

NUMBER FOUR

JANUARY-FEB. 2012

THE NUMBER ONE MAGAZINE IN CABO

FREE

Land's End

CABO SAN JUAN - SAN JOSE DEL CABO - TODOS SANTOS - CABO PULMO

Sunny
New
Year!

By
Alan
Hermosillo



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Jane Lillo

RICK & ROD

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CANCIONERO

Bruno Lopez



CABO
BIGGEST
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From The Editor



2012. Expectations, plans and cataclysmic prophecies.

2012, it's meant to be one of those years fully loaded with global events and big expectations.

As every new year, it comes along with that feeling of renewal and fresh inquietudes. I think it's precisely the expectation and the anxiety for these remarkable events the one that makes us want to welcome the year in the most special way we can think of.

Many of those expectations are closely related to political changes that will take place in 2012; others with economical and international magnitude events. We even have on our agenda for 2012 that issue of the ancient Mayan prophecies, which according to some people, predict the end of the world as we know it.



Of course, experience lets us know that it's always better to deal with these events 'one at a time', waiting patiently for them in the order they decide to happen.

Personally, I have a hunch about 2012, a good one. I think it is finally the time when some situations and factors have come together, and because of this, stability and welfare will return to this privileged land.

Although it may look like it's still a difficult time and there's certainly still a long way to go and much work to be done, I think we are at a moment where we can finally get back on our feet and start moving forward.

Here at Land's End we don't want to wish you just a 'Happy New Year', we want to wish you a 2012 with plenty of blessings and happiness, and where you can have the opportunity to make all your dreams and wishes come true.



Roger L.

WELCOME TO

THE NUMBER ONE MAGAZINE IN CABO Land's End



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Land's End is a free magazine dedicated to all the people who loves to read timeless stories about Baja and Mexico.

This is not a real estate or clasified publishing and will never be.

Consider yourself part of this adventure... Enjoy!

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The Cover

A Sunny New Year.

For this new edition I had the idea of using a cover image that makes great contrast with the past three magazines. I thought of using a very clean image, maybe with a single color background and a beautiful lady as the central theme, some sort of light pin up with vivacious colors that called on people's attention.

As always, Alan took my idea and passed it to the next level. The result is an image that, for me, tells a lot about what it is the start of a new year, an image that calls to optimistic and enthusiastic thoughts for this new 2012.

A Sunny New Year!! That's our wish for you our kind readers, teammates and friends.

Roger L.

Land's End

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The Land's End Tribune

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2012

From Our Readers

PHOTO CONTEST COMING SOON



Maybe we're still far from our Land's End first anniversary but we announce all our readers that you can start sending us old cabo pictures, yes, you may have a beautiful shot of you, your family or friends hanging out in Baja, no matter neither is black and white nor the year it was taken, keep in mind that we search for an epic image showing this paradise to the world.

The winner will be chosen to appear in our first anniversary issue (May-June 2012) in acrylics style full color art.

You can send the image file by e-mail or borrow us the picture we will scan it here.

Good luck and be part of our magazine history!!

twitter COMUNITY

@Tlahuicalli what about the cartoons? are you going to make more?

@LaGarraTS Saludos from Todos Santos!!

@cabosella A pleasure!!! keep writing about Cabo!!! Saludos!!

@FlyFishing_chef Nice job! Mag looks great..best wishes for a great season!

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Maybe you were able to get one of our printed copies at the stand of ventanas residences we want to thank the team for this support. Check their website at www.ventanasresidences.com Paradise Within Reach!!

HARD COPIES STANDS

Where can we get a copy of your magazine in Cabo san lucas?? And how often do you put it out? this is an awesome magazine, a friend from Canada, kelowna bc showed it to us, we are now living in cabo and we would enjoy reading it at any time it gets published, thanks!!

Jay/Heidi

Check Puerto Paraiso, Plaza San Lucas, Shrimp Factory, Tiendas de Palmilla, San Jose Downtown, Molly's at San Jose, Barefoot Cantina, Dante's Bar, and many other places!!
ED.

MAGAZINE COVER



Paul and Ringo would sure like this version if they saw it, congratulations, great idea!
Dieter Roentgen, CSL

Sorry guys I picked 4 hard copies from the stands, this is EPIC
Clyde Tomassino, Orange, CA.

Simply terrific cover, I expected another nostalgic art and voila! you guys are on fire!
Jessica Berger, SJD

WRITERS RISING HAND

Are you interested in an article with pictures about a new San Jose daycare for the working poor? Or have you already done one?

It's called Ayudando a Mama. It is a charitable foundation which is founded by some ladies who were involved in Ninos del Capitan in Cabo, but who are from San Jose and have been working to have a similar daycare here.

Marilyn Johnstone, CSL

I would like to start working with you, and as I found this message in your magazine

Alejandro Castro, SJD

WELCOME JANE!

We want to welcome Ms. Jane Lillico to the magazine. She will be presenting to us an interesting section called "WHYOYUNO in Cabo". For this first time this article will be included in "The Harvest" section, which has been our direct link with those readers who want to participate in our publication.



Please read the WHOYUNO article, and give us your thoughts. We are sure you are going to like this new add to our regular staff of writers.

FAN FROM NUMBER 1

I picked up a copy of your number one edition, back in August. The articles are great reading and I look forward to future edition.

Paul E. Denyer

NEWS

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A

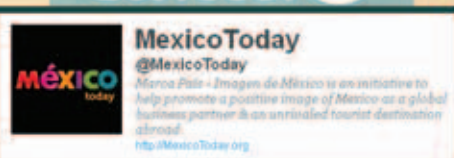
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CONTRIBUTOR?



If you have an interesting story, pictures and rarities to share about Baja and Los Cabos area this place it's yours! There's thousand of people in this community and overseas awaiting for your article to read. Please contact us and we'll provide you information about how to deliver your writing and photos. Besides you'll have the incentive to appear in the credits (and a funny caricature of you of course) on the main index. Good luck and start writing!

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We invite all community to join our Facebook page, we're ready to receive your comments, questions and suggestions to make this magazine your home. Any news and upcoming events in Cabo are welcome.

LAND'S END TRIBUNE reserves the right to publish, cut or not publish any letter or pictures sent from readers regarding to politic views, real estate propaganda, advertising and public or private disputes.

WRITE US

Be part of our community

Land's End magazine would love you to share all your stories, tellings, jokes and experiences about your life in Cabo, the Baja or wherever you are.

Also, we welcome all your feedback, critics and comments about our magazine and articles inside.

Yes!, be part of the best 5 comments by email and they will appear on this section with you caricaturized or we'll make a funny sketch about your writing. GOOD LUCK!



editor@landsendmagazine.com

BEST OF WILD BAJA

*Laguna de San Ignacio - Bahía de los Ángeles - Loreto
Sierra de San Pedro Mártir - Bahía Magdalena
Sierra de La Laguna - Cabo Pulmo*



By Serge Dedina
sdedina@wildcoast.net

You don't have to travel too far to experience the best coastal wilderness on the planet. There is no other place on Earth providing the outdoor experience and friendly people in one location, as the Baja California peninsula.

If you crave travel plans, which bring you in contact with pristine waves, friendly whales and untrammelled wilderness, then pack up your gear and explore the peninsula.

Whether you fly or drive, fish, surf or dive, the fact is that the real Baja is not found in the quiet and more remote fishing villages and mission towns.

Here are some areas in which it is possible to experience the best of wild Baja. These are all family friendly locations, which provide camping, small-scale hotel and/or eco-lodges to get you close to the water and wildlife.



I know every Baja vet has their own special place(s) they love; but all of these areas are great places to get your feet wet in Baja's nearby wilderness. With the exception of Magdalena Bay, each area is under the management of Mexico's National Protected Area Commission (CONANP); and all harbor globally significant, as well as threatened and endangered wildlife.

San Ignacio Lagoon: Gray whales are abundant in this sheltered mangrove lagoon about 35 miles west of the mission village of San Ignacio. The lagoon is one of the world's top destinations for whale-watching. Between late January and mid-April, hundreds of gray whales assemble in the shallow waters San Ignacio to give birth, mate and escape the cold water of the north Pacific. Numerous San Diego and locally based outfitters provide eco-camps and whale-watching services.

Bahía de los Angeles: Located about ten hours south of San Diego, this small fishing settlement on the shore of the Sea of Cortez is a haven for sport-fishing, diving and wildlife watching; and is one of Mexico's most biologically important federal protected areas. During the fall, there are opportunities to observe whale sharks (with a certified outfitter). The numerous islands just offshore are filled with seabirds and excellent diving and snorkeling.

There is a plethora of small eco-camps and a few hotels. If you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of a sea turtle, fin whale, or a sea lion -- or all three. The drive south from Bahía towards San Francisco is one of Baja's great coastal wilderness trips

Loreto: A lovely and quiet mission town in Baja California Sur on the Sea of Cortez, Loreto is the gateway to exploring white sand beaches, pristine islands, the jagged peaks of the Sierra de la Giganta, and hidden missions. Loreto is also one of the best places for sport-fishing and diving in Baja. To the north is Bahía Concepcion, which provides more undeveloped beach camping; and to the south, are the dramatic peaks and pristine beaches of Agua Verde.

Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park. The highest mountain range in Baja California, the tallest peak here, the mysterious Picacho del Diablo, at 10,160 ft. towers above the Sea of Cortez and San Felipe to the east. To the west, the Pacific and San Quintin Bay is visible. Mexican federal agencies are working with the San Diego Zoo and WILDCOAST to reintroduce the California condor to the wild here. Mountain lions and golden eagles abound as well. During the winter, storms drop snow on the mountain meadows and peaks that resemble the southern ranges of the Sierra Nevada.

- Snow in the Sierra de San Pedro Martir. BC



Magdalena Bay:

This huge mangrove fringed series of bays is a maze of hidden waterways, sand dunes and mysterious islands, extending more than 100 miles along Baja California Sur's Pacific coastline. During February and March, gray whales are found near the fishing villages of Puerto San Carlos and Puerto Adolfo Lopez Mateos, also providing small-scale accommodations and basic restaurants. Sport-fishermen have long been attracted to the area, and birders are also discovering the wildlife of this long forgotten region.

Sierra de la Laguna: Whether you take a day hike, or a multi-day trip across this sky island jutting above the Cape Region, Sierra de la Laguna is worth a visit. At 7,090 feet, Picacho de la Laguna is the highest peak here, followed by the 6,835 ft. Cerro de las Casitas. Oak-pine forests predominate at the highest altitudes and during and after the summer rainy season, this mountain range resembles a theme-green cloud forest. Most of these mountains are part of a Mexican federally protected Biosphere Reserve; so make sure to leave no trace, and respect local wildlife. Mining proposals continue to threaten this globally unique mountain ecosystem, so enjoy it while you can.

Cabo Pulmo: This tiny village borders the northernmost coral reef in North America. Cabo Pulmo National Park was recently listed by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography study as one of the world's most robust marine conservation areas.

A decade ago, local community members, conservationists and the Mexican government joined forces here to ban sport and commercial fishing within the national park and fish and ocean wildlife have rebounded. Cabo Pulmo is now one of the best dive spots in Mexico and is a haven for whales, sea turtles, and giant schools of fish and even sharks. Small-scale accommodations abound here and there are numerous sport-fishing resorts located to the north. Unfortunately there are plans to build a new Cancun-style resort here -- so don't delay visiting this world-class nature reserve. -SD

Serge Dedina is the Executive Director of WiLDCOAST and the author of Wild Sea: Eco-Wars and Surf Stories from the Coast of the Californias.

Bahia de Los Angeles lighthouse.

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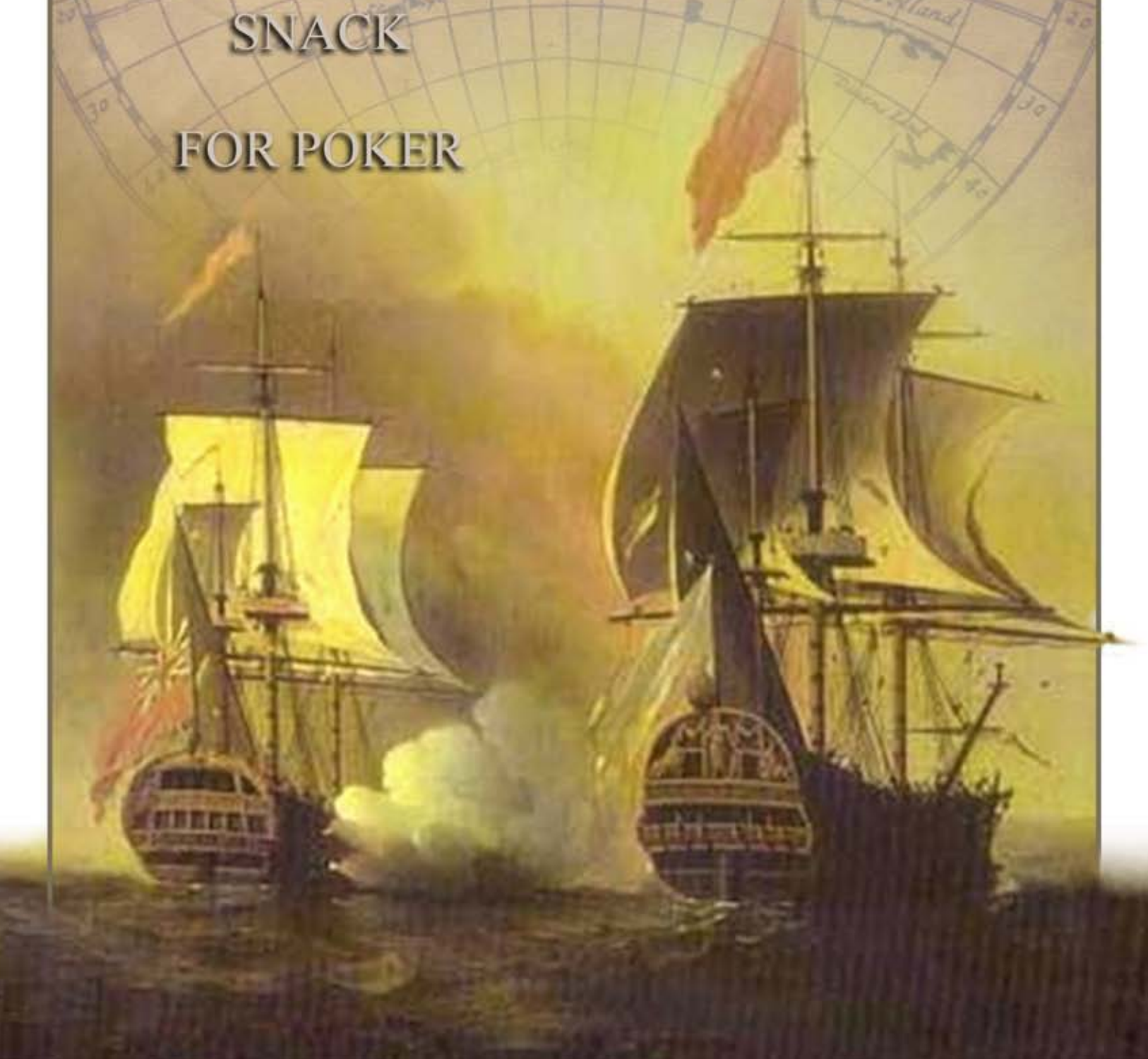
NAO DE CHINA

板為最佳董事會遊戲

AND THE BEST

SNACK

FOR POKER



I had a k-9, a king and a 9 of hearts, but the truth is... I don't like playing poker that much. Why? Because I tend towards being a sore loser. Whenever they beat me, I whine about it for weeks; and I can't deal with people mocking me. Besides, my face is not fit for a game like poker, I immediately turn myself in when I get a couple aces. Of course, the other players notice this and nobody calls the bet I place, and if I try to bluff, my eyes squint in such way that it looks like I'm having a stroke.

That Saturday we had met for lunch around 2 o'clock and we were talking mainly about the pirates who had once invaded the Cabo area and its surroundings. Even though the Baja was a wasteland with very few sources of drinking water, it had and still holds a strategic value for trading with the far east. That is because an oceanic current flows back from the sea of China surrounds the Alta California, and flows down the peninsula of Baja California to Los Cabos and still continues south. The much necessary traffic by these places was a great advantage, which pirates and buccaneers had for attacking the fleets of the Manila Galleon on their way back from the Philippines.

That day, I was sure I could beat Bob, who is a close friend of mine; an extremely lucky gringo when it comes to poker playing. In this round Bob had the button, so we placed our bets and he dealt the 'flop'. This time fortune was smiling at me, on top of the table you could see a king, a jack and a nine, my favorite combination, I already had two pairs, kings and nines, the other card, a jack, wouldn't hurt me either.

