

The Little
Quizmaster
That Could

By the Evil Mr. Phil

Lemon Curry?

A note to the reader:

Please use caution when listening to this story. Although you may feel the urge to talk while the story is being read, you should avoid it at the cost of great personal embarrassment.

Once upon a time, in a little town, by a little pool of water, there was a little quizmaster, whose parents loved him so much that they named him after their favorite pop singer. Isn't that a nice beginning to the story?

The Flaxmans loved their little quizmaster so much that they named him RuPaul Erwin Flaxman III. Did I mention that all of the Flaxman men have been fans of the singer RuPaul? In fact, the little quizmaster's Great-Grandparents used a hit single by RuPaul that was released on November 17, 1992 for the first dance at their wedding. Do you know what the song was called?



“Now turn to the right.”

Although the little quizmaster's life seemed idyllic, he often wondered what great trivia there was to be found in the wide world.

So, one day he packed up his almanacs and his books of quotations into his car and embarked on a journey in search of great trivia. He drove across the George Washington bridge and got on Interstate 80 going westbound and decided to take it all the way to the end.

While driving he wondered what US State he would end up in. Do you know what state he would end up in?

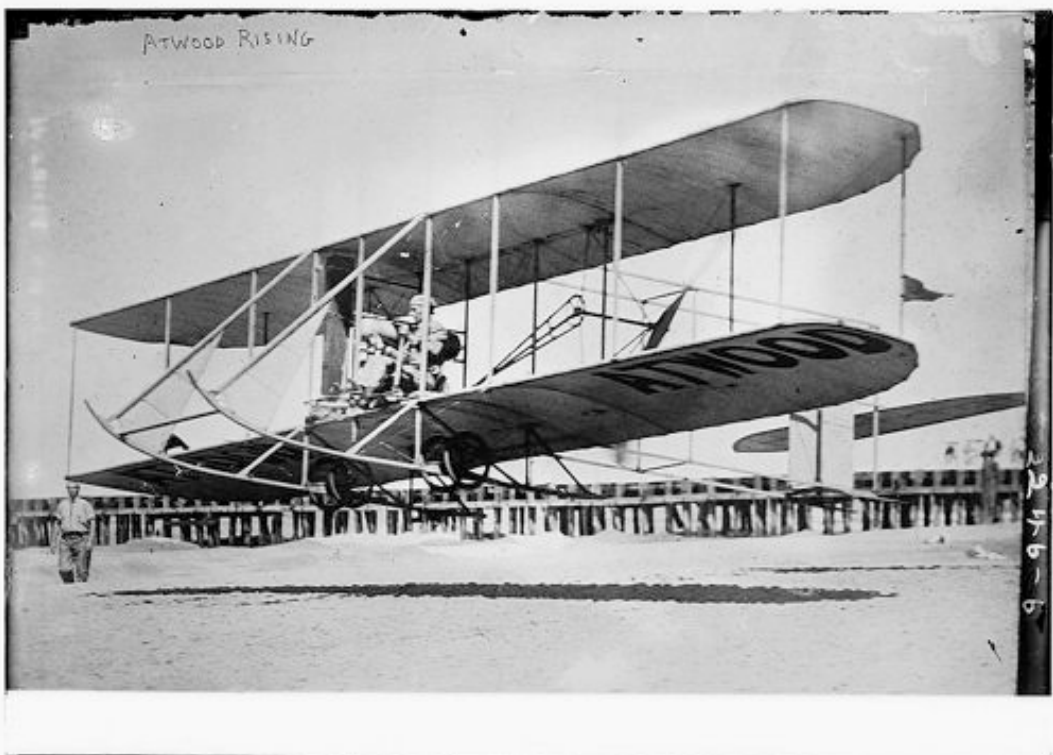


“Cross-country trip? I certainly hope this isn’t another Smokey and the Bandit round.”

When he got to the end of the highway he looked around him, but he didn't see any great trivia.

So, he traded in his car for a plane ticket to some exotic destination. He boarded the plane and settled into a nice daydream about all the great trivia he would find at his exotic destination. He looked up to see that the inflight entertainment was a television program with characters that had names like Boober, Gobo, and Mokey?

These names sounded silly to him and he wondered what show it could be. Do you know show it was?



“I can’t believe they made me remove my pantaloons when I went through TSA.”

After the television show ended the airline began to show Cabin Boy with Chris Elliott. Luckily the pilot had fallen asleep in the cabin, and the plane veered way off course, crashing into a mountain in Iceland.

Although he was the only survivor, RuPaul was easily able to figure out where he was by taking note of the country code Top Level Domain being used by all the local websites.

Do you know what two letter suffix appears at the end of Icelandic websites?



“Get back up in the sky, foreigner!”

Despite all the great Icelandic websites, the little quizmaster still found no great trivia.

So, being out of money, he built himself a raft, loaded it up with local delicacies like fermented shark meat, and prepared to sail wherever the currents would take him.

The locals were all excited to see him leave and so they saw him off with a traditional celebratory activity that first occurred in lower Manhattan on October 28, 1886, during the dedication of the Statue of Liberty.

Can you guess what kind of special event the locals staged for his departure?



“Hey baby, are you into paddling? Then come with me to my boat.”

