

# Maycomb Messenger

A Fictional Travel Brochure By Baggetta

Travel back in time to a place where the hot summer nights are **punctuated** with the fragrance of honeysuckle and jasmine -- where the **strains** of the mockingbird are as welcome as the sounds of raindrops tapping on the eaves. Put your city life behind you for a while and enter a **bucolic** world of picturesque nature.

Come take a short journey with us out of the fast lane of life and briefly swerve into a quiet, easy-going community that once **permeated** all parts of America.

Come to Maycomb and enter a lost time where friends are easily made. Shake their hands and listen to their stories, rich with the history of Finch's' Landing and Old Sarum. There was a trust here. A handshake was as good as gold, and your neighbor's house was a **haven** for your family as well as theirs.

Come -- relax on the old country porch of the Atticus Finch house. The balmy evening silence is jiggled by the distant sounds of riverboats from Mobile and the **revelry** coming from the Dew-Drop Inn.

Lean against the **quaint** lampposts that dot the streets, while touring the little community. You might even catch a glimpse of an old **chiffarobe**, the town jail, the court house and the Radley place, all symbols of the darker side of Maycomb.

Maycomb is a quaint little community, a **respite** from the hustle and bustle of the busy world you know. Political and civic responsibility are on vacation here. Pause in the town square, and you will probably find Sheriff Heck Tate playin' checkers with the likes of Dolphus Raymond.

Maycomb has some notable history, too. Walk in the courthouse while in town. Many a famous local trial has taken place here. People still remember when the town was a-buzz with gossip about the Ewell/Robinson trial that was in the news.

Travel around the square and soak up the local color. Get a gander at the architecture so **prominent** in the early part of the century in America. Time wasn't really important in Maycomb but notice the nineteenth-century clock tower, directly across from the hall-of-the-law. If the air gets a bit humid, don't look for an air conditioner -- there weren't any. Pick up some ice from the ice house to cool yourself down.

There's a sense of mystery that **pervades** Maycomb, too. Townsfolk walk cautiously by the Radley house, but they tread very carefully because its inhabitant, one Boo Radley, is said to keep vigil for defenseless wanderers, especially tourists in this area.

Most of the people are **amiable** in this community, but some are **purported** to be **cantankerous**, at best. After passing the Radley place, keep an eye open for the **ornery** Mrs. Dubose. The children of the town claim she harbors a pistol under her lap-blanket and will gladly blow the head off anyone who approaches her precious **camellia** garden.

Maycomb thrives due to river traffic and the historic railroad that winds throughout the country. Take a day from your relaxed schedule to follow its winding path around the town, down by the old sawmill, slinking right through the heart of the black community. While here visit with the Reverend Sykes who can tell you many interesting stories about Maycomb county and its discoverer, Simon Finch. He might even give you a guided tour of the historic First Purchase, a simple but important place of worship for the black community.

If you should get tired of sightseeing, **amble** on back to the Finch homestead for a country supper prepared at the hands of Calpurnia, the housekeeper and **surrogate** mother of the Finch children.

As the stars flicker in the evening southern sky, take a walk across the street for a short visit with Miss Maudie. This aging **spinster** can fill in the gaps in the stories told by the sheriff and Reverend Sykes. I doubt that you will leave her house without trying some of her famous chocolate chip cookies or some of her home grown **scuppernongs**. Hmmmmm. Hmmmm.

Maycomb isn't real, but it will become real for you when you read *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. You will experience the characters' happiness, their sadness, and the dream that once was. This is Maycomb, its people and places. This is the South in the early 40's. This is a vacation you will never forget. You will want to come back again and again when things get hectic and **tumultuous** in your modern world -- and they will welcome you back.