"The route of the Manila Galleon or 'Nao de China' was a topic we all found interesting and each one of us had a little knowledge or had heard stories about it. At some point Bob mentioned that the trading route was established by the Spanish Empire--

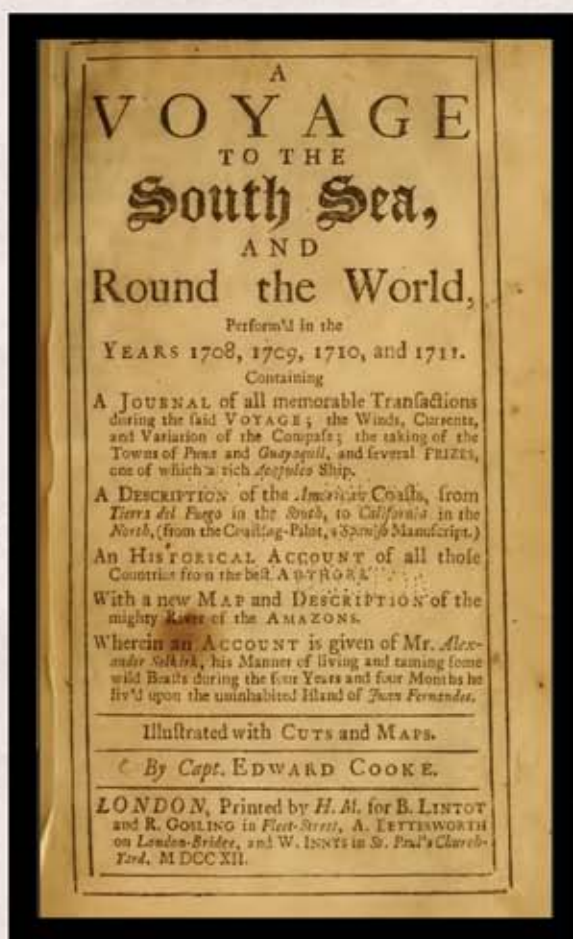
in 1565 and it worked without interruption until 1815. It connected Seville with Veracruz and from there you continued on mule down to Acapulco where the traders had already prepared the galleon which would sail to the port of Manila in the Philippines. In each port the ship visited, they had to pay the 'almojarifazgo' (which was a tax each port fixed on goods). Usually I never bet, but that day I decided I could risk 10 bucks, my self-imposed limit. My two pairs were worth that and more. Bob dealt the 'turn' and a queen of clubs showed her face. If someone had another queen, my two pairs would be the higher hand; if a king showed up at the 'river', I'd have a full-house, which would surely be the winning hand. The other players at the table called my new bet of 20 bucks and Bob raised 10 dollars more, which all of us accepted.

Dr. Barron, one of the other players, mentioned that during the 250 years that the route was functioning; only four ships were captured by pirates in that zone of the Pacific Ocean:

"In 1587 Thomas Cavendish captured the galleon Santa Ana, close to what is now known as Cabo San Lucas. Wood Roger in 1708 or 1709 captured the second ship. The third ship was captured in 1743 by Commodore George Anson; and finally in 1762 the last ship was captured by Admiral Cornish, all of these pirates were British nationals."

I needed to distract my rivals so they wouldn't notice I had a good hand, so I persisted with the same topic, pirate activity in the vicinity of the Baja California Peninsula:

"Among all these adventurers, there were those who disembarked just for replenishing water and food and those who had the idea of conquering the land for creating new settlements. In 1616, the ships 'Great Sun' and 'Full Moon' anchored in a beach near to the bay of La Paz. These Dutch pirates were known as the 'Pichilingues', the name of that beach, to this day."



I carefully observed my friends sitting at the table... Across from me was Bob; to my left was Eréndira, Bob's wife, a History teacher at a local school in San José del Cabo; and at my right was Dr. Barrón, a homeopathic physician who wore glasses. Whenever Dr. Barrón had a good game, he would fix them with his right hand, but when he was preparing to bluff, he would take the glasses off and pretend to be cleaning them.

It was Eréndira who told us about Edward Cooke and the book this adventurer wrote:

*A Voyage to the South Sea, and Round the World
Years 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711*

She had copied a paragraph in a carefully folded piece of paper, the paragraph referred to the harbor of Cabo San Lucas, which I reproduce here just the way it was on that paper, keeping the style of that time:

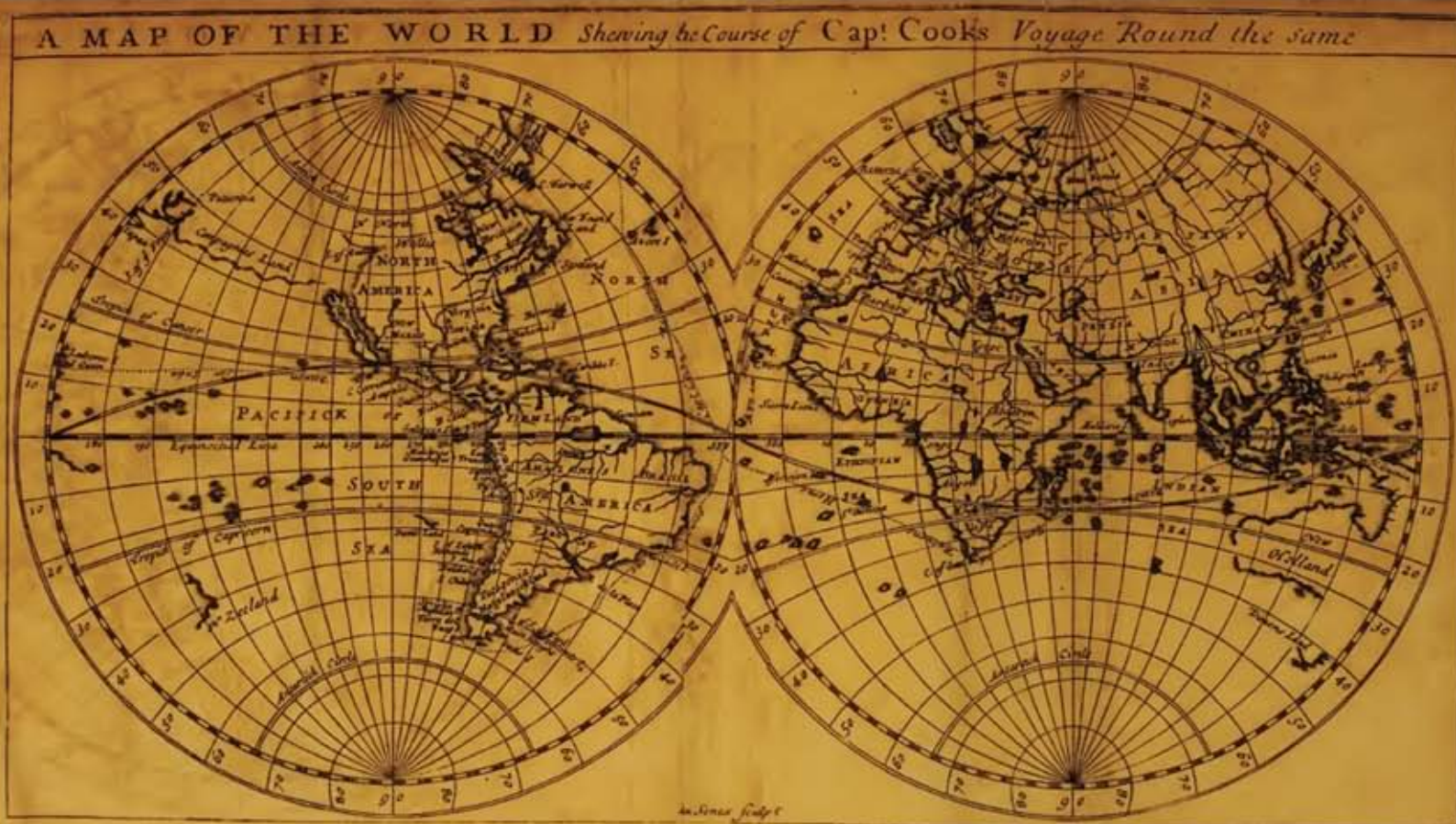
"The entrance is about league to the Puerto Seguro eafterward of a round, sandy, bald Headland wich some take to be cape St. Lucas becaufe it is the southermoft land; but I belive that to be Cape St. Lucas wich bears E by S from this bald head, distant about three Leagues, and is the Easter most point. When you are in the Offing, the Land makes like an island off the said Cape. When you come from the Westward and are bound in here, the Marks are four high Rocks, the two Western most sharp and tapering like sugar loaf The innermost of two has an Arch, like that of a Bridge thro wich the Sea has a passage, leaving the most rock about half cable length without you coming as before, from the westward wich generally must be, by reason by of the counter current thats runs in the bay from westward"

Dr. Barron continued the talk and mentioned that:

"In February 1822, Chilean hero Lord Thomas de Cochrane arrived in the waters of Los Cabos, Todos Santos and La Paz. He had been originally sent by Bernardo O'Higgins, commanding 6 war ships: frigates O'Higgins, Independencia and Valdivia; corvette Araucano; and schooners Mercedes and Aranzazu; with the mission of supporting insurgent forces in Mexico's war of independence. But when they finally arrived to Acapulco, they were informed that independence had been already achieved. Agustin de Iturbide then requested Cochrane to sail to a number of ports to announce the news that the new Mexican Nation was now free from Spanish rule. Given that the Californias were not aware of this war of independence, they mistakenly thought the honorable Lord Cochrane was a common pirate, a mistake that complicated his mission, and damaged his reputation to this very day."

"Along the road between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo, a beach was named 'El Chileno' acknowledging and commemorating this event."

"It is also known that in the town of Palo Escopeta and its surroundings, the descendants of an adventurer whose surname was Burgoin or Burguan still live nowadays. He is believed to have arrived to this land back in the year of 1827."



I told them about the little known story of a mysterious personage who, during the time he enjoyed the sun at the beaches of Los Cabos, had the name of Tomas Ritchie and was of British nationality. According to historian Henry Edwards, he was one of the founders of Cabo San Lucas and was known by the alias of Tom Richi. Those who met him, said he was a cacique who decided who could enter the town and who could stay.

Others just mention him as a spy in service of the British crown. He is in the registers of the General Archive of the Nation along with Thomas, Lizzie and Elijah, all of them with the surname Ritchie. He kept his British citizenship until 1857 but by the year of 1883 he appears in the records as a Mexican citizen.

