



## Episode 102

### **NEON MUSEUM and BONEYARD** *Las Vegas, NV*

Vegas nights are renowned for their neon glow, but what happens to all those neon signs when they're discarded by their hotels and casinos? If they're lucky, they'll be given a second life at the Neon Museum and Boneyard.

### **ART CAR PARADE** *Houston, TX*

Houston's annual Art Car Parade is the mother of all art car parades, and it brings out a group of colorful and wildly creative characters -- God bless them all, not just for their brilliant car art, but for the great party they put on the night before the Parade featuring glow-in-the-dark costumes, copious amounts of liquor and two guys with fireworks shooting out of their heads.

### **FARMACIA BOTANICA MILLION DOLLAR** *Los Angeles, CA*

At this pharmacy, you'll find the shelves stocked with mysteriously- shaped candles, potentially destructive potions and anatomically correct voodoo dolls; if the proprietors are to be believed, this is your one-stop shop for erotic love, financial success and putting a serious curse on your least favorite people.

### **HANGOVER HEAVEN** *Las Vegas, NV*

If you tie one on in Sin City and need to be semi-coherent the next morning, you'll want to call the friendly folks at Hangover Heaven -- they've developed a proven antidote for your symptoms, and darned if they don't make house calls! Oh, and if you prefer your health practitioners to look like soap opera stars, ask for Doctor Jason.

### **DEKE SKAYTON SPACE & BICYCLE MUSEUM** *Sparta, WI*

Space travel and bicycles might not seem like obvious candidates to share one museum, but to the managers of this museum it makes perfect sense. If you've ever ridden a bike or dreamed of being an astronaut (or pretended to be an astronaut while riding a bike), this place is a must see.

## Episode 103

### **HOWARD HUGHES' SPRUCE GOOSE** *McMinnville, OR*

The Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum is clearly determined to fill your day (and maybe your week) with myriad activities, whether it's their space and aviation exhibit, their missile silo, their firearms display, their movie theater, their working chapel or their waterpark. The centerpiece of it all is a famous wooden airplane designed and built by an eccentric billionaire that's actually a flying boat and flew only once.

**PECULIARIUM** *Portland, OR*

The Peculiarium calls itself a "Gallery of the Strange", and once you set foot inside, you'll agree wholeheartedly. Whether it's weird taxidermy, simulated alien autopsies or insect-covered ice cream that you crave, this place definitely aims to please.

**MARV'S FARM TOYS & ANTIQUES** *Monroe, WI*

Marv Rufi has never been a farmer, but that hasn't prevented him from putting together possibly the largest collection of farm-related toys in the civilized world. He puts most of them up for sale every Saturday at his store/museum just off the town square.

**BEER CAN HOUSE** *Houston, TX*

John Milkovisch combined his taste for beer with an aversion to house paint and created what is now considered a folk art masterpiece. He's long since passed away, but the city of Houston has preserved his Beer Can House for all lovers of fine brew and questionable home improvement.

**CLASSICAL GAS MUSEUM** *Embudo, NM*

We pulled off the road between Taos and Santa Fe at the Classical Gas Museum and discovered a treasure trove of antique gas pumps and other gas station-related memorabilia. The owner has no interest in modern inventions such as a website, so this episode is the only place you'll see him or his historic collection. 27 cents a gallon, you say? Fill 'er up!

**EVERGREEN AIR & SPACE MUSEUM** *McMinnville, OR*

Come for the *Spruce Goose*, but stay for the 300 other attractions at the Evergreen complex. There's so much to see including a 747 sitting on the roof of a waterpark, a humongous Titan 2 rocket, and what may be the world's most dangerous personal helicopter.

## Episode 104

**STAND STILL PARADE** *Whalan, MN*

When it comes to having a parade--size matters, so when the tiny town of Whalan, Minnesota wanted one of their own they had to get creative. You see, the town is only two blocks long, so the parade would be over almost before it began – unless the parade stood still and it was the spectators that moved.

**NATIONAL ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM** *Las Vegas, NV*

What blows up must come down: you'll learn that and a great deal more if you come within range of the National Atomic Testing Museum. For example, did you know that back in the day, J. C. Penney's supplied mannequins for nuclear bomb tests, then dusted them off and put them back in their stores? Well, now you do!

