



Thayer's

# Wild Bunch VII

By J E Ted Thayer

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

**Published by J E Ted Thayer**

1271 N Wheatfields Rd Lot 22

Globe AZ 85501-2803

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the written permission of the publisher, except where permitted by law.

Printed/published in the United States of America

**Copyright © 2019 by J E Ted Thayer**

Thayer, John, 1941-

Thayer's Wild Bunch VII/ by J E Ted Thayer,

*Print Version*

*Last updated 12-30-2019*

*Jacket and book design by J E Ted Thayer*

*Photography and Artwork by various contributors*

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

### INDEX

Flyleaf	2
Index	3
Photo Credits	6
Preface	7
Jan 03, 2019 Crickets?	8
Jan 07, 2019 Trebuchet	13
Jan 10, 2019 Screwed Again!	15
Jan 14, 2019 Triple Damages	17
Jan 17, 2019 Religious Test`	18
Jan 21, 2019 The Shroud of Turin?	20
Jan 24, 2019 Capitulation	22
Jan 28, 2019 Writer's Block	24
Jan 31, 2019 Wordcrafting	26
Feb 04, 2019 Climate Change Again?	28
Feb 07, 2019 Girly-by Scouts?	30
Feb 11, 2019 She's Home!	31
Feb 14, 2019 Valentines Day	32
Feb 18, 2019 Silent Minority	33
Feb 21, 2019 \$250 Million	36
Feb 25, 2019 Home Care	38
Feb 28, 2019 Send Money!	40
Mar 04, 2019 Two Sources	42
Mar 07, 2019 Electoral College v. Democracy	45
Mar 14, 2019 What a Waste!	48
Mar 18, 2019 Auto-Pilot	53
Mar 21, 2019 Venezuela's Troubles	56
Mar 25, 2019 100k in Rio Grande	58
Mar 28, 2019 Our Crazy Uncle Joe	60
Apr 01, 2019 Don't Be Silly!	62
Apr 04, 2019 Older than Judy Tanuta!	64
Apr 08, 2019 Please Give	65
Apr 11, 2019 What if ...	67
Apr 15, 2019 A Plan Redirecting Anger	70
Apr 18, 2019 Age and Status Aren't Important	73

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

### INDEX (Con't.)

Apr 22, 2019 WOPR	75
Apr 25, 2019 You're Tired, Too?	77
Apr 29, 2019 Know Power	79
May 06, 2019 Whut the ...	80
May 09, 2019 Sleepy or Crazy?	82
May 13, 2019 Songs in My Head	84
May 16, 2019 Update	86
May 20, 2019 Update	88
May 23, 2019 Climate Theory	90
May 27, 2019 Reid Revisited	92
May 30, 2019 Eliminate the Senate	94
Jun 03, 2019 We're All Stupid	96
Jun 06, 2019 Presumption of Guilt	98
Jun 10, 2019 Show Up or Else	100
Jun 13, 2019 Speechless	102
Jun 17, 2019 Summer Rain	104
Jun 20, 2019 The Dems Demise	108
Jun 24, 2019 Move That Tower!	111
Jun 27, 2019 Polls & The President	114
Jul 01, 2019 Ah, Summer	116
Jul 04, 2019 Independence Day	117
Jul 08, 2019 Illegal Healthcare?	119
Jul 11, 2019 Overwhelm the System	121
Jul 15, 2019 Census	123
Jul 18, 2019 Boring!	126
Jul 22, 2019 Fake	128
Jul 25, 2019 Exonerated vs Not Guilty	131
Jul 29, 2019 Claudette Report	133
Jul 29, 2019 Final Report	136
Aug 01, 2019 Exhausted	137
Aug 19, 2019 The Last Go-round	138
Aug 22, 2019 Racist!	143
Aug 26, 2019 AZ Voter Registration	145
Aug 29, 2019 Slow Dancin'	147
Sep 02, 2019 Lyin' on the Carpet	149

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

### INDEX (Con't.)

Sep 05, 2019 How to Build a BLT	153
Sep 09, 2019 The Fridge	156
Sep 12, 2019 Discipline	158
Sep 16, 2019 Shocked!	161
Sep 19, 2019 In Dreams	164
Sep 23, 2019 Slime!	166
Sep 26, 2019 Get Yo' Mind Right	168
Sep 30, 2019 Ten Years	170
Oct 03, 2019 There Ain't No Tens	172
Oct 07, 2019 How To Tell A Liberal	174
Oct 10, 2019 Harry Reid Set the Bar	176
Oct 14, 2019 Tired	179
Oct 17, 2019 Picking Away	181
Oct 21, 2019 Potato Heads	184
Oct 24, 2019 New Glasses	185
Oct 28, 2019 Three Months	187
Oct 31, 2019 A Scary Halloween	191
Nov 07, 2019 California Fires	192
Nov 11, 2019 Veterans Day	194
Nov 14, 2019 Why VA Went Blue	195
Nov 18, 2019 Hearings?	197
Nov 21, 2019 Letter from SGM Steve	198
Nov 25, 2019 Two Things ...	201
Nov 28, 2019 Thanksgiving Confessions	203
Nov 29, 2019 Lineage Confusion	207
Dec 02, 2019 Fried Bologna Sandwich	209
Dec 05, 2019 Agree to Disagree	210
Dec 09, 2019 Finally	212
Dec 12, 2019 Articles of Impeachment?	214
Dec 16, 2019 Strength, Hate, Respect	216
Dec 19, 2019 Where's the Beef?	219
Dec 22, 2019 LSMFT	222
Dec 26, 2019 Crying in the Night	223
Dec 30, 2019 She's Gone	224

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

### INDEX (Con't.)

### PHOTO/GRAPHIC CREDITS

Page	Source	Year
Front Cover	'Hutch' charcoal artist Monterey CA	1957
Back Cover	Thayer Archive – Porterville CA	1946
Preface	<a href="http://www.tedthayer.com">www.tedthayer.com</a>	2016
135	Claudette Thayer Tucson AZ	1975
136	Claudette Thayer - January 13 - Anniversary #57	2019
209	J E Ted Thayer Globe AZ	2019
210	Warner Brothers <i>Looney Tunes</i>	2019

Note: Un-credited items J E Ted Thayer *Globe* Various

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

### PREFACE

**January 3, 2019**

<http://www.tedthayer.com/default.html>

**TedThayer.com**



**J E Ted Thayer | 01-03-2019**

## THIS One ...

is a compilation of The Wild Bunch commentaries published via email broadcast and on Facebook pretty much every Monday and Thursday as well as occasionally on the TedThayer.com website in 2019.

As I stated in the original *Wild Bunch*, I love to write, so I save most of my stuff. This exercise became an easy way to write some history and keep it safe. It's interesting to see how facts and opinions change over time.

Each pair of chapters represents a week's offering without the website banner shown above. On June 16<sup>th</sup> of 2016 we switched to two weekly columns because it was nearing the close of another election cycle. We'll keep it at two per week and see how it goes. So, how do you think 2019 will turn out? Stay tuned, boys and girls.

It's gonna be a great ride!

Thursday, January 3, 2019

## **Crickets?**

**I ordered a box of crickets from the Internet and it went about as well as you'd expect**

By [Christopher Ingraham](#)

Reporter

December 29 at 3:37 PM

For Christmas this year, my family adopted a young bearded dragon lizard as a pet.

Our dragon, whom we named Holly, eats a lot, and the thing she loves to eat most is crickets (typically about 10 a day, in addition to other things like mealworms and vegetables). From the get-go, I knew that keeping an ample supply of crickets on hand would require some planning. We live in [a rural area of northwestern Minnesota](#). The closest pet shop is an hour away, in North Dakota. Restocking our cricket supply would require a time commitment of at least two hours out and back.

By Christmas Day this year, Holly's cricket supply was running low. I decided to order crickets online, which I had never done before, to save a trip to North Dakota. I bought the crickets from [Fluker Farms](#), one of the more well-established online insect vendors (yes, these exist and there are a lot of them). I decided on a shipment of 250 crickets, which seemed like a reasonable amount for a lizard who is theoretically capable of gobbling up to 50 of them every day.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

I opted for next-day-shipping to ensure there was no gap in Holly's cricket supply. But the package ended up getting delayed by a fierce blizzard that roared through the Northern Plains this week, dumping up to a foot of snow and sending temperatures plunging below zero. The cricket box ended up spending an unplanned overnight at a FedEx sorting facility in Grand Forks, N.D. I feared they would all be dead on arrival.

The package arrived Friday. I anxiously met the FedEx delivery man at the door. He appeared to be relieved to unburden himself of the six-inch-square box emblazoned with the words "Live Insects" and decorated with life-size cricket silhouettes. We exchanged no words. If you're a FedEx driver, you probably try to avoid conversations with the types of people who order boxes full of insects from the Internet.

Having never ordered Internet crickets before, I naively assumed that I'd open up the box and find the crickets in some sort of sealed bag or other contraption to facilitate easy transfer to their final storage place. I also assumed that given the near-zero temperatures we were experiencing that morning, any crickets in the box would be groggy and disoriented and easy to manage.

I was wrong on both counts.

I cut open the tape and opened the cardboard flaps and was greeted by dozens of beady little cricket eyes staring eagerly up at me. I had a brief vision of the aliens-in-the-claw machine from "Toy Story" before the crickets started doing what they usually do when they are suddenly exposed to light — hopping all over the place. I quickly closed the flaps.

This was a conundrum. There was no immediate way for me to transfer 250 clearly active and ravenously hungry crickets from the box to the shallow plastic container we store them in at home. The only solution would be to grab a spare fish tank we had out in the shed, which would take a bit of time, requiring a trip outside in the deep snow and chilling cold. Back at my desk, after

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

all, I had a nearly finished story that was due to my editor. Rather than upend my workday for the sake of \$11.50 worth of Internet crickets, I decided to retape the box and store it in a secure location until I had time to deal with it.

Besides my wife, Briana, and I, our house is home to 5-year-old twins, a 1-year-old, three large cats, one beagle-basset mix and one lizard.

There was only one place where I thought I could put the cricket box without it getting overturned or split open by a child or an animal: the bathroom adjacent to our kitchen. I put the crickets in the cabinet above the toilet and went back to work. For about 20 minutes, everything was quiet.

Just as I was about to file my story, I heard Briana, in the kitchen, utter the following words: "Where do these crickets keep coming from?" I should point out here that I told her offhandedly that I had bought crickets online, but I hadn't told her when they'd arrive and she hadn't been around when FedEx came.

At this point, I reasoned that there was no crisis, that she had probably encountered one or two stray crickets that had hopped out when I initially opened the box. So I decided to keep working.

In retrospect, once again, this was a mistake.

As I was making final edits to the story, I continued to hear increasingly frantic cricket-related outbursts from the kitchen. Briana later told me that she first realized something was terribly wrong when one of the cats suddenly leaped on to a pumpkin pie that had been warming on the countertop. It was going after an unusually large cricket that was munching the filling.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

Eventually the commotion was too much to ignore. I went to the kitchen. Briana whipped around to face me, wild-eyed.

“So uh, remember when I said I ordered some crickets?” I said. “They got here toda--”

“YES, I SEE THE CRICKETS ARE HERE,” she said. “WHY ARE THEY ALL OVER THE KITCHEN?”

“Huh,” I said. “That is weird. Let me check something.” I walked over to the bathroom. I opened the door. There were crickets. Everywhere.

Crickets on the floor. Crickets on the walls. Crickets in the sink. Crickets in the toilet. A clump of at least 12 crickets were attempting to cram themselves underneath the baseboard. A cricket jumped at me from the stack of folded washcloths on the shelf. Two crickets appeared to be chasing each other around the plunger. The crickets in the toilet were propelling themselves around the bowl at an astonishing speed.

The only thing I could think to do is flush the toilet and close the door. “Don’t come in here!” I yelled. My voice was unnaturally high from trying to force myself to sound nonchalant.

Evidently, I had not resealed the box as well as I should have. Later inspection also revealed that in my haste to ascertain the crickets' condition, I had opened the box from the wrong side, despite the presence of large arrows indicating the proper side with an all-caps warning that read, “SEE INSIDE FLAP FOR CARE INSTRUCTIONS!”

There was nothing to do now but execute the Spare Fish Tank Protocol on an emergency basis. I threw on my boots, ran out to the shed and grabbed the spare tank. I brought it back to the

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

bathroom, threw the box inside it, and began scooping up the strays wherever I could find them.

Roughly 45 minutes later, the bathroom was clear. But in the interim, the earlier escapees had begun migrating elsewhere. There were crickets in the kitchen closet. Crickets in a pile of shoes. Crickets making their way downstairs to the kids' playroom. The cats were in a state of high alert, having what I can only imagine was the greatest day of their lives.

I tried to collect all of them. It was like the world's worst game of Pokémon. Well after the initial cleanup concluded, crickets kept turning up in inconvenient locations throughout the day. They were in the playroom and under the couch. There's presumably a contingent somewhere in the walls. At one point I heard a 5-year-old shout gleefully from the bathroom, "There's another cricket in the toilet!"

I shared this story on Twitter last night as a form of life insurance: I told my followers that if they did not see any tweets from me this weekend, they should assume it was because my wife murdered me after finding a cricket in our bed in the middle of the night. It resonated well beyond what I expected; perhaps this is because, as writer Nicole Cliffe observed, "in every relationship there is the accidental cricket-releaser person and the where-are-all-these-damn-crickets-coming from person, look in your soul and ask: which am I?"

I'm happy to report that as of Saturday afternoon, I am alive. The lizard is well-fed. The cats are sleeping deeply. The Ingraham household is finally still.

But something's chirping in the bathroom.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, January 7, 2019

## Trebuchet

For days now, I've heard good people arguing about "**The Wall**", "**Trump's Wall**" and "**The President's Wall**" ... along with the good and bad points of a barrier across the southwestern border with Mexico.

Something missing in the discussion is the fact that walls keep intruders out. After all, isn't that why people put walls or fences around their homes in the first place?

The liberal argument against walls is that they are a sixth-century solution to a twenty-first-century problem. We have more modern ways to deter prospective evil-doers.

On the other hand, the conservative argument on behalf of walls/barriers/fences is that they keep unauthorized people out with very little need for other methodology.

Law enforcement people have consistently complained that "the bad guys" can always find a way through an area without a wall or physical barrier. These are the smugglers, the human traffickers, the drug-runners, the gang members. These are the people coming into Arizona through un-guarded areas of the Tohono O'odham Indian Reservation as well as farm and ranch lands adjacent to the southern border. Stretches of the border near Yuma are also plagued with groups of people streaming in from the south, many of whom have detoured from stronger stretches of barriers in southern California.

I came up with a simple solution to this problem: **The Trebuchet**.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

According to **Wikipedia**, "*trebuchet* (French *trébuchet*) is a type of catapult, a common type of siege engine which uses a swinging arm to throw a projectile. The *counterweight trebuchet*, also known as the *counterpoise trebuchet*, uses a counterweight to swing the arm. It appeared in both Christian and Muslim lands around the Mediterranean in the 12th century.

Just think of it! Use a giant trebuchet equipped with a sort of seat that could fire a human down range ... like over a border wall or barrier or fence!

Catch aliens entering the country illegally and throw them back over the barrier into Mexico. Put up bleachers and sell tickets! It wouldn't take long before illegal entries would be reduced to zero! Spectacular!

What a show! Just sayin'.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 10, 2019

## Screwed Again!

Well, I fell for it again! Your **Windows 10 Update** won't make a dent in your metered service. This from a **Microsoft** Service Tech (or a very clever Artificial Intelligence program.) Fact is - it was a bold-faced lie! And it cost me dearly!

When we started I had used 16.9 of my allocated 25 GB of internet bandwidth (data). When we finished I had done nothing but use up more data to 20.3GB, leaving me just 4.7GB to last until it renews on January 24th.

I'm screwed because if I contact Microsoft again the same thing will happen and I'll be out of bandwidth before renewal time. That means cough up more \$\$\$ because Windows 10 has so many built-in problems that Microsoft doesn't care anymore if you're getting screwed!

Well, I figured it out, folks. I quit **CableOne** a few years back because they were screwing everybody, too! In order to have high-speed internet service a customer had to have a high-speed modem that was leased from CableOne. The cost was unreasonable after figuring in taxes, fees and tariffs. No exceptions - even if you already owned an identical modem!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, CableOne has lost enough business that customers now have a number of modem options: First, lease one. Second, buy one that meets the current specs from a CableOne-approved manufacturer/vendor (must be DOCSIS 3.0 compliant.)

Sounds like a winner because the modem I have is mine and it's compliant so I won't have to pay a lease charge. I'll get very

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

reliable high speed internet on the order of 100Mb/Sec and a healthy 100GB of monthly bandwidth for a mere \$55/mo plus taxes, fees and tariffs. What's more, the first three months are just \$40/mo plus taxes, etc. Beats the heck outa the \$75 per month I'm paying my current satellite dish carrier!

Sounds like I need to drop in and have a chat sometime in the next few days with Joni, the local CableOne manager. I might even take along the numbers off my modem ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



**Monday, January 14, 2019**

## **Triple Damages**

So this Federal employee didn't get his paycheck because the Government was shut down, even though he was one who was required to stay onboard and keep working - without pay.