Finally, we arrived at the River! Bob turned the last card and maliciously smiled at me.

I was nearly jumping off my seat, Lady Luck was giving me her blessing, I had a beautiful full-house. I tried not to make any move because my friend Bob can be as slippery as an eel when it comes to playing poker, but I didn't care. Do you remember I mentioned that whenever I bet I lose? That's why I tried to keep a low profile and waited for my turn, when it was time I raised 20 bucks more. This time Eréndira said she was not going. Bob called my bet and raised 10 dollars more. This made the doctor say – "I'm out!" and finally, it was just me and Bob, the gringo pirate.

The look in Bob's eyes made me think of William Walter, an American adventurer who took the city of La Paz in 1853 with just 45 men and declared the Republic of Baja California. Soon afterwards he was defeated by the Mexican army and sent to be judged in the United States where he was put on trial and found not guilty.

Somehow, I found the courage and called the 10 dollars Bob had raised.

As I've said before, whenever I bet money I lose; but the three kings and the pair of nines I had, made me jump into the abyss of temptation; on the table, you could see the king of spades, jack of clubs, nine of diamonds, queen of clubs, and king of clubs. I was aware that the risk of 'flush' existed, or even worse, a 'royal flush' if Bob had two cards of clubs, but that day we had been winning with very low hands, besides Bob couldn't be that lucky.

I showed my cards and my full looked pretty impressive, I took a sip of my tequila and looked straight into the eye of the pirate sitting across from me, and waited for him to show his game. He showed a ten of clubs, ok, he had a simple flush. I felt relieved and my hands turned into claws to take the money on the table, but my dear friend had a surprise for me, he showed one more card, a damned terrible ace of clubs. "Royal Flush!" he said, and laughed. Damn it, I knew that, whenever I bet I lose! In that very moment I felt just as if the ocean water

reached my throat, just the same as when a pirate ship lashed the starboard side of a Spanish galleon sinking it.

I won't play with pirates again! -PP

There's nothing better than a delicious guacamole as a snack for a poker game. It's quite easy to make and everyone can have as much as they want, all you need are tortilla chips or totopos. It also combines deliciously with Tequila, salt and lime.



Recipe for guacamole.

It's no secret that in order to prepare an authentic guacamole you need a mexican style mortar, which is called 'Molcajete' and its respective pestle, the 'Tejolote'. Of course, if none is available, you can always use a simple fork and a mixing bowl instead. The recipe shown here is traditional, but it's up to your imagination to enhance it and create your own style.

Traditional Guacamole:

Ingredients:

3 large avocados.

2 tomatoes.

1/2 white onion.

2 cloves of garlic.

4 serrano (green) chiles.

3 tablespoons of coriander leaves (finely chopped).

1 lime.

Method:

Cut the avocados in halves and remove the seeds.

With a spoon, scoop out the avocado from the peel and put it in the molcajete.

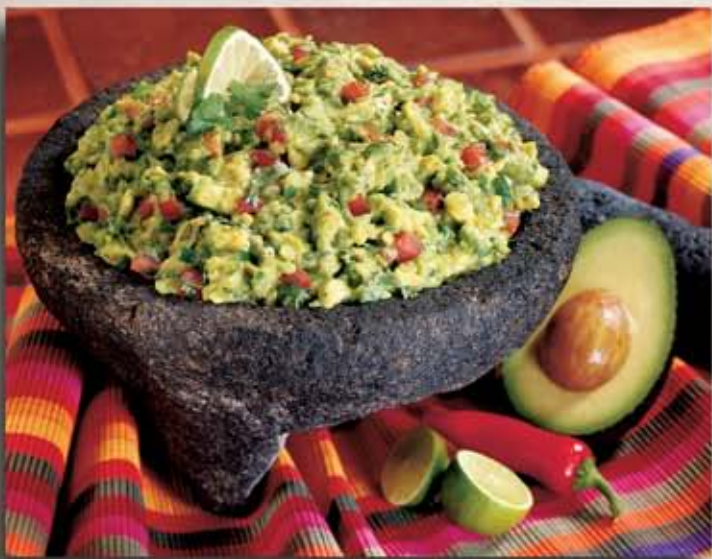
Add the cloves of garlic and smash them with the tejolote (just do not turn the mix into puree).

Chop the tomatoes, the onion and the Serrano chiles finely.

Season the mix with salt, pepper and the chopped coriander.

Mix all ingredients together and place the avocado seeds back in the guacamole, this prevents it from turning brown.

Serve with totopos and enjoy!



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CANCIONERO

SINGING
AND
LIVING IN
LA BAJA



By Bruno Lojero
bruno@landsendmagazine.com



The Cancionero or 'song singer', is probably one of the most typical personalities you can find in Mexico. This is mostly because all the good moments and memories we are longing to create while vacationing or having a nice time with friends and family, always find the best of complements in music.

It's a classic picture: a romantic dinner at a restaurant, a loving couple spending a nice evening talking and smiling, while the world behind them seems to be spinning at a different rhythm.

The next day, the melody which accompanied them will be imprinted in their memories, a melody that many people would believe was carefully set there in the perfect moment of the evening by some ethereal spirit secretly watching them.

The 'cancionero' or troubadour, of course becomes part of that moment. Not everybody can become a good one, besides the musical talent and a good voice, you need that instinct to identify the moments and pair them with the melody that suits them better. I personally think it's a beautiful thing to do for a living.

We had the opportunity of having a chat with Don Manuel Atayde, a natural born troubadour, singer and composer of countless melodies and songs.

He walks the streets of Los Cabos every single night, pretty much as if he was on a hunting trip. Fortunately in this region, there are plenty of restaurants, coffee houses and taquerias where he can work. Don Manuel always looks for a chance to show his art and depending on the situation; he will bring out his guitar and ‘shoot’ the right ‘dart’.

For a group of people having fun there’s nothing better than a cheerful and catchy song, you just have to find someone in that group who knows the song and dares to sing a little of the lyrics. For the loving couple, the love songs will always work, and it doesn’t matter if they are in English or Spanish because the melody will always wake up the right feeling in them, that little inconvenience of something like a language barrier not mattering.

You may not believe it but foreigners do like songs in Spanish!-. Don Manuel says it’s very common to be requested for songs of Mexican, Cuban, Spanish or Argentinian composers. “I’m always amazed at the knowledge that foreigners have about songs and artists we may think they are alien to them.”

“And what do they usually request?” I ask him. “We are in a tourist spot.” says Don Manuel – “So it’s logical most people come here to have fun and a great time, and you can see that in the songs they request the most.”

At this time of our discussion, Don Manuel takes the guitar in his hands and plays it masterfully while he sings:

Guantanamera.

Original music by Jose Fernandez Diaz

Lyric adaptation by Julian Orbon.

Based on a poem by Jose Marti

Guantanamera

Guajira Guantanamera

Guantanamera

Guajira Guantanamera

Yo soy un hombre sincero

De donde crecen las palmas

Yo soy un hombre sincero

De donde crecen las palmas

Y antes de morirme quiero

Echar mis versos del alma

Cultivo la rosa blanca

En junio como en enero

Cultivo la rosa blanca

En junio como en enero

Para el amigo sincero

Que me da su mano franca



A lot of people request ‘Guantanamera’, which is a soft and harmonious song which invites listeners to sing it along even if they don’t know it, many people who request it probably ignore that it’s a Cuban song based on a poem of their national hero and poet José Martí. Right after he says this, another question comes to my mind:

“Do you think it’s possible to know how many times has somebody been to Mexico based on the songs they request?”

“Of course it’s possible!” replies Don Manuel, and smiles.

“It’s a funny way to see it” he adds. “As I already told you, I’ve been surprised many many times. One knows by heart the most popular songs; and you keep them close, once in a while you can even modify them a little to awake curiosity or laughter from people, this is why songs like ‘La bamba’, ‘Cielito lindo’, ‘La malagueña’, ‘Las mañanitas’ and many others are always popular.”

It’s right there where the talent and the skills of a real troubadour come alive, when he manages to add a personal touch to the chords and makes them sound refreshing and amusing again and again.

Bésame mucho.

Music and lyrics.

Consuelo Velásquez.

*Bésame, bésame mucho
Como si fuera esta noche
La última vez*

*Quiero tenerte muy cerca
Mirarme en tus ojos
Verte junto a mi
Piensa que tal ves mañana
Yo ya estaré lejos
Muy lejos de ti*

*Bésame, bésame mucho
Que tengo miedo a perderte
Perderte después*



During our conversation, Don Manuel told me about his life... This made me realize that his mastering of his profession is truly the result of well-lived years and experience.

Maybe some people reading this article will immediately associate his last name to one of the most famous circus companies in Mexico. He is the descendant of a circus family, the Atayde Brothers, a company of huge talent and popularity. Don Manuel himself was a part of the family business for some time, but he eventually decided his passion was music.

He studied electronics and recording techniques and worked on this business for a while when he opened his own business 'Atayde TV Service'. He was also in charge of the audio systems in several other circus companies and he toured practically all over the country, from Acapulco to Juarez City. That's the reason he became familiar with an infinite variety of musical styles, authors and themes, which were sometimes known only by the people from that specific region.