**\$3.99 SHRIMP COCKTAIL SPECIAL** *Las Vegas, NV*

The Golden Gate is the oldest Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, catering to high rollers for over 100 years, but its rich history is not this joint's biggest selling point--that would be their \$3.99 Shrimp Cocktail, or what the management likes to call "The Best Tail in Town."

**LOS ANGELES CORONER'S GIFT SHOP** *Los Angeles, CA*

For all your amusing death and violence related t-shirts and tzotchkie needs, go no further than the gift shop and the LA Coroner's Office. We hear the beach towel with the chalk outline is the hottest seller.

**BAUMGARTNER'S CHEESE SHOP** *Monroe, WI*

Since 1931, Baumgartner's has been known for selling the smelliest Limburger sandwiches in Wisconsin, and for their clientele's odd habit of tacking dollar bills to the ceiling.

**PINBALL HALL OF FAME** *Las Vegas, NV*

In Las Vegas, if you put a coin into a slot you expect to be pulling a lever, but not at the Pinball Hall of Fame, where you can test your flipper skills on over 250 machines that span some 8 decades. If you pay a visit, make sure to ask Founder/Curator Tim Arnold about the advantages to playing pinball stark naked.

## Episode 105

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY** *Houston, TX*

The National Museum of Funeral History puts the "Fun" back into "Funeral", giving a surprisingly upbeat spin to what could have been a real downer of a collection. Trust us when we say that caskets (like the one for a family of 3), hearses and embalming fluid have never been quite this entertaining.

***STRANGE SPRINGFIELD: Donner Party/Santa Anna's Leg/Half-Eaten Celebrity Sandwiches/Two-Story Outhouse*** *Springfield, IL*

Who knew that smack dab in the Land of Lincoln you will find a plaque commemorating the ill-fated Donner Party expedition, a Mexican general's prosthetic leg displayed in a state museum, a collection of half-eaten celebrity sandwiches and the world's first two-story outhouse?

**ED'S MUSEUM** *Wykoff, MN*

Ed Krueger was a highly participatory and much beloved member of the community in tiny Wykoff, and he also had a penchant for throwing away ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. When he died, the town chose to keep Ed's homemade museum up and running, which means that you've got a chance to ogle at a seriously odd and incredibly voluminous collection of...stuff.

**FANTASY WORLD of SCULPTOR DR. EVERMOR** *Baraboo, WI*

Enter the Land of Dr. Evermor, and you will find a sea of sculptures (assembled from salvaged metal parts) that all attest to the quirky brilliance of their creator -- culminating in his five-story tall, mind-boggling masterpiece, "The Forevertron."

**VOODOO DONUT WEDDING** *Portland, OR*

We attend a (semi-) authentic Voodoo wedding at a Portland donut shop that involved jumping over a broom and summoning the spirit of soul legend Isaac Hayes. Oh, and the donuts were creatively decorated and extraordinary.

Episode 106

**WORLD BEARD & MOUSTACHE CHAMPIONSHIP (pt1)** *Portland, OR*

If you're an aficionado of fancy and sometimes freakish facial hair, you won't want to miss the World Beard and Moustache Championship, where the level of human accomplishment in this challenging pastime is truly and visually astounding.

**SALT & STRAW ICE CREAM** *Portland, OR*

The Salt and Straw Ice Cream Shop prides itself on its wide variety of flavors ("Strawberry Honey Balsamic with Black Pepper, please!"), their bizarre ingredients ("pig's blood, anyone?") and the ability of its servers to hold up to 12 tasting spoons in one hand.

**LOST CITY of DEMILLE'S 1923 "TEN COMMANDMENTS"** *Guadalupe, CA*

The great set of the epic silent movie TEN COMMANDMENTS was buried and abandoned right where it was filmed--on the Central Coast of California. An enterprising documentary filmmaker researched DeMille's memoirs and discovered the precise location of an entire Egyptian city under the windswept sand dunes. A small collection of statues has been excavated, and the local Dunes Center exhibits artifacts from this bygone era of filmmaking.

**MUSEUM OF DEATH** *Los Angeles, CA*

Nothing makes you appreciate life like a brush with death, so a visit to this LA museum might be just what the doctor ordered; as for the two-headed turtle and the albino pygmy goat, chalk them up as an added bonus!

**WORLD BEARD & MOUSTACHE CHAMPIONSHIP (finals)** *Portland, OR*

When last we left the wonderful world of whiskers, we got a preview of just how fabulous the facial follicle could be. But now it was time for these hairy heroes to stand up and be judged. After 4 hours judging 18 categories, who would be the grand prize winner?

