

NEW ORLEANS NOSTALGIA

Remembering New Orleans History, Culture and Traditions

By Ned Hémard

My Favorite New Orleans Things (Revisited)

Three years ago I penned the lyrics to "My Favorite New Orleans Things," sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music". New Orleans natives have responded favorably, hearing it performed on WWOZ and inquiring about the song in Gambit.

Five years after the disaster of Katrina, the New Orleans area still has many "Favorite Things". Looking forward, it is positive to treasure and remember the things we all hold dear. Here is "My Favorite New Orleans Things" once again, with three additional verses added:

Crawfish and crab boil and Creole tomatoes,
Fat Harry's cheese-covered French fried potatoes,
Lovin' the way that Fats Domino sings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Flames of the flambeaux,
The satire of Momus,
Beautiful tableaux,
The mystery of Comus,
Colorful coconuts from Zulu Kings,
These have been truly spectacular things.

When the termites
Fly on May nights,
It's not all that bad.
I simply recall these New Orleans things
And then I don't feel so bad.

Debris on a Ferdi or shrimp from Manale's,
Plantation homes with historic oak alleys,
Driving to Popeye's for fried chicken wings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Andouille gumbo and rich jambalaya,
Pronouncing Tchefuncta and Bogue Falaya,
Galatoire's lunches on Fridays in Spring,
Any of these is a wonderful thing.

On the Westbank
Garland's Think Tank
Sometimes gets me sad.
I simply recall these New Orleans things
And then I don't feel so bad.

Sugary beignets with coffee and chicory,
Trying to navigate Hickory and Dickory,
A six-pack of Dixie with fried onion rings,
Benny Grunch also has favorite things.

Tom Dempsey's kick when the Saints played the Lions,
Sippin' a Hurricane at Pat O'Brien's,
Bartholomew's "Monkey" or "My Ding-A-Ling",
Oh what a hip yet hilarious thing!

When my snowball
Takes a free fall
On the neutral ground,
I conjure up some of these favorite things
And pretty soon I'll rebound.

Bacchus, Endymion, Orpheus, Muses,
Lagniappe and grillades and riverboat cruises,
Sazeracs served on some fabulous fling,
It's off to Adler's in search of some bling.

Breakfast at Brennan's and Mass on a Sunday,
Red beans and rice with a Barq's on a Monday,
A Morgus mistake and the chaos it brings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When my aunt dines
Down at Antoine's,
"Oysters Foch" seems mad.
But if only she'd try those delectable things,
She certainly would be glad.

"Trick Bag," "Blue Monday," "It's Raining" and "Ya Ya,"
"Don't You Just Know It" and "Who Shot the La La?"
Satchmo and K-Doe, Lloyd Price and Earl King,
We have *beaucoup* songs and singers that swing.

Saints win the Super Bowl, whole town rejoices!

Po-boys from Parkway, there's so many choices,
An icy cold "Amber" from Abita Springs,
These are a few great New Orleans things.

There's Mandina's,
Tipitina's,
Big Chief writing pad!
I simply remember these "Big Easy" things
And then I don't feel so bad!

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(Revisited)"
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