When he was still very young, he relocated to Tijuana, and whilst living there, met a businessman of Japanese ancestry; Mr. Okamura, a musical producer who regularly requested his services as a songwriter. This producer would usually bring Don Manuel a song in English so he could write the lyrics for it in Spanish. He could do that quite easily, but he didn't actually stick to the literal translation of the song in Spanish; he would in fact write totally new lyrics for it. This resulted in really nice songs that later on Mr. Okamura tried to turn into radio hits in Spanish. Don Manuel remembers that for each song he arranged, he received 50 dollars. "For me that was a small fortune," he says.

Don Manuel also mentioned that he has written over 300 songs. "Inspiration comes when it's least expected, it has happened to me even while waiting for the bus, all of a sudden a melody comes to me.

So I immediately get my notebook and my pen out to write it down. If I'm lucky enough, in that same moment I start to think about the lyrics." Don Manuel showed me a couple notebooks he carries everywhere with him. One was a common notebook and when I opened it, I found it full of titles and song lyrics. The other one was a music notebook, also full; but of course, since I can't read or write musical notes, it's all Greek to me.

Our Mexican troubadour also likes music in English. While we talk, he constantly mentions names of artists and songs so rapidly that it's impossible to catch them all. This happens several times during the interview because it's evident that Don Manuel is a person full of passions.

Luckily I carry my voice recorder, which allows me to keep my notes accurately. Names like 'The Everly Brothers', 'The Mamas & the Papas', 'The Beatles', even Bing Crosby, James Brown, Elvis Presley and many others are mentioned.



Don Manuel is well familiarized with American culture; he has visited the United States several times. With a big smile he remembers the time he was traveling around the West Coast and with very little money left, he decided to spend it on a good meal. He walked into a restaurant and ordered according to how hungry he was, and not to how much money he was carrying in his pocket. When he was satisfied, he started thinking about the bill, and while he was taking a look at the place, he noticed a big jukebox with a sign that said 'Out of order'. He then talked to the restaurant manager, and offered to fix the jukebox in exchange for the amount of the bill, the manager accepted. The deal was quite good, Don Manuel not only got to keep his money, he also made a new friend in that town.

Isn't this the ideal purpose of a troubadour? Making new friends?

Don Manuel is now 62 years old, when I ask him about how many children he has, he just smiles and says – "A lot, quite a lot!" He's been married to Maria del Socorro since 1977 and lives in Los Cabos. He has the intention of spending many years more here in this land. Let's see what his troubadour soul dictates on this matter.

If you visit Los Cabos and walk down its streets and enjoy a delicious meal with a nice company, you may not see Don Manuel Atayde in the background, but it's certain that later on, you will remember that melody that turned a magical evening in a Mexican town into an unforgettable one.
-BL

San Jose, this is my land.

*Lyrics and music by:
Manuel Atayde*

*A place for you,
A place for me,
This is my land,
The paradise*

*Under the sun, close to the sea....
And when the music, takes away, over the wind...
I feel my heart,
singing strong inside of me...*

*This is the music, from my parents, and my town
Singing for you, a sweet love song, with harmony...
I want forever, and forever, to be here,
Under the sun, with my green palms, and with my
sea.*

*If you come, to San Jose,...
You will know that when i say....
You got a place, under the sun.....
This is my land.*



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By Debra Kelly
cabokellymac@yahoo.com

Very special visitors arrive every year just in time to settle in for the perfect weather Cabo is now famous for. However, they won't be golfing or fishing or soaking up the sun, like most of our tourists. Several thousand come a long distance and stay for a well rested five months. Just like those Canadian relatives we call Snow Birds, who flee winter conditions and head south to Arizona and Florida for half the year. Instead of spending money on hotels, restaurants, margaritas and activities, these visitors actually bring in thousands of dollars in revenues.

These special guests appear with their families in tow, traveling two long months to get here, and leaving zero carbon footprints. They swim 5000 miles from Alaska and have only two things on their minds... mating and birthing babies.

Big beautiful gentle giants, our Grey whales and Humpback whales arrive every November, and depart for their northern summer home each April. It doesn't take much luck at all to see them up close and personal; even when sitting on the beach with a Corona in your hand. Of course, be careful, as it is easy to mistake a baby whale for the more common species, a larger beer bellied man splashing about in a speedo.

We locals await the first sightings, always in November, and boast to everyone we know, "I saw a whale today. I saw a whale today." (Usually skipping and jumping up and down with joy.) Legend has it that whales are our distant cousins, being so darned smart, and they breathe air just like us smaller above water creatures.

Whales are considered the most intelligent mammals on earth; and I believe this to be true. Many boats of all sizes carrying sightseeing tourists go whale-watching every single day; snuggling close to our 50-foot long relatives, swimming inches away. They could easily capsize a boat, causing mass hysteria and death... But they never do. They seem as interested in us 'smaller peeps' as we are in them. They are nosy, just like Aunt Martha, wanting to get close; likely wondering why on earth we wear such ridiculous clothes. They truly love us.

By the way, the largest of all whales is a Blue Whale, reaching lengths of up to 100 feet! To give you some perspective, most panga fishing and tour boats are about 20 feet in length.

Both species feed babies with rich mothers milk. Human milk is about 1.5 percent fat and to compare – cow's milk is about 4 percent fat and whale's milk is 40 percent fat. Calves can gain 175 pounds a day! That is the equivalent of attaching a short football player to you every day for one and a half years! In fact, most adult Humpback whales reach 35 to 45 tons, comparable to the weight of approximately 500 people.

There are 79 species of whales better known to scientists as cetaceans (A Greek word). We humans have blubber just like they do, except whale blubber can be up to 20 inches thick. This thermal thickness is a necessity, keeping them warm in Alaska's cold waters, where they binge eat on Krill every day. We humans have no excuse at all for maintaining purposeful fat. (Tacos have zero calories)

Our cousins love to show off for us, and fly right out of the water, breaching high above, falling and splashing award winning belly flops. Every single time we witness such a fantastic moment we 'ohhh and ahhh' and squeal with delight. What showoffs! I like to think this playful romp housing is just for our entertainment; but in reality, each time a whale breaches they are trying to shake free of the heavy barnacles and sea lice clinging to them.

They can be burdened with 1000 pounds of the little bastards. Breaching can also offer them a brief glimpse of who's in the neighborhood. The Grey whale tries to make it out of the water with his whole body but rarely does. (Hey fatty!)

Spy hopping is another way these giants look around, barely poking their enormous heads out of the water and turn around slowly like a submarine periscope. Snoopy buggers.

Watching a mom with her new calf is a spiritual experience. You see her gently raising her newborn to the water's surface to breathe life for the first time. She then shows him how to come up for air, and he copies her -- wanting Mom's approval. Her large dorsal fin pops up through the water and she blows, then her little calf's dorsal fin pops up and he blows. They do this over and over several times until his first of life's lessons are learned. Wow!

Moms are very protective of their calves and will fight to the death if a stray Killer Whale sneaks into our safe waters, wanting the easy prey of a young calf. Mom will battle to the end. To witness such a sight is overwhelming with the piercing high-pitched squeals and steady pounding of 'fluke slapping'; using her 20 foot flipper churning up the water and her flailing body between her baby and the Orca. You hold your breath so long wanting her to win. When the water finally settles down, you never really know the outcome, but hope to God Mom won.



If you have the time, you must visit Magdalena Bay; a long but beautiful seven-hour drive north of Cabo or a short one-hour flight. The one-day long Eco-friendly tour arranges transportation from the little dirt airstrip to the bay, your small skiff, captain, lunch, and flight back in time for a great dinner.

My trip a few years ago included several friends, so I made sure to reserve our spots. The little plane holds 12 folks with the pilot. We arrived at the Cabo private airport and found there were 13 of us! Now what? I'll tell you what ... the captain pulled out a lawn chair and my friend volunteered to sit in it. Yup, no seat belt. (Please don't tell the FAA)

We are so lucky to own great little gadgets for capturing all the excitement of a whale-watching trip. Having just received my new iPhone 4 with the option of having both front and back of the camera to record, I was ready to capture all the action on video! Quickly we saw the blow, and our boat captain raced to get closer. The music was festive and the air charged with excitement to be seeing whale tails and blows so darn close. We could actually taste the exhaled salty spray!

I videoed the excitement, holding my iPhone as steady as I could; not only recording the fantastic whale tail and dorsal fin action, but the loud whoops and hollers from my friends. The sun was glorious and the sky a perfect blue background for the exhilaration we all felt. Gleefully encouraging her, all yelling in unison 'Tail, tail, tail. Breach. Breach. Breach.' We wanted her to show off!

