



REGION II RAMBLINGS

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the Intellectually Gifted

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Disclaimer:

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Connections

Hello, Region II Ilians.

Facebook Opportunities:

The Region II Facebook group area is up and running, devoted to listing potential events and functions in the Region II areas. Other Intertel FaceBook groups are available to Ilians and may be of interest for that travel to other regions.

- a. Intertel Region II: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2851131574938895/> Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas
- b. Southwest Ohio Intertel: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/374634316653894/>
Predominately for Cincinnati-Columbus-Dayton triangle, but open to any Intertel member.
- c. Southern California Intertel: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/166192387383887/> Group for discussions and events for Southern California Intertel groups from San Diego all the way through Santa Barbara.
- d. Intertel: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/therealintertel/> The Mother Ship

Member Contributions

This month we'll start to feature some of the Region II authors that have submitted items for publication.

Paul Shaw hails from Eastern Tennessee. He grew up in Auburn, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Biology, a Fisheries Management major. After duty in the Navy as an Operations Department division officer, he moved to eastern Tennessee, near Oak Ridge, where he built a log home in the woods. Paul wrote weekly newspaper columns for 12 years, as a hobby, and has worked for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in reservoir fisheries for 33 years. He had had several articles published in *Integra* and the *Mensa Bulletin*.

This month, we'll hear about an:

Opportunity Lost

I'd spent the day hunting for squirrels on my uncle's land north of Oxford but hadn't seen a squirrel anywhere. It was almost dark when I got back to my car and heard some kind of varmint scrambling up a cedar nearby. I figured it to be a squirrel, following the reckless trend of fishermen and hunters to believe anything which moves, or shows up on a fish locator, has to be the quarry they're after.

I sent a shot into the tree, aiming at the dark figure which was moving among the branches and was surprised, and disappointed, to see a raccoon come tumbling down. I stared at the poor animal for a few minutes, wondering what to do with it. No game should go to waste, but this was a 'coon; other than putting the tail on my antenna, as any respectable redneck kid would do, I had no idea what to do with it. I pitched it in the trunk of the Chevy and headed down the dirt road toward the main highway. There was a sharecropper's shack on the way, which gave me an idea. I pulled into the driveway and got out.

A black man walked toward me and asked what I wanted. Bear in mind that this was not too many years after the James Meredith debacle and tragedy at the University a few miles away. I had to watch myself, I figured, so hailed the man with a friendly greeting. He returned it and again asked what I was up to.

"I've been hunting and shot something by mistake and wonder if you could use it. It's a raccoon," I said.

"A what?" came the reply.

"A raccoon. I thought it was a squirrel, but it wasn't, and I don't want it to go to waste."

"Let me see what you're talking about," he said, following me to the car. I opened the trunk and pointed at it.

"There it is. If you can use it for something, the hide, maybe, you are welcome to it."

He leaned over and dragged it to the edge of the trunk where he could get a better look at it in the darkness.

"Oh! That's a 'coon!" he exclaimed. "I didn't know what you were talking about when you said you had a raccoon." He emphasized the "rac" part of the word when he said it.

"Well sir," I replied. "Under the circumstances of the day, I wasn't about to come into some black man's yard in north Mississippi, after dark, and say anything about a coon!" He laughed loudly at the comment and slapped me on the shoulder, saying he'd be happy to take it. I figured he'd sell or use the hide, but it was not the case.

"What are you doing tomorrow night?" he asked. "You show up over here and we'll have this here 'coon for supper. You're welcome to share the meal with us." The offer surprised me. I was not too outgoing in those days and begged off with some lame excuse about having a prior commitment. It was the mistake of youth, an opportunity missed. Such opportunities do not come around very often. I've regretted it to this day.

Paul H. Shaw



2020 Annual General Assembly

Online registration is open for the 2020 Annual General Assembly, which will be held in Denver, CO this year. The AGA will start June 24th and run through June 28th. La Quinta Inn & Suites Denver Tech Center will be the host hotel, with lots of things to see and do in the area. Denver has a reliable public light rail system, and many interesting sites.

Visit the Intertel website for more info. <https://www.intertel-iq.org/event-3481695>

COVID-19 Travel Challenges

The topic of the day seems to be COVID-19, aka the coronavirus. Is it Captain Trips, or just a bad version of the cold, or something in-between? Realistically, we don't yet know just how bad it may be.

Travel is an essential part of my job. The primary ISO registrar I work with sent out these tips in preparation for THEIR annual meeting. I'm passing them along.

- 1) NO HANDSHAKING! Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc. (*Note: Being ex-military, I like the casual salute...*)
- 2) Use ONLY your knuckle to touch light switches, elevator buttons, etc.. Lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.
- 3) Open doors with your closed fist or hip - do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on bathroom and post office/commercial doors.
- 4) Use disinfectant wipes at the stores when they are available, including wiping the handle and child seat in grocery carts.
- 5) Wash your hands with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.
- 6) Keep a bottle of sanitizer available at each of your home's entrances. AND in your car for use after getting gas or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands. We will have sanitizers for each attendee at the Annual Meeting.
- 7) If possible, cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard. Use your elbow only if you have to. The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for up to a week or more!
- 8) In any case, try to avoid touching your face, mouth and nose with your hands.

The following are some websites with additional information:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Be safe, and I still hope to see a lot of you at the Denver AGA.

Johnnie R. Vaughn
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Articles, Poetry, Letters to the Editor, etc.

If you have something you'd like to submit for the Region II Ramblings newsletter, send them to me at johnnie.r.vaughn@gmail.com. The current goal is to publish bi-monthly, but if we start getting enough material I will kick it up to a monthly schedule.