## Episode 201

### **COG RAILWAY** *Mount Washington, NH*

It's the first railway of its kind in the world, and it climbs to the top of the highest mountain in the Northeast, where it encounters some of the strongest winds recorded on earth. Oh, and at 5 mph it may be the slowest train ride you'll ever take.

### **BEN & JERRY'S FLAVOR GRAVEYARD and FACTORY TOUR** *Waterbury, VT*

We peak behind the scenes at the world-famous factory and witness the clockwork-like precision (and occasional crazy calamities) that go into producing America's favorite ice cream; then it's off to their "Flavor Graveyard" where the "dearly departed" go to die.

### **SNEAKER CONVENTION** *Cleveland, OH*

At Sneaker Con, you can buy, sell, or trade athletic footwear, even have your sneakers custom painted – and if you want a pair of Jordans or LeBrons, you better bring some Benjamins.

### **BUG ART** *St. Johnsbury, VT*

John Hampson's medium was bugs, thousands of bugs, which he meticulously glued to the canvas to create extremely unique works of art. They've survived since the 1870's and currently reside at the Fairbanks Museum, where the insect world's loss is definitely our gain.

### **MERMAID SHOW** *Weeki Wachee, FL*

The Weeki Wachee Mermaid Show has been thrilling little girls and not-so-little boys for almost sixty years. We got a backstage pass so we could find out what it takes for these gorgeous denizens of the deep to perform underwater for up to 40 minutes at a time without scuba gear; SPOILER ALERT: there are no gills involved.

## Episode 202

### **GATORLAND** *Orlando, FL*

Gatorland has been around since the '40s and boasts more than 1,500 alligators and crocodiles on the premises; you can feed 'em, wrestle 'em and zipline over 'em, just don't lose your head and -- actually that's all we wanted to say: don't lose your head, or any other important body parts.

### **"A CHRISTMAS STORY" HOUSE** *Cleveland, OH*

The home used for exterior scenes in this holiday classic film sits in an old Cleveland neighborhood. The enterprising owner of the house saw a tourism opportunity when the movie became so popular. He gutted the home and recreated the interiors to appear just the same as seen in the movie set in the 1940s, complete with "a major award," Lifeboy Soap and a Red Ryder Air Rifle. So skip the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame and head right for the corner of 11th and Rowley. We double-dog dare you!

**MUHAMMAD ALI COLLECTION** *Hookset, NH*

The Merchants Auto Group may look like your everyday used car dealership, but thanks to owner Steve Springer they lay claim to one of the most extensive private collections of Muhammad Ali memorabilia in existence.

**WEST VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY** *Moundsville, WV*

The old West Virginia Penitentiary hasn't been occupied since 1955, but that doesn't mean you can't do some time there; sign up for the guided tour and you'll get a real taste of what prison life was like, along with an occasional dose of paranormal creepiness.

**RANDYLAND** *Pittsburgh, PA*

Randy Gilson has taken a city block on the north side of Pittsburgh and turned it into his own outdoor art installation. If you pay a visit to this colorful paradise, make sure to meet Randy, who's a real piece of [art] work himself.

## Episode 203

**LIBRARY STRADDLING US/CANADIAN BORDER** *Derby Line, VT*

The US/Canadian border runs right through Vermont's Haskell Library & Opera House, which makes it the only place you can check out a book, catch a show and defect to a foreign country without ever leaving the building.

**PROFESSIONAL GOLF BALL DIVER** *Kissimmee, FL*

We found a guy who makes a living off the misery of others, specifically off their miserable golf shots. You see, Jeffrey Bleim is a professional golf ball diver, and he's been fishing balls (and golf clubs and loaded guns) out of murky golf course ponds for close to thirty years.

**SCULPTOR DR. CHARLES SMITH** *Hammond, LA*

Dr. Charles Smith is an avid sculptor who has turned his front yard into an open air gallery for his work. He calls it The African American Heritage Museum & Black Veterans Archive, and even that lengthy name can't begin to capture the breadth of his collection.

**PALACE OF GOLD** *New Vrindaban, WV*

The hills of West Virginia might seem an unlikely place for a Hare Krishna colony, but there it is, New Vrindaban, home to about 200 ponytails and the magnificent Palace of Gold.