I couldn't wait to review the recorded event with all that excitement. Oops, the entire video was of my face! (I love new technology)

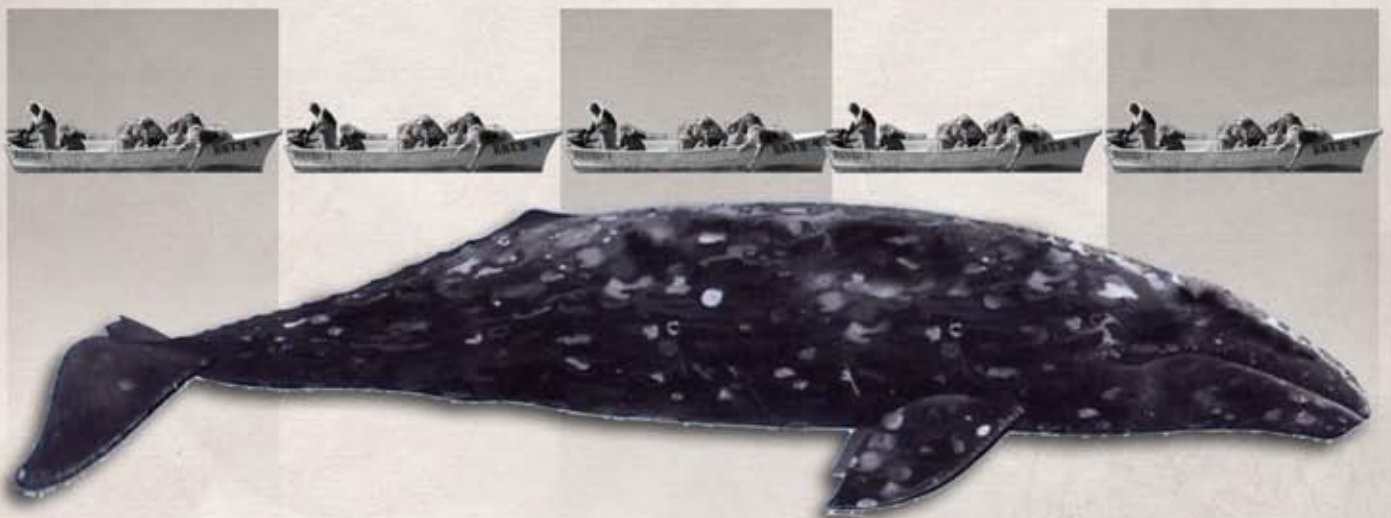
By the way ... only male whales sing. -DK

- Whale watching in the Northeast Pacific:

On the West Coast of Canada and the United States, excellent whale watching can be found in Alaska (summer), British Columbia, and the San Juan Islands/Puget Sound in Washington, where orca pods are sometimes visible from shore. On the Oregon Coast, several whale species, especially gray whales, may be seen year-round, and the state trains volunteers to assist tourists in the winter months, during whale migration season.

In California good whale-watching can be found December through March off the Southern California coast such as around Catalina Island in Los Angeles, with opportunities to view blue whales, grays, humpbacks, fin whales, and dolphins. In spring, summer, and fall at the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, Monterey Bay, one may see humpbacks, grays, and blue whales.

In Mexico, the various lagoons of Baja California Sur become breeding habitat in February and March. A number of towns in the Mexican state celebrate the whale's arrival with festivals such as Guerrero Negro, in the first half of February and the port of San Blas on 24 and 25 February.





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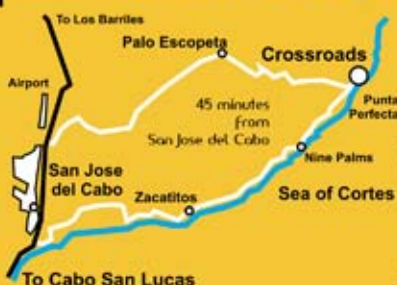


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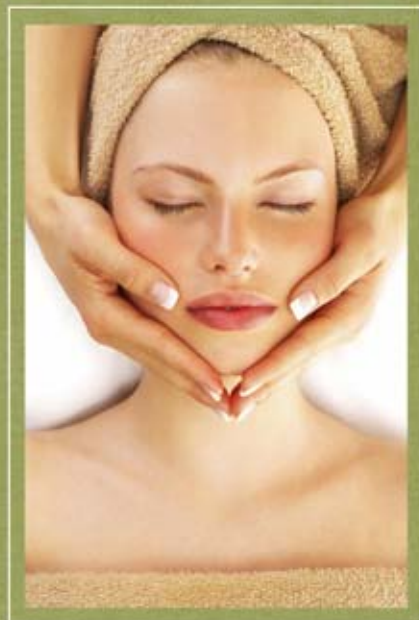
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THE HARVEST

A Land's End Special Article



By Jane Lillico
janelillico@gmail.com

WHYOYUNO

The first two things you notice about Don Buchanan are: he is a survivor, and he's left-handed. He wasn't always left-handed ~ only since a horrific car accident in 2008, which ripped apart half his body, and tore off his right arm. But Don's injuries do not define him in any way; he is still very much a whole, intact individual, capable of many things with which mere mortal beings, equipped with two hands, would flounder.

Donald was born in Auckland, New Zealand on March 5, 1945 to an English Mum, and a Scottish/German Father; the youngest of three children. An active and athletic boy, Don spent his first two decades in Auckland, where he loved to explore the great outdoors, including caves, and all things unknown. He went spelunking, hiking, mountain climbing, swimming, and became an avid skier.

In the midst of all this fun and exploration, Don furthered his education at Auckland Institute; where he studied Graphic, Interior, and Architectural Design, and Technical drafting. He particularly enjoyed the disciplines of graphic and interior design; which along with his love for cuisine and entertainment, would form the foundation for his entire career.

While Don's older brother and sister were content to stay and live their lives in New Zealand; at the tender age of 21 Don's itchy feet got the best of him. So in 1966, along with a few of his mates, he flew to Sydney, where they secured positions as 'Assistant Cruise Directors' for Kodger Cruise Lines. Shortly thereafter, they boarded the "Flavia" in Sydney and set sail for London, England. The six-week voyage northward through the Indian Ocean, Arabian, and Red Seas, was an amazing eye opener for this young man from the tiny country down under; taking them through the Suez Canal, Mediterranean Sea, Gibraltar, and finally disembarking on the dock at Southampton. Passing by 20 countries en route, only made Don want to go back. It was the beginning of Don's love for travel and exploring, which would eventually lead him virtually all over this planet.



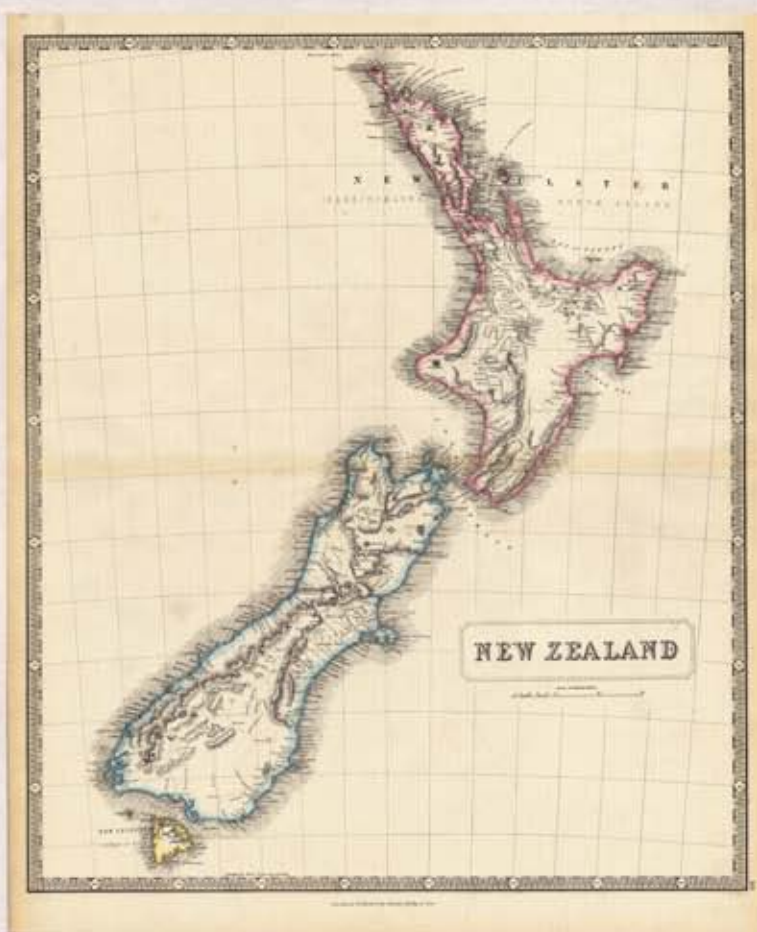
Upon their arrival in England, Don and his mates hung out in pubs, and got into the usual antics of young men on their own in a new and foreign country. While exploring the docks of London one day, they stopped in at the “Prospect of Whidbey” pub for a beer, and met up with a chap who was looking for strong able men to crew on a movie they were shooting in Italy. While they would have to find their own way to Rome, the three were keen to explore more of the world on another paid vacation.

The mates found themselves outside of Rome, and signed up as workers for the set decoration and props departments on “Anzio” starring Robert Mitchum and Peter Falk. They lived in tents and worked hard for six weeks on the movie; and after it wrapped, since they were already there, they went on to explore more of Europe. The following winter, Don ended up working at a restaurant at Axamer Lizum, a ski resort southwest of Innsbruck Austria; famous for Alpine ski events in both the 1964 and 1976 Olympics. There Don improved his culinary skills, lived in the hotel, and enjoyed skiing in his spare time.

