

Planet June-teenth

PLANET PROCTOR ■ JUNE 2023

"If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers." ~ Charles Dickens

A Proclamation.

June-What?

In 1863, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free.

More than two years would pass, however, before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, that the state's residents finally learned that slavery had been abolished. The former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song and dance, and so, we do now!!!

"The love of liberty is the love of others: the love of power is the love of ourselves." ~ William Hazlitt

Mending Melinda

“FOR NOW, NO OPERATION ON MY LEFT shoulder, but I’m doing Physical Therapy to expand the range of motion. See doc again in a month. Right Knee: finally have a knee doctor and just



DOCS AND CATS

Prescription: “Rest in the feline position.”

saw him. Friday will be a surgery to correct the Italian procedure, as the alignment of my patella had slipped, thus causing extreme, lasting pain.

“It will add another

month to my recovery time, but the thought of being rid of this constant pain is heartening.” (And so say all of us!)

Here’s a photo of Mel and her nurse, **Redford**.

“Be the heroine of your own life, not the victim.
~ Nora Ephron

Seems like old times

Donna Ashworth suggests:

Don’t prioritize your looks my friend, as they won’t last the journey.

Your sense of humor though, will only get better with age.

Your intuition will grow and expand like a majestic cloak of wisdom.

Your ability to choose your battles, will be fine-tuned to perfection.

Your capacity for stillness, for living in the moment, will blossom.

Your desire to live each and every moment will transcend all other wants.

Your instinct for knowing what (and who) is worth your time, will grow and flourish like ivy on a castle wall.

Don’t prioritize your looks my friend, they will change forevermore, that pursuit is one of much sadness and disappointment.

Prioritize the uniqueness that make you, you and the

invisible magnet that draws in other like-minded souls to dance in your orbit.

These are the things which will only get better.

“Every life is a novel for those curious enough to look into it.” ~ **Anne Berest**

Talk about talk

MIKE LAWLER WRITES: “IT ALSO PUTS ME in mind of a long Eurorail journey I took many years ago (back when I was making ice for **Peggy Fleming**), during which I shared a compartment with a polyglot Dutchman (aren’t they all?) whose slightly accented English was grammatically excellent.

“When I complimented him on his English, he replied, ‘I speak seven languages, and English is the easiest.’ When I noted that everyone says that English is a difficult tongue, he explained, ‘*Written* English is impossible! But *spoken* English is simple. The words have no arbitrary genders, and there is no declension -- all one has to do is memorize a few irregular verbs, learn sentence order, and study the vocabulary. That is all.’

“I’ve never forgotten what he said and imagine that the global hegemony of English can be partly attributed to that simplicity.

“I have taken to counting syllables of multilingual labels and instructions (usually English, Spanish and French) and have noted that both French and Spanish run about 40 percent longer in terms of syllable count. I would imagine that this is the reason that French and Spanish speakers speak so darn quickly!

“I assume that the human brain outputs thoughts at some sort of constant speed, and that those languages require faster speech to cram in all those syllables to express a unit of thought.”

“Mass movements can rise and spread without belief in a God, but never without a belief in a devil.”

~ **Eric Hofer**

THROUGHOUT THE ‘PLANET,’ CLICKING **DARK RED TYPE** OPENS A RELATED INTERNET LINK.

Censorship of Fools

PLANETEER RICHARD FISH INFORMED ME THAT a school district in Utah has removed The Bible from elementary and middle schools for containing

■ **CONTINUED**



WHAT IN GOD'S NAME!

A rally at the Utah State Capitol this month by parents and Republican lawmakers.

“vulgarity and violence” based on a complaint from a parent that the King James Bible has material unsuitable for children. Utah’s Republican government passed a law in 2022 banning “pornographic or indecent” books from schools, but most of them pertain to topics such as sexual orientation and identity.

The banning of The Bible comes amid a larger effort by Conservatives to ban teachings on controversial topics such as LGBTQ rights and racial identity. Bans on certain books deemed offensive are also in place in Texas, Florida, Missouri and South Carolina, and even some liberal states have banned books in some schools and libraries, citing perceived racially offensive content. (*Tom Sawyer*, anyone?)

According to the *Salt Lake Tribune* newspaper, the parent who complained said the King James Bible “has ‘no serious values for minors’ because it’s pornographic by our new definition,” referring to the 2022 book-ban law.

But **Bob Johnson**, the father of a primary school student in the Davis School District told CBS News that he opposes the Bible’s removal, saying “I can’t think of what’s in the Bible that you would have to take out of it. It’s not like there’s pictures in it.”

“Fiction is where I go to tell the truth.”

~ **Pat Conroy**

He was high

A MAN WALKS INTO A ROOFTOP BAR AND takes a seat next to another guy. “What are you drinking?” he asks the guy. “Magic beer,” the guy says.