**WORLD'S ONLY SMOG MUSEUM** *Donora, PA*

If environmental protection has a birthplace, it's probably this small town in Pennsylvania's Monongahela Valley, where 27 people died on an incredibly polluted weekend in 1948. You can find out all about it at a place we just had to visit -- The Donora Smog Museum.

## Episode 204

### **ORLANDO SPEEDWORLD** *Orlando, FL*

At this dragaway's *Test-n-Tune Night*, anybody with a license and a need for speed can drive onto the track and burn rubber. Expect to hear loud engines, squealing tires and near constant trash talk among rowdy competitors.

### **POPS 66 SODA RANCH** *Arcadia, OK*

They boast more than 700 different types of bottled soda pop, with flavors like "Buffalo Wing" and "Bacon," and names like "Monster Mucus" and "Kitty Piddle." Don't let that scare you off, they also offer some with tasteful tastes and normal names-- but what's the fun in that?

### **FOLK ARTIST & FARMER RUBY WILLIAMS** *Plant City, FL*

Ruby Williams wanted to be a detective or a songwriter, but she wound up owning a farm, running a produce stand and becoming a prolific, nationally-known folk artist. Oh, and she preaches the word of God on the side.

### **NUTSHELL DIORAMAS OF UNEXPLAINED DEATH** *Baltimore, MD*

Maryland's Forensic Medical Center is in possession of an amazing series of "Death Scene Dioramas"--miniature re-creations of the aftermaths of actual murders, suicides and fatal accidents. They were all created by the wealthy Chicago socialite Frances Glessner Lee in the 1930's, and they're officially called "The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death"; frankly, you had us at "Death Scene Dioramas."

### **THE CHURCH BREW WORKS** *Pittsburgh, PA*

Devout Catholics might be alarmed to see their former church turned into a brewery and brewpub, but why fight it when the beer is this good and the oompah music is this loud?

### **BREAD & PUPPET THEATER** *Glover, VT*

They bake and serve bread at every show, and their puppets can be up to 20 feet tall, but perhaps the most remarkable feature of this theater in rural Vermont is their museum--a two-story barn filled to the rafters with garishly painted puppetry, large and small.

## Episode 205

### **DRIVE-IN CHURCH** *Daytona Beach, FL*

If you want to attend Sunday services but would rather not dress up or leave the dog at home or even get out of your car, we found just the place for you—it's the Drive-In Church in (where else?) Daytona Beach, Florida.

**CYPRESS COVE NUDIST RESORT** *Orlando, FL*

At Cypress Cove, your sunscreen budget is sky high, but think of all the money you save on laundry detergent! As for where to keep loose change, the whole place runs on a credit system and...hey, eyes up here, do you mind?!

**MIKE THE HEADLESS CHICKEN FESTIVAL** *Fruita, CO*

This annual event with an objectionable name celebrates a legendary chicken that miraculously lived for 18 months without the benefit of a head, which had been chopped off by its owner. Mike achieved considerable notoriety, appearing in Life Magazine and touring the sideshow circuit for a time. To cash in on Mike's fame, we expect the town will adopt the slogan, "Come to Fruita, it's a no-brainer."

**PRESIDENTS' HALL OF FAME** *Clermont, FL*

You'd think the Presidents' Hall of Fame would be located in our nation's capitol, but instead it's just off the highway near Orlando; the Hall's highlights include a jaw-dropping miniature White House furnished in exacting detail and a jaw-moving animatronic Obama.

**TABANERO CIGAR FACTORY** *Ybor City, FL*

Step into this cigar factory near Tampa and you'll feel like you've been teleported to Havana: there's Cuban expats hand-rolling cigars, delicious coffee being served, and a Cuban-American owner determined to bring a taste of his island home to the USA, without the pesky Communism thing.

**MAIN STREET MUSEUM** *White River Junction, VT*

It's an odd name for a place with so many off-kilter exhibits, curated by a man with a truly subversive mind. While much of the collection defies reality, (a fish with fur?), we really hope the display of Elvis' toenail clippings is genuine.

## Episode 206

**INPEX - THE INVENTORS EXPO** *Monroeville, PA*

Every year at the Inpex Convention, inventors from all over the world coalesce to pitch their newest creations, and if everything works out you may soon find *ShoePanties*, *Grape Caddies* and something called a *Flip 'n Flush* at stores near you.

