

MARDI GRAS "MELLERDRAMA"

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| <u>PEARL</u> | wolf whistle |
| <u>PAUL</u> | cheer |
| <u>PETE</u> | boo, hiss |
| <u>PADDLEWHEEL</u> | Toot, toot |
| <u>NEW ORLEANS</u> | all shout "hooray!" |

Once upon a time, in NEW ORLEANS, there was a beautiful Southern Belle, named PEARL Precious. Poor PEARL -- she had inherited a beautiful plantation from her parents. The name of the plantation was PADDLEWHEEL. PEARL'S great grandfather, a riverboat captain, had built PADDLEWHEEL. Now PADDLEWHEEL belonged to PEARL, but she had no money to pay the taxes on it. Poor PEARL was about to lose PADDLEWHEEL, unless she came up with some money fast.

It was Mardi Gras time in NEW ORLEANS, and PEARL had to pay the taxes before the Mardi Gras ended -- or else lose PADDLEWHEEL! To make things worse, PEARL was in love with a handsome young man named PAUL State. PAUL had everything a woman could ever want but, alas, no money. Now there was an evil, ugly old man named PETE Persnickety who had nothing a girl could ever want but, alas, money!

PETE wanted PEARL to marry him, and PETE knew she needed money for PADDLEWHEEL, so, PETE proposed to PEARL, but as much as she wanted to save PADDLEWHEEL, PEARL could not marry PETE Persnickety, because she loved PAUL State -- oh, what a pickle! If only she could think of a way to rob PETE and pay PAUL!

Suddenly, PEARL hit upon an idea! Since it was Mardi Gras time in NEW ORLEANS, why couldn't PAUL State disguise himself as PETE Persnickety and make the money the way PETE did? But how did PETE make his money? PEARL told PAUL about her idea. They decided that PAUL would follow PETE one day to see how he made his money -- after all, they had to find some way, or PADDLEWHEEL would run aground! PAUL told PEARL not to worry, he would find out how PETE made his money, or his name wasn't PAUL State.

The next day, PAUL followed PETE all around NEW ORLEANS. Wherever PETE was, PAUL was right behind. And PAUL found out how PETE made his money! He told PEARL that all PETE did all day was go around and collect the money from all the wishing wells in NEW ORLEANS -- coins THAT people had thrown in to make wishes. PAUL figured that since PETE had no corner on the market, he could collect the coins for PEARL and for PADDLEWHEEL. In the meantime, PEARL would keep PETE busy by having him take her to the Mardi Gras in NEW ORLEANS.

In order not to arouse suspicion, PAUL decided to wear PETE'S mask. When PAUL put on a PETE mask, you could not tell the difference between them. PAUL looked exactly like PETE -- why they actually looked like two PETES in a pod!

So, while PEARL and PETE danced the hours away, PAUL made the rounds of the wishing wells for PADDLEWHEEL. On the last day of the Mardi Gras, in NEW ORLEANS, PETE and PEARL were sure pooped from all that dancing! However, PAUL State wasn't pooped! Proudly, he brought back to PEARL the money he had collected from the wishing wells in NEW ORLEANS. Anxiously, PEARL and PAUL counted the money. There was enough there not only to save PADDLEWHEEL, but also to allow PAUL and PEARL to be married. PEARL was beside herself with joy. She told PAUL how wonderful he was to have done so much for her, and she would be so happy to become Mrs. PAUL State.

On the day of the wedding in NEW ORLEANS, PEARL again, marvelled to PAUL how he had fooled PETE and saved PADDLEWHEEL. PAUL told her she should never have worried. After all, didn't she know THAT when it comes to protecting property, you're in good hands with PAUL State!!