

More Expressions Explained

BUYING THE FARM

During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

IRON-CLAD CONTRACT

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted, the buck stopped there.

RIFF RAFF

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to

south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

COBWEB

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob".

SHIP STATE ROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

SLEEP TIGHT

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a criss-cross pattern. A Straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

SHOWBOAT

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" These did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is showboating."

OVER A BARREL

In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and rolled back and forth in a effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.

BARGE IN

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. Hence "barged in".

HOGWASH

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash."

CURFEW

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire." It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the center of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called a "curfew."

BARRELS OF OIL

When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no Provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press it is warm. The expression means to get immediate information. THANKS, TRADER DICK!

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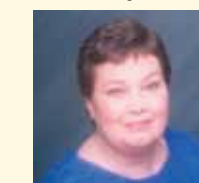


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\$325,000

Cute 2/1 single family home, right across from the boat ramp. Keys cottage in a great neighborhood. Great starter home very well maintained. Has hurricane shutters, pretty new partial metal roof and updated cement roof. This would also be a great weekend home. Nothing to do here but move in.

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\$599,900

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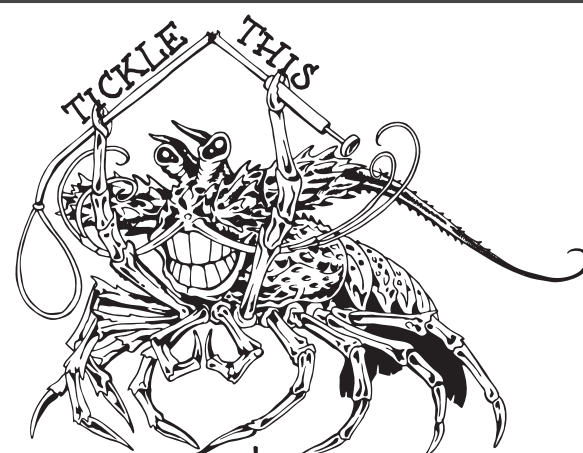
Pilot House Restaurant:



As seen on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives on Food Network!!

Episode: "Succulent Sandwiches"

This trip, Guy Fieri's diggin' into succulent sandwiches! In Oakland, a real-deal butchery stacking up killer cheesesteak and off-the-chain chicken. In Modesto, Calif., a funky food truck putting pastrami on pretzel bread and cooking pulled pork in root beer. **And in Key Largo, Florida, a seafood staple servin' up a sandwich that's become a local legend.** (Episode: DV2407H)



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