After his stint in Austria, Don returned to England, and continued to expand his film industry experience, staging and decorating sets, and working in the props department on an assortment of television series back in England; as well as several “spaghetti westerns” filmed in Spain. He met and befriended many high-profile personalities during his time in London, but is sworn to secrecy, regarding who they are, and how they met. Don emigrated to Canada in the late 1960s, where he spent winters in Banff, Alberta, becoming involved in the design and construction of the ski lodge at Sunshine Village. Later he moved to Vancouver, where he worked in catering. He then opened an antique shop in the Dunbar area, where he practiced interior design, and restored antiques for several years. During this time, he designed and built several nightclubs in Vancouver, including the old Fraser Arms Hotel. As well, he traveled to Vernon, B.C., where he worked in stage decoration in live theater, and was involved in the revitalization of the Silver Star ski resort, where he redesigned the old ski lodge to accommodate large groups and families in a hostel style venue.

In 1970 Don married and lived with his wife in Vancouver. The couple traveled around the world together, the second of Don’s three trips around the world to date. They never had children, and divorced in 1987; but have remained amicable, and still stay in contact.

Don joined the IATSE union, and began working in the movie industry in Vancouver in the late 80s, initially as a stagehand, alternating between rigging for live theater, and working in props and art departments on a variety of television series; including MacGyver for its five year duration; as well as Sliders, Andromeda, Highlander, and Poltergeist; eventually becoming a props master, which he continued until his forced retirement in February 2008.



When you ask Don where he’s been, he jokingly answers in his kiwi/British/Canadian blended accent, “Where haven’t I been?” With three trips around the world so far, and numerous jaunts to all the eastern block countries (Russia, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Istanbul, Turkey), and the British Isles; skiing most of Europe’s exotic resorts like St Moritz, Switzerland; St Anton, and Axamer Lizum in Austria; and Chamonix/Mont Blanc, in France, Don has been around!

He’s also explored south of the equator to India, the Himalayas, Morocco and North and South Africa, Hong Kong, Tahiti, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Singapore, and in Sarawak, Borneo, where he volunteered with orangutans’ reintroduction into the wild. Add to those, a few trips back and forth to New Zealand, as well as Australia, to Darwin and Sydney. He’s also been to Tuktoyaktuk, in the arctic, in Canada’s North West Territories. Living in Canada, and traveling the USA extensively, he’s familiar with most of North and Central America and Mexico. About the only places he hasn’t been yet are Antarctica, and South America. But, Don intends to partially remedy that next October when he plans to visit Argentina and Uruguay; and in 2012, back to Africa for a safari perhaps, and of course to visit long-time friends there.

Don's travels to practically everywhere, bode well for why he has chosen to have his home in San Jose. This places Los Cabos, smack dab in some very favorable light, compared to all the other wonderful places he's been. He first came to the Baja in 1994; with the intent of finding a winter home. He was enchanted with San Jose del Cabo, and decided this would be the place, primarily because of our incredible weather, combined with a peaceful and low crime community. He and a few partners met realtor, Kay Darlington, who assisted them in finding and purchasing two units at Laguna Vista, which they owned until 2007, when they were sold to purchase a lot on Finisterra, with the intention of constructing a house. Kay and her husband Robin have since become very dear friends to Don over the years.

It was on his trip from Canada to inspect the Finisterra lot; when Don's world was shattered. As he and friend Kim Maynard, drove from Vancouver toward Mexico, they decided to stop for a night in Las Vegas, at Don's "son" Emil's home. (Another significant person in Don's life, is Emil, an ER physician in Las Vegas. Over the past two decades Don and Emil developed a father/son relationship; which was tested and strengthened by Don's near death experience. Emil and his then fiancée Heidi, kept vigil by Don's bedside for the first critical weeks of his recovery.)

In the early morning hours of February 6, 2008; they were hit head on by a drunk driver, traveling the wrong direction on the freeway. Kim (who was driving) sustained minor injuries, but Don was gravely injured, particularly on the right side of his body. His arm had been torn off above the elbow, his right leg had been shattered, and he had extensive head and internal injuries. His life truly hung in the balance; it looked like he would lose his leg as well as his arm. But he was rushed to hospital in Las Vegas where he spent 15 days on life support. After 18 days in total, he was stabilized enough to be moved, and MedEvac airlifted from Las Vegas, to ICU at Vancouver General Hospital. There, Don spent another six weeks, undergoing surgery to implant continuous rods in his right leg, and other treatments and repairs to his ravaged body. In June, he was moved to the G.F. Strong Rehab Centre, still in a wheelchair. It was not known if he would ever walk again. There he worked with doctors and therapists for another six weeks to see if he could live on his own. He was finally released in mid-July, then stayed at a friend's apartment and attended G.F. Strong, daily on an out-patient basis, continuing his rehabilitation until the end of August.

Don's strength, determination, and sheer will drove him to learn to walk again, to learn how to do everything with his left hand, when he had been right handed for over 60 years. He gradually got better and stronger, and able to walk with a crutch, followed by a walking stick. He had to learn to drive again, and had his car modified to allow him to safely drive with one hand. And in September, 2008 when he was declared well enough to be on his own again; Don did for a second time what many people never have the courage to do even once. He got in his car and drove to Las Vegas, all by himself! Then, a friend from Vancouver flew to meet him, and the two of them carried on down the Baja. Don finally completed his trip, seven months, indescribable pain and suffering, and the battle of his life, later than planned.

He then set about to interviewing architects and workers to build the house, and over the past two years Don and his team have created a beautiful and unique home; guest, dog, and wheelchair friendly. It's been a gradual steady process, and he is happy to say that their home is virtually complete, minus a few pieces of furniture, and odd details. His partners are lucky to have him, and they all will be able to enjoy their Cabo lifestyle for many years to come.

When you meet Don, you'll be impressed with his cheerful and indomitable spirit, great sense of humor, and tenacious survivor instincts. You can tell who'll be wearing the collar of immunity, if Don ever competes on Survivor! He can whip together a dinner for twelve with one hand, and is a gracious and generous host. He has a lot of friends whose identity he cannot divulge, but you can tell this man has traveled in some very impressive circles. Happily, Don has recently had the joy and honor to host the wedding of Emil and Heidi, here in Los Cabos, three years post-accident.

Clearly, it isn't necessary to ask Don what the worst event of his life was, when you know his story. But when you ask him what the best event of his life was, his blue eyes twinkle mischievously, and he simply smiles that crooked grin of his and says. "The Secrets Act is ten years long... Just say I've lived a very colorful, on edge lifestyle." and obviously he's not intending to quit just yet! - JL

