

NEW ORLEANS NOSTALGIA

Remembering New Orleans History, Culture and Traditions

By Ned Hémard

In 1973, a 117 year-old tradition ended in New Orleans with a ban on parading through the streets of the French Quarter. It was also the year comedian and actor Bob Hope reigned as Bacchus V in "Bacchus Goes To The Movies". Bob's theme song, which was introduced in the "Big Broadcast of 1938" (in a duet with Shirley Ross), was "Thanks for the Memory" (words and music by Leo Robin and Ralph Rainger).

Many traditions have ended in the Crescent City, while many are here to stay. So

Thanks for the Memory

Thanks for the memory,
Of Hansen's Sno-Bliz Stand, the Bucktown All-Stars Band,
Liuzza's lunch and Benny Grunch, and weren't those grillades grand?
How thrilling it was!

Thanks for the memory,
The Proteus parade, the night the Nevilles played,
The étouffée, café au lait and mayhem Morgus made,
How crazy it was!

Many's the time that we feasted,
And Lent was the time that we fasted.
And oh how sublime while it lasted!
We did have fun and no harm done.

So thanks for the memory,
When Comus rolled at night, lit up by flambleaux's light,
Those po-boys dressed were just the best, and boy that Barq's had bite.
So thank you so much.

Thanks for the memory,
The Fair Grounds for a race, and Dixie by the case,
That Mardi Gras when first you saw my eye-patched pirate face.
How magic it was!

We had some drinks over gumbo,
My words tumbled out mumbo jumbo.
I actually mumbled like Dumbo.
We had a blast. It couldn't last!

Thanks for the memory,
Of Garden District homes, the best of Super Domes,
Department stores with so much more, like Krauss and D. H. Holmes.
How super it was!

Thanks for the memory,
That steak house named for Ruth, the singer's gold-capped tooth,
How spirits soared when K'Doe roared the words "Tain't It The Truth!"
I thank you so much.

We said *adieu* with a cocktail,
Then I got as "high" as Lee's Statue.
I clumsily threw a kiss *at* you.
No tears, no fuss, Hooray for us!

So, thanks for the memory.
And strictly *entre nous*, my darlin' how are you?
And how are all the little things we never got to do?
But like the Saints, who once were Ain'ts, some dreams indeed come true.
So thank you so much.

Bob Hope died in 2003 at age 100. Thanks for the Memory, Bob.

NED HÉMARD

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"Thanks for the Memory"
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