

## From *Why* to *Whynot*

By Dennis Payton Knight

Please congratulate me in advance for creating an essay of five hundred words just by studying my Rand McNally, with a nod to the old timers who created fancy names which have clung to some places that probably otherwise be known as *No Name*, as in one place in Colorado that I wrote about when I first joined the Writers Group.

You may recognize a town in New Mexico which officially changed its name in the nineteen-fifties to *Truth or Consequences* in response to a challenge by the television show of the same name. Our country is full of odd names. In Alabama there's *Dogtown* and another town called *The Bottle*. In Alaska there's *Chicken*. If you want to know why it crossed the road, or if it did, how, you will find out in *Why*, Arizona. Or if you like to be answered in the form of questions, go to *Whynot*, Mississippi.

If you appreciate attitude, plan a zig-zag tour that will take you from *Cranky Corner*, Louisiana through *Lonelyville*, New York, *Loafers Glory*, North Carolina and *Brilliant*, Ohio. On the way you'll encounter *Boring*, Oregon, *Tightwad*, Missouri, *Embarrass*, Minnesota, *Fertile*, Iowa, *Cut and Shoot*, Texas, and some kind of *Experiment* in Georgia. The goal is to end up in *Happyland*, Oklahoma but you might also consider *Wealthy*, Texas or *Fame*, West Virginia.

You will be welcomed in *Do Stop*, Kentucky, and you can even be told to go to *Hell*, Michigan, but that directive would likely have come from some nimrod in *Nimrod*, Oregon. In the meantime, steer clear of *Accident*, Maryland.

For food, try *Rabbit Hash*, Kentucky, *Sandwich*, Massachusetts and *Pie Town*, New Mexico. Go to *Lick Skillet*, Tennessee or *Oatmeal*, Texas but skip *Greasy*, Oklahoma.

If you want to travel to uniquely named places you don't need to leave Colorado, and you will find plenty of attitude in our nomenclature here, too. Besides *No Name* and another place called *Nowhere*, we've got *Climax*, *Cripple Creek*, *Crook*, *Fearnoville*, *Hasty*, *Hygeine* and *Last Chance*. There's *Mumper Corner*, *Old Roach*, *Plastic and Purgatory*. You can go from *Sinbad* to *Spook City* by way of *Troublesome*, *Wideawake* and *Wideawake Gulch*.

Now that I am getting close to filling a page without actually writing, I want to quickly tell about a town I think must exist but it seems not on any GPS. It is on my mind because just recently I told you how Dad often characterized a favorite family meal as sow's derriere and a type of canned corn. Writing that reminded me that a few years ago my sister Maureen, my brother Jim and I took a tour through the southeastern United States, enjoying several days in the *Hominy Valley*, a beautiful part of the Great Smokey Mountains in North Carolina. We hadn't been there long when I began looking for it, and I haven't given up. I know somewhere there must be a place called *Pig's Ass* in Hominy.