“Oh, yeah? What’s so magical about it?” Then the guy shows him: He swigs some beer, dives off the roof, flies around the building, then finally returns to his seat with a triumphant smile.

“Amazing!” the man says. “Lemme try some of that!” The man grabs the beer. He downs it, leaps off the roof – and plummets 15 stories to the ground.

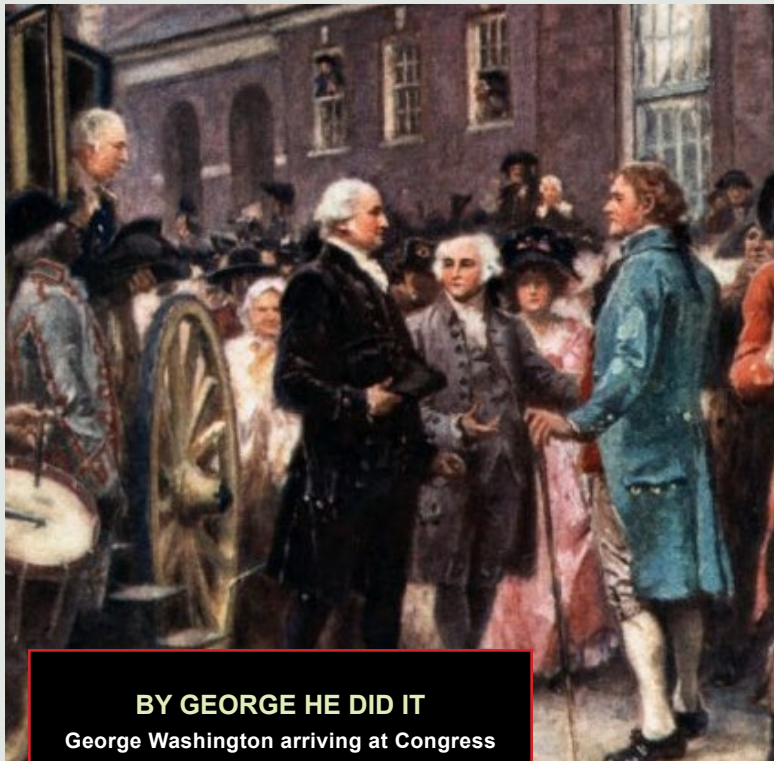
The bartender shakes his head. “You know, you’re a real jerk when you’re drunk, Superman.”

“Too much of anything is bad, but too much good whiskey is barely enough.” ~ **Mark Twain**

Who’s on first?

HISTORIAN AND MUSEUM CURATOR **DAVE Kennedy** answers a query on Quora asking, “Why isn’t it taught that **George Washington** was not the first President of the United States, but the first one under the Constitution?” “Because,” he writes, “George Washington was the First President of the United States.”

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BY GEORGE HE DID IT

George Washington arriving at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, March 4, 1793, for his inauguration. (Library of Congress)

"Prior to the creation of the Constitution,

the position was the 'President of the United States in Congress Assembled' or, more commonly, 'The President of Congress.'

"Given the nature of the Articles of Confederation, the President was not the position we think of now. There was little power in the office, it had a term of only one year, and in many ways was ceremonial, similar to the Constitutional position of President of the Senate held by the Vice President. The men who held the position are not considered President of the United States for those reasons as well as for the fact that the Articles of Confederation was a failed system that did not create an effective system of governance. These same men realized a new system needed to be created and they did so.

"By the way," he adds, "I'm not sure how this answer has anything to do with immigration, impeachment, slavery, lying teachers/schools, or modern politics, and any responses/comments referring to or deriving from QAnon, sovereign citizen, 'Stolen Elections,' or related philosophies, will be deleted out of hand..."

But, sadly, Mr. Kennedy doesn't acknowledge that **Benjamin Franklin** was the only "President of the United States who was never President of the United States" – because, after all, Dave, *Everything You Know Is Wrong!*

"Broken Crayons still color"

