

THE SOUTH PADRE INCIDENT

We loved South Padre and the sandy beach next to the ocean. Went there for many years, usually with another couple, so we could play mixed doubles tennis when we weren't lying on the beach, walking the beach, or eating and drinking at one of many fun restaurants.

One late afternoon we had been enjoying the beach as the long shadows from the condos began to creep over us. Our friends, Bill and Peg, were with us. Being original Minnesotans, they tired of the hot sun before we did, especially Bill. He decided to go up to our condo and shower for our dinner out that evening. Even said he'd mix us a good Gin and Tonic after his shower and by then we would all have gone up.

Bill stripped and had a leisurely shower, then began looking for something to put on to begin his bartender duty. At first, he looked in the closet in their bedroom but didn't see his clothes. Since Peg usually packed for both of them, he looked in her closet. He did not think he recognized any of her clothes either. Trying to figure this out, he walked into the living room, still wondering where his clothes were. Then he noticed a strange woman asleep on the sofa, ran back into the bedroom and did not recognize ANYTHING! He jumped into his wet swimsuit and got out of there, FAST! As he stood on the bayside balcony, he saw that he had gone into condo #417 instead of #517. He took the elevator up one floor and found the correct condo. He was dressed in his own clothes and had the drinks ready when the rest of us trooped in, dragging towels and chairs.

During the rest of the week, as we met other vacationing couples, Bill never did meet the people from #417, nor he recognize the strange woman.

About a year later, back in Dallas, the four of us were playing 42 one evening and started to plan our next trip to Padre. For the FIRST time, Bill told us what had happened the year before and said he hoped the next time was not so eventful. He could hardly tell what had happened as he was laughing so hard. It took us an hour to stop teasing him and get back to the game. We had lots of fun over the years but nobody ever had a better story about Padre than Bill!

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