In Arizona, and I think many states have the same policy/law, if your employer fails to pay you within three days of the due date you can sue for triple damages by just filing with the local Superior Court. I've used that provision of Arizona law on two occasions. On the second occasion, the defendant refused to pay, so rather than going for contempt of court, I got a padlock and a Sheriff's Deputy and threatened to throw a mechanic's lien on the building if I didn't get my money within the next 30 minutes! A secretary was dispatched to the bank to bring me my award - in cash!

Now, can you imagine a crowd of Federal employees who haven't been paid showing up at the local Superior Court (or Federal Court) demanding they be paid within three days or they'd sue for triple damages?

You think the Government has problems with the clash between the President and Democratic Congressional leaders? What if the Courts (all the way to SCOTUS if needed) got involved? Do Trump, Pelosi and Schumer get to pay the damages or do we taxpayers get to take care of that debt times three ... plus interest at about 2.5%?

I don't want to know!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 17, 2019

## Religious Test

Article Six, Section Three, of the **Constitution** reads: "*no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or Public Trust under the United States.*"

The operative word is **EVER**. Yet members of the Senate committee holding hearings on the qualifications of candidates proposed to be US Circuit Judges have questioned candidates' membership in the **Knights of Columbus**, a Catholic community service organization, the dogma of which closely resembles that of the **Freemasons**.

So far, none of the candidates have properly answered the question posed by **Kamala Harris** to **Brian Buescher**, President Trump's nominee for the **Nebraska District Court**, "Since 1993, you have been a member of the Knights of Columbus, an all-male society comprised primarily of Catholic men. In 2016, **Carl Anderson**, leader of the Knights of Columbus, described abortion as 'a legal regime that has resulted in more than 40 million deaths.' Mr. Anderson went on to say that 'abortion is the killing of the innocent on a massive scale.' Were you aware that the Knights of Columbus opposed a woman's right to choose when you joined the organization?" That question was followed by this: "Were you aware that the Knights of Columbus opposed marriage equality when you joined the organization?" and "Have you ever, in any way, assisted with or contributed to advocacy against women's reproductive rights?"

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

In an article written for the **Washington Free Beacon** last Friday, **Matthew Continetti** wrote, "Last March, [Dianne] **Feinstein** demanded to know if **Michael Scudder**, now confirmed to the **Seventh Circuit**, worked with his parish 'to establish a residential crisis pregnancy center.' Last May, Senator **Sheldon Whitehouse** of Rhode Island asked **Peter J. Phipps**, now confirmed as a district court judge, about the Knights. Last October, Feinstein, Harris, and three other Democrats wanted to know about the relationship between **Fourth Circuit** nominee **Allison Jones Rushing** and the **Alliance Defending Freedom**, a Christian nonprofit that supports religious liberty. Last November, Feinstein asked **Third Circuit** nominee **Paul Matey**, 'If confirmed, will you recuse yourself from all cases in which the Knights of Columbus have taken a position?'"

The proper and learned answer to all of the above would be something like, "Senator, I can appreciate your interest in my interpretation of our laws defining reproductive rights, but you are prohibited by Article Six, Section Three of our Constitution from couching those questions as religious tests. As a consequence, I shall invoke my right to refuse to answer your question, as posed. However, should you rephrase your question so that it meets the requirements of our Constitution, I would be delighted to address it in depth."

It appears to me that the Liberals in Congress have gotten so far off the rails that they no longer regard the US Constitution as the rule and guide to our governance. The question is, What is it going to take to get them squared away?

Monday, January 21, 2019

## The Shroud of Turin?

Our **President** has, with few exceptions, been home at the Whitehouse for almost five weeks, waiting for **Pelosi** and **Schumer** to sit down and negotiate in good faith. He's made a number of offers, but the House Majority and Senate Minority Leaders will have no part of it.

The last meeting that the three were in the same room was supposed to be a negotiation to re-open the Government and fund "The Wall" (or Barricade as they're calling it now.) But when POTUS asked Pelosi if he opened the Government would she fund "The Wall", she said flatly, "NO!" At that point Mr. Trump got up from his chair, said "then we have nothing to discuss" and left the room.

**CNN Politics** reported the encounter this way:

"[Vice President] **Pence** said Trump told the Democrats 'goodbye' after Pelosi denied his request for a wall, and the vice president contended the move made clear that Trump would not end the shutdown without his border measures.

"'What the President made clear today is he is going to stand firm to achieve his priorities to build a wall, a steel barrier on the southern border, add additional personnel, additional resources, additional reforms to stem the crisis that we face on our southern border,' Pence said.

"[House Minority Leader **Kevin**] **McCarthy** said Trump had gone back and forth with Pelosi and Schumer, and then eventually asked Pelosi, 'OK, Nancy, if we open the government up in 30 days, could we have border security?'

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

"She raised her hand and said, 'No, not at all,' " McCarthy recalled. "The President calmly said, 'I guess you're still not wanting to deal with the problem.' "

Here's the thing: There can be no negotiation if one of the parties is intransigent.

At this point, it appears that President Trump has put everything but the kitchen sink and the shroud of turin on the table and Leader No-No-Nancy has simply chosen to stone-wall the whole deal!

I really don't care if our petulant President signs the bills funding the Government or not, and I certainly don't care if the Speaker of the House is equally petulant in her position. I'm not employed by the US Government in any capacity, so I could care less.

They're still automatically depositing those Social Security payments in my checking account. Furthermore, they're paying 80% of the Medicare costs for Claudette and I don't have to negotiate with anyone to make that happen.

So, Donald, Chuck and Nancy - just keep doin' what you're doin' and the whole thing will end up with what every voter wants anyway ... a 2020 election where *nobody gets re-elected*.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 24, 2019

## Capitulation

Poor **Nancy Pelosi**. The **Speaker of the US House of Representatives** declared flatly "No" in answer to the **President's** question asking if he opened the Government within 30 days would she allow funding for "The Wall."

The thing is, I believe her. Nancy Pelosi is a tough cookie but, unlike former Senate Majority **Harry Reid**, she is not a liar! Her only out is to capitulate and allow wall/barrier construction funding to proceed.

A two-letter declaration leaves no wiggle room, meaning that if Pelosi decides to change her mind the only way out is to declare - equally forcefully - that she made a mistake!

President **Trump**, on the other hand, is gaining traction with the Latino community. There are more Hispanics employed in the United States today than ever before and they understand the President's insistence on comprehensive border security, positive changes to immigration law, and, in his own move to compromise, a way for Dreamers to obtain a path to US citizenship.

Here are the contents of the latest Trump package:

The initial request, up to 25 billion dollars to build enough barriers to strengthen the most vulnerable sections of the border, dropped to 5.7 billion dollars, enough for about 230 miles.

805 million dollars for technology, canines and personnel necessary to combat the flow of illegal drugs and weapons.

800 million dollars in humanitarian assistance, medical support and temporary housing.

782 million dollars to hire 2,750 additional border agents, law

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

enforcement and administrative staff.

563 million dollars to hire 75 new immigration judge teams to reduce the backlog of the more than 800,000 immigration cases that are clogging system.

And three year provisional status for over 700,000 DACA kids and 300,000 immigrants whose Temporary Protected Status (TPS) would otherwise expire.

Whether there are enough Democrats in the House and Senate to move a bill the President will sign remains to be seen. Politicians are only given so much slack before the people who elected them begin to complain. Whether there are sufficient numbers of loud and vociferous complainers also remains to be seen.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, January 28, 2019

## Writer's Block

So, there I was ... contemplating what to write about today. As happens to the greatest of scribes, writer's block had stepped in to cloud what was left of my mind with trash and kept my fingers from creating the usual verbosity.

The President, according to those in the know at CNN and MSNBC, had caved to pressure from pro-Pelosi factions in the Republican party. The question persists: Will there be another Government shut-down in three weeks? Will Pelosi and Schumer continue to boycott any funding for additional southern border barrier construction? Will this bi-partisan political nonsense ever stop?

Meanwhile, a cadre of armed FBI agents accompanied by photogs from CNN visited the Florida home of Donald Trump's confidant and one-time Republican Operative Roger Stone and forced their way in to arrest him at at six o'clock in the morning. Stone is set to appear in court for his Preliminary Hearing tomorrow to answer charges of obstruction, witness tampering and lying to Congress.

Then there was the Super Red Wolf Moon Eclipse that almost everybody living on planet earth got to see but me! Except for a brief glimpse ... it was cold outside. The problem is, being an old coot, I could drop dead any minute and never get another chance to see such a sight again - ever. I mean, this is serous stuff!

There's good news: Claudette will be coming home soon - within a couple of weeks, anyway. The PT people at Heritage Health Care Center say she's improving by leaps and bounds. And she has an appetite like a football player! She's finally motivated to get strong. What a blessing that the physical and occupational



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

training people were able to get her cranked up! She really wants to go home where she can kick back and enjoy life at home with her family.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 31, 2019

## Wordcrafting

Earlier this week, we were talking writer's block. And I managed to delve into a few subjects of interest. However, the block has not gone away. I know, I know - there are actually a few of you out there who would just as soon I got a permanent brain cramp! But a good writer, like a good journalist, can always discover something to write about.

This time it's *wordcrafting* - or *wordsmithing*. That's the art of putting words together to create descriptive phrases or sentences using bizarre methods or one's warped imagination.

I like constructing sentences that are "too long." And I like playing with partial sentences and screwing with the rules of punctuation. My sister **Mandy** is a retired teacher and she has barbequed my off-the-wall writing style on a number of occasions. In fact, she has the original recipe for the sauce!

Somebody asked if *wordsmithing* was a word so, on July 27th, 2014 **David Aldred** wrote,

"People use it so, yes, it's a word.

"'Wordsmith' is usually a noun, derived from the 'smith'; 'smith' usually refers to someone who makes things out of metal, but it comes from an older and wider term which really simply means someone who forms things out of raw materials.

"That older term has a related verb, pronounced and now spelled the same way, 'to smith'; it's very unusual for it to be used as a verb and regarded as archaic.

"So it's possible to attach 'word' to 'smith' - one who makes things out of words - and to use the archaic verb form of 'smith' to turn it into 'to form something out of words'.

"And having wordsmithed that answer, I'll just leave you with

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

the thought that the word 'writing' is shorter and probably more satisfactory for most purposes."

I prefer *wordcrafting*. It's not a liberal or conservative thing. It's just something that pretty well describes what I've been doing for the past fifty years or so.

My wordcraftsmanship (now THAT'S a word!) served me well at Hughes Aircraft in Tucson where I was tasked with creating and maintaining work instructions for assembling assorted missile parts. The trick was to use as few words as possible.

A few years later I was covering important events and doing the news live on a couple of local radio stations. I preferred to *tell* the news rather than *give* it or *read* it. Being a professional artificer in the weaving of tales is where wordcrafting came in - keeping a story interesting takes a hefty interest in Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary!

Life as a multidisciplinary engineer and broadcaster means you're never at a loss for words.

Except when you encounter writer's block ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, February 4, 2019

## Climate Change Again?

An article in the **Investors Business Daily** last week noted that "the late **Karl Popper**, considered by many the greatest philosopher of science in the 20th century, in layman's language, said that to prove something in science, you must first be able to test it for being false. Otherwise, what you have isn't science, it's religion, or faith. It's a 'nonfalsifiable hypothesis.' It can neither be proven nor disproven.

"When you say anything and everything is a cause of global warming, and no amount of evidence can possibly disprove that hypothesis — indeed, you call those who doubt your beliefs 'deniers' — it's no longer science. It's faith.

"The climate change science isn't proven, despite media claims to the contrary. Spending trillions of dollars to lower CO2 output won't end our cold winters. But it will end our prosperity."

IBD admits to being a non-believer in Climate Science. In my own opinion, much of the so-called science used to support the idea that the earth is warming (or cooling) at an alarming rate is blatant balderdash. The only constant in Climate Change is *Change* itself!

One decade will have drought. Another will have floods. Another will see catastrophic tornados or hurricanes. Meanwhile, polar ice sheets are waxing and waning as the seasons pass, raising and lowering sea levels.

Other factors affecting (or effecting) the weather include regular solar cycles, volcanic activity, earthquakes and forest fires. Of course there are man-made effects on the earth. Just as prairie dog burrows affect the safety of browsing animals on the flatlands of

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

America, so do large metro areas create heat islands which drive their own climates.

The predictions endorsed by Jimmy Carter (cooling), Al Gore (Warming) and the now infamous New York Democratic Socialist Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (who claims we'll all be dead if we don't fix Climate Change within the next twelve years) are noted for their brilliance as well as their stupidity. Carter's experience in the Nuclear Sciences as a Naval Officer is notably among the best in the world. Al Gore's special gift in the political arena gave him the ability to capture a Nobel Prize as well as build a spectacular fortune. And AOC's ability to motivate the ignorant goes without saying.

I'm not a denier. Nor am I a believer. I just have a very efficient, very high-end BS detector!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, February 7, 2019

## Girly-boy Scouts?

I earned my Eagle Scout rank in 1957. In that time Boy Scouts would have never accepted a girl in their midst. Completely unthinkable! Not so today. The **Boy Scouts of America** officially changed its corporate name to **Scouts BSA** effective last Friday, the First of February, 2019.

I simply can't imagine females in what has been, since the Boy Scouts of America's inception, a male environment. By the same token, I can't get my head around boys yearning to join a Girl Scout Troop. Are there a lot of boys out there clamoring to be Girl Scouts? Do you suppose the **GSA** will be changing its name to Girly-boys of America?

In the mid- and late '50s, **Monterey Boy Scout Troop 2** would go on camp-out weekends in **Del Monte Forest** on the **Monterey Peninsula**, pitch tents, build a log-cabin fire pit, dig a latrine, pee behind a tree and fight, tussle and grab-ass! We couldn't do that guy stuff with girls along! Oh, sure, girls can pitch tents, make campfires and dig holes, but peeing outdoors in the open - or even behind a tree - just isn't lady-like.

I remember wrestling with a neighbor girl down the street when I was a pup, but she was bigger than me and she always kicked my butt! What fun! The thing is, she was a tough cookie but also a soft, beautiful young lady. She would never have fit in as a Boy Scout.

Girls are for dancing and cuddling with and kidding and fun stuff like that. Not doing nasty, gross, dirty ol' guy things! That's just my opinion, folks. I'm what girls still call, to this very day, a male chauvinist pig!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

**Monday, February 11, 2019**  
**She's Home!**

My lovely bride of some 57 years - Claudette - came down with a serious infection on November 27th last year. She was admitted to Cobre Valle Regional Medical Center - the local Hospital - and remained there until December 1st, when she was transferred to Heritage Health Care Center, a local nursing home.

She got super care at Heritage ... one of those deals where you get a vacation from the stuff that happens day after day every day ... and they wait on you hand and foot. It's a good outfit!

Claudette had a special diet to accomodate her kidney difficulties and breathing treatments to help with her COPD. In addition, she was urged to participate in PT - physical training - to build strength in her arms and legs so she could stand and use her walker to get around. She also learned how to motor about in a wheelchair.

As a result of her diet and some new meds her kidney problems were mitigated to the point nobody was worrying about the potential need for dialysis. And new breathing treatments helped alleviate her COPD and coughing. In short, she's in good shape for the shape she's in!

Out daughter Janet moved up from Tucson and is helping with Claudette's home care.  
Mrs. Thayer is totally jazzed! Great to have her home.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

**Thursday, February 14, 2019**

## **Valentines Day**

Here it is - Arizona's 107th Birthday as well as that of a bunch of friends including Patty Trog Nolan and Joe Albo! Well ... Patty and Joe aren't quite that old! Arizona is the 48th state and is the last in the contiguous United States of America admitted to the Union.

I want to wish all of you a great day with a good friend.

**HAPPY  
VALENTINES DAY!**

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, February 18, 2019

## Silent Minority

This subject has been on my mind for a couple of years. We've all heard of the **Silent Majority**, the gigantic conservative presence named in the last presidential election cycle by Arizona's Maricopa County **Sheriff Joe Arpaio**.

The Silent Majority was originally coined by **President Richard Nixon** as way to describe the quiet voice of American people who would rather not be involved in the political arena, keeping their opinions to themselves until election day. In a speech on November 3, 1969 he offered, *"And so tonight - to you, the great silent majority of my fellow Americans - I ask for your support."*

**President Donald Trump** harnessed the Silent Majority to win election in 2016. His opponents still despise him for churning up support where Democrats never sought to seriously campaign.

Trump understood that Presidential elections have always been won or lost in the **Electoral College**, so he took his campaign to the very center of America's heartland - they call it "**fly-over country**" - where he mined the solid gold representation that makes up the majority in the Electoral College. Funny, the Left has since proposed eliminating the Electoral College.

**Democrats** concentrated on the large populations living on the East and Left coasts, expecting to win with a popular vote landslide. Unfortunately, they could not see the advantage of cherry-picking the Electoral College in lieu of a massive popular vote. In politics, as in football, the winning team usually has a different way of looking at things.