~ Creator of "Queer Eye" **David Collins**

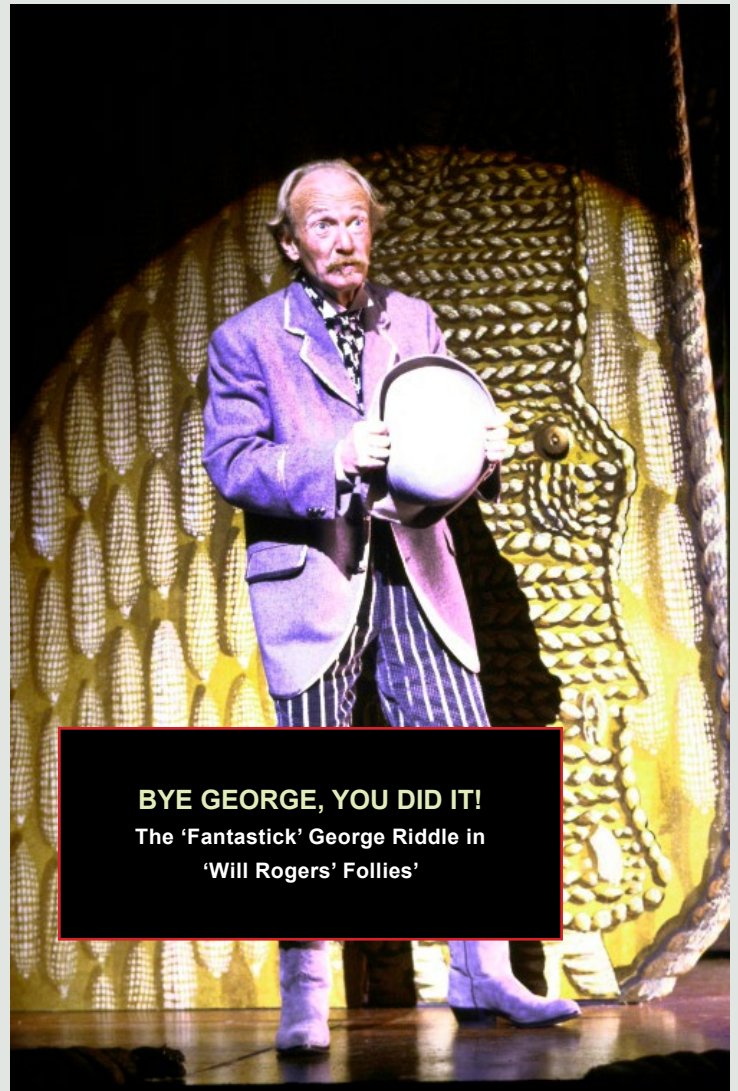
Farewell my Fantastick Friend

MY "SHIRTTAIL COUSIN," **GEORGE RIDDLE**, passed away at 86, surrounded by his family at the home of his granddaughter in New Jersey. George grew up in my hometown of Goshen, IN and began performing with his brother, **Bob**, in talent shows at the Lincoln movie theater, winning lifetime passes and later started his acting career at the Fred Miller Theater in Milwaukee, WI in 1956. **[VIEW GEORGE IN ACTION]**

George thrived on stage and appeared in many productions during his 65-year career, performing with **James Belushi** in the 1983 production of the **Gilbert & Sullivan** operetta *The Pirates of Penzance* and in the early 1990s in *The Will Rogers Follies*, where I saw him as Will's father, Clem, co-starring with actors **Keith Carradine**, **Mac Davis**, and **Larry Gatlin** in several national tours.

He also was in the popular 1981 hit *Arthur*, starring **Dudley Moore** and the 1988 television movie, "The Trial

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BYE GEORGE, YOU DID IT!

The 'Fantastick' George Riddle in
'Will Rogers' Follies'

of Standing Bear,” in which he co-starred as Civil War general **George Crook**.

But his most notable association was with the musical *The Fantasticks*, the longest-running show in off-Broadway history where George appeared over 5,000 times in various productions from 1963 through 2000, and in 2011, he became a recurring performer on the satirical TV show, “The Onion News Network.”

He was a lifetime motorcycle enthusiast and among his prized possessions were a rare Indian motorcycle and a 1941 Harley Davidson, which he built part by part in his fourth-floor walkup apartment in Greenwich Village.

He was the family historian and tirelessly worked on their genealogy, where he was able to trace a direct ancestor back to a signee of the Mayflower Compact.

Exit laughing, old friend...

Hollywood is like high school with money.
~ Michael Ovitz

INTERLOPERS

BABBLE
BRABAZON
FUNNY
LUCY
CLASSIC CRASH
CLASSICAL SALPY

THANKS GO TO JAMIE ALCROFT, Robert Riddle, Danny Mann, Mike Coker and to Selpy Kernokian and our dear neighbors Lynne Weingarten and Leslie Collins for Melinda’s marvelous lunches!

Plus – a Happy Birthday to my darling granddaughter **Audre** and Graduation Congratulations to her older brother **Bowen**!

Also, a posthumous thank you to **Daniel Ellsberg** for the Pentagon Papers, and then a fond and funny farewell to *Mad* magazine founder, cartoonist and creator, **Al Jaffee** who

taught me how to live by the words of Alfred E. Neuman: “What? Me worry?”

*Tall and tan and young and lovely
The girl from Ipanema goes walking
And when she passes, each man she passes says...*

“Farewell” to **Astrud Gilberto**, gone at 83.

And finally, as an actor/writer, I strongly support the WGA in our quest for fairer compensation in the age of AI, streaming and cable...

*“A bird doesn’t sing because it has an answer,
it sings because it has a song.” ~ Maya Angelou*



ADEUS, ASTRUD
Astrud Gilberto
with Stan Getz in 1964



“Seriousness, and morality, and indeed sanity, cannot exist without humor.” ~ Martin Amis

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