



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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I've never been one prone to hero worship but the passing of Ronald Reagan and some of the crap that's been written about the man has forced me back to the bully pulpit. Before I get on this I need to make an admission. Born in the mid-50's to a good family, I saw the turbulence of the sixties and the malaise of the seventies. Matter of fact, that latter decade I wandered through in a fog if ya know what I mean and I think ya do. I remember the duck and cover drills, the music and Roy Williams ordering three G-III's for the exclusive use of the Teamster's big shots and labor friendly politicians. I remember some good old companies with lots of cash on hand mothballing operations cuz they could make 16-18 percent on the money with far less liability in CD's and treasury notes; screw the employees.

After the last time I went broke in the late seventies I finally had to admit it was time to start paying attention. The first time I'd heard the man's name was when Grace Slick called him Ronald Ray-gun-zap in a song. So when I asked some folks who'd not gone broke what they thought of the gent, I was amazed when these retired SDSers looked me square in the eye and pronounced that he was the only man left that could pull this country out of the septic tank it had been bathing in for so many years. That was a powerful endorsement from some born again cynics.

Many in the media blame Reagan's tax cuts for the deficit.

There were deficits but you have to look at Congress cuz they're the only folks that can spend money. As it was, revenue to Uncle Sugar went from \$599.3 billion in 1981 to \$ 734.1 billion in 1985. Art Laffer was right about trickle down economics but the deals they had to cut with Congress were expensive. A good book back then was The Triumph of Politics by David Stockman. It's still a good read twenty years later.



Men at work. That's Jeff Beck and Eric Clapton doing the only song Beck played at the Crossroads Guitar Festival in Big D last weekend. The guitar rift was off Blow by Blow, the cut is Because We've Ended as Lovers. He literally stunned the crowd to silence.

Another assertion made recently was to place the blame on Reagan for the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut in October of 1983. Does anybody actually believe that Ronald Reagan ordered the Marine sentries to be armed with unloaded weapons? I doubt it. That was the product of a screwed up military that took a long time to unscrew. As far as AIDS is concerned, Reagan did the only thing he could fast, and that was to protect the blood supply; the same blood supply that infected and killed Arthur Ash after bypass surgery. To this day researchers still have trouble keeping the virus alive long enough to study it because it dies on contact with the environment. That tidbit comes from Sandy Shaw who led the team that tracked down the index case in Dallas County, which turned out to be a Nigerian national.

The Great Communicator was many things to many people. To me and some retired SDSers he was our hero and we're not ashamed to profess that in public.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.