**BIG CAT RESCUE** *Tampa, FL*

When we shot this story, we weren't aware that this sanctuary for big cats would eventually be featured in one of the most bizarre and widely watched documentaries in Netflix history ("TIGER KING"). And we had no reason to suspect anything heinous had taken place here. But it definitely was *WILD*.

**SPUTNIKFEST** *Manitowoc, WI*

On September 6th, 1962 a twenty pound chunk of the Russian satellite Sputnik IV crash landed on a street in this small town near Lake Michigan, where that event is now commemorated with a granite plaque and the annual Sputnikfest -- worth attending just to find out who will be crowned "Miss Space Debris."

**SPIDER WEB FARM** *Williamstown, VT*

As far as we know, Willie Knight has a corner on the spider web art market; he's collected more than 16,000 webs, attached them to wooden plaques, and sells them to anyone not suffering from arachnophobia.

**MUSEUM OF EVERYDAY LIFE** *Glover, VT*

There's nothing noteworthy about the collection at this museum, unless it's the very un-noteworthiness of things. Past exhibits have featured safety pins, matches and the toothbrush, and this year was devoted to dust. But curator Clare Dolan manages to give it all an engagingly goofy spin.

## Episode 301

**PIEROGI FEST** *Whiting, IN*

If you're of Eastern European heritage or just wish you were, Pierogi Fest is like Christmas in July! The festival features live polka music; a colorful parade starring *The Pierogettes, Ms. Paczski*, a guy dressed like a stuffed cabbage; and an amazingly wide array of fried dumplings.

**UNICYCLE FOOTBALL** *San Marcos, TX*

Since 2008, a group of intrepid men and women have inexplicably combined unicycles and tackle football to create a deranged and entertaining new sport; at the game we attended, there was very little protective gear and, astoundingly, no serious injuries.

**BIRD CAGE THEATER** *Tombstone, AZ*

You won't see much in historic Tombstone Arizona that's original until you walk into the Bird Cage Theater and Saloon that is. . . Back in the day this joint offered Vaudeville shows, ladies of the night, round the clock poker games, and extremely lax gun laws.

**LAMBERT'S "THROWED ROLLS"** *Foley, AL*

Lambert's Café has been around since the 40's, and if you patronize the place, make sure to keep your hands up or your head down. Why? Because there's a good chance that a large dinner roll will be flying your way! You see, Lambert's is also known as "The Home of the Thrown Rolls," and their waitstaff lives up to that name with every toss.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROPERTY REPOSITORY** *Denver, CO*

When smuggled animal skins, furs, tusks and the like are confiscated at the U.S. border, where do they end up? Turns out it's a warehouse near Denver, and if you visit, you'll find an astounding collection of wildlife-related items that will both amaze and disturb.

Episode 302

**NATIONAL BEARD & MUSTACHE CHAMPIONSHIP, featuring THE WHISKERINAS** *Chicago, IL*

One of the most popular segments in our first season (106) was our visit to the World Beard & Moustache Championship in Portland, so when our host was invited to be a judge at the Nationals in Chicago, he jumped at the chance – especially when he found out that this year's competitors would include the fairer, but no less bearded, sex...

**MYSTICS OF TIME – MARDI GRAS** *Mobile, AL*

Not many people realize that the American version of Mardi Gras started not in New Orleans, but in Mobile, Alabama, and a masked organization called The Mystics of Time are keeping that proud tradition alive.

**DRAGONMAN** *Colorado Springs, CO*

Brooklyn-born Mel Bernstein's alias is Dragonman, and his Colorado Springs compound has a guns & ammo store, a motorcycle that shoots flames, a firing range, and its own road ("Dragonman Drive"), but the real attraction is the 68,000 square foot museum featuring military paraphernalia from every war that America took part in, and includes the disturbing "Nazi Room."

**FAINTING GOATS** *Mobile, AL*

Sharon Reeve's farm has a menagerie of animals wandering around the premises, but it was her goats that really caught our attention – her fainting goats, to be more specific. Why these particular goats tend to stiffen and topple over when startled is scientifically explainable...and highly amusing.

**CATHEDRAL OF JUNK** *Austin, TX*

Chances are you'll always remember your first glimpse of the Cathedral of Junk, a 120 ton pile – sorry, "installation" – of discarded objects sitting in a backyard on the outskirts of Austin. If you call ahead, its creator might just allow you through the gate for a closer look at this magnificent monstrosity.

