

Huntsville Retirees Gazette again

Huntsville Chapter TRA • The Retirees Association • September 2020

LUNCH TIME AGAIN IN BOOM TOWN. Again, if so inclined, join us or me next week right after Labor Day, Tuesday September 8, 11:45, Red Lobster, for lunch with appropriate seating, we continue holding lunch vigil. Face masks on entry required. Attendance April-August attendances were 12, 1, 2, 3, and 4.

CITY OBSERVATIONS Some very large building is getting taller and taller directly across the street from “Clinton Building” once Huntsville Times and then other things. Not sure if they’ve decided what it is, but it’s a big one. Another large structure at Oakwood and Parkway is reportedly a new (large) county offices building. Maybe they ought to raze the courthouse downtown and change it to a nice park, I remember back in the 1800s, where we enjoyed the old statues. Or it could convert to a condo, with windows bar none. The new downtown Redstone Federal Credit Union building is quite an architectural masterpiece one needs to view, perhaps from Lowe St. The whole parking garage across the street from Von Braun Center seems to have been removed. Heard about stealing cars, but this is over the top. Go by, cheap safe entertainment if you can unglue from the chair.

The newly four-laned Cecil Ashburn pretty mountain road from Jones Valley, Baily Cove Rd, to Big/Hampton Cove is now open and well worth a look-at. A large parking area is being added at the top with views and parking for mountain trails. It’s a much nicer drive now and 40 speed limit is about fast enough very curvy. At one point westbound is above eastbound, quite a challenging project.

CONTEST QUESTIONS Answers adjacent. Winner will get two (2) s! sic blags.

1. Describe three historic New Orleans decisions?

a. Brit Leader: I know what! by jove. Let’s really surprise those Yankees we’ll sail around the Cape of Good Florida to New Orleans, surprise them and easily take it over and control the whole Mississippi River!

b. Mayor Nagin: What hurricane? It will never come up here. And anyway our flood control board has guys who believe me, do a whole lot more than just play cards at their meetings and drink Bourbon.

c. Foreman on behind schedule Hotel construction late 2019 in the French Quarter: We’re so behind schedule getting fines, I don’t see why we need to wait a whole ten days for that 23d floor concrete to dry before we pour the 24h floor.

2. What do these hotel brands have in common?

AC, ALoft, Autograph, Bvlgari sic, Courtyard, Delta, Design, Edition, Elegant, Element, Fairfield, Gaylord, JW Marriott, LeMeridien, Moxy, Luxury Collection, Protea, Renaissance, Residence, St. Regis, Sheraton, Spring Hill, Starwood, Townplace, Tribute, W, Westin.

ANS: Marriott bought two giant chains for billions and this is all Marriott now. The combined Travel Club is now called Marriott Bonvoy. The new Marriott has 5700+ properties in 110 nations. A new hotel structure downtown Huntsville next to the new AC, appears on constructions signs, to be another AC hotel? At Providence/Huntsville, Destin and other places, it is common to have differing Marriott brands clustered adjacent.

3. What new major car combines? Last month I mentioned Peugeot will merge with, and will lead FCA (Fiat Chrysler). Ford and VW have announced a future cooperative production arrangement. Yesterday Honda and General Motor Company announced they will combine auto platforms, engines, motors and transmissions in the near future. I remember when! Currently Honda has a very large factory NE of Anniston, AL at Lincoln of all names. The closest General Motors plant is at Spring Hill, TN about 70 miles north formerly called Saturn factory still there making GM stuff. General Motor will re-introduce the Hummer name and style as a GMC truck sub-brand.

4. Where is “Whitesburg,” AL that this busy road heads for through SE Huntsville?

Whitesburg, although still appearing on some maps, is now just a sign marking its spot, located at Ditto Landing marina. You pass it driving to the west end of the river edge shelter structure. Whitesburg had a river transportation landing dock and structures which can easily be seen to the east, walking along the river walk portion, an attractive, attraction.

5. Alabama has many rivers with dams and dam locks, capable of shipping shipments by water, and hosting eagles to photograph. But. What US state has the most navigated river mileage?

Alabama! You can transport **shipments** by water from Huntsville, or Decatur, practically anywhere in the East, New Orleans, Chicago, Cleveland, Minneapolis, and NYC or Cape Kennedy and Ireland. Many cities in Alabama are connected to this system. Huge rockets are transported back and forth between New Orleans, at Marshall’s Michaud facility where the SLS Moon-Mars rockets are now being made, to Marshall’s Stennis rocket test facility in MS, and to Huntsville at Redstone Arsenal deep water port and this is now periodically occurring.

At New Orleans, the MS River is about 15 feet above the Gulf of Mexico with the InterCoastal protected shipping Waterway along the gulf coast, actually crossing the higher Mississippi River via locks. Twelve cruise ship lines visit upper New Orleans coming Up the MS river delta from all over the world and the Panama Canal. Yet. The Gulf of Mexico is right there also around New Orleans for one thing Lake Pontchartrain below New Orleans is salt water, a Gulf bay. A truly bizarre place. The combined shipping ports of New Orleans – Baton Rouge, along the Mississippi, is the largest shipping port in the United States.

Let me know how and what you are doing, everyone needs news and a visit. At this time, join us for the sing-along ...