



It finally
feels like

Spring!



FUN FACTS ABOUT SPRING

Baby birds must learn to sing the songs of their species. They learn from their parents between 10 - 60 days old.

Dandelions originated in Asia.

Stonehenge marks the position of the rising sun on the vernal equinox.

Children grow faster in the Spring!

Send newsletter comments and suggestions to Sharon at sdickol@verizon.net
Or call: 836-8575

Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring 2014

Volume 5, Number 1

Weird and Whacky Roadside Attractions

Add a little fun to your next road trip

Excerpted from www.travelandleisure.com/articles/americas-strangest-roadside-attractions

As you squint through the windshield, the freeway emerges from a heat haze in the lonely heart of the Nevada desert. Amid miles of featureless landscape, a single cottonwood tree suddenly looms. But you do a double take: instead of flowers, thousands of shoes bloom from the branches. This is no mirage: this is the Shoe Tree, one of America's strangest roadside attractions.

Arresting roadside oddities have been around for more than a century, the catalyst for their creation the ever-decreasing attention span of the average motorist. Since the days of Henry Ford, cars and their occupants have hurtled by at increasing velocity. To sell their wares, many highway retailers created giant architectural follies to evoke the goods sold inside: teahouses were represented by giant teapots, hot dog stands resembled hot dogs, Muffler Men held mufflers...it all made a weird kind of sense.

But what do a ball of string, an avenue of birdhouses, or a cement troll have to sell? It turns out that some of the most unfathomable roadside attractions are also the most fascinating. "The roadside is perfect for artists because there's a built-in audience in the passing traffic," says Steve Badanes, Seattle artist and sculptor of the Fremont Troll, an underpass ogre that has become a local landmark in the Emerald City. "Passengers are taken by surprise. They were not intending to come and look at art. There's always something going on at the Fremont Troll...tourists taking photos, rappers making videos...it has a life of its own."

While not many people would be tempted to drive four hours to visit the second largest ball



of twine—as Clark Griswold (a.k.a. Chevy Chase) did in the film *National Lampoon's Vacation*—any long-distance driver can attest that after hours at the wheel, twine of any size becomes a strangely appealing diversion. And hokey charm is certainly an appeal of roadside attractions. In spite of its ugliness, for example, there's something strangely sweet about the Big Blue Bug in Rhode Island. Other quirky pit stops, on the other hand, are all about size. "We're all attracted to the world's biggest stuff... it's a childlike fascination," says Badanes. "I mean, who would drive across the country to see the world's smallest anything?"

Some of these oddities are closer than you might imagine. But wherever your road trip takes you this summer, you may find some interesting "art" and other Americana along the roadside. Look inside to see more, including some of the unusual sites your neighbors have seen both here and abroad.

(Continued on page 3)

VILLAGE COMMITTEES

CLUBHOUSE BOARD

Patti Abernethy, Co-Chair	836-8447
Paul Wellborn, Co-Chair	836-8524
Marty Lyon, Secretary	838-1631
Jim Haefner, Treasurer	836-8714
Jim Davis, At Large	908-295-1001
Cheryl Werner, Liaison	834-1473
Sam Ferrara, Liaison	834-3205

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Mary Legreid	834-2378
mrlegreid@gmail.com	
Mary Ohara	365-6414
maohara50@comcast.net	
Wanda Search	738-4603
wslsearch@verizon.net	
Jean Skelly	365-6681
twirler64@comcast.net	
Cheryl Werner	834-1473
cherylwerner@verizon.net	

LIAISON COMMITTEE

Sam Ferrara	834-3205
Don Doto	832-2118

TRANSITION COMMITTEE

JIM DAVIS	908-295-1001
BOB DICKOL	836-8575
KITTY HESTON	595-2902
DENNIS SABATO	365-6713
PAUL WELLBORN	836-8524

IMPORTANT DATES!

Tuesday April 8 @ 7:00pm:

Clubhouse Board Meeting, open to all clubhouse key holders.