At the beginning of his trip, the little quizmaster got lost in thought, dreaming about fermented shark meat, and why anyone would think this was a good idea.

Much to RuPaul's surprise, when he awoke from his thoughts he saw that even his little raft was showing a movie. This one starred Denzel Washington, and he was uttering a line about Pilgrims and Plymouth Rock.

Do you know what Denzel Washington movie was shown as the inflight entertainment on RuPaul's raft?



This is president Taft, his wife, children, and Major Butt. That guy standing behind him is named Major Archibald Willingham Butt.

He spent many years sailing around on his raft, and had many adventures, but he still hadn't found any great trivia.

His food supplies began to run low despite his reluctance to actually eat the fermented shark meat.

His fruitless attempts at fishing over the side of the raft reminded him of *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, which in turn reminded him of Hemingway's macho persona and the nickname it earned him.

Do you know what nickname is given to Ernest Hemingway with regard to his macho persona?



“Just call me Sir Grapefellow!”

It was then that the little quizmaster's prospects looked the most bleak. He had run out of food and there was no land in sight.

When suddenly he spotted a ship in the distance. He flagged the ship down, and was pulled aboard. He learned that the crew were all huge fans of reality television, and had christened their ship in honor of a celebrity that recently fell while dancing to Somewhere Over the Rainbow?

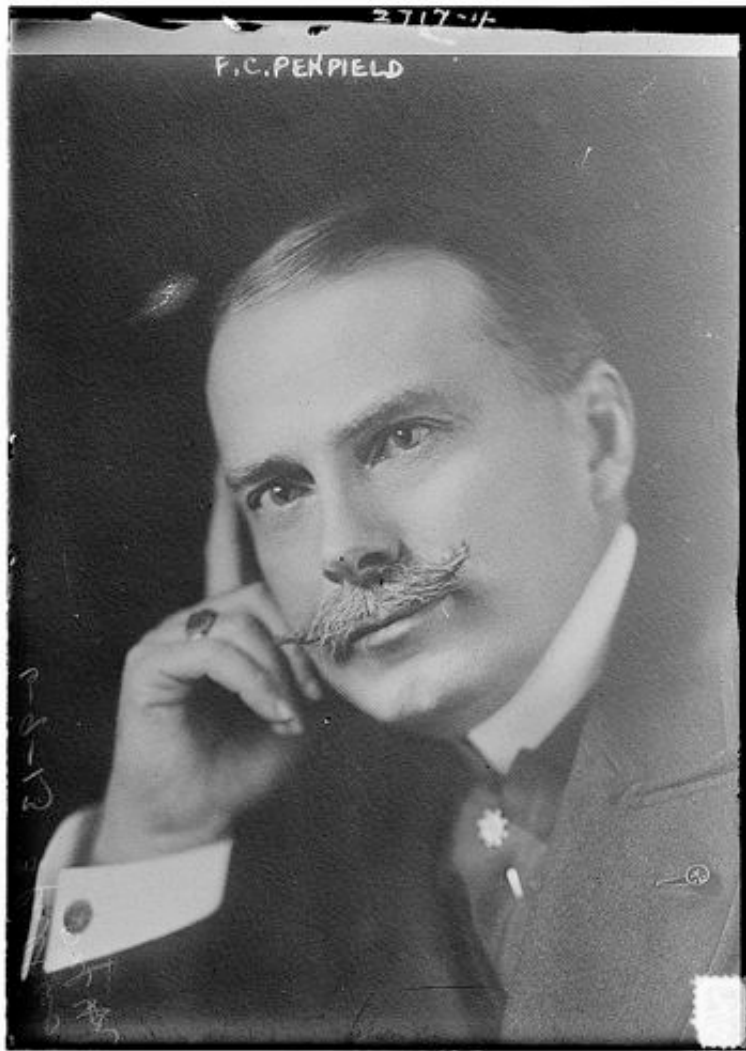
Do you know what celebrity they named their ship after?



“I said, Dance!”

The little quizmaster met the captain and recounted his failed attempts at finding great trivia. He told the captain the stories of his Great-Grandparent's wedding song; his drive to the state at the western end of Interstate 80; the TV show with the silly characters named Boober, Gobo, and Mokey; Iceland's two letter domain suffix; the celebration akin to the Statue of Liberty's dedication; the Denzel Washington movie; Hemingway's macho nickname. He asked the captain again about the celebrity-inspired name of his ship. The captain said, "RuPaul, don't you realize that all those things are great trivia?" At that, the little quizmaster exclaimed a word defined as expressing frustration that one has just done something foolish, which was first added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2001

Do you know what word he exclaimed?



“A dyslexic man walked into a bra? Who ever heard such nonsense?”

RuPaul realized that the captain was right. Great trivia was all around him and just waiting to be noticed.

The captain offered to take him home, but although the little quizmaster had found his great trivia, he still had one question to answer. He decided to continue sailing around the world on his raft until he could finally figure out what is the Common Bond?

How are all the events in the little quizmaster's story related? And while your sleepy heads work out the answers, there's just one more part of this story to tell.

RuPaul lived happily as a rafter.

The End



“And just who’s balloon is this?”
William F. Assman, that’s who!