For decades, Liberal leaders of the Democrat Party have sought to win elections by dividing the electorate into distinct groups that can be motivated to make their presence heard, both vocally and physically - changing **Silent Minority** groups into potent campaign fodder.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

I believe this slow change to vocal minorities began back in the '60s with the **American Women's Movement** or Feminism. According to **Wikipedia**, "Feminism has gone through three waves. **First-wave** feminism was oriented around the station of middle- or upper-class white women and involved suffrage and political equality. **Second-wave** feminism attempted to further combat social and cultural inequalities. Although the first wave of feminism involved mainly middle class white women, the second wave brought in women of color and women from other developing nations that were seeking solidarity. **Third-wave** feminism is continuing to address the financial, social and cultural inequalities and includes renewed campaigning for greater influence of women in politics and media. In reaction to political activism, feminists have also had to maintain focus on women's reproductive rights, such as the right to abortion."

The Latino community was motivated to organize back in the days of the **Bracero** farm program. One group of farm workers, the **NFWA**, were organized by **Caesar Chavez** to create a movement to stop heartless bosses from taking advantage of Mexican farm workers. These people came to the western United States to pick fruits like grapes, strawberries, apples and such as well as vegetables, including lettuce and Artichokes. Chavez organized a strike that cut off America's supply of grapes and lettuce from California and Arizona and ended with the successful formation of **United Farm Workers of America**, combining the **NFWA** and the **AWOC**. The Latino/Hispanic community has since organized into many politically-oriented activist groups.

More recently, at least in the early stages of President **Barack Obama's** career as a community organizer, specific minority groups were coralled to address pressing issues affecting them. Thus, the most vocal became Blacks seemingly stuck in violent and poor urban areas.

Sometime later, the **LGBT** (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender) communities worked to form a new sexuality-oriented political force. The group has since added "**Queer**" people to the organization, recognizing that not all sexually deviant people can be adequately described. This way,

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

LGBTQ combined five different sexually-oriented groups into a powerful minority force for political change.

Over the years, the Democrat Party has organized people into a number of separate movements that include:

Mexicans/Latinos/Hispanics  
Black and African-Americans  
Native Americans  
Other ethnically divergent communities  
Construction Workers  
Transportation Workers  
Other Union Members  
Feminists and the #MeToo Movement  
Lesbians, Gay people and Bi-sexuals  
Transgender people and self-described Queers  
Never-Trumpers and Trump Haters  
Left-leaning Congressional Caucuses  
And more!

Any more, the thing all of the not-so-quiet minorities have in common is hate and negativity. Liberal party leadership will rue the day they hung those millstones around their own necks. Meanwhile, the Silent Minorities are wondering what the next election cycle will bring.

Please forgive me if I left anything out ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, February 21, 2019

## \$250 Million

Attorneys representing a **Covington Catholic High School** student have filed suit against **The Washington Post** for \$250 million seeking compensatory and punitive damages in response to a story it published that whipped both the mainstream and social media into a three-day frenzy aimed at 15-year-old Junior **Nicholas Sandmann**.

Sandmann's parents, **Ted and Julie**, hired the legal team that filed the suit on Nicholas' behalf in **U.S. District Court** in Covington, Kentucky.

A **Fox News** article penned by **Samuel Chamberlain**, with help from **Lucia Suarez Sang** and the **AP**, states that Sandman "became a target for outrage after a video of him standing face-to-face with a Native American man, **Nathan Phillips**, while wearing a red 'Make America Great Again' hat ...

"Sandmann was one of a group of students from Covington attending the anti-abortion **March for Life** in Washington, D.C., while Phillips was attending the **Indigenous Peoples' March** on the same day.

"The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in Kentucky, accused The Post of practicing 'a modern-day form of McCarthyism' by targeting Nicholas Sandmann and 'using its vast financial resources to enter the bully pulpit by publishing a series of false and defamatory print and online articles ... to smear a young boy who was in its view an acceptable casualty in their war against the president.'

"Sandmann and the Covington students were initially accused of initiating [a] confrontation, but other videos and the students' own statements showed that they were verbally accosted by a group of black street preachers who were shouting insults both at them and a group of Native Americans. Sandmann and Phillips ... said they were trying to defuse the situation.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

"Sandmann's attorneys accuse The Post of publishing seven 'false and defamatory' articles about the incident between Jan. 19 and 21 and claim the paper 'knew and intended that its false and defamatory accusations would be republished by others, including media outlets and others on social media.'

"Earlier this month, Sandmann's attorneys sent preservation letters to more than 50 media organizations, celebrities and politicians -- including **The Post**, **The New York Times**, **CNN**, Sen. **Elizabeth Warren**, D-Mass., and actors **Alyssa Milano** and **Jim Carrey**...

"Last week, investigators hired by the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington** concluded that the students did not instigate [a] confrontation with Phillips."

Yesterday, President **Donald Trump** entered the fracas, tweeting "The Washington Post ignored basic journalistic standards because it wanted to advance its well-known and easily documented biased agenda against President Donald J. Trump. Covington student suing WAPO. Go get them Nick. Fake News!"

According to a Washington Post article published yesterday by **Paul Farhi**, "The Sandmanns' lead attorney is **L. Lin Wood**, who represented **Richard Jewell**, the security guard falsely accused in the bombing of **Centennial Olympic Park** in Atlanta in 1996. He also represented **John** and **Patsy Ramsey** in pursuing defamation claims against media outlets in connection with reports on the death of their young daughter, **JonBenet**."

**Amazon** chief executive **Jeffrey Bezos** purchased the WAPO for \$250 million in 2013.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, February 25, 2019

## Home Care

It's amazing what **Medicare Parts A and B** with a **Part F Supplement** can do. Between the two, A and B pay at least 80% of medical expenses and F covers 100% of the remainder. This year, because of Congressional action, additional benefits have been added to Medicare.

My daughter **Janet** moved from Tucson to Globe in December intending to provide care for **Claudette**, her mother. Janet also thought it might be a good way to get a foot in the door to the in-home care industry.

**billettHOMEHEALTH** was recommended by **Heritage Health Care Center**, the nursing home in which Claudette spent a little over two months recovering from a severe infection and lack of strength. During the initial contact with **billett**, we were told that they can always use more homecare employees.

In-home care is among the fastest-growing industries in the United States. According to **AMN®HealthCare** "The growing population of Americans over 65 is Medicare-eligible, meaning that they all have or will have health insurance coverage that includes home healthcare benefits. As Medicare reimbursements are increasingly favoring value-based care, which supports improved patient outcomes while controlling costs, home healthcare is becoming a popular treatment modality.

"According to the **US Bureau of Labor Statistics**, employment in the sector will grow by 54%, adding 738,200 jobs [by 2026], compared to the average employment growth in all industries projected at 7%."

Taking it first-things-first, Janet got her **First Aid-AED-CPR** certification. Next, it looks like job application, fingerprinting, orientation and training. With that, Janet will probably get paid to provide at least some of her mom's in-home care.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

Meanwhile, Claudette applied for **Arizona Long Term Care System** (AHCCCS/ALTCS) assistance. I'm not certain how that will work into the equation, but we'll find out soon ... we have an in-home interview with her ALTCS eligibility worker tomorrow.

Wish us good luck!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, March 4, 2019 (Ooops! Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>!)

# Please Send Money!

It may have been a mistake to give money to politicians. Because I forked over some cash to candidates for congressional seats and the presidency, I ended up in a bi-political quagmire!

Ah, yes! The collegian call of the early sixties! Just a quick note from the kid:

"Love you mom and dad. Please send money!"

When it comes to politics, fundraising is worse - by several orders of magnitude - than the pleas for loot from the kids away in college. Magnanimity is a requirement in politics!

I've been keeping keeping track of exactly who is trolling me for political cash. Check this:

Trump Shop  
Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Congressman Adam Schiff  
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Former Speaker Newt Gingrich  
DNC Chair Tom Perez  
DNC Headquarters  
Republican National Committee (RNC)  
Democratic National Committee (DNC)  
Republican Congressional Caucus Committee  
Democratic Congressional Caucus Committee  
Team (Liz) Cheney  
Congressman Steve Scalise  
Senator Martha McSally  
Steve King for Congress  
President Donald Trump  
1st Lady Melania Trump  
Trump Make America Great Again Committee  
As well as Senate and House candidates from all over trolling for \$\$\$



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

This is just a warning to all you budding donors. It doesn't matter what party you belong to. If you give more than a couple-hundred dollars in an election cycle, your name will be shared. And you will get more email than Carter has Little Liver pills!

Good luck!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, March 4, 2019

### Two Sources

Who, what, when, where and why? Those are the points covered in a properly written news story. If there is more than one side to a story and a number of the facts need to be verified, sides and sources need to be identified. These days it seems like most of the mainstream media has forgotten those basic rules of journalism.

Back during the 2000 election cycle, I was the News Anchor at KIKO radio in Globe-Miami, Arizona. I made it a point to always cover both sides of a story and always have two unimpeachable sources. That became my demise, according to my book *Caca Pasa*.

"Shirley Dawson, a prominent Democrat running in the District Three County Supervisor Primary against my good friend Cruz Salas, called incessantly with stories she expected would go right on the air. Shirley and station owner Willard Shoecraft's widow, Ruth, were pals so there were expectations. At the time I was a registered Democrat [and Vice-Chair of the Gila County Democrat Party] but, I never allowed pressure or affiliations to affect news. If a story had merit, it was aired after it had met the criteria - the five Ws, both sides and two sources.

"One day Mrs. Dawson called in a tizzy – she related that there had been an incident involving Gila County in Peridot on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in Graham County. The San Carlos Reservation straddles the [San Carlos] River that runs between Gila and Graham counties. In the middle of the night someone had opened a fire hydrant in Lower Peridot and all of the water supplying Upper Peridot drained out into the [ ] river.

"Great story! Mrs. Dawson charged that Gila County was breaking the law by providing water to Upper Peridot. She said they were using Gila County equipment, Gila County employees and Gila County taxpayer funds to take care of people living in Graham County. Shirley wanted it on the air right away because it should be a bulletin, beating the other stations on the air.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

"Her call had been recorded. It was a scoop, but it still needed corroboration. Gila County Emergency Services was contacted and my friend Mariano consented to be recorded to fill in the blanks. Meanwhile, Shirley was on the phone every few minutes bugging the staff, as well as Mrs. Shoecraft, demanding that the story air immediately. I just plodded along, routinely putting the thing together and preparing for the next newscast. Shirley was livid. The Office Manager was livid. Ruth didn't say a word, as I recall. The tale finally aired about an hour later. It follows - paraphrased:

*"This morning, a little after two, a man was seen wielding a wrench on one of the fire hydrants in Lower Peridot. Witnesses in the neighborhood said he was drunk and they left him alone. This morning, the San Carlos Tribal Offices began receiving calls from people who said their toilets quit flushing, their swamp coolers weren't working and there was no water.*

*"Even though Tribal officials found the problem and closed the valve on the errant fire hydrant, people still didn't have water because the pumps couldn't keep up and only one was in service.*

*"The Tribe contacted Graham County Emergency Services and asked them to bring a water truck. Graham County had their water truck at the prison across the county, where there was also an emergency, so they were unable to assist.*

*"Graham County officials contacted Gila County Emergency Services, which sent a tanker and a second water vehicle called a buffalo. The tanker provided non-potable water and the buffalo was for drinking water.*

*"There are reciprocal agreements between Emergency Services providers everywhere in America. Gila County will be reimbursed for its expenses helping Graham County residents. An agreement between the two counties means that thirsty people in Upper Peridot have water today.*

"It was quite a story and, unlike what is recreated above, much of the information broadcast was provided by actualities collected

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

from audio tapes recorded during the corroboration process. So, the listeners got the straight dope from the horse's mouth, so to speak. But, Shirley worked her magic ... and I forfeited my job for doing it right. No problem. A lot of key people had my back in 2000."

I re-penned this tome to remind my readers that there is a right and wrong way to do things: the correct professional way and the way of ignorant politicized amateurs. I'm sorry to say that America is being led down the primrose path by politicized amateurs employed by the mainstream media encouraged by socialist ideals. The trouble is a large portion of the electorate is clueless of the basic ways this republic works because we have allowed public schools to quit teaching the basics that all naturalized citizens are required to know!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, March 7, 2019

## Electoral College v. Democracy

*"Electoral College Is the Greatest Threat to Our Democracy"* was the lead on a story last Thursday written by **Jamelle Bouie**, Opinion Columnist for the **New York Times**.

He wrote very well about a premise that is a fabrication repeated often by the mainstream media and its illiterate, ill-informed lackies. These are the people who would rather *Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the **Democracy** for which it stands*. Ours is **NOT** a Democracy, no matter how hard the left is pushing us to believe. This is a **Republic**, despite what **Democratic Socialists** would argue.

Our **Constitution** was written to assure that the United States would remain a Republic in perpetuity. Sometimes we call her a **Democratic Republic** because that is exactly how the **Electoral College** and the **Congress** are structured.

The four-hundred-thirty-some-odd **Congressmen and women represent The People** and are elected by democratic pluralities in their assorted districts across the country. The **House of Representatives** is the *peoples' body* that stands for election every two years to accommodate social, economic and political changes that happen at a relatively swift pace.

Two by two, one-hundred of them altogether, our **Senators represent The States** that make up our Republic. Members of the Senate stand for election every six years, a third of them at a time every two years - because states are slow to make changes to the status quo. Six years allows the Senate to more thoughtfully observe the changes to their states' social, economic and political environments, thus lending a longer view of how legislation may change things.

The **Senate** was invented precisely so the *states* could be equally represented in the Congress as well as the Electoral College.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Despite what the *illiteratae* will insist, members of the Electoral College are democratically elected to represent the states' prevailing Political Parties in the Presidential elections, which happen every four years on the even years. The number of a state's members in the Electoral College is the combined total of its Congressmen and Senators. This way the prevailing Parties from the most populous states get the largest clout, while maintaining relative equity for the lesser populated states. The Electoral College truly represents the make-up of the Congress - the peoples's body as well as the states' body.

In his NYT commentary, Bouie wrote, "**Jared Polis**, the governor of **Colorado**, said he would sign a bill to join the **National Popular Vote** interstate compact, whose members have pledged to give their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. The **Maine Legislature** [...] is mulling membership and will hold hearings to discuss the issue."

The **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact** (NPVIC) is an agreement among a group of U.S. states and the District of Columbia to award all their **electoral votes** to whichever presidential candidate wins the overall **popular vote** in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

According to the NPVIC website "The National Popular Vote bill has been enacted by 12 jurisdictions possessing 172 electoral votes, including four small jurisdictions (**RI, VT, HI, DC**), four medium- size states (**CT, MD, MA, WA**), and four big states (**NJ, IL, NY, CA**). The bill has passed a total of 36 legislative chambers in 23 states—most recently by a 21-14 vote in the Connecticut Senate, a 40-16 vote in the Arizona House, a 28-18 vote in the Oklahoma Senate, a 57-4 vote in New York Senate, a 37-21 vote in Oregon House, and a 26-16 vote in the New Mexico Senate. A total of 3,112 state legislators have either sponsored or cast a recorded vote for the bill."

Historically, tyranny very slowly results from "democratic" elections passed by majorities comprised of at least fifty-percent-plus-one. The best example of this today shouts crystal-clear from the oppressed people of **Venezuela**.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

As crazy as it seems, the Electoral College remains the best way to elect our U.S. President.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, March 14, 2019

## Such a Waste!

At least five Congressional Committees (more like ten) are "investigating" the **President** in order to build a case for Impeachment in the **House of Representatives**. Even though Speaker Nancy Pelosi wants no part of it, the House's Democrat majority is pushing to do whatever it takes to get rid of **Donald J. Trump**. Impeachment (indictment) by the House leads to a trial before the **Senate**.

But the fact is it's a huge waste of time, talent, effort and taxpayer money. The goal of the **DCCC** is to oust President Trump at all cost. Of course, everybody in America knows there is no way in God's green earth that the Senate will ever meet the 75 vote (3/4) majority required to convict.

The committees looking to interrogate every Trump aspect include Adam Schiff's **Intelligence Committee**, the **Oversight Committee** headed by Elija Cummings, the **Judiciary Committee** chaired by Jerry Nadler, Richard Neal's **Ways and Means Committee**, **Financial Services** headed by Maxine Waters, Eliot Engel's **Foreign Affairs Committee**, **Energy and Commerce** headed by Frank Pallone, Raul Grijalva's **Natural Resources Committee**, the **Veteran's Affairs Committee** chaired by Mark Takano, and **Science, Space and Technology** headed by Eddie Bernice Johnson.

Instead, the House is going to blow every opportunity to win their country's admiration by figuring out how to incorporate "**Medicare for All**" into the all-American capitalist economy *without* displacing private health insurance.

Instead, they're going to try to implement the "**Green New Deal**", projected to cost between \$93 and \$105 Trillion over the next ten years. That's over four times the current \$22 trillion National Debt! At the same time they complain that under Trump the Debt has grown by over two trillion dollars. This is rich because it's the Congress that decides on the debt. Remember: The President proposes, the Congress disposes!



