

All That Trash

By: Meghan McCarthy

1. Where was the trash originally from?
A landfill in Islip, New York
2. Why did the trash need to be taken out of New York?
The landfill was almost full.
3. What was the original plan for the trash?
Lowell Harrelson took 3,186 tons of trash, put it on a barge, towed the barge to North Carolina. In North Carolina he was going to let the garbage decompose and create methane gas. He would then convert the methane gas to electricity for people to use in their homes.
4. What happened when the barge reached North Carolina?
A new reporter flew over the barge and reported it. An environmental official found medical waste on the barge. North Carolina got a court order that that garbage could not be dumped there.
5. What happened in Alabama?
Harrelson received a warning by phone that the trash was not welcome.
6. What happened in Louisiana?
Harrelson received a letter that was hand delivered to him. A boat was sent out to guard the barge to make sure it did not bring the garbage into port.
7. When the barge disappeared where did it go?
It floated around the Gulf of Mexico.
8. What happened when the barge entered Mexican waters?
Mexico sent out its navy of four ships, two planes, and a helicopter.
9. Why did the man in Little San Salvador want the trash? What happened?
He wanted to use the garbage to build up the island so he could build a resort on top of it. The Bahamian government sent out its defense force and did not allow this to happen.
10. What happened when the barge neared the Florida Keys?
The Florida government sent out federal environmental agents in white suits and protective breathing masks to look for hazardous materials. They found that it was ordinary garbage. The barge still was not allowed to stop.
11. What happened after two months?
Islip said that they would take the garbage back. They would put out yellow ribbons to welcome it.

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12. What was the plan to get the garbage back to Islip?
The barge would dock in Queens, New York and then be driven by truck.
13. What delayed unloading the barge while it was docked in Brooklyn?
A court hearing was scheduled about the trash driving through Queens. Meanwhile city health inspectors took samples of the trash. Police guarded the barge.
14. What kind of experts went through the trash in New York?
Toxicologist
Environmental Specialists
Solid Waste Specialists
Vermin Specialists
15. While it was docked in Brooklyn, what happened with the public?
Tourists came to see the trash. They had heard about its long journey. A popular talk show host of the 1980s climbed aboard the barge and jumped into the garbage.
16. Once the judge ordered the restraining order be lifted, what happened to the trash?
Islip decided it could only take half. He suggested the other half be dumped on Gracie Mansion (home of the New York City mayor).
17. What was the message left by Greenpeace?
Next Time...Try Recycling
18. What was the final outcome of the trash?
It was burned and turned into 400 tons of ash.
19. How long in time and miles did the trash move?
It was in the ocean for 5 months and traveled more than 6,000 miles.
20. What was the name of the captain of the barge?
Captain Duffy St. Pierre
21. What was the name of the barge?
Mobro 4000
22. Where did all the trash in Islip originally come from?
New York City and Long Island

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