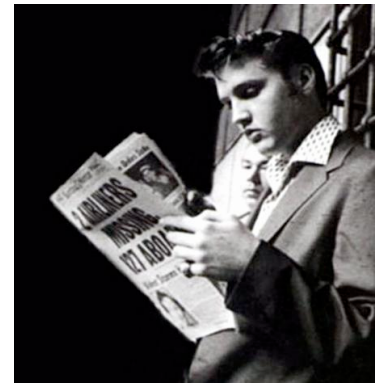


# Have you heard the NEWS



*"There's Good Rocking Tonight"*

Newsletter for members of the Official Elvis Presley Fan Club, Elvis-Aberdeen

## FLOODS HIT MEMPHIS AREA

Recent floods hit the Deep South of the US including Memphis. A snowy winter spawned near-record crests on the Upper Mississippi this year that reached southern Illinois at about the same time as heavy rain swelled the Ohio River. The flows had threatened to overwhelm the intricate flood levee system, prompting the U.S. government to open a Missouri floodway for the first time since 1937 to relieve pressure.

U.S. officials, who expected to activate three floodways for the first time, blew a hole in a levee last week to open one floodway, inundating Missouri farmland to save Illinois and Kentucky towns.

Government engineers planned to open a second floodway, the Bonnet Carre Spillway 28 miles north of New Orleans, on Monday to divert some of the river's flow to Lake Pontchartrain.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had also recommended opening the Morganza spillway farther north to divert water to the Gulf of Mexico west of New Orleans.

This year's flooding was close to eclipsing numerous crest records set mainly in 1927 and 1937. The Great Flood of 1927 swelled the Lower Mississippi to 80 miles wide in some parts. The Graceland grounds were luckily not part of the risk area, however parts of downtown Memphis were affected although Beale Street remained open for business throughout.

The Mississippi River was 3 miles wide at Memphis at one point, up from a normal 1/2 mile.

### The Ghost of Elvis

by John Stephen, Dyce, Aberdeen

Last month in Tennessee, I saw the ghost of Elvis, on Union Avenue; he walked up to, and through, the gates of Graceland, and a pretty little thing was waiting for the King, down in the Jungle room, when I was walking in Memphis.....or perhaps I just wished I had seen him....

...but to walk in his home, where Elvis walked, to climb the stairs that Elvis climbed, to sit in the little church in Tupelo where Elvis sat and sang, to stand at the spot where Elvis stood in Sun studio, and to sit at the piano in RCA studio B in Nashville, where Elvis would prepare himself and his backing musicians and singers before recording sessions of pure classics, is among the most moving things I've ever done in my life.

Continued overleaf

Inside this issue:	
Floods Hit Memphis	1
Ghost of Elvis	1
Elvis Trivia	1
Ghost of Elvis cont.	2
Contact Details	2
	2

### Elvis Trivia

The Sahara Hotel closed in May after 59 years. In its heyday, the Sahara was a favorite haunt of the Frank Sinatra-led Rat Pack, featuring Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr., who also performed there. It was also a hangout place for Elvis Presley & The Beatles but was badly hit by the recession.



---

## **The Ghost of Elvis continued...**

When I was a penniless teenager growing up in Aberdeen and this phenomenon called Elvis Presley was searing itself into the psyche of the nation's, nay, the world's, youth, I would never for a moment have imagined that I would one day walk in the door of his beloved Graceland, see the treasures I saw there, walk beside the pool that Elvis and his family played in, try to take in the enormity of this man's recording achievements, shown in the vast collection of his platinum, gold and silver records in the display room, and stand reverently and respectfully at his graveside. Even after all these years as a fan, I still shake my head in awe at Elvis's achievements.

As the 767 descended through the early evening clouds and into Atlanta, the growing sense of excitement and anticipation at what lay ahead over the next seven days was becoming ever keener.

An overnight stay just outside Montgomery in Alabama, where we were shown some of the landmarks of the early sixties civil rights struggle, was to be followed by a night and a day in the jazz capital of New Orleans, where I would see some of the actual buildings and locations where Elvis had shot many of the scenes in what many, myself included, consider one of his best acting films, King Creole.

During our short stay in New Orleans, we had witnessed some of the famed Mardi Gras parades, had visited the cosmopolitan French Quarter and been entertained by a top class jazz band while we cruised the Mississippi on a "Proud Mary" type paddle steamer. Although the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina is still fresh in the minds of the people there, and the scarring on the environment is plain to see, the city has retained a unique "old world" charm about itself.

Heading northward out of Louisiana and into Mississippi, Elvis's birth state, even the non-Elvis fans on the coach seemed to be looking forward to reaching Memphis, and the anticipation built as Memphis and its surrounding settlements began to feature in ever more road signs. It was, indeed a strange, yet awesome feeling as the coach finally entered the city limits of Memphis itself and the realisation dawned that we were at last traveling along the streets of the city where Elvis had spent most of his life.

The Crowne Plaza hotel was our base for our short stay in Memphis, and, following our room allocations and a welcome freshen up after our journey, it was time to catch the courtesy cab downtown for our first sight of famed Beale Street, already neon lit in the early evening gloom. BB King's club was the first establishment we saw as we turned the corner and later in the evening we spent some time there listening to the featured band.

Every "intersection" on Beale Street seemed to have its watching, polite and helpful cop leaning on, or standing beside, his vehicle. We wondered about that at first, until someone volunteered the information that Memphis was the murder capital of the USA! Indeed, we learned later from some of our fellow travelers that, in a swift but discreet operation, a couple of cops had come into the bar where we were eating and had disarmed and arrested a male who had pulled out and was brandishing a handgun. Our failure to notice that incident was due to us tucking into our burger and fries meal as, rather bizarrely, in this, the most "Elvis" place in the Universe, we watched and listened to a tribute artiste on stage doing his best to imitate the man himself!

It had been a long day travelling, observing and listening to a very well informed travel guide, so, after our meal, we spent an hour in BB King's, listening to the music and the native bar customers speaking in the same southern drawl that Elvis himself used, before catching the courtesy cab back to the hotel.

I fell asleep thinking of the morrow and the day I would spend in Memphis, Tennessee, visiting Sun Studio and, of course, the ultimate destination for an Elvis fan, the holy grail of Graceland itself.

More Next Month!

### **Contact Info**

**By email:** [aberdeen@elvis-a-presley.com](mailto:aberdeen@elvis-a-presley.com)

**Website:** [www.elvis-a-presley.com](http://www.elvis-a-presley.com)

**Next Dance: Friday 3rd June**