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Care of **VOX.com**, here's what AOC's Green New Deal proposes:

**Renewable energy** "meeting 100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable, and zero-emission energy sources"

**Smart grid** "building or upgrading to energy-efficient, distributed, and 'smart' power grids, and working to ensure affordable access to electricity"

**Energy efficiency** "upgrading all existing buildings in the United States and building new buildings to achieve maximal energy efficiency, water efficiency, safety, affordability, comfort, and durability, including through electrification"

**Transportation** "overhauling transportation systems in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector as much as is technologically feasible, including through investment in (i) zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing; (ii) clean, affordable, and accessible public transportation; and (iii) high-speed rail"

**Low-tech solutions** "removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere and reducing pollution, including by restoring natural ecosystems through proven low-tech solutions that increase soil carbon storage, such as preservation and afforestation"

**Cows and climate change** "working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible"

**Guaranteed job, leave, vacation and retirement** "guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States"

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

**Labor laws** "strengthening and enforcing labor, workplace health and safety, anti-discrimination, and wage and hour standards across all employers, industries, and sectors"

**Public ownership** "providing and leveraging, in a way that ensures that the public receives appropriate ownership stakes and returns on investment, adequate capital (including through community grants, public banks, and other public financing), technical expertise, supporting policies, and other forms of assistance to communities, organizations, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and businesses working on the Green New Deal mobilization"

**Providing higher education** "providing resources, training, and high-quality education, including higher education, to all people of the United States, with a focus on frontline and vulnerable communities, so those communities may be full and equal participants in the Green New Deal mobilization"

**Trade unions** "strengthening and protecting the right of all workers to organize, unionize, and collectively bargain free of coercion, intimidation, and harassment"

**Trade deals** "enacting and enforcing trade rules, procurement standards, and border adjustments with strong labor and environmental protections"

**Indigenous people** "obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous people for all decisions that affect indigenous people and their traditional territories, honoring all treaties and agreements with indigenous people, and protecting and enforcing the sovereignty and landrights of indigenous people"

**Health care, housing, security, clean air and water, healthy food and nature** "providing all people of the United States with — (i) high-quality health care; (ii) affordable, safe, and adequate housing; (iii) economic security; and (iv) access to clean water, clean air, healthy and affordable food, and nature"

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

CNN states "The quibble here between progressives and conservatives will be whether the US government should be providing access to health care. Many Green New Deal supporters all support "Medicare-for-all," which is both a general idea that many Democrats are behind and also a specific policy proposal that has fewer supporters.

"One question is whether the government would have to essentially end the private health care industry in order to create a public one. That kind of drastic change has the potential to really frighten voters, who punished Democrats for creating the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and then punished Republicans for trying to take it away in 2018.

"The government already does quite a lot, although some say not nearly enough, on the food, water, air and nature fronts with the Food and Drug Administration, the USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service, so it's hard to so say what would change under a Green New Deal without more specifics."

Sen. **John Barrasso**, chair of the **Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**, wrote the following in a **USA Today** Op Ed last week:

"In the Senate, Republicans and Democrats are working together on meaningful legislation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"In the past year, Congress passed laws to support advanced nuclear power and carbon-capture technologies. Clean, reliable nuclear power currently provides 63 percent of America's emission-free energy. Carbon capture is a cutting-edge technology that can even remove carbon directly from the air, while developing construction and medical uses for it.

"American innovation holds the key to reducing emissions, not unworkable and unaffordable proposals like the Green New Deal."

A recent editorial in **The New York Sun** reads in part "How we wish Friedrich Hayek were alive for the coming campaign. He

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

wrote, in 'The Road to Serfdom,' a template for the debate ahead. Published in 1944, his book illuminates why state control of the economy always leads to a loss of liberty. He helped us see why, as we like to put it, political liberty and economic liberty can't exist the one without the other. They are but warp and woof in the fabric of freedom."

Meanwhile, the congress wastes huge amounts of time and money "investigating" accusations that will never result in one conviction.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, March 18, 2019

## Auto-Pilot

Faulty Jack-Screw? Faulty sensor? Faulty controller software? First Officer error? There could be a correlation between a **Lion-Air Boeing 737 Max 8** crash last October and a recent **Ethiopian Airlines** crash of a similar airplane. Or not.

There have been a number of reports that the **First Officer** on Flight 302 had only 200 hours of flight time on the Boeing 737 Max 8. This information has been met with outrage by the MSM. But wait! The First Officer is the co-pilot of an airplane ... the second in charge.

It is the **Captain** who calls the shots. He (or she) is the **Senior Officer**, responsible for everything having to do with his airplane - before, during and after a flight ... right down to authority to perform marriages in the air!

I haven't been able to confirm that the First Officer was flying the Ethiopian Jet, but there was no reason for him not to have that task ... under the supervision of the Captain, that would be adding to his experience at the helm. **TheGuardian.com** reports "Ethiopian Airlines [CEO], **Tewolde GebreMariam**, said last week that routine maintenance had revealed no problems with the plane, and Captain **Yared Getachew** had flown more than 8,000 hours with an 'excellent flying record'."

So, was it pilot error? In both plane crashes?

My daughter (who has about as little experience as me when it comes to this sort of stuff) proposed that it was, indeed, pilot error. The Max 8 has a cabin that looks very similar to earlier 737 models. There are improved instruments, sensors and computerized elements in the two-year-old 737 Max 8. Daughter proposes, "What if the Junior Officer had confused the auto-pilot of the Max 8 with an earlier version. What if the old way to take control of the plane was to shut off the auto-pilot of the big machine, but the newer plane uses a different strategy? Would

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

this be pilot error, computer malfunction or lack of training & experience?

The position of the stabilizer **jack-screws** found at each crash site shows that the computer system (which had put full power to the engines) was trying to lower the nose to gain speed and avoid a stall, which would cause the plane to fall out of the sky. On-the-ground evidence shows that both planes went into a nose-down attitude at full power after oscillating up and down by hundreds of feet for three minutes or more. In both cases, the crew was confused and unable to take full control of their flight.

Another theory holds that a single **angle of attack sensor** mounted on the outside of the plane had been damaged before take-off and was feeding bad data to the flight control computer called the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS).

A third suggestion has Boeing engineers creating patches to the controller software originally designed to take control from the flight crew - or at least to advise what steps need to be taken as the result of a serious malfunction.

The **New York Times** posted on March 15th "The automated system, which may have pushed down the nose of the aircraft in the Lion Air crash, activates if just one of two sensors mounted on the aircraft's exterior says the nose is too high. That means a single malfunctioning sensor could force the plane in the wrong direction, as has been theorized in the Lion Air crash.

"Boeing is updating the software to require data from both sensors for the system to kick in, according to pilots at several major airlines and two lawmakers briefed on the matter."

Finally, there have been charges from assorted sources that pilots have not been adequately trained to operate this new version of the giant passenger plane. Its flight characteristics are so similar to earlier versions of the 737, the **NYT** claimed, that "pilots would not need to be retrained to fly it. Regulators and carriers agreed, and the pilots' 737 Max training typically amounted to a course on an iPad and a few white papers."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

An article by **David Fickling** in the March 16th issue of **Boomberg.com** suggests that "The problem comes with split-second decisions. Using autopilot to preserve a crew's mental energy is all very well. Over time, though, mental muscles that go unused end up atrophying. That's a problem because most air accidents occur in odd, unexpected situations where pilots are having to diagnose a baffling problem under high pressure. One 2014 study of highly experienced **Boeing 747** pilots found that 15 out of 16 failed to react properly to misreadings of airspeed in simulator tests, to the extent that the 'aircraft' started to stall."

Fickling's article continues "One automated feature that's been named in relation to the crash of Lion Air 610 last October and could credibly explain some of the in-flight behavior leading up to the Ethiopian Airlines crash is the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System, which helps correct for some of the changed aerodynamics created by the 737 Max's larger engines.

"There's a detailed debate about whether Boeing gave pilots enough information about this feature in advance. On one hand, it's possible that the paucity of references to the system in training materials blindsided the air crew and contributed to the Lion Air crash. On the other, it's equally possible that deluging pilots with too much data could have led to confusion."

Whatever the causes of the two crashes and whatever fixes make the giant Boeing 737 Max passenger jets air-worthy again, it could be as long as two years before the final FAA report hits the airways and news-stands across the world. Meanwhile, we wait ... and ponder.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, March 21, 2019

## Venezuela's Troubles

Other than for a tiny spit of land in adjacent **Columbia**, **Venezuela** is **South America's** northernmost country. Its Oil industry was nationalized on January 1st, 1978. Ever since that time, the country has been going downhill.

Venezuela is a dictatorship plagued with catastrophies, the latest of which got its start when the country nationalized its power grid. Critics of the **Nicolas Maduro** regime claim that insufficient investment by the government following the 2007 nationalization of the electricity sector is the cause of the latest power failure.

Early this month, almost the entire country was plunged into darkness by a failure at the hydroelectric dam that creates the majority of the country's power. **PJMedia.com**, reports that Venezuelan life "ground to a standstill, telecommunications stopped working, hospitals were plunged into darkness and cities of millions lay helpless without electricity."

Venezuela's administration blamed the **United States** for the massive failure and claimed the grid had been sabotaged, with no easy way to prove it wasn't. The national electric grid has been in bad shape for a long time. Crumbling infrastructure and lack of investments have have been blamed for failures along Venezuela's power supply for years. Outages have become a way of life.

**PJMedia** claimed in its March 8th article that "Most of the damage to the Venezuelan power grid was indisputably caused by mismanagement by [President **Nicolas**] **Maduro** [and his predecessor **Hugo Chavez**.] They weakened it to the point of fragility. To paraphrase **John le Carre**, 'The Bolivarian knight was dying in his armor.' All that remained was to knock it over with a feather."

**NBC News** reported Tuesday "U.S. Admiral **Craig Faller**, the head of the U.S. military's **Southern Command** that oversees



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

U.S. forces in Latin America, told **Reuters** the United States had sharpened its focus on the rebels and increased its sharing of intelligence with Colombian officials.

"U.S. officials see a growing threat from both Colombia's National Liberation Army (**ELN**) and factions of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (**FARC**) that refuse to adhere to a 2016 peace agreement to end five decades of civil war.

"The United States believes the rebels are taking advantage of Venezuela's crisis to expand their reach in that country and the scope of long-standing illegal activities, including drug trafficking.

"Our principal role working with our Colombian partners is to assist in intelligence sharing. What we know, we share,' Faller said. Asked whether the intelligence sharing on the rebels had ramped up as Venezuela's crisis deepened, Faller responded: 'Absolutely.' "

Writer **Richard Fernandez** sums up the story, "... the Venezuelan blackout also provides a lesson in how vulnerable modern societies are to disruption. There was a lot more self-sufficiency 150 years ago when people lived off the grid. Today, much of the world depends on systems of hideous complexity to get food, water, and power and would be [hard-pressed] to live without it. Then some, like Venezuela, will put socialists in charge of this complex infrastructure. What could go wrong?"

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, March 25, 2019

## 100k in Rio Grande

Would you call it an emergency if 100,000 foreigners with guns and knives were massed across the border with Mexico? What if there were 240,000? Would it still be an emergency if they were armed with sticks and bottles and rocks as well? What if most of them were so-called "family units" and "unaccompanied children"?

Late last month foxnews.com, following the lead of the Associated Press reported "Border agents in Southeast Texas have apprehended more than 100,000 immigrants attempting to enter the United States illegally since the beginning of October. In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said its agents in the Rio Grande Valley [RGV] Sector -- which includes the cities of Brownsville, McAllen and Corpus Christi -- were on pace to apprehend 240,000 illegal aliens for this fiscal year. That would be an increase of approximately 50 percent over the 162,260 migrants apprehended between October 2017 and October 2018."

"RGV Sector leads the nation in illegal alien apprehensions, [and] accounts for nearly 50 [percent] of all [arrests] along the entire Southwest border,' said the [CBP] statement, which added that agents were apprehending illegal aliens at a rate of approximately 1,000 per day.

"Authorities added that agents in the sector had apprehended at least 1,300 migrants in two separate mass arrests in the previous two weeks. Most of those arrested are 'family units and unaccompanied children from Central and South America,' the statement said."

According to mytexasdaily.com "The Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector, one of five U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) sectors in Texas, has apprehended nearly 7,000 illegal immigrants during the last week of February [alone].

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

"The RGV ... spans 19 south Texas counties, 320 river miles, and 250 coastal miles — some 34,000-square miles, according to the CBP's website. The other four Texas sectors are El Paso, Laredo, Del Rio, and Big Bend."

The AP also reported that "Congressional negotiators agreed earlier this month [February] to fund 55 miles of border barriers in the Rio Grande Valley sector. The new wall will be built on the western side of the sector, where officials say approximately 90 percent of arrests take place. The sector has a total of 55 miles of existing barrier on its eastern side."

Last week the New York Post editorial board wrote. "More than 76,000 migrants crossed the southern border illegally last month, the highest number in 12 years. So much for all those media 'fact checks' arguing that there's no emergency to justify President Trump's wall. Why are they coming in such vast numbers? Because smugglers have put them wise to how to take advantage of recent court decisions to claim asylum and remain here indefinitely."

So, I ask you again, would it still be an emergency if [240,000] were armed with sticks and bottles and rocks as well? And what if most of them were so-called "family units" and "unaccompanied children"?

If you have a thoughtful answer to this quandry, I'd be pleased to hear from you ...

Improvise – Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, March 28, 2019

## Our Crazy Uncle Joe

I penned this column almost three years ago. What with the **Democrats** having a great time getting candidates to run for President and all, I thought I'd up-date the thing.

During the summer of 2016, I peddled nomination papers for one of our local candidates. It doesn't matter who - for our purposes here - because we try to maintain some rational balance between conservative and liberal ideologies. While I come from historically conservative Arizona stock, I appreciate the liberal approach to things political. (Remember, I spent nine years as the **Vice-Chair** of the **Gila County Democrat Party** - much to my Sainted mother's chagrin!)

When you're out getting signatures on Nominating Petitions, you have many occasions to interact with folks from every walk of life. I got to listen to middle-aged working guys, young kids just starting their families, and older folks barely able to walk but still sharp as tacks.

Around ten per-cent of the folks I spoke with wanted nothing to do with politics and another twenty per-cent weren't even registered to vote. At about a third of the places I visited nobody was home. I'd say that around half of the people who signed the petitions were interested in the process. Most weren't very interested in the local races, but rather wanted to chat about the Presidential candidates.

There is still angst and loathing out there, folks! **Hillary Clinton** was despised by all but die-hard Democrats, who embraced her as they would a close family member. **Bernie Sanders** is still admired for his tenacity, if nothing else. **Donald Trump** is the flip-side of the Hillary coin, loved as a brother or abhorred as the spawn of Satan. There is one person that, almost to a man, everyone I listened to admired - former Vice-President **Joe Biden**! Yes. Everybody was all for our **Crazy Uncle Joe**!

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

If there is one politician on the face of the earth that most everyone admires, it's Joe Biden. This guy would have run and beat the tar out of every 2016 Democrat candidate - had he not lost his son. With a war over **Center** and **Far Left** ideals in the Congress, the Democrats can hope that Biden will step forward and heal the great rift that has been ratcheting up all year. The former President of the Senate knows his stuff. He understands how government works, both from the inside and as just a regular guy on the outside. Biden's penchant for saying non-political stuff when he was expected to be Vice-Presidential earned him the nick-name Crazy Uncle Joe.

What I still hear out there in our neighborhoods is a yearning from all sides for a President like Joe Biden. He has the "just like us" qualities that attract such huge crowds to President Trump yet he shares the "insider" know-how of the Clintons. He understands the trials and tribulations of the young people attracted to Bernie Sanders. Joe Biden combines all the attributes of the other Dem candidates with the hands-on experience of a real pro - and "the folks" get it.

Joe Biden could well be the people's choice at next year's **Democrat National Convention**. Not only could he be the Democrat candidate for President, he could also take the Presidency from Donald Trump!

I'm looking forward to watching the 2020 Democrat National Convention, which will be held **July 13-16** next year at the **Fiserv Forum** in **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**. What with the broad scope of factions developing across the party, it could turn out to be one the most exciting conventions in history ... especially if Our Crazy Uncle Joe makes it to the arena.

As **Judy Tenuta**, our country's most revered Love Goddess, has been known to exclaim ...

"I'm into Astral Projection! It could happen!"

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, April 1, 2019

### Don't Be Silly!

It being **April Fools Day**, do you believe that a bi-partisan bill has been submitted in the U.S. House of Representatives sponsored by a couple of politicians from New York?

A long-time friend sent me a bunch of silly sayings, so I thought I'd pass them along, too:

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you or waggles his tongue, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Yeah ... well, then, why is it you chop a tree down before you chop it up?

**Peter King** is a Republican Representative from New York. **Tom Suozzi** is a Democratic Representative from New York. The two published an opinion piece in the **New York Times** on Sunday, March 24th titled: **A Grand Compromise on Immigration** A bipartisan deal to bring millions out of the shadows, and pay for a secure border. Read it at the followig link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/24/opinion/a-grand-compromise-on-immigration.html>

You suppose **Adam Schiff** or **Nancy Pelosi** will call it an **April Fools** gag?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, April 4, 2019

## Older than Judy Tanuta

A week ago I took some grief from my 50-some-odd-year-old daughter about my reference to Judy Tanuta. Janet had never heard of the comedy star. I also took grief from my good friend the Sergeant Major, who accused me of being so old I voted for Harry Truman!

Look, some have to be the PIGS! And some have to be the Stud-Muffins!