## Episode 303

### **TUGFEST** *LeClaire, IA & Port Byron, IL*

Once a year for more than three decades, two small towns on opposite sides of the Mississippi have shut down river traffic in order to hold a tug-of-war contest; yes, the rope stretches all the way across the river, and yes, the winner will have bragging rights for the next 364 days.

### **MOVIE MADNESS** *Portland, OR*

Who says video stores are a thing of the past? With its massive selection of movies and amazing array of Hollywood memorabilia, Portland's Movie Madness is a definite must-see...unlike some of the schlocky films they have for rent.

### **DINO HOTEL** *Lakeland, CO*

Check in to this inn near Denver and you'll want to check out the incredible collection of fossils that has rightfully earned this place the nickname "DINO HOTEL." And if you haven't seen enough dinosaur bones in the hotel's lobby, the manager just might take you on a field trip.

### **WORLD'S LARGEST TRUCKSTOP** *Wolcott, IA*

The Iowa 80 Truckstop is hands down the world's largest, and boasts a movie theater, 300-seat restaurant, chapel, laundry facility, barbershop, chiropractic clinic, and dentist's office. For a tired, hungry, disheveled and bored trucker in need of a sermon, a change of clothes and some dental work, this place is nothing short of nirvana!

### **MOONING AMTRAK** *Laguna Niguel, CA*

Every year on the second Saturday in July, the patrons of the Mugs Away Saloon run out to the nearby railroad tracks and bare their posteriors to a passing train. This singular event is called "The Mooning of the Amtrak", and it just celebrated its 35th Anniversary of shameless exhibitionism.

## Episode 304

### **PUMPKIN WEIGH-OFF** *Tualatin, OR*

The Annual Pumpkin Races on Tualatin Lake in Portland are preceded the night before by a weigh-off to determine whose patch grew the heaviest pumpkin of them all; on the evening we attended, the winner tipped the scales at a preposterous 1,785 pounds!

### **SOLOMON'S CASTLE** *Ona, FL*

Harold Solomon was possibly the most prolific maker of things and the most relentless jokester in the world, and when you visit his castle in the swamps of Florida, you'll realize that's probably an understatement. Beside the castle, Harold built replicas of a Spanish galleon and the Alamo, and filled all three structures with his creative and usually pun-related artwork.

**THE UNIPIPER** *Portland, OR*

Pedaling a unicycle while playing bagpipes that occasionally spout flames into the sky, the Unipiper has become a fixture on the streets of Portland, a town that seems to believe “the weirder, the better.”

**MacALPINE’S DINER** *Phoenix, AZ*

There’s a diner in Phoenix, nearly a century old, that boasts a ten-pound sundae and 99 flavors of soda. But it might be most memorable for what you’ll find under the counter.

**TOY & ACTION FIGURE MUSEUM** *Pauls Valley, OK*

There are more action figures in this museum, that holds curator/toy designer Kevin Stark’s personal collection, than people in this tiny southern Oklahoma town. Admission is free to anyone under four inches tall.

**PUMPKIN REGATTA** *Tualatin, OR*

Hard to believe that giant pumpkins (when emptied of their insides) can not only float, but be paddled and raced by creatively-dressed humans for fun and prizes. As we learned at the Regatta, large rarely equals fast, and no matter what the size, these hollowed hulks are extremely prone to capsizing.

## Episode 305

**U.S. NATIONAL SNOW SCULPTURE COMPETITION** *Lake Geneva, WI*

The competitive snow sculptor must endure an awful lot for his or her art: bitterly cold temperatures, sleepless nights and a relentlessly ticking time clock; but as we discovered, the finished product makes it all worthwhile.

**ROYAL GORGE BRIDGE** *Canon City, CO*

The Royal Gorge Bridge was the highest suspension bridge in the world for seven decades when it was eclipsed in 2012 (thanks, China!). It’s about a thousand feet up and over four football fields long, and did we mention that it’s survived gale force winds, fire, and an actual war?

**SPEAR HUNTING MUSEUM** *Summerdale, AL*

Gene Morris called himself “The Greatest Living Spear Hunter in the World”, and before he died he established a museum that displays some of the 592 (!) animals that he managed to kill with a spear. Whether wandering down “Gator Alley” or perusing “Boar Hall”, you’ll either be impressed or horrified at the quantity and variety of his punctured victims.

