

Whirlwind Trip from KY to NYC to London, UK

By Chris Hirschhorn

It was my last day on the Kentucky job. The year was 1959.

Arnold, the boss on the Kentucky job, had left for NYC the day before me because he had to check into our Wall Street office before flying to England for his London assignment.

Arnold was committed to the UK job for a few years and his family was going to UK too. Since the Diebold consulting firm had no client using my computer skills, I resigned.

The Paley's had a problem. Betty, Arnold's wife, was pregnant and no airline would sell her a seat. So, she and the children and their dog had to go by boat. I decided to assist Betty and bought a ticket on the Queen Mary I, too.

So I had to drive my car from Frankfort, Kentucky to 44th Street in NYC where I'd board the QM1. I left Frankfort, Kentucky at 4PM and had maps to guide me on the way. I drove from Frankfort, Kentucky thru Ohio, along 1-80 in Pennsylvania and then north in New Jersey and over the bridge to my family home in NYC.

This was a very long drive for one person. I couldn't miss the Saturday Boarding of the QM1 at 4PM. My maps were OK. However in one Ohio town, a car came out of nowhere and it had a red light but it didn't stop. I was aware and avoided the potential deadly accident,

Then miles later, I found myself in farm country. Where had I gone wrong?

I retraced my route and found the sign that misled me. In Ohio, I was too tired to drive farther and stopped at a motel. After a two-hour nap, I continued east through Pennsylvania on Rte. 80 and then north on Rte. 95 through New Jersey and then east through New York to my home, where my mom drove me to the ship docked at 46th Street and the Hudson River.

Once boarded, I found my friends and found my quarters. I say 'quarters' because this Cunard ship, QM1, had been used as a troop ship in the Great War. Proof of this was a metal doubt decker bed in my cabin. Although my ticket was third class, I was raised to second class. The Queen plowed through the ocean and up the Thames where we off-loaded.

And to think that I was in Kentucky just a week ago and almost missed the ocean voyage because of the stupid twisted sign in Ohio!