Tuesday, May 6 @ 6:30pm:

VOLC Maintenance Corporation
Transfer Meeting
Police Troop 2 Bldg.
100 LaGrange Ave., Newark

Transition Committee Update

Your future board members continue to prepare for the eventual transition of management from Benchmark to the VOLC residents. Led by Jim Davis (President) and Kitty Heston (VP), we have gathered information from surrounding communities that have had experience with Benchmark. We have also met with and selected an attorney who will coach us through the process, assure we are addressing all the most critical issues, and that the interests of the community are met. With the upcoming transfer meeting and election scheduled for May 6, we are working hard to prepare for a smooth and orderly transition.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Committee. We will our best to find answers and address your concerns.

Your **new ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** would like to invite your participation. Our meetings are held at the Clubhouse at 7 PM, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Check the calendar and come on over and join us! Or if you have a suggestion or want to help with an activity, just contact any member of the core group listed on the left sidebar.

And if you know of a resident who could use a bit of "sunshine" due to illness or family death, or who merits congratulations for a happy event like the birth of a new grandchild, please let Jean Skelly know.

We hope to see you at the clubhouse!

Mary L., Mary O., Wanda, Jean & Cheryl

Panama Canal Cruise!

Join your neighbors for 17 glorious days on the Celebrity Infinity ship. This cruise leaves Fort Lauderdale, Florida on April 28, 2015 and travels to Cartagena in Colombia, Colon in Panama, Puntarenas in Costa Rica, Puerto Quetzal in Guatemala, and Puerto Vallarta and San Lucas in Mexico. The ship's final destination is San Francisco, California. **To get early bird prices, you must make a deposit no later than April 21, 2014.** Contact Carol Thompson for more details, carol2628@comcast.net or call 302-547-5483.

Congratulations!

To **Donnie Thompson**, who will be retiring from the US Postal Service on May 1st. Donnie has worked for the post office for 42 years! Enjoy your retirement, Donnie!



Weird and whacky roadside attractions

(Continued from page 1)

Fremont Troll, Seattle, WA

In the shadow of an overpass in the Fremont neighborhood of Seattle lurks a giant one-eyed troll clutching a Volkswagen Beetle. The two-ton sculpture was created in 1990 by a team of four local artists, Steve Badanes, Ross Whitehead, Will Martin, and Donna Walter, as part of a competition promoting urban renewal. The ugly ogre was originally overlooked by the judging committee. But it charmed locals, winning the popular vote and the right to haunt the underpass forevermore.

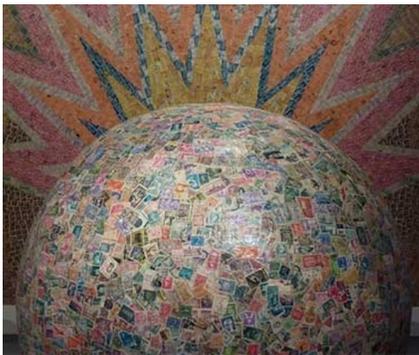


Big Blue Bug, Providence, RI

The Big Blue Bug was built in just four days in 1980 to sit atop New England Pest Control in Providence. This ungainly sculpture—which bears closer resemblance to a turnip—was named Nibbles Woodaway in a radio competition and since then has seen no end of controversy. He's been shot at, proposed beneath, featured in the film *Dumb and Dumber*, turned into a tattoo, and even was the subject of a lawsuit. Much like the bugs he represents, he's almost impossible to get rid of.



Largest Ball of Stamps, Boys Town, NE



Weighing in at 600 pounds and measuring 32 inches in diameter, this ball of stamps is the work of the Boys Town Stamp Collecting Club. Currently on display at

Leon Myers Stamp Center in the Boys Town Visitors Center, it was built in the 1950s and is composed of approximately 4,655,000 postage stamps. This makes it simultaneously the largest ball of stamps and the largest ball of dried saliva.

Lucy the Elephant, Margate, NJ

Lucy the Elephant's original role, back in 1882, was to sell real estate. In fact, she's the first example of zoomorphic architecture in the U.S. and has the patent to prove it. Located in Margate, NJ, this much-loved roadside folly is artfully crafted from wood and tin and has proved far more versatile than her creator imagined. At 65 feet tall, and housing a spacious hall, Lucy has at various times served as a bar, an office, and a summer home.