**VELVETERIA** *Los Angeles, CA*

As one might expect, The Museum of Velvet Paintings has quite a few Elvses, but this two-roomed collection near Chinatown also showcases exquisite portraits of Jack Nicholson, The Elephant Man, Michael Jackson and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

**SASQUATCH OUTPOST** *Bailey, AL*

Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti – whatever you call it, it’s a creature to be reckoned with, and at the Sasquatch Outpost you’ll meet some true believers who seem to have reckoned with it on a semi-regular basis. There’s a museum and a gift shop on the premises, and if you’re lucky (like we were), you might just get to join a search for the legendary but elusive Boggy Creek Monster.

Episode 306

**(ALL) FROZEN DEAD GUY DAYS** *Nederland, CO*

Every March for nearly two decades, this tiny mountain town near Denver has played host to thousands of revelers from all over the country, there to celebrate one of the most unique festivals in all of America. “Frozen Dead Guy Days” honors a deceased Norwegian immigrant named Grandpa Bredo who currently resides on in a shed under nearly a ton of dry ice. How he got there (and stays there) is quite a story, and how Nederland fetes him is rare indeed. There’s: a PARADE OF HEARSES and their crazy-costumed owners; a FROZEN T-SHIRT CONTEST, where the first contestant to thaw their shirt and actually put it on wins \$20; the POLAR PLUNGE, diving into a pool in sub-freezing air temperatures; FROZEN TURKEY BOWLING, and the NEWLYDEAD GAME.

The highlight is the memorable COFFIN RACES, where teams of six possibly inebriated coffin carriers and one pretend corpse-in-a-box, race through a muddy obstacle course two teams at a time. The result? Complete and utter chaos.

Episode 401

Host Will Clinger feels right at home in a roomful of dummies at the **VENTRILOQUIST’S CONVENTION** in Cincinnati, Ohio; scans the sky for incoming aliens at the **UFO WATCHTOWER** in Hooper, Colorado; folds himself into a DWARF CAR and hits the road in Maricopa, Arizona; and then tees off with Sister Cindy at an event called (no kidding) **BEAT THE NUN**.

Episode 402

Host Will Clinger drives down historic **ROUTE 66** to find the birthplace of the corndog, the city hall with a phone booth on the roof and the place they call **“HENRY’S RABBIT RANCH”**; admires the more than 1300 women’s chapeaus at America’s largest **HAT MUSEUM**; sees where the bodies are not buried but frozen (in liquid nitrogen) at **ALCOR CRYOGENICS**; and then rides along at the memorable bike race & eating contest they call the **TOUR DE DONUT**.

## Episode 403

Host Will Clinger goes nowhere but up in a hot air balloon at an **ARIZONA BALOONFEST**; bears witness to the largest restaurant-based pipe organ in the world at **ORGAN STOP PIZZA**; reaches for his wallet at America's only **PURSE MUSEUM** & GIFT SHOP in Little Rock, and then spends the night at the **SHADY DELL**, a retro RV trailer park in Bisbee, Arizona.

## Episode 404

Host Will Clinger pretends he's a jet pilot in a simulation at the **NAVAL FLIGHT ACADEMY** in Pensacola, Florida; risks life and limb in an *actual* flying machine called an **ULTRALIGHT TRIKE** in Rochelle, Illinois; stays out of the way at Chicago's shopping cart race, the **CHIDITAROD**; and then attempts to pick the right square at **CHICKEN SH\*T BINGO** in Austin, Texas (spoiler alert: he fails).

## Episode 405

Host Will Clinger pays a visit to the last working **BATHHOUSE** in Hot Springs, Arkansas, then steps outside for the town's annual **RUNNING OF THE TUBS** – costumed teams racing bathtubs filled with gallons of water and one participant who steers (no spillage allowed!); stares in wonder at the wild game served on the plates and hanging on the walls of Denver's frontier-era restaurant, the **BUCKHORN EXCHANGE**; and then marvels at the huge model ships and pint-sized “rock band” made completely out of...**TOOTHPICKS!**

## Episode 406

Host Will Clinger journeys *way* underground at the **QUEEN COPPER MINE**; takes in the astounding collection of 3D advertising art at the **POLLACK MUSEUM**; steps back in time on Bisbee, Arizona's **LOWELL STREET**; and then tries to dodge flying carp at the annual **REDNECK FISHING TOURNAMENT** (spoiler alert: he fails again).

(Final story order may be adjusted)

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