London



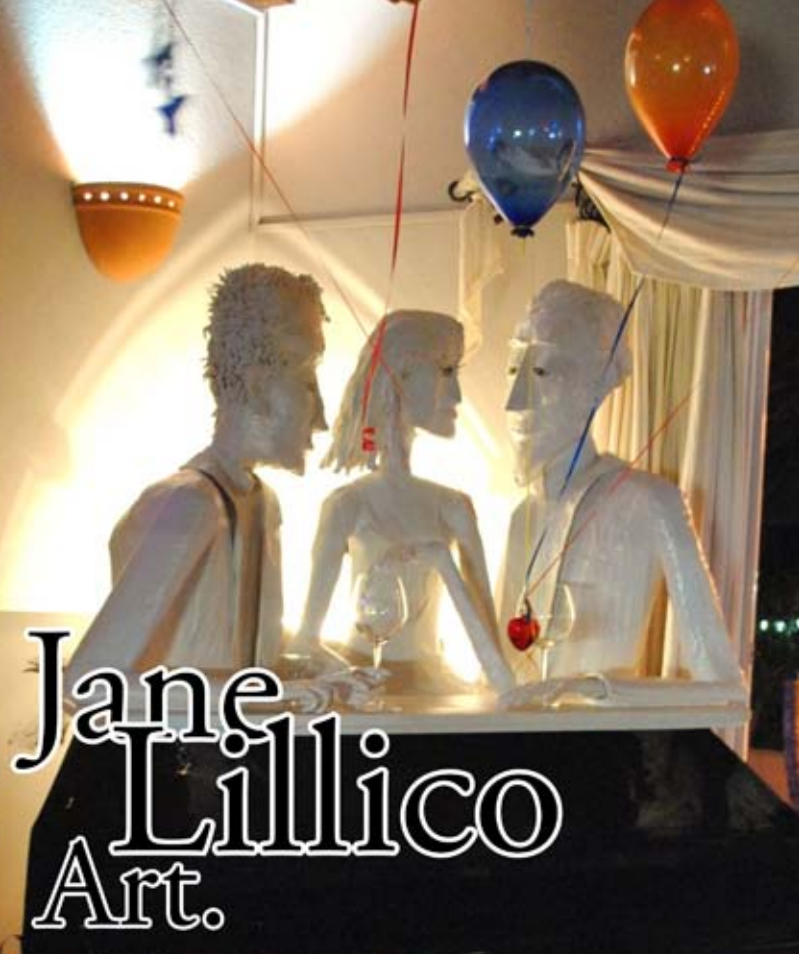
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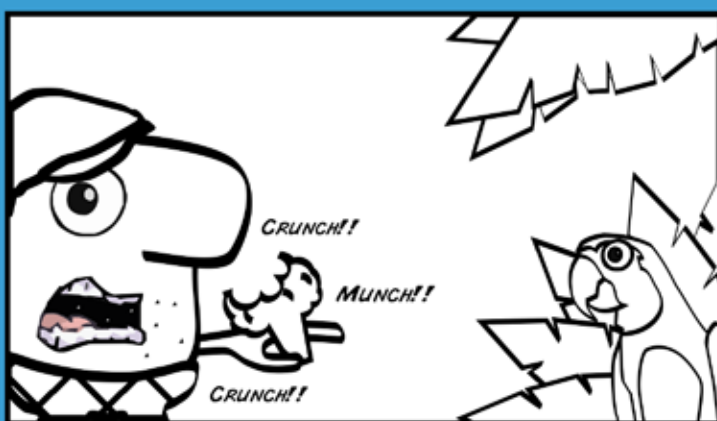
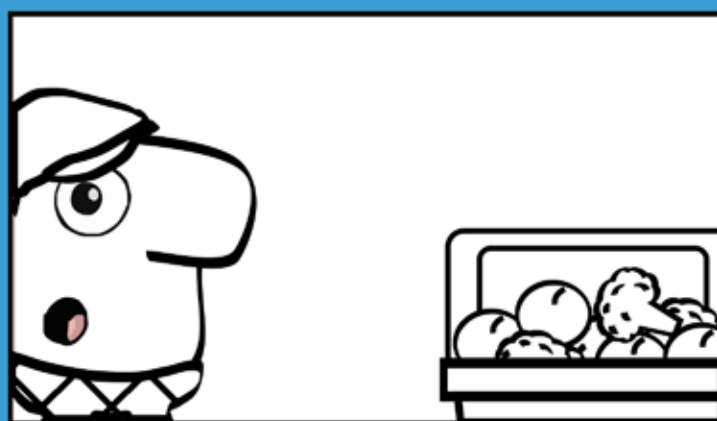
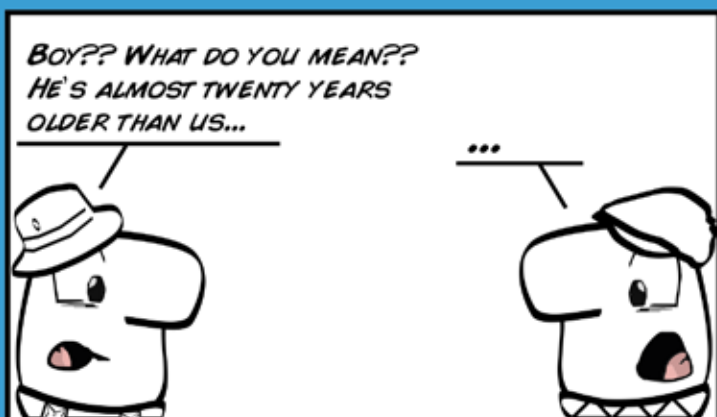
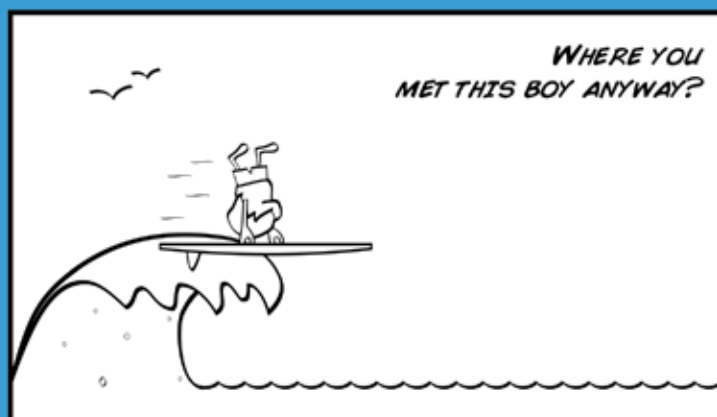
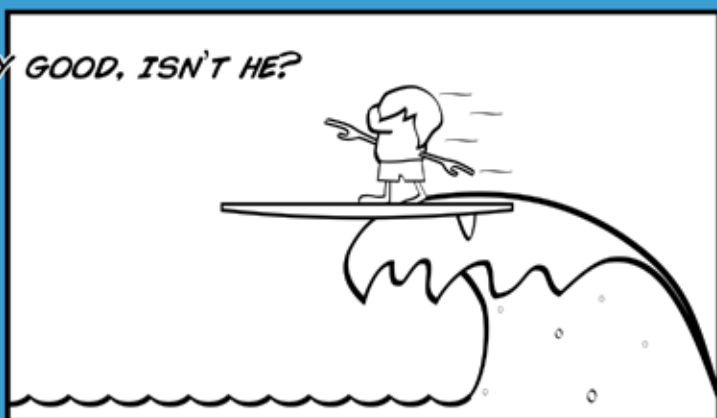
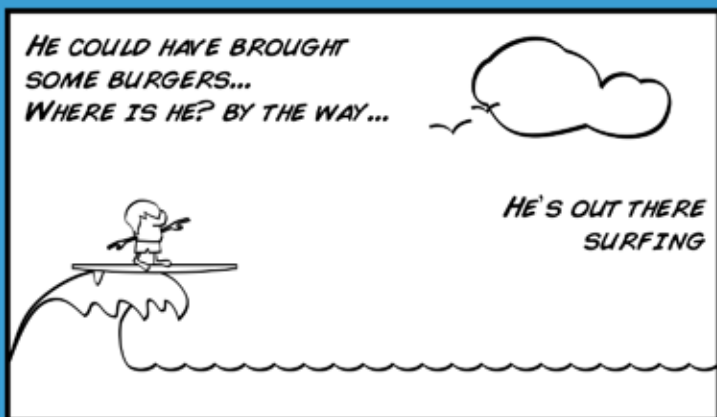
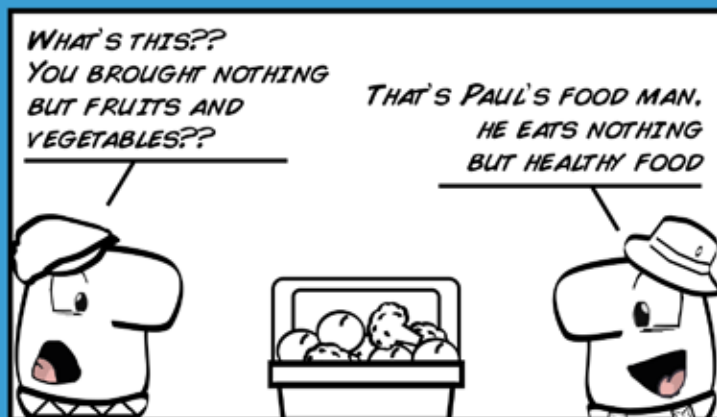
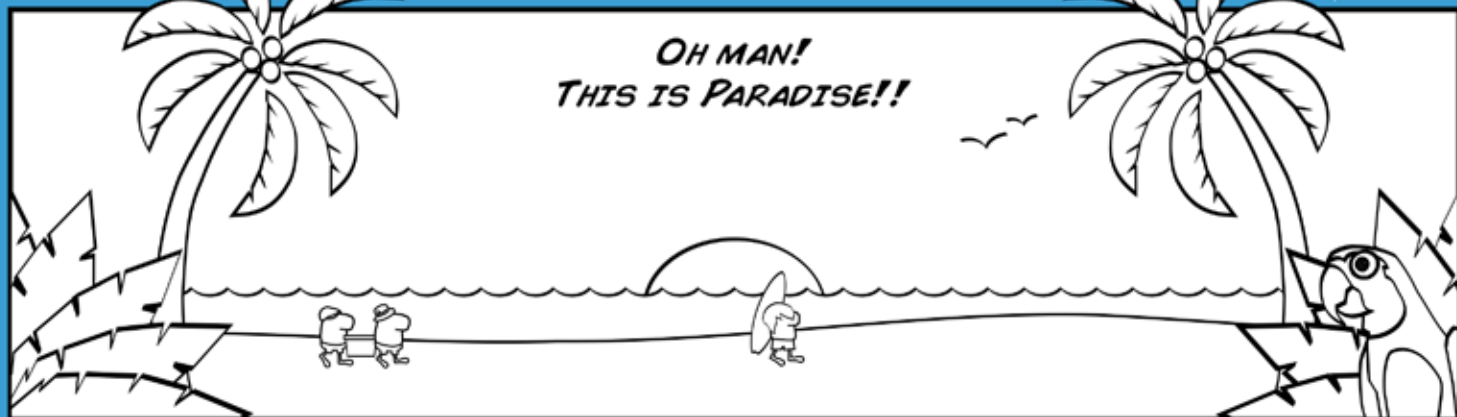
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