For those of you who are, like my daughter, still wet behind the ears, here are some links to excerpts from a few of America's Love Goddess' appearances. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8YTXQgYaX8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uK6HI6v2Qxg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6TvuPnd1ec>

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, April 8, 2019

## Please Give

In just the last week I've heard from a number of politicians with their hands out, begging for donations for their respective political committees. What's amazing is **Democrats** appear to fear asking for serious money, preferring to start their pleas at just three dollars. On the other hand, the **Republicans** don't seem the least bit intimidated while asking for the moon, starting at twenty-five bucks! Yes, some campaigns are asking for a commitment of "just a dollar."

Republicans have always been looked on as rich business-types, used to buying selling stuff. They understand where to obtain quantities of cash and aren't afraid to ask for it. Democrats, until recently, had to rely on "fat cats" and unions for large donations and local Dem Party bake sales and such for smaller amounts. After finally embracing the **internet, email** and **social media**, the Democrats tapped the huge potential available from the "plain folk" out there who have no problem coughing up just a buck or three!

The problem, I fear, is political fund-raising appears to be going perpetual! How many folks have at least a dollar to spare for the Democrats? ... as opposed to how many will hack up a hundred for their favorite Republican? Will the Independents ever get organized? We'll just have to wait and see which group comes up with the most inventive and effective fund-raising plan for the 2020 election cycle.

I'm no fat cat. I amass my vast fortune over a couple of years at the whopping rate of two dollars per month! I commit it to just one candidate. Here is a sampling of who's competing for my single \$100 donation in October of 2020:

Sen. **Lindsey Graham** (R) for Team Graham (\$25-5,600)  
Senior South Carolina US Senator  
Former South Carolina 3rd District US Representative

**Tom Perez** (D) for DNC (\$3-100 )  
Chairman DNC  
Former US Secretary of Labor

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Sen. **Martha McSally** (R) for McSally Campaign (\$25-1,000)  
Junior Arizona US Senator  
Former Arizona 2nd District US Representative

**Howard Dean** (D) for DNC (\$3-100)  
Former DNC Chair  
79th Governor of Vermont

**Newt Gingrich** (R) for NRSC (\$25-250)  
Former Speaker of the US House  
Former Georgia 6th District US Representative

Sen. **Tim Kaine** (D) for DNC (\$3-100)  
Junior Virginia US Senator  
70th Governor of Virginia

**Kimberly Guilfoyle** (R) for AFAPAC (\$25-500)  
Vice Chairwoman, American First Action PAC  
Former Fox News Network Commentator

Sen. **Sherrod Brown** (D) for DNC (\$3-100)  
Senior Ohio US Senator  
Former Ohio 13th District US Representative

Rep. **Devin Nunes** (R) for Devin Nunes Campaign (\$10-2,800)  
California US 22nd District Representative  
Former Dairy Farmer & Dyed-in-the-wool Boston Celtics Fan!

**Hillary Clinton** (D) for National Democratic Training  
Committee (\$15-250)  
Former US Secretary of State  
Former First Lady, Former New York US Senator

Rep. **Jim Jordan** (R) for Jim Jordan Campaign (\$25-5,600)  
Ohio 4th District US Representative  
Former Ohio State Senator

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

## What if ...

So, last week Congressional tub-thumpers subpoenaed the full, un-redacted Mueller "Russian Collusion" Report, which they had threatened to do if US Attorney General **William Barr** didn't produce it by April 2nd. Barr revealed Tuesday at a Capitol Hill hearing that he would have a color-coded, redacted report ready around the middle of the month. A number of Congressional Committees are looking to re-investigate Russian collusion and obstruction of justice allegations against **President Donald Trump**, his family, his advisors, his businesses and his election committee.

Barr, who was testifying before Congress this week, more than likely will not allow an un-redacted report to be given to the Congress because of "leakers" on oversight committees who have shown they can't be trusted. By law (**Title 18 of the US Code**) information about any person who remains unindicted cannot be released for just that reason: a **Grand Jury** leak could completely ruin the life of someone who testified or was investigated before that body. In addition, Title 18 forbids making public any Classified information that could possibly jeopardize the life or wellbeing of any US citizen.

Things have tightened up a bit since the last serious leak from Congressional Staff, but I don't trust them as far as I could throw them! On a CBS-TV Sunday "Face the Nation" show in May last year, Representative **Trey Gowdy**, R-SC, ripped Congress for having "*proven itself incapable of conducting serious investigations.*" When asked if he included the **House Intelligence Committee** in his criticism, Gowdy replied "*Absolutely ...congressional investigations leak like the Gossip Girls.*"

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

A few committee members are so untrustworthy that they should be stripped of their security clearances. **Adam Schiff**, for instance, has declared that there is still information about collusion out there - an observation of which a supposedly impartial investigative participant should refrain.

*"There's a difference between compelling evidence of collusion and whether the special counsel concludes that he can prove beyond a reasonable doubt the criminal charge of conspiracy," Schiff, Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, told ABC's "This Week" on Sunday, March 24th. "Do not think you can bury this report. Do not think you can bury the evidence in secret by briefing eight people in Congress and say we have discharged our responsibility. That's not going to cut it."*

What Chairman Schiff has said in so many words is that, despite expenses in excess of some \$30 million, almost two years of investigation and interviews with over 500 witnesses in the investigation that began May 17, 2017 and concluded March 22, 2019, Special Counsel **Robert Mueller** is a liar and is concealing evidence. In so charging, Schiff has created a sweeping public Indictment of Robert Mueller, US Attorney General William Barr and Deputy US Attorney General **Rod Rosenstein**.

What if Schiff is right? What if the Report Subpoenas are ignored? What if there really are leakers on Committees and in their Staffs? What if Fake News remains unabated? What if headlines shout: "What would happen if we said there may be evidence of ...?"

Do *you* trust these people and today's **Fourth Estate** to keep *your* secrets safe? Me neither.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, April 15, 2019

## A Plan Redirecting Anger

On April 2nd **Ronald A. Klain** wrote a column for **The Washington Post** detailing what he thought the **Democrats** should do to win the Presidency in 2020. Klain proposed that the Dems need to refocus their anger on five campaign promises: **health care, discrimination, income inequality, lack of accountability and climate change.**

Klain wrote, "For [Donald] **Trump**, that anger - then and now - focused not on economics but on cultural resentments: antipathy toward immigrants, people of color, the news media, 'coastal elites.' Democrats in 2020 need to build a different coalition of the angry - anger about income inequality, discrimination, climate change, health care, a lack of accountability - that goes beyond animus toward Trump and his corruption. Fire need not be mean-spirited; it can be done with open arms for potential allies and graciousness toward opponents ..."

**Income equality** is a blatant, unrealistic, unachievable **Socialist** pipe-dream. Our growing capitalist society has put over five-million people back to work since January of 2017. By lowering income taxes the US has enabled a new flow of investment from countless entrepreneurs to business and industry across our country. Because of lower taxes and reduction in the burden of over-regulation, so many new jobs have been created that there aren't enough skilled workers to fill them! In fact, so many new jobs have gone wanting that, according to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, employers began offering attractive pay increases that have raised the average American worker's wages to some **\$24.57** per hour in December of 2018 alone. Furthermore, unemployment claims have reached their lowest level in 50 years ... since 1969!

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

**Discrimination** is a farce! It has been a political tool of the Democrats for many decades. The thing is to point the finger at someone and call them a racist xenophobe. Just recently, the US Representative from New York, **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, exclaimed that "... *if only we didn't call one another names, our world would be a better place. If only we took the high road unlike those xenophobic, racist, sexist, nazi-bigots.*" True, there used to be a lot of discrimination in America, but today? Not so much. Among my own circle of friends are at least ten Hispanics, a Chinaman, a Montenegrin, a couple of Blacks and six or eight Native Americans, all of whom admire and respect each other. Now, that may not be the norm, but you don't see blatant discrimination very much anymore.

I think the whole world knows my position on **Climate Change**. I keep an open mind about it but remain skeptical about its causes, man-made or not. Further, the proposition that we must rid ourselves of fossil fuels within the next twelve years is preposterous.

American **Health Care** has become a disaster since the Democrats shoved **ObamaCare** down our throats. It's based on lies like "*You can keep your doctor*" ... "*You can keep your plan*" and "*No one is making people buy these plans.*" The **Affordable Healthcare Act** was foisted on the American people with the help of US House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** who in 2010 breathlessly claimed, "*We have to pass the Bill so you can find out what is in it.*" Now, some on the left are pushing the idea of **Medicare for All**. Please, give me a break!

How is it that a writer for **WaPo** can proclaim a **lack of accountability** in government when his paper, the **New York Times**, **CNN**, **MSNBC** and the rest of the **Mainstream Media** have avoided admitting their own lack of accountability for over two years worth of fake news? What was it Jesus said? "*He who is without sin among you, cast the first stone ...*" (John 8)

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

It appears that HealthCare is going to be a huge issue, but not in a way that Democratic Socialists are going to appreciate. The President has pledged that the Republicans are going to build a new American healthcare system that will become law after the 2020 election cycle. That issue will be a centerpiece of the 2020 elections along with a definitive rewrite of US immigration law. In the mix will be the specifics of infrastructure repair/maintenance. The experts are saying the 2020 elections will be a referendum on Capitalism vs. Socialism.

It would be magnificent if the Democrats all of a sudden decided to stop stonewalling and work together with the Republicans to improve America's health care system, create new immigration law that supercedes current law (and the courts) and get busy creating that infrastructure package they promised back during the Great Recession.

I really am looking forward to the 2020 Presidential race, but the big news is going to be whether those *xenophobic, racist, sexist, nazi-bigots* can figure how to get their peaceful counterparts in the Democrat Party to work with them. Good luck wid dat, troops!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, April 18, 2019

## Age and Status aren't Important

My dad was a real piece of work. He was a man's man ... someone a real man would strive to emulate - sorta like a **John Wayne** character. He was patient, courageous, un-afraid and tried to set an example for his kids of how to live one's life - one's comportment, if you will.

**Duke** was at home with males and females of all ages. He was comfortable with little kids, often just sitting and chewing the fat with them. Dad understood that communication with anyone is simply a friendly exchange of information. So, around women he was courteous and friendly, as at ease with them as with children. Around guys he was equally at ease, being a man's man, un-afraid and solid as a rock. Something else: he had no problem being alone.

Something I learned from my dad was respect - for everyone and everything. When I was little, I understood respect for one's elders. Adults knew stuff and would help you learn if you were respectful. Disrespecting an adult could find you alone, sitting in a corner, ignored or shunned for a while ... not something any kid would willingly do on their own. I learned respect for other people's stuff, their intellect, feelings and property. I also learned respect for Mother Nature's stuff. A cardinal rule in the forest and the plains as well as the desert was "*Always leave it in better condition than you found it.*" In my estimation, there is no better way to learn to appreciate the supreme works of the **Great Architect of the Universe**.

These learning experiences, I think, gave me a different perspective on life - something I didn't really appreciate until I was **Initiated, Passed and Raised a Freemason in Epes**



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

**Randolph Lodge #32** in Tucson, Arizona. **Masons** learn to interact with others on an equal basis.

The **Entered Apprentice** has no less status in a Masonic Lodge than the **Worshipful Master**. Each pays due respect to the other. A man who has taken the mantle of Entered Apprentice has been unanimously accepted as a "good man and true" by the members of his Lodge. So it is with the Master. He was elected by his peers to preside over the activities of his Lodge. The highest honor any Mason will ever earn, however, is that of **Master Mason** - the 3rd Degree. That's when a man becomes a man's man, comfortable with folks of all ages, respectful of all people as well as the Universe around him.

Somehow, I wish everyone had the same perspective I've gained over the years. It's cool to sit with small children and chat. Teasing teens is fun. Kibitzing with peers is an interesting way to interact. And sharing experiences with old folks is always rewarding.

No matter their age or status, if you treat everyone as equals you can't go wrong.

Now, you'll have to excuse me ... I've got to go read the Mueller Report. Selah.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, April 22, 2019

## WOPR

I hope that both the **Good Lord** and the **Easter Bunny** were good to you and your family over the Holiday weekend. The fire at **Notre Dame** last week was tragic but it reminded us of what a special time we live in. France, the United States' oldest ally, has been wounded.

To the business at hand. Have you read the **Mueller Report**? The 448 page document is difficult to digest. Even for an old termite like me! However, I've posted it on my web site for those of you who have an interest. So you know ... the file is huge and will take several minutes to download (at 100kbps) because it's over 142Megs. <http://www.tedthayer.com>

Something a little less heady? OK. **Joe Biden** will announce this week that he's in it for the Democrat Primary. From **The Atlantic**. *"Joe Biden is running. The former vice president will make his candidacy official with a video announcement next Wednesday, according to people familiar with the discussions who have been told about them by top aides."*

Now, then... I'd like to move on to something different. Something more fun and interesting than political shenanigans and skullduggery. That can wait until next year. There's already been enough to go 'round this year!

**How about a friendly little game of Global Thermonuclear War?**

The **WOPR** was such a cool machine! "**WarGames**" was released in May of 1983 at the Cannes Film Festival.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

According to **Wikipedia**, "The film stars **Matthew Broderick**, **Dabney Coleman**, **John Wood**, and **Ally Sheedy**. The film follows David Lightman (Broderick), a young hacker who unwittingly accesses WOPR (War Operation Plan Response), a United States military supercomputer originally programmed to predict possible outcomes of nuclear war. Lightman gets WOPR to run a nuclear war simulation, believing it to be a computer game. The computer, now tied into the nuclear weapons control system and unable to tell the difference between simulation and reality, attempts to start World War III.

Wikipedia continues, "During a surprise drill of a nuclear attack, many United States Air Force Strategic Missile Wing controllers prove unwilling to turn the key required to launch a missile strike. Such refusals convince John McKittrick and other systems engineers at NORAD that missile launch control centers must be automated, without human intervention. Control is given to a NORAD supercomputer, WOPR (War Operation Plan Response), programmed to continuously run war simulations and learn over time.

"David Lightman, a bright but unmotivated Seattle high school student and hacker, uses his **IMSAI 8080** computer to break into the school district's computer system and change his grades. He does the same for his friend and classmate Jennifer Mack. Later, while war dialing numbers in Sunnyvale, California to find a computer game company, he connects with a system that does not identify itself. Asking for games, he finds a list that starts with chess, checkers, backgammon, and poker, as well as titles like 'Theaterwide Biotoxic and Chemical Warfare' and 'Global Thermonuclear War', but cannot proceed further. Two hacker friends explain the concept of a backdoor password and suggest tracking down the Falken referenced in 'Falken's Maze,' the first game listed. David discovers that Stephen Falken was an early artificial intelligence researcher, and guesses correctly that his dead son's name, Joshua, is the password.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

"David does not know that the Sunnyvale phone number connects to WOPR at the **Cheyenne Mountain Complex**. He starts a game of Global Thermonuclear War, playing as the Soviet Union. The computer starts a simulation that briefly convinces the military personnel at **NORAD** that actual Soviet nuclear missiles are inbound. While they defuse the situation, WOPR nonetheless continues the simulation to trigger the scenario and win the game, as it does not understand the difference between reality and simulation. It continuously feeds false data such as Soviet bomber incursions and submarine deployments to NORAD, pushing them into increasing the **DEFCON** level and toward a retaliation that will start World War III.

"David learns the true nature of his actions from a news broadcast, and **FBI** agents arrest him and take him to NORAD. He realizes that WOPR is behind the NORAD alerts, but because he fails to convince McKittrick, he faces espionage charges. David escapes NORAD by joining a tourist group and, with Jennifer's help, travels to the Oregon island where Falken lives. David and Jennifer find that Falken has become despondent and believes that nuclear war is inevitable, that it is as futile as a game of tic-tac-toe between two experienced players. The teenagers convince Falken that he should return to NORAD to stop WOPR."

Want more? Gotta buy (or rent) it on Amazon, MGM/iTunes or Wal Mart.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, April 25, 2019

## You're Tired, Too?

Well, the *Mueller Report* was released to the Congress, the Press and the public last week. And all we've heard since is bla bla bla BLA! The MSM is beside itself. The Democrats are beside themselves. Congressional Committee Chairs are beside themselves. They're all lined up standing beside themselves! *Good grief Charlie Brown* ... will there be a parade soon?

I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted! *President Donald Trump* has been through one of the most intensive investigations in US history and insufficient evidence was found to tie him in any way to Russian criminal mischief during the 2016 election cycle. Since there were no grounds for a trial, he comes out clean as a whistle.

Mueller would not accuse or exonerate the President of Obstruction of Justice because there was no provable crime case to interfere with ... bottom line, *nothing*. Only the Congress can take this farce any further. That would be *Impeachment Proceedings* in the House and a vote to indict by 75% of the House members. That would give the ball to the Senate which would need a minimum of 75 votes to convict. That simply isn't going to happen. Why on earth are at least three House Committees pushing to further investigate Trump's Obstruction of Justice accusations?

