

# Opinions



## Huff Odyssey worth the abuse



Looking On  
Raz Autry

Having survived a road trip with my non-smoking, teetotaler, buddy D.R. Huff and his lovely wife Emmie I am now ready to record the events for history.

Due to D.R.'s contrary nature, the trip didn't start with perfect accord. I informed him there would be no smoking in the van by him and my brother Corbett. Both are addicted to the weed. His reply was: "The first thing I bought for the trip was a pair of ear plugs."

My good wife Ireni was to make the trip. Her work schedule caused her to remain behind. My brother Corbett was available so I invited him to go. I felt badly about Emmie traveling with three men. She needed a lady companion. I tried to remedy the situation by getting some ladies to go along, but to no avail.

When I asked Shirley Gibson, she used the slim excuse she was involved in an election. Dorothy Sparrow of Medicine Shoppe fame would have gone if only I had waited to ask her. Her husband Ray, who is a Methodist minister, was standing nearby when I asked and Dorothy faded on me. Miss B stared at me as if I had lost my mind.

Margaret Winstead, one of my favorite people, was my next choice. However, I lost my nerve. I would dread facing Arthur each Sunday. Those beady eyes staring me down would be more than I could take.

Mary Helen Senter was strong on my mind. Seeing that black mourning bow placed by Neal on the door every time she left was more than I could take. So I chickened out. Being totally discouraged by refusals from some of my favorite ladies, caused me to come to a sobering conclusion. My days as a sex symbol were over.

We left Ashley Heights at 1 p.m. on Sunday. D.R. was driving and smoking. I had a good start on black lung disease before we got to Charlotte.

After visiting Ronnie's house in Atlanta, we bedded down in a Day's Inn for our first night. Em-

land is planted in cotton and soybeans.

Traveling across the various states one comes to realize how much the landscape is alike throughout America. Arkansas is no exception. Many parts of it look much like coastal North Carolina.

Arkansas has numerous oil wells scattered on farms. To have an oil well to subsidize tobacco, cotton and soybeans would be more than Hoke farmers could handle.

Everything is large in Texas. Some unkept cities in it are like cities elsewhere. Too many people, empty buildings and loafers on the corners.

Our first night in Texas was spent in a truck stop motel off Interstate 30. We stopped at a motel in Texarkana, so named because it straddled the Arkansas-Texas state line.

After checking the rooms, I told Emmie we would be attacked by a Texas-size cockroach if we stayed. Needless to say, we hit the road with a lot of lip from Grouchy.

Every state has outstanding features. Oklahoma and Texas are no exception.

D.R. and Emmie had some friends in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. They operate a senior citizen home in Idabel and we met them at the home. Bill and Altaclair Morgan are first class folks. They welcomed Corbett and me like long lost friends. D.R. was afraid if he went in the senior citizen home he couldn't leave. I encouraged the folks to keep him, however, knowing him like they do their interest was non-existent.

Bill and Altaclair invited us for lunch. In a matter of fact language, they said you will enjoy the Elk. Since this meat was not high on my list of desirables, I declined. Corbett had already turned green and I used him as an excuse. I noticed D.R. didn't pull a chair out at the table and beg for elk.

Wichita Falls, Texas was our home for one night as was  
(Continued on page 6B)

## Rituals of autumn confusing

Faithful followers of the game of football make it their business to keep up with its intricate rituals. But, to the uninitiated, many of the symbolic gestures seen on the playing field must be very puzzling.

So, for the sake of those long-suffering wives who must soon endure the annual holiday football orgies, here are some handy viewing tips.

You must understand at the outset that some gestures can have more than one meaning, depending on the situation.

For example, you might see someone on the field thrust both arms into the air, much like a victim of an armed bank robbery. If a man in a striped shirt does this, it means that one of the teams has scored a touchdown or field goal. (Veteran viewers refer to this as "putting points on the board.")

If a football player does this, on the other hand, he is simply helping the officials (the men in striped shirts) do their job, reminding them that a score has been made,



Lucien Coleman  
Things That Matter

just in case they weren't looking.

What is really confusing is that this very same signal can have yet another meaning. A player who prances about with both arms in the air could be calling attention to the heroic play he has just made. This helps the spectators give credit where credit is due.

Players have other ways of calling attention to their prowess. For example, a burly tackle who has just flattened the opposing team's quarterback might cavort around, flinging one arm forward like a man trying to swat a fly. Or he might hold his hand aloft, slapping the hands of teammates. (This latter practice is known as "high-fiving".)

Another little ritual usually oc-

curs just after a player has failed to catch a ball thrown to him. The player drops to his knees and assumes a position like that of a Muslim at prayer, beating his head against the ground. This is a symbolic way of saying, "I can't imagine what caused me to miss the ball on this particular occasion, since I almost always catch it under normal conditions."

One of my favorites, because it is always so funny, is the simulated temper-tantrum. In this maneuver, a player jumps up and down vigorously, wildly waving his arms, very much like a 5-year-old whose mother won't let him have another chocolate-chip cookie. He does this to let the man in the striped shirt know that he is less than pleased with the manner in which the official is conducting the game.

While time and space will not permit a more exhaustive explanation of the game, I do hope these viewing tips will be of help to those who are relative newcomers to America's favorite spectator sport.

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