World's Largest Pistachio Nut, Alamogordo, NM

McGinn's Pistachio Tree Ranch plays host to this 30-foot-tall nutty wonder that has five yards of concrete and is doused in 35 gallons of paint. Though the nut was erected in honor of the ranch's founder, Tom McGinn, it also serves as advertising to draw drivers off Highway 54 to the gift shop. This is where the family sells Atomic Hot Chili Pistachio Brittle, Pistachio Delight wine, and a series of science fiction novels McGinn wrote about an alien adopted by a pair of New Mexican pistachio farmers.



More of the weird and unusual as seen by VOLC residents

From **Eric Dean**:

“Preserved on the seaward side of San Francisco and Marin counties are quite a number of coastal gun emplacements. Many were built before and during World Wars I and II. Although the guns have been removed, the bare, stark, and cold concrete revetments and embrasures transport you back to a different world. (Yet they are preserved in park-like settings. Amazing.)

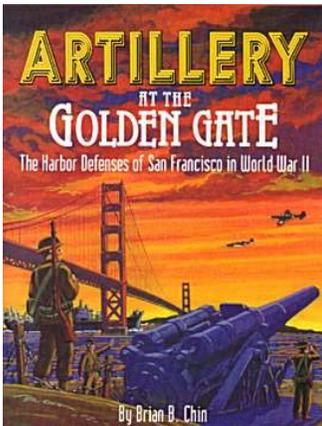
A couple of useful references:

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/wwiibayarea/seacoastdefense.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marin_Headlands

<http://www.militarymuseum.org/FtBarry.html>

I attach three photos; the “Gate Cover” poster really evokes the nostalgic side of this display. The first Battery Townsly photo (below, right) shows the embrasure as it is today, in a park. The second Battery Townsly photo looks a lot like those faced by the Allies at Normandy.”



From **Cheryl Werner**:

“I would sometimes drive south with the kids to meet up with Guy when he was on a job. My older son was always fascinated with the signs. He couldn't believe the first time he saw a billboard that advertised “Candy, Fireworks, Gas and Guns.”



Here are some of his favorites:

“Genuine Imitation Bacon Flavored Bits”

And those billboards from South of the Border in Dillon, SC, that entertain for miles along I-95:

“Pedro's weather report: Chili today, Hot Tamale”

“You never sausage a place.”

From **Sharon Dickol**:

“If you enjoy a good old city ghost tour, be sure to check out the Pirates House in Savannah, Georgia. Not only is the food good, but according to the wait staff, the place is really haunted. If you don't believe them, go down to the old rum cellar, a stark empty room with brick walls and a dirt floor. You won't see the ghosts, but your digital camera will pick them up. If I didn't see it myself, I'd never have believed it!!”



Just one more . . .

While you won't encounter this oddity along an American roadside, **Patti Abernethy** wanted to share her "interesting" experience while visiting in Ireland:

"I ended up in this hospital in Ireland in a "semi-private" room of 12 patients. Meals came on a cart in the pots and were dished out by the nurses. The note above my bed indicated "light" diet--meaning one potato 'stead of two. Yep--no special meals, just less of whatever... Doctors visited the patients who were not supposed to ask questions. They told me to be quiet, really, but I asked anyway. Juices had to be provided by the family. In spite of this, patient care was considerate by those who worked there. BC/BS insurance could not wait to pay the bill--\$ 345 for four days for "body maintenance." I do not recommend this experience!!!!"



March birthday boys, Donnie Thompson and Bob Dickol
Photo courtesy of Don Hobson.

We remember Penny Riley

Penny P. Riley, 68, of Newark, Delaware, passed away on March 7th 2014, at Union Hospital in Cecil County, Maryland. A New Jersey native, she was born in Washington, New Jersey on December 18th, 1945, to the late Ralph and Zora Perry. Penny graduated from Washington High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in June, 1968 and a Master of Arts degree in Education in August, 1973 from Trenton State (now The College of New Jersey). She married Kenneth R. Riley on June 8, 1968.

Her love of education and children lead Penny to teach at The Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Trenton for several years. Later in her career she founded and operated a daycare center, The Flemington Children's Place, for over 20 years. The Flemington Children's Place provided her the opportunity to develop and nurture young minds while raising her two boys. An altruistic woman, Penny's character, generosity and dedication were contagious. Raised on a farm, she knew the value of hard work, and was never shy to get her hands dirty. Throughout her life she enjoyed reading, antiquing, the outdoors, horses (she was a prize-winning barrel racer in her youth), playing the piano, and gardening.

Penny was very involved in every community in which she lived – actively engaging in community groups and serving as a Deacon at the Flemington Presbyterian Church. Her family was her source of strength and nothing was ever more important to her. Her love of scrap booking and collaging ensured that every moment was captured and never forgotten. Penny believed in the character of a person, she instilled the use of proper manners, and she imparted the value of respect (both earned and given) with everyone she met.

Penny is survived by her loving husband Kenneth, her devoted children Chad & Grant, her pride and joy of a grandson Finnegan, and her lifelong friend and sister Jean Winters.

From Ken: *"We have been able to coordinate a time for Penny's memorial. April 26th at 11:00 in the Presbyterian Church in Flemington, NJ 08822. This is a 2 hour drive from here, so I offer this for information only. I thank everyone for their prayers and concern."*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April

Patti Abernethy	7th
Ray Search	9th
Mary Legreid	10th
Jean Roberts	13th
Linda Trach	15th
Paul Wellborn	17th
Don Hobson	18th
Sonja Lemenski	18th
Carol Thompson	26th
Joann Sabato	29th

May

Becky Noetzel	2nd
Anna Larasso	9th
Jean Skelly	14th
Richard Cutone	24th
Bill McNamee	25th
Don Doto	29th
Dennis Sabato	30th
Barbara Strasser	30th



June

John Killian	3rd
Dot Dube	12th
Joe Doto	23rd
Ken Riley	27th
Sharon Dickol	28th

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If you need assistance from your neighbors, contact anyone on the list below. Call Barb Carter for more information.

Patti Abernethy (31)	302-836-8447
Barb Carter (49)	302-836-3023
Richard & JoAnne Skidmore (18)	302-595-4348
Jim & Judy Davis (5)	908-295-1001
Jackie & Eric Dean (47)	302-838-1805
Sharon & Bob Dickol (62)	302-836-8575
Barb & Joe Doto (37)	302-836-3262
Nancy Ferrara (25)	302-834-3205
Dick & Lois Hallett (50)	302-838-0652
Kitty Heston (73)	302-595-2902
Don & Grace Hobson (24)	302-838-1771
Kathy Karthaeuser (119)	302-365-6067
John & Christine Killian (70)	302-454-1098
Valerie Landon (35)	302-365-6685
Marty Lyon (96)	302-838-1631
Anna & Vinnie Moricone (101)	302-595-4688
Ginny Pelachick (59)	302-834-8504
Joan Rowland (54)	302-595-2090
Dennis & Joann Sabato (43)	302-365-6713
Donnie & Carol Thompson (58)	302-595-2717
Lenny & Maria Tricarico (9)	302-595-2712
Peg & Paul Wellborn (55)	302-836-8524

Fun with Puns!

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

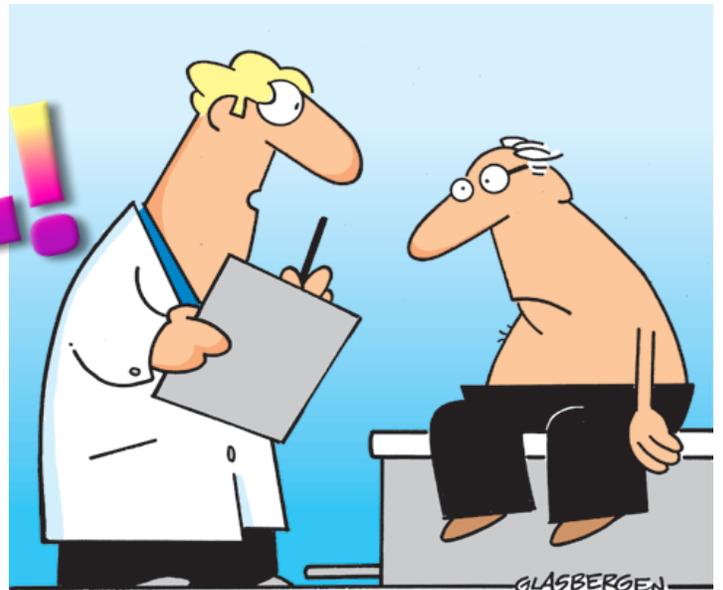
When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are
the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says
he can stop anytime.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra. . .

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.



"You're suffering from an incurable condition called 'midlife sucks'."