It's all so stupid it makes what's left of my brain hurt! I'm tired. I'm worn out. I'm tuning out **Fox**, **MSNBC**, **CNN** in favor of "local" news. It's so refreshing to hear about the mayhem in Phoenix, the Winter weather screwing up transportation in the North-East corridor, the Stock Market kickin' butt, gas prices soaring to over \$4.00 a gallon in California, **Wal Mart** making

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

improvements in a whole raft of its stores, 34-year-old *Jeopardy* champ **James Holzhauer** surpassing \$1 million in the shortest time ever and **Miriam Webster** adding a bunch of new words (and meanings) to its dictionary! As **Ben Stein** (Ferris Bueller's Economics teacher) would say, "Oh, wow."

I'm so looking forward to news about human beings and the crazy sh\*t that happens to them instead of those goofy elected officials that infest our lives. Alas ... I fear that is probably just a bonehead idea. Sigh.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, April 29, 2019

## Know Power

Some long time ago, I noticed something interesting about **President Trump**. It was very delicate, almost hidden ... yet, in broad sight. I've seen this attribute in other very powerful, persuasive people. All you have to know is how to *know power* when you see it.

**John McCain** had it. **Ronald Reagan** had it. **Bill Clinton** had it. Today, you see it in **Rush Limbaugh**. Except for all the arm-waving and hand-wringing, you see it in **Bernie Sanders**. And yes, God forbid, in **Elizabeth Warren** and **Joe Biden**! **FDR - Roosevelt** had it and so did **Teddy Roosevelt**! Without doubt, **Larry King** was the master at it. Absolute control over just about any conversation was the result of this barely-observed subtle body language.

The Hillary Clinton's campaign tried unsuccessfully to make it a political slogan. "*Lean In*." They failed. Miserably. As powerful as a move can be, this one escaped the best BS detectors in the business!

I was watching "**Undercover Boss**" the other day and saw it in every one of those TV bosses. Whether they were behind a desk, sitting outside in a chair, standing in a cold walk-in with an employee, or just hangin' out ... they all - to a person - had the same method of presenting themselves.

Without exception - you can watch this on every TV network - the people with power love to show interest in others. And the most powerful way to show it is to *sit up straight, face the other person straight-on, clasp your hands* together between your knees, and *lean forward* towards the person you're sitting with.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Your stance is *open* and *unobtrusive*, your demeanor is *showing interest* and you *offer no threat* whatsoever. This is the ***position of power***. It's how things get done!

Just in passing, I love yanking other people's chains! It's fun watching them squirm. I found a good one the other day. It's a SONG! Enjoy. [https://youtu.be/Eqn3iI\\_h1vg](https://youtu.be/Eqn3iI_h1vg)

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, May 6, 2019

## Whut the ...

You been payin' attention to what those crazies are doing in Washington? Whut the ...

I don't mean to complain, but they've been at it for two YEARS, for God's Sake! If it were up to me, I'd have them all gathered up like they used to do back in Caesar's day: Put them all in the Colosseum right there in front of God and everybody, let them fight to the death and then feed the remains to the lions!

Thumbs up - thumbs down. Nobody in their right mind gives a hoot in Hades! Our elected officials in the House and Senate have lost their cotton pickin' minds and they need to be brought into tow. Worse, the reputations of the FBI, CIA and NSA appear to have been tarnished beyond anyone's imagination.

There are only 535 of them, for cryin' out loud. I can't believe that mainstream America is fine with them screwing with everything that affects our quality of life. Healthcare, infrastructure, taxes, immigration enforcement, and so on. Instead, they want to fight over two years worth of nonsense that blew some \$30 Million on what? Finger-pointing!

Then there are the loons on the left who want to blame us for the troubles in Central America. What's all that about? Because Socialism has effectively destroyed Venezuela, everyone else is at fault? Especially us? And everybody across the world wants the United States to take them in because they, too, could be overrun by this Socialist political plague? Pfeh!

Maybe it's just me ... but I really like Caesar's solution.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, May 9, 2019

## Sleepy or Crazy?

Writing about former Vice President **Joe Biden's** chances of becoming the **Democrat** nominee for President, **Andrew Sullivan** wrote last week in the **New York Intelligencer**, "In a recent poll, 80 percent of Americans say 'that political correctness is a problem in this country.' Hostility to new speech codes from elites was one factor that drove support for Trump in 2016. Americans do not want to abolish all differences between men and women, do not support reparations, and view college campuses as strange, alien pockets of madness. Any Democrat in 2020 has to reach that 'exhausted majority' who are sick of all that. Biden has already done it."

A good friend of mine commented on an article I re-published a few weeks ago about Crazy Uncle Joe Biden. My friend said he didn't realize I liked Biden so much. It's not that I like Joe Biden, it's just that the rest of the Democrat field is so full of un-real candidates. Joe is the only Democrat that speaks *American* - just like **Donald Trump!**

Out of 20-some-odd declared candidates we've got a far-left spouting fake Indian, an ancient old coot - running as an independent - spouting liberal nonsense, a loony California Socialist attorney, and a couple of young guns who know how to work a crowd but have no idea what they're talking about when it comes to running a country. And they all expect to win because they're promising to give away all sorts of *free stuff!*

The thing that enrages elite Democrats is President Trump's way of speaking. In closed-door meetings at the White House, we're told, he speaks clearly and straight from the hip so as to not be

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

misunderstood. In public he talks just like the guy sitting next to you at the bar.

Joe Biden is infamous for his live mike remark-in-passing to President **Obama**, "*This is a big f\*ing deal!*" But he was quickly forgiven because "That was just another Biden gaffe." Well, he was just semi-privately being himself - the guy over the golf ball on the 18th hole. That's precisely why Biden's gaffes have mostly gone by the wayside. And that's why most women (and men) are not offended by his past pats, hugs and kisses, despite his recent apologies. The 47th Vice President of the United States is no danger. Remember, he's no slouch. This guy presided over the Senate for eight of his 44 years of public service. Even though the President calls him "Sleepy Uncle Joe", he remains America's Crazy Uncle Joe!

For all these reasons, I'm looking forward to a 2020 General Election contest between Joe Biden and Donald Trump. There's no doubt in my mind that a Biden-Trump election will engage more voters than ever before in American history. I firmly believe they are both genuine human beings - two great political leaders who understand clearly what makes our country tick - a couple of really good guys who speak *American* to Americans.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, May 13, 2019

## Songs in My Head

All of us at one time or another have gone for hours with the same tune running through our minds. I've had the same one day and night for going on a week.

Now, I have many favorite singers: Brenda Lee, Peggy Lee, Johnny Cash, Frank Sinatra, to name just a few. But the one in my head sang the same song at least once a month for many decades in front of massive audiences all over the world.

Billy Graham, the famous evangelist, toured the world preaching the Word of God to huge crowds rivaling those attended by Donald Trump fans. By his final crusade in 2005 in New York City, he had preached in person to more than 210 million people worldwide. In 1957, he said, "I intend to go anywhere, sponsored by anybody, to preach the Gospel of Christ."

According to SCPR.org, "[Graham's] massive crusades in England and New York catapulted him to international celebrity. His 12-week London campaign in 1954 defied expectations, drawing more than 2 million people and the respect of the British, many of whom had derided him before his arrival as little more than a slick salesman. Three years later, he held a crusade in New York's Madison Square Garden that was so popular it was extended from six to 16 weeks, capped off with a rally in Times Square that packed Broadway with more than 100,000 people."

During each of his crusades he invited a man with an enormous voice to step up to the mike and sing one song in particular. That's the one still buzzing in my brain. I remember watching a number of Billy's crusades on TV, thrilling at the voice of George Beverly Shea as he sang his solo before Graham gave his

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

sermon. According to Wikipedia, "[Shea] was a Canadian-born American gospel singer and hymn composer. Shea was often described as 'America's beloved gospel singer' and was considered 'the first international singing 'star' of the gospel world,' as a consequence of his solos at Billy Graham Crusades and his exposure on radio, records and television. Because of the large attendance at Graham's Crusades, it is estimated that Shea sang live before more people than anyone else in history." Shea himself indicated the importance of his solo: "Billy looks forward to the solo before the message as a time for people to quiet down and for him to gather strength."

It is no Secret (What God Can Do) at 1975 Crusade  
<https://youtu.be/-ZbpyOc2lcY>

Good song.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Thursday, May 16, 2019

# Update

Well, we got the Travel Trailer for my daughter Janet on May the 6th. Rented a 3/4 ton Ford diesel with the towing package and drove to Quemado Lake, New Mexico. There, my sister Mandy and I worked like crazy to get the trailer prepped for the highway. (It had been in the same spot for the last five years and had some serious issues. We spent at least two hours more than planned, but got it set and roadworthy.

Janet and Claudette worried because I didn't get home until after 10:00pm - the plan was to be home by 7:30. It was too dark to place and un-hitch the trailer, so that chore was done at 5:30am. The jacks were lowered and my big level worked like a dream! Inside and out, the thing is absolutely level. After it was set I took the truck back to Enterprise Truck Rental in Mesa AZ. They made me a smokin' deal. After the \$500 deposit, I was expecting the tab to be \$75 for 24 hours plus 35 cents a mile after the first hundred miles with assorted insurance, fees and taxes. Instead the tab was \$70 plus 29 cents a mile after the first 200 miles plus the insurance, fees and taxes ... \$238.08 instead of the \$585 I expected. Fuel on the road ran another \$132.83 yielding a grand-total for the trip of \$370.91.

The trailer is a 1983 Jayco J model 1750 17-foot Travel Trailer. Cost \$500 from a close friend of my sister Mandy. Most of the plastic trim pieces need to be replaced. That's going to take another trip to the Mesa. Rain water had leaked into the front corners over the years, so there is some restoration to be done. The gas/electric refrigerator was DOA and the compressor in the air-conditioner/heat-pump was frozen. Plus, the sealing ring under the toilet was dried out and leaked like a sieve!

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

We replaced the fridge with a new two-door 3.2 cu.ft. refrigerator from WalMart. An old friend who has been in the cooling/heating business for close to half-a-century checked out the air-conditioner, found a bad capacitor and the compressor was frozen. He's working on getting the parts - or a replacement machine. - there will be a quote, probably more than we paid for the trailer!

Janet bought a microwave, hot-plate and coffee-maker at WalMart. And she installed a new wax ring under the toilet. Meanwile, back at the ranch ... I installed a new kitty door and front porch for Janet's kitty named Katy-Did. I had made a support for the sewer hose and hooked it up two days after we had placed the trailer.

Gonna turn the water and LP gas on tomorrow and see if both the room heater and water heater work. Please, Dear Lord, give us some luck! I'm looking forward to sealing the kitty door from the weather and building a veranda for it to keep the Summer rains out. Then it's start on the water damage, calk and trim. Hopefully, my friend the cooler guy will have good news soon.

Janet has herself a nice little place that she will soon be able to take anywhere she pleases.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, May 20, 2019

## Luntz Calls the Winners

So the question was, Who can beat **Donald Trump** in 2020?

According to **AOL News**, "Conservative pollster **Frank Luntz** on Tuesday [5/14] suggested Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** [AOC] (D-N.Y.) is the only Democrat who is genuine enough to potentially beat President Donald Trump in the 2020 election, if only she could run.

"The U.S. Constitution [says] presidents must be at least 35 years old. Ocasio-Cortez is 29.

"The key is authenticity,' Luntz told **Fox News** host **Laura Ingraham**, who caused controversy herself last week when she ranted on her podcast about losing the country to a 'huge demographic shift' due to undocumented immigration.

"You want to say what you mean, mean what you say,' Luntz said. 'You want to be able to look straight at the camera and be yourself. And at least half of them [the 2020 Democratic hopefuls] are trying to be something that they're not.'

"That's why AOC does connect — she is herself. And you can disagree with her policies and ideas, but she seems very genuine. And she looks like she's having fun,' said the host of the widely watched primetime show '**The Ingraham Angle**.'

"No one is having a better time at politics than Donald Trump and AOC," Luntz said. "They should run against each other, even though legally she can't."



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

It turns out that none of the twenty-some-odd Democrats running for the party's nomination can beat Trump. Luntz found that Millenials believe AOC is the only electable one. Luntz also declared that **Bernie Sanders**, despite the huge lead that **Joe Biden** has right now, will be the Democrat Party's nominee.

Both Laura Ingram and Luntz hit the nail on the head, just as I have said for several years ... Donald Trump speaks *American*, like the guy sitting next to you at the bar or hovering over his golf ball on the 18th hole. He speaks his mind, exaggerates the facts and makes no bones about his personal take on stuff. He's not a Washington politician. And, he's a smart guy. That's why he is so admired ... and so despised.

AOC (sometimes known as the **A**lmost **O**ccasional **C**ortex) is in the very same league as Trump. She's cut from the same cloth. Just like Trump, she says stupid stuff and she exaggerates and enjoys very much being herself. And that's why young people like her so much. I'd love to watch a debate between the two of them. Alas, she's got six years before that could happen and Trump would be out of office going on two years if re-elected.

I wonder if the two parties could put together a special debate ... say the White House News Corps whing-ding next year?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, May 23, 2019

## Climate Theory

Is it possible that all the panic about **Climate Change** is just a bunch of hooey?

Could be ...

Might it be nothing more than the interaction between moisture, CO<sub>2</sub>, plants and trees?

Could be ...

Plants, crops, trees, growing green stuff with lotsa chlorophyll depend on adequate water and CO<sub>2</sub>. In the process they create Oxygen, which keeps animals, birds, bugs, fish and people alive. Take water out of the equation and it all goes away. Take CO<sub>2</sub> out of the mix - it all goes away. Is increasing the amount of water and CO<sub>2</sub> a good thing?

Could be ...

I'm just thinking basic **Chemistry** here. And **Biology**. Like they taught us in high school a gazillion years ago.

Are we the reason there is more CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere? Or could it be deforestation? Oh, yeah, that could be us. Could it be cow poop? Nah. Probably not ... remember the enormous herds of buffalo that once inhabited the plains of the United States? Or the crowds of wildebeest still in Africa? Nah. Probably not cow poop, as **AOC** claims.

Are we all doomed to expire in another eleven years or so? Nah. AOC already said she was pulling everybody's leg.

My 78-years of experience tells me that it gets hot and dry - and it gets cold and wet - and it gets hot and wet - and it gets cold and

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

dry. It's not very predictable because it depends a whole bunch on the **Sun**. And it all happens more or less based on roughly eleven year sun cycles.

There you have it, folks! Climate Science is based on the cycles of the sun! Right? Or could it be the moon? Or Venus? Or Mars? Or your Horoscope?  
Could be ...

Just like America's Love Goddess **Judy Tenuta** said, "***It could happen!***" And that's backed up by **Roseanne Roseanna Danna** who claimed ... "***If it's not one thing it's another.***"

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, May 27, 2019

## Reid Revisited

Back in the day - actually not that long ago - Nevada's **Harry Reid** was the **Senate Majority Leader** and, more than any politician before or since, the absolute best at making up stories.

Harry served in the **US House** from 1983 to 1987 and the **Senate** from 1987 to 2017. He was the Democrat Senate Majority Leader from 2007 to 2015. He served as **Minority Leader** from 2015 until his retirement in 2017. The Senator from **Searchlight, NV** earned his stripes over an extended career and became known as one of the best Democratic strategists of all time.

After the 2012 Presidential campaign, which **Mitt Romney** lost, Reid was asked why he lied that Romney had not paid his taxes for years. Harry, who will turn 80 next December, called the attack "One of the best things I've ever done" and remarked, "Romney didn't win, did he?"

Last Wednesday **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** met with the **Democrat Caucus** to discuss the demand that impeachment proceedings against **President Trump** commence immediately. In a short Press Conference after the meeting Pelosi accused Trump of "engaging in a cover up" of crime and said she wished his family, staff or administration would have "an intervention."

Pelosi and **Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer** were scheduled a while later for a meeting with the President to discuss infrastructure legislation. When they were seated, Mr. Trump got up and informed them that there would be no further discussion about any legislation with the House majority until the incessant investigations were finished. And then he walked out.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

During a Rose Garden Presser later Trump said "I don't do cover-ups." The President noted that he'd known Pelosi "for quite a while" and she's "not the same person."

The double-whammy combo of Pelosi and Schumer didn't come anywhere close to pulling off the political shenanigans that Harry Reid did all by himself during his illustrious career!

It has long been acceptable for Congressional Leaders to indulge in bombast, stretch the truth and make up fictitious accusations. It's too bad that on this **Memorial Day** our political leaders can't stop behaving like children and start acting more like **Americans**.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, May 30, 2019

## Eliminate the Senate

Old acquaintance **Lee Ann Powers** wrote this on **Facebook** the other day: "If the **Electoral College** is abolished, 4-5 states will make the decisions for the rest of the 45.... This is why this system was created in the first place, so the little guy can have an equal voice with the big guy. To change the Constitution because of one election is very short-sighted. This is giving ultimate power to the already powerful, and taking more power away from the little guy,"

**Lana Llewellyn** replied: "It is population based anyway with the denser populated areas awarded more electoral votes. Abolish the electoral college."

I responded: "Lana is ill-educated. Elimination of the Electoral College effectively removes the Senate as the proportional spokesman for each state. That's why we have the Senate - so each STATE has an equal say. The House prerepresents the PEOPLE. You want tyranny? Go ahead ... eliminate the Senate as well as the Electoral College. You want **Jerry Nadler** running your life? Eliminate the Electoral College. Lana ... go read the Constitution. Then read some of the works of **Thomas Jefferson**. It's too bad they're not teaching this stuff anymore ... we're being exposed to this kind of ignorance and lack of education more every day. Whew!

