Napoleon planned to conquer the world so eventually he'd get it back). The New Orleans area controlled the mouth of the Mississippi River, at the time, the main travel/commercial route. To get the vital region in American hands, Jefferson negotiated the Louisiana Purchase. [With the purchase of Louisiana, Jefferson nearly doubled the size of the U.S. and made it a world power. Later, 13 states or parts of states were carved out of the Louisiana Purchase territory.] As part of Louisiana's French heritage counties are called *parishes* and the Napoleonic Code (as opposed to Common Law) rules in the state's courthouses.

In 1810, inhabitants of the "Florida Parishes" staged the West Florida Rebellion in opposition to Spanish rule in the region. They established the West Florida Republic, which enjoyed independence for a short time before joining the American territory that had been gotten from France through the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Early on, Louisiana was a trading and financial center, and the richness of its land made it one of the most fertile regions. Many Louisiana planters were among the richest men in America.

On April 30, 1812 (18th state), Louisiana entered the Union. The first steamboat to navigate the Mississippi River, the *New Orleans*, arrived at New Orleans [from Pittsburgh] on January 10, 1812 (remember the crew's account of mooring near New Madrid, Missouri?) Now it's become just expected but the very first Mardi Gras parade was held in 1838 and in 1872, Rex, King of Carnival, debuted. 1861 was just "one of those years"; it was part of the United States of America, it was an independent Republic, it was part of the Confederate States of America. In 1862, the oldest salt mine in the Western Hemisphere was established

on Avery Island. Louisiana re-entered the union of United States in 1868 and the next year saw the first sulfur [sulphur] production.

Oil was discovered near Jennings in 1901. The early 20th century was dominated by populist politician Huey Long (The Kingfish), who was assassinated by [probably—well, it is that murky, rough-n-tumble world of Louisiana politics, after all] Dr. Carl Austin Weiss in Baton Rouge in 1935.

In 1947, the first oil well out of sight of land (offshore) was started near Morgan City, LA. The Sugar Bowl was established, with Tulane defeating Temple in 1935. At a final cost of over \$160 million, the New Orleans Super Dome was finished in 1975.

Most remembered for his quote when competing against Governor David Treen in 1983, "*The only way I can lose this election is if I'm caught in bed with either a dead girl or a live boy*", Edwin W. Edwards became the state's first three term governor and in 1991, defeated former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke for Edwards' fourth term; the election was a redemption for scandal-stained Edwards, about whom the Shreveport Journal said was so unpopular, it would take Adolph Hitler as an opponent in order for Edwards to win. Next best thing — "*Vote For the Crook. It's Important.*" "*Vote for the Lizard, not the Wizard.*"



"John! John! Are you dead?"

"Not yet. But I don't want to die looking at your ugly face."

"Kids! Can't live with 'em, can't shoot 'em."

"Why don't you do the world a favor and pull your lip over your head and swallow?"

"You're supposed to be smoking filter cigarettes"

"I'm 94 years old. What the hell do I care?"

Grumpy Old Men



Oldfield4

Southern Speak

Stop moping around!,
“*Git your butt down off your shoulders!*”

I will return,
"I'll see you later, *good Lord willin' and the Devil don't interfere.*"

Disoriented,
"He's *dizzier than a bessy [Betsy] bug.*"

Astonishing,
“*Well, if that don't beat all!*”

For certain,
“*If I'm lyin', I'm dyin'.*”

Helpless,
“You're just *a sittin' duck.*”

Threat,
"I'll *knock you in the Adam's apple so hard you'll be spittin' cider for a week.*"

Overweight,
"*If she was an inch taller she'd be round.*"

Confusing or impractical person,
“I'm thinkin' *he's only got one oar in the water.*"

or

“He's at least *one brick shy of a load.*”

or

“I swear, *his elevator don't go to the top floor.*”

Principle residence,
“*I stay* between Rock Hill and Fort Mill.”

Lost or stolen,
“My 20 dollar bill’s *been gittin’ gone.*”

Threat of discipline.
“If you don’t straighten up, *I’ll kick your uppity butt ‘til Hell won’t have it.*”

Well, well, well....,
“The *things you see when you ain’t got a gun.*”

Certain,
“*I’d lie to you about a lot of things but that ain’t one of ‘em.*”



Headboard of Dreams

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