***[nationalpopularvote.com](http://nationalpopularvote.com)***, the outfit trying to eliminate the Electoral College, has an up-hill fight ahead. They have to round up two-thirds of both houses of Congress and/or two-thirds of the State legislatures to create a new amendment to the **US Constitution**.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

The **Federal Register** states: "The authority to amend the Constitution of the United States is derived from Article V of the Constitution... The Constitution provides that an amendment may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the State legislatures."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, June 3, 2019

## We're All Stupid

A bunch of us guys who play golf together were having beers last Friday and chatting some about news and politics. One ol' boy remarked that "We are all stupid." So, I asked "Why do you say that?" In so many words, he replied "Politics and the media have taken over our lives and we have no say anymore."

I had asked earlier if anyone had an idea for my columns this week. It appears that my man had hit on a great subject!

To be truthful, I was a bit offended. I'm not stupid. I try to learn as much as I can about everything that shows up on the news. One of my friends is an avid **Fox News** watcher. I, too, watch Fox - **Hannity** is great, so is **Tucker**. But I also try to get eyeball time with **MSNBC's Rachel Maddow** and **CNN's Anderson Cooper**. And not a Sunday goes by that I don't watch **CBS News Sunday Morning** and **60 Minutes**. In addition, I read articles in **RealClearPolitics**, the **Drudge Report** and **WND** every day. On top of all that, any subject I don't understand can be **Googled** and there will be multiple sources of information available. It's all an effort to remain informed - not stupid.

I can't speak for my golfing buddies about having no say. I "say" twice a week ... and they're actually listening! I'm on more political mailing lists than I can count. The **RNC**, the **DNC**, Senators and Congressmen from all over the country, the **Whitehouse**, and several surveys are in my email regularly. It all started with a donation to **Newt Gingrich** some years ago. There are even a couple of writers from prominent newspapers reading my words.

The point here is nobody is stupid as long as they participate. Everybody's opinion counts. The stupid ones don't believe this. But believe me: If you want something done or you need some help, it may take some time, but you have the power to make it happen! I learned a long time ago that it truly is the squeaky wheel that gets the grease - you've just gotta speak up!

Most elected officials and government employees will jump through hoops to serve their constituents. **John McCain's** office was unable to help with my wife's **Social Security**, but later **Jon Kyl's** people got her a \$3,000 refund and her benefits increased.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

With the proper paperwork as part of a property tax appeal, I was able to get our property reassessed downward by over 50%, significantly reducing the tax burden. Following advice from a nursing home, I was able to get my wife's **Medicare** and **Drug** premiums reduced and her deductibles and co-pays reduced to zero. What's more, the electric company is providing a small reduction in our bill reflecting the power it takes to operate her oxygen concentrator.

The changes mentioned above came because I bothered to participate. I expressed my opinion and asked for assistance. The **Matthew 7:7** adage is true: *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.* Nothin' stupid about that!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, June 6, 2019

## Presumption of Guilt

Rush Limbaugh made a pretty good case last week explaining how the uniquely American presumption of innocence has been thrown to the curb. Sometimes he gets a little bizarre in his presentations, but this time he was spot on! I listen to Limbaugh when I'm in the car.

If an accusation is leveled at just about anybody these days, it goes without saying that the news will present the charges as the truth, meaning the accused must be guilty. The information, if it involves criminality, is not supposed to be public until after a grand jury has issued an indictment. But even that simple protection is worthless these days.

US House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler and Speaker Nancy Pelosi have provided all that's needed to prove that the President is "covering up" crimes perpetrated against America. The evidence is contained in the Mueller Report (which nobody of consequence has read).

The first section lists all kinds of allegations of collusion with Russia, but when all of it's combined, there isn't enough to convict beyond a reasonable doubt. Nadler makes the case that because those allegations are in the report, Trump **MUST** be guilty. Same goes for the second section's allegations charging obstruction of justice - they wouldn't be there if they weren't true, so Trump **MUST** be guilty!

The fact is, the only way the President can be charged with crimes today is if the House decides to hold impeachment hearings. Impeachment by the House of Representatives is tantamount to a grand jury indictment and requires only a simple majority of those present to affirm Articles of Impeachment. The

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

trouble is the Senate will never convict Trump because it takes a two-thirds majority vote to remove a President.

No matter what Nadler and Pelosi claim, Donald Trump is innocent and will remain so, protected by the same right covering all Americans, unless he is convicted by the US Senate.

How do we keep the media from publishing allegations about American citizens before they are made public? Further, how do we get the Congress and so-called media "journalists" from speculating what coulda, woulda or shoulda happened, thereby providing unconfirmed circular fodder for gossip-mongers world-wide? Until those things happen, one of our most basic rights is slowly being eroded, making us now guilty until proven otherwise.

On this 75th anniversary of D-Day June 6, 1944 I would hope that all Americans, young and old, can come together to forge a new bond based on our ties to the heros of WWII.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, June 10, 2019

## Show Up or Else

If a couple of Trump Administration officials don't show up for House Committee hearings tomorrow a vote may be taken to find them in Contempt of Congress. United States Attorney General William Barr and former White House Counsel Don McGahn have been subpoenaed to testify before those who make up the United States House of Representatives' own version of The Inquisition. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross is also the target of a Contempt vote.

White House staffers have been advised to not cooperate because of their umbrella protection falling under Executive Privilege. No employee of the White House can be compelled to divulge information shared between them and the President at any time during their tenure.

Pew Research published a Poll last week revealing that a majority of Americans find "Fake News" more dangerous than Terrorism. It concluded that mis-statements, under-statements, fabrications ("made-up news") and outright lies coming from Social Media, the Mainstream Media and the Congress have eroded America's trust in journalism and government.

The misleading news about Committee Hearings has gotten so bad that Chairman Jerry Nadler caved in to Trump's invocation of Executive Privilege and offered to negotiate terms under which Administration employees could answer questions before his committee.

I have an idea to keep everybody protected: Any employee or appointee serving the White House agrees to show up in response to a Congressional subpoena, but in no circumstance will they

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

give any more information than their Name, Position and Employee Number.

The 5th Amendment guarantees everyone's right to remain silent when facing any tribunal hearing or seeking evidence of a crime. So, as with interrogation in wartime, questions by Congressional bodies do not include "fishing expeditions", deserving answers consisting of no more than name, rank and serial number.

The answer to any question will be something like, "I have nothing to say about this issue." Or more forcefully, "Let me reiterate, I have no information to give to this gathering." Or if it gets touchy, "I have the right to remain silent, so I have nothing more to say to this body." It's commonly called "Taking the 5th."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, June 13, 2019

## Speechless

I don't want to talk about this issue. I want **YOU** to talk about it.

Our **US House of Representatives** needs a boot up its lazy butt!  
There are issues this body simply refuses to address.

The worst of these issues is the "crisis" on our Southern border with **Mexico**. Our neighbor to the South has agreed to help curb illegal immigration in a meaningful way ... starting with National Guard troops controlling the Southern border of Mexico and allowing migrants claiming asylum to remain in Mexico, awaiting hearings in the US. Mexico is creating a job-friendly atmosphere and encouraging businesses to hire migrant workers.

We in **Arizona**, especially, are having a hard time with people pouring over the border ... there's no place to keep them!

The **Border Patrol** in **Yuma** has been releasing them directly into the streets there. Yuma shelters are completely overrun.

In **Tucson**, it's crazy. Busloads of migrants are being dumped by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (**ICE**), the agency that normally takes custody of asylum-seeking families once they have been processed, according to **AZCentral.com**. That includes migrants apprehended in the Tucson sector as well as migrants who crossed through the Yuma area.

In late April, **Pima County** officials estimated that ICE had released about 7,000 migrants in Tucson since September 2018. AZCentral reports that over 84,500 migrant family members have been released in Arizona since December. The question is **Where are they staying?** Is Phoenix going to become the next Los Angeles, overrun with illegals and homeless people?

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

That this could happen in Arizona leaves me speechless. How and why our elected officials could allow this to happen is beyond me. There's nothing more to say. It's time to **DO!**

The US House must pass the **USMCA** to help curb illegal migration into the US. But apparently, a majority of House members could care less. This is where you come in. Call, write or email your **Congressmen and women** - **ALL** of them - and tell them they need to ***get off the dime*** ... pass USMCA and get serious about immigration!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, June 17, 2019

## Summer Rain

It officially became the Monsoon Season last Saturday, June 15th, even though it won't be Summer for another four days - June 21st, the Summer Solstice. The Summer storms don't usually come until around the first week in July, anyway.

This brings to mind a story I wrote for my 2nd book (still in progress) in 2017: ¿**Quien Sabe?** Mas Historias de un Hombre Viejo (More Old Man's Stories)

---

Ah, the smell of summer rain in the desert! What an extraordinary jolt to the senses!

I recall vacationing in central Arizona back in the late 40s and early 50's. My folks would load up the Chevy Woody (station wagon) and traipse across California and Arizona to visit relatives at Cottonwood and Mayer, and old friends at the Orme Ranch and on the Hopi Reservation.

We always went on vacation in late July or early August. And we always ran into the summer rains - especially in the deserts of southern California and central Arizona. Back then they weren't called Chubascos or Monsoons or Haboobs. It was usually, "Look at the size of those raindrops!" or, "Wow, that's a good one!" They were just the summer storms that made the creeks and washes come down.

I remember looking over the front seat behind mom and pop at the grand dessert vistas with huge puffy white clouds billowing off in the distance. Sooner or later, we'd have to roll up the windows to avoid getting wet.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Those were the days when you strapped a canvas drinking water bag to the front bumper and you drove with all the windows open to keep the heat at a minimum. One summer, pop decided to rent one of those in-the-passenger-window air-operated vehicle swamp coolers. It was ok, but the person sitting next to it (my mom) was uncomfortably cool, and it only worked at highway speeds.

Then there was the summer we drove through a sandstorm in the Mojave desert. It was a dilly! The car had to have a new paint job and windshield when we got back home to California. A Phoenix weatherman came up with a new word some years back, so now we call a sandstorm a *Haboob*.

I moved my little family to Tucson in the late 60s. Michael Goodrich, a TV weatherman in the Old Pueblo, brought with him the *Chubasco*. That's what they call summer squalls with thunder and rain along Baja California and in Central and South America. The name is not Mexican, but rather originated from the Portuguese-speaking natives of Brazil. Goodrich made a name for himself and remained in Tucson, not moving on after a few years as so many other broadcasters had done.

I don't recall flash floods. At least that's not what they called them back in the day. One summer we were at the T-Anchor ranch visiting Uncle Charlie and Aunt Verde. Just after we were bedded down for the night a huge storm blew in with lots of thunder and lightning and torrents of rain. My little brother and I had been stashed in the bunk-house for safekeeping - just the two of us. Talk about scared! I thought we were gonna get blown up and Billy was sure we'd be blown away. Hiding under the covers is uncomfortable when it's still 85 degrees or so inside. We survived. The next day after breakfast Uncle Charlie said we'd have to wait an hour or two before going on our way. He said, "The creek came down last night so you'll have to wait a while."

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

So, we got to ride horses and went out to see the water still rushing by, all brown and rumbling with dirt and rocks. There was no mention of flash flood. Just "*The creek came down.*"

That's how it was in Tucson many years later. "*The Rillito just came down*" was a good reason to go stand on the banks of the normally dry Rillito River and gawk at its dangerous growling splendor.

Sometime in the mid 70s or early 80s, they began to call the water rushing down the washes and creek beds *Flash Floods*. I wouldn't swear to it, but I think the words were coined by the EPA or the Corps of Engineers. With the influx of new residents to Arizona, it became important to educate folks about the dangers of the great Southwest. Since the newbies had mostly used mass-transit to get around in their hometowns, the first thing people from New York, New Jersey and Chicago did was go out and buy a car! Natives had to learn defensive driving very quickly as a result. It seemed like not a summer's day went by for the longest time before at least one poor soul got stuck in a swiftly-running wash or creek crossing. Fortunately, there were not that many fatalities.

Since the days of the Great Migration to the Southwest, summer TV and Radio has been peppered with PSAs warning about the dangers of Flash Floods. Both Phoenix and Tucson passed ordinances making folks who had to be rescued from cars stranded in flash floods liable for the cost. Arizona's Legislature passed the "Stupid Motorist Law" in 1995 (ARS 28-910), making it a crime to attempt to cross a flooded crossing, creek or ford which was barricaded. Any person "*driving a vehicle into any area that is temporarily covered by a rise in water level, including groundwater or overflow of water, may be liable for expenses of any emergency response,*" it says.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Call it what you will. *Chubasco, Monsoon, Haboob*. Could it be the smell of dust washing out of the air? Or the scent of newly wetted Mesquite bushes? Is there some sort of chemistry in the air involving Ozone? I don't know. Who cares? It's really of no consequence in the overall picture of *Life, The Universe and Everything*. There is just something very special about the smell of summer rain in the desert.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, June 20, 2019

## The Dems Demise

I've been following the Mainstream Media's coverage of the US House's minority in the Majority Caucus calling for President Trump's impeachment. The more I read/hear/watch the more I think there are a number of honest-to-goodness crazies in the Lower Chamber.

The more I understand about the process, the more I'm convinced that the left wing of the Democrat Party will kill its chances of installing a Democrat in the White House in 2020.

I read it thus: If House Dems launch into hearings and vote to impeach, even by just one vote, it will pump up the Democrat base by a huge margin. The resultant bitterness when the Senate squelches a conviction will send droves of Democrat voters to the sidelines and encourage Republicans to turn out and take a friend along in November of 2020, creating a landslide of historic proportion.

A while back I went over the process of impeachment by the House and conviction by the Senate in order to remove a President from office. Right here in this column. A second-grader could understand it! So, what's with the Majority's minority in the House. Didn't they pass the 2nd grade? Don't they understand they're just shooting themselves in the foot?

If the diminutive Dems in the House succeed in convincing their Leadership (Pelosi, et al) to proceed with Impeachment Hearings, that's the end of the Democrat Party Ronald Reagan once claimed as his own. The once-upon-a-time working-man's party will have allowed a bunch of loony toons to create a situation that crushes chances for today's blue-collar stiff to put

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

more Democrats in the House and Senate and one in the White House.

Impeachment (and I say this for the ump-teenth time) is nothing more (or less) than that proverbial indicted ham sandwich! Only two US Presidents have ever been impeached - Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton. Neither was convicted. And Richard Nixon quit his job as President before impeachment was possible. The Senate will never, ever get the two-thirds majority needed to convict and remove.

So, why is it that the House Dems can't join with the GOP to take up causes that really mean something to all Americans?

Like fixing our screwed-up immigration system and eliminating political rulings from individual judges. Is there some reason why ICE and Border Patrol agents can't be trained to handle immigrant hearings instead of judges? Why shouldn't something as important as real, uncontrived immigration issues be heard by a fully-seated federal court instead of a single, shopped justice?

Why not tweak the US tax code to give blue-collar workers a little better break than the changes that were made in 2018. Is there something wrong with gas tax as a percentage rather than a flat amount? Why not eliminate taxes on infrastructure like telephone, internet, natural gas and electricity?

How about figuring out how to make all education from kindergarten through at least two years of junior (community) college essentially free. Arizona's Constitution requires its public schools to be "essentially free," including its three Universities. There are about twenty states with free tuition, so if the Valentine State can do it, and California subsidizes its students' first college year free, why can't it be done nation-wide?

Is there any reason these House geniuses can't come up with a fix for healthcare? How about combining Medicare and Medicaid

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

and making it available to all as a single-payer system paying 80% and letting the free market pick up the difference. Of course, there should be a premium based on ability to pay for all adult individuals above the federal poverty level. To pay for it, maintain the current 15.3% payroll tax, but with no cap.

Does it sound like I'm angry? You're damned right! I'm not a Democrat or a Republican. I just wish these folks would do their freakin' jobs! Just my opinion, folks. Get over it!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, June 24, 2019

## Move That Tower!

An article last week in the *BDR via the BDR* brought back memories of an incident I had to endure with Pima County, Arizona back in the day. "**CHATANOOGA DOES RIGHT** When an employee hit a guy wire, [the City did not hide.](#)" was the title. WNOO's broadcast tower collapsed completely when the guy wire was clipped. What a wonderful example of how broadcasters and their communities can work effectively together!

I was the Chief Engineer at KIKX-AM 580 in Tucson back in the late-60s. That radio station had three tall towers - a directional array designed to keep the signal from interfering with a station in Mexico. Each tower had a slew of guy wires holding them solid and straight. There's more than just guy wires on antennas ... there can be miles of bare copper wire spread out underground, radiating from the ground buss at the bottom of each tower. AM radio requires a solid earth connection to match the signal in the air to its twin in the ground.

KIKX was located on Swan Road, one of the main connectors from mostly flat Tucson to the Catalina foothills to the north. Swan went by the radio station in a graceful curve, avoiding entanglement with the ground wires on the northeast end of the array.

I was home one afternoon, relaxing after a busy day that began at 5:30am. The phone rang. The station manager had called to let me know I needed to talk with the County Engineer. Seems the County was planning to straighten and widen Swan Road and they wanted us to move the northeast tower and its ground system. I called the Engineer's office and arranged for us to tour the tower array and the planned realignment of the road.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

The County Engineer showed me the blueprints for the realignment and I showed him how the ground system connects the signal with the earth. I also pointed out on the blueprint where the guy wires were and where the ground wires were in the planned right-of-way. We had a great visit and then hit a local restaurant to chat over coffee.

I explained to him that moving the tower would take several years and involve acquisition of more property to the west, which was not likely because of the houses already there. In addition, we'd have to get permission to move the facility as well as the construction permit from the Federal Communications Commission. I was also clear that if any part of the array was disturbed there would be huge problems with the Federal Government.

The Engineer met with a number of other County employees to try to come up with a solution. I believe it was the County Assessor who suggested that several large parcels on the East side of the proposed right-of-way were undeveloped and had a common owner. The group decided to see if a land-swap could realign the road in a long, sweeping turn around the array, the guy wires and the ground system. Always in the mix was the veiled threat of extended litigation between the radio station, the FCC and Pima County.

Well, after a good deal of negotiation, they pulled it off! Today, on your way up Swan Road to Sunrise (an Old Pueblo main east-west connector) there are a number of sweeping, gradual turns that take you along-side where KIKX-AM used to be.

John Walton lost his license for KIKX years after I was gone - for unlawful promotional indiscretions involving the Pima County Attorney and Sheriff's Offices, the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation! I



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

was sorry to hear that happened. KIKX was a great radio station, one with which I was proud to be associated.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, June 27, 2019

## Polls & The President

Earlier this week **CNN** contributor **Joe Trippi** wrote a column for **USA Today**. It read in part, "President Donald Trump [is] a candidate and a president who clearly takes offense at negative information — particularly polls — and has a propensity to fire those who do or say anything that isn't congratulatory or positive about him. When his pollsters delivered the bad news that he was behind in over a dozen states that he needs to win next year, he didn't listen. Instead, after the bad numbers leaked, he fired them."

I just have to take Trippi to task on this issue because he, being the liberal Democrat, has no clue about that which he writes in his June 25th column.

If you go back through Trump's history you'll find that people he fired (or had fired) had managed to lose his confidence. Much of that loss of confidence was the result of leaks to the press or so-called "insiders." I can tell you from my own experience as a journalist and Freemason that there is nothing more important than a person's integrity. The fastest way to doom one's integrity is to reveal anything shared in confidence.

In the case of the pollsters who got canned, it wasn't the bad news that raised the President's hackles, it was the fact that information shared in confidence was leaked and became public. That alone is the reason Trump calls the mainstream media purveyors of Fake News.

You see, someone who willingly disseminates private or confidential information without express consent cannot be trusted to tell the truth. Their integrity has come into question.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

One who would breach a confidence is no friend, no constituent, no longer a confidant, and certainly no longer an employee!

Fake News happens when people with no integrity leak parsed portions of inside information that should never have become public. "Executive Privilege" exists for no other reason than to maintain the integrity of confidences shared outside the public light.

The point is that the President could care less about whether information presented to him is positive or negative. He's put up with more crap than any other American President - ever! The most important thing to him is to be surrounded with people of integrity.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, July 1, 2019

# Ah, Summer

Well, it's been Summer here in the Southwest since June 21st. The Southwest Monsoon Season officially began June 15th. So far, it's been mostly dry. Not hot. Crispy!

The Monsoon's storms don't really begin until the Summer High sets up over the four-corners area (the intersection of the Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona borders). Its clockwise rotation directs moisture up from Baja California feeding the thunder-storms that grow throughout the Southwest states.

Generally speaking, storms begin to brew south of Tucson and Yuma early in July. By August, thunder-storms are wide-spread across the Southwest, some strong enough to churn up rolling dust clouds known as Haboobs. Haboob is a Sudanese word brought to the Southwest by a NWS employee a few decades ago. July 5th, 2011 a Haboob developed over Gilbert in Maricopa County, Arizona. Watch it here: <https://youtu.be/IbcsCHrOUsk>

Now, here is the infamous Sand Wedding Ceremony!  
[https://youtu.be/0\\_eR0PmDXfs](https://youtu.be/0_eR0PmDXfs)

Summer in the Southwest is always interesting. And always hot.  
Ah, Summer.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, July 4, 2019

## Independence Day

Nothing new to write about today other than the absolute stone-cold ignorance of NY Rep. **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**. This Freshman Democrat Congresswoman has no clue about toilets in detention facilities. She believed what she heard *literally* when a woman said that detention officers told her to drink from the toilet. With no other factual input, **AOC** went ballistic - full bore into her usually newsworthy Socialist propaganda mode!

AOC needs to get a life. The mainstream media ignored an official's explanation of toilets at the facility. I think AOC needs to spend a few days in jail - just to get an education. In fact, she should spend sufficient *condena* to earn a PhD en *excusados en las cárceles*!)

Typical jail, prison and detention facility toilets are made of stainless steel with a big push-button to flush and two smaller buttons that provide fresh, potable hot and cold running water to a spigot that faces upward like a drinking fountain.

Here's a combination toilet and lavatory manufactured by **Acorn**.



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

And now you know the rest of the story.

**Enjoy Your Freedom!**

Your forefathers earned it for you ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, July 8, 2019

## Illegal Healthcare?

So is it true there are something like 20 million people in our country illegally? Is it also true that the Medicare premium is \$135.50 per month? Is it also true that ALL of the participants in the second Democrat Primary Debate raised their hands in support of free healthcare for all *illegals* in the United States?

OK. So, let's do the math. \$135.50 per month x 12 months = \$1,626/yr x 20,000,000 illegals equals \$32,520,000,000 - thirty-two-billion dollars? Are you freakin' kidding? That's more than ten percent of today's \$22 Trillion national debt!

Where did the Democrat Party find these freaks? What foreign country do we have to rape and pillage to get that kind of money? We sure don't have it here! So where does it come from? Do we get the Communists and Islamists to pay for it? Would that be Russia, Cuba, Venezuela, China, North Korea and those nut cases in Iran?

Healthcare for all is a worthy cause. Obamacare was a worthy cause, albeit a disaster. Premiums have not come down. Availability has not increased. Many physicians will not take it anymore. So, the question is, if Warren and Sanders want Healthcare for all, and we're paying \$32 billion for illegals, do we have to mine the moon to get the money?

Again ... go figure: 327 million Citizens x 135.50 x12 = 531,702,000,000 plus the 32 billion for illegals works out to 562.702 billion (over half a trillion dollars) for healthcare premiums alone? Over 5.6 trillion over ten years? For free?

Bernie and Pocahontas can be forgiven for being a little off the beaten path. But the likes of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris can

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

never be forgiven for going off the deep end just because everybody else did! One of these days the Democrats will return to their core values. But, for now - for sure ... these are not them!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Thursday, July 11, 2019

## Overwhelm the System

Saul Alinski wrote "*Rules for Radicals*" back in the '70s. His was the bible for radical liberals' takeover of the American way of life. They're still at it ...

There were only 13 rules, but they still direct **Antifa** and **AOC & Co** in disrupting the way Americans are treated at home, in public and by the mainstream media. These are they:

1. "Power is not only what you have but what the enemy thinks you have."
2. "Never go outside the expertise of your people."
3. "Whenever possible go outside the expertise of the enemy."
4. "Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules."
5. "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon."
6. "A good tactic is one your people enjoy."
7. "A tactic that drags on too long becomes a drag."
8. "Keep the pressure on."
9. "The threat is usually more terrifying than the thing itself."
10. "The major premise for tactics is the development of operations that will maintain a constant pressure upon the opposition."
11. "If you push a negative hard and deep enough it will break through into its counterside."
12. "The price of a successful attack is a constructive alternative."
13. "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it."

You don't hear it that often anymore, but there is a fourteenth rule penned by **Cloward** and **Piven** five years before Alinsky's 1971 tome: *Overwhelm the system*.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

**Wikipedia** tells us that American sociologists and political activists Richard Cloward and Frances Fox Piven called in 1966 for overloading the U.S. public welfare system in order to precipitate a crisis that would lead to a replacement of the welfare system with a socialist system of "*a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty.*"

Does this sound familiar? Have **Bernie** and **Pocahontas** proposed something like this along with other free stuff? Have **Biden** and **Harris** also suggested that all illegal aliens be granted free healthcare? Are these folks promoting "open borders" in their political campaigns? Is the system already being overwhelmed by hundreds of thousands of "asylum seekers" at our southern border.

The question has to be: Is the progressive liberal fringe in the Congress going along with the Cloward-Piven-Alinsky Democratic Socialist way of governance? If so ... Why?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, July 15, 2019

## Census

I was a proud member of the **Gila County Census 2000 Committee**, which was formed to promote participation in the decennial gathering of information about the populace.

According to the **Legal Information Institute** at **Cornell Law School**, "Although the Census Clause expressly provides for an enumeration of persons, **Congress** has expanded the scope of the census by including not only the free persons in the states, but also those in the territories, and by requiring all persons over eighteen years of age to answer an ever-lengthening list of inquiries concerning their personal and economic affairs. This extended scope of the census has received the implied approval of the **Supreme Court** and is one of the methods whereby the national legislature exercises its inherent power to obtain the information necessary for intelligent legislative action."

Today there is a tussle going on as to whether a citizenship question can or should be included in the Census. Back in 2000 "selected areas" around the country had a citizenship question in their Census questionnaires. This was because there had been significant changes in a number of population centers around the country.

Recently the US Supreme Court ruled that the government's rationale for adding the citizenship question was faulty and returned the case to a lower court where the government could more clearly state its case.

Last week - July 1th - the President took US Attorney General Barr's advice and dropped the legal wrangling. Barr said if the President issued an Executive Order adding the question to the 2020 Census it would be immediately be challenged in the three

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

cases now in the Lower Courts, delaying implementation long enough to keep the Census from being implemented timely.

Instead the President issued an order to "all other departments and agencies provide the Commerce Department with any information related to citizenship." All government departments and agencies are to review their data bases to determine how many citizens there are in the country, as well as how many people might be here illegally.

Of course it's a sticky wicket because it's so politically charged.

Liberals complain that the question will scare off persons in the US illegally so they would not participate, warping the Census count to only those who actually fill out the questionnaire. Population centers with large illegal populations like New York, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago and Phoenix would receive less apportionment and the states involved could lose one or more members in the **House of Representatives**.

Conservatives, on the other hand, believe that the Democrats are plotting to "Pack the Vote" by encouraging illegals to take the Census. California has recently made it proper for illegals between 19 and 25 to have free Medicaid, counting on the extra federal income resulting from a positive enumeration. Furthermore, many people in the country are allowed to obtain drivers licenses and register to vote at the same time - *without proving citizenship*.

July 9th the **Washington Times** published this:

"Two-thirds of voters approve of a citizenship question on the 2020 census, and that includes a majority of Hispanic voters — despite claims by Democratic lawmakers that the inquiry would discourage participation in Latino communities.

"A **Harvard University Center for American Political Studies/Harris poll** found that 67% of all registered U.S. voters

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

say the census should ask the citizenship question when the time comes. That includes 88% of Republicans, 63% of independents and 52% of Democrats.

"Most notably, the poll found that 55% of Hispanic voters favor the idea.

"Also in agreement: 74% of rural voters, 59% of black voters, 58% of urban voters and 47% of voters who backed Hillary Clinton in 2016. At 44%, liberal voters were the least likely to favor the citizenship question.

"At the other end of the scale, 92% of Trump voters and 90% of conservatives back the question."

The government arguing a census question before a Lower Court seems a little stupid to me because it's the Congress that has the final say (if they want) over questions in the Census. Actually, it's the House of Representatives that calls the shots, as stated in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, "*in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.*"

I've concluded that the quickest way to get the Citizenship question settled is to put it before the House in the form a resolution. If it passes, neither the Courts nor the President will have any further say in the matter.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, July 18, 2019

## Boring!

Look, there isn't going to be the coronation of a Democrat Presidential candidate for another year, so I'm suggesting that we all dial back a little and wait it out. There will be a number of debates over the next year, but I see no reason to get my shorts in a wad! In fact, what I see so far is way boring!

The Democrat race for the Convention is so crowded that most folks would rather watch golf instead of **CNN**, **MSNBC** or **Fox**. The mainstream media is too busy hyping the races for President instead of delivering news. I think that's the problem. Hype. Boring. SOSDD!

"**The Squad**" was told explicitly by their House Speaker "If you have a problem come talk to me." Well, **Tump** jumped them for their radical public rhetoric. He trapped them into presenting their displeasure with the "occupant of the White House" at a widely-broadcast press gathering, showing clearly that they don't care about cooperation with other members (and Leaders) of the House, much less the Democrat party. Still ... it's SOSDD. Boring!

Not to be outdone, Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** presented a resolution condemning the President for his "racist" rhetoric against "our sisters." It's against House protocol to denigrate the President from the Floor and that fact was pointed out by Rep. **Doug Collins**.

**Fox News First** wrote yesterday "the formal condemnation of Trump was arguably overshadowed by a floor fight earlier in the day that ended with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ruled out of order for a breach of decorum for calling tube president a racist on the House floor. The unexpected mayhem in Congress, which

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

briefly resulted in the revocation of Pelosi's speaking privileges on the House floor, left commentators and lawmakers stunned."

Trump, meanwhile, was successful in uniting the Democrats (and at least 4 Republicans) in the House behind the Socialist banner. Trump also gets the credit for humiliating Speaker Pelosi in the worst way possible! So boring. SOSDD!

When are these children going to quit the nonsense and start doing the job we elected them to do? Infighting and petty politics are so boring. Can you imagine the House actually passing legislation that could get through the Senate? Immigration? Healthcare? A debt cap? The whole FY-2020 budget - intact? Nah. Too boring. SOSDD!

Now then ... how about a picture of the **Blue Marble** from **Apollo 8** - that's NOT boring!



Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, July 22, 2019

## Fake

Last Friday [USA Today](#) published an article by **Opinion Columnist Cindy Otis** about how fake news will probably affect the 2020 election cycle:

"In the 2020 campaign, Americans can expect to see six key kinds of disinformation attacks.

"First, fake news websites will continue to host outright falsehoods about candidates and disinformation actors will use fake social media accounts to push out the content. There will also be fake websites pretending to be official campaign websites, both to attract donations and to show false information about the candidates.

"Second, American voters will be targets of misleading social media posts, such as memes that pair digitally altered or real photos with text that intentionally misrepresents a candidate's position or statement. Disinformation actors will also post links to legitimate news articles, but then mischaracterize what is reported in the text of the post. They do this counting on the fact that most social media users will not take the time to verify what was said or quoted.

"Third, campaigns and journalists will be subject to derogatory posts and claims intended to attack a person's character. For example, an approach I already see in use on social media is claiming Democratic presidential campaigns are being aided by specific foreign countries, like **Ukraine**, **Israel** and **Qatar**, to distract from **Russia's** efforts to help elect **Trump** in 2016. This was a tactic users on [4chan](#) and **8chan** discussed months ago.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

"Fourth, disinformation actors will focus on content that divides and inflames political and racial tensions, knowing that the best-case scenario for them is for America to enter 2020 with a fractured **Democratic Party**.

"Fifth, disinformation campaigns will seek to boost lower-polling candidates who have a smaller chance of beating Trump. During the two-day Democratic debate, accounts on 4chan and **Reddit** directed users to vote for Rep. **Tulsi Gabbard**, entrepreneur **Andrew Yang** and activist **Marianne Williamson** in online polls because they believed the three candidates stood the least chance of winning in 2020.

"And sixth, candidates will continue to be prime targets for hackers looking to gain access to their systems and sensitive information that they can make publicly available. As we saw with the hacks in 2016 when Russia targeted the **Clinton** campaign and **Democratic National Committee** servers, the information does not even have to be damning for disinformation actors to use hacked content to paint a candidate as untrustworthy. We have not yet seen this happen to a 2020 Democratic candidate, but it is only a matter of time."

We're already seeing fake news being spread by politicians as credible as House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi**, Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Shumer**, Senate Judiciary Committee member **Cory Booker**, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee **Jerry Nadler**, House Oversight Committee Chair **Eliza Cummings** and at least three members of the barely credible "Squad", namely **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, **Ayanna Pressley** and **Rashida Tlaib**.

These people feed off the world's circular news cycle using as its sources unsupported allegations from mainstream media outlets that feed off each other as well as an assortment of opinion journalists. The mainstream perpetuates this ill-gotten

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

misinformation recycled by "leaking" politicians who really should know better.

Perhaps this warping of *truth, justice and the American way* could conceivably come to a halt during the 2020 election cycle. But, I wouldn't count on it ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, July 25, 2019

## Exonerated vs Not Guilty

Special Counsel **Mueller** presented a report to the **House of Representatives** (and the public) in May. In it the second section proposed that Special Counsel could not exonerate the **President** of Obstruction of Justice. Volume II - IV. Conclusion "... *while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.*"

Since when does the legal system of America include the word "Exonerate?" A person is adjudicated **Guilty** or **Not Guilty**. Not Guilty is NOT Exoneration. Not Guilty means that the **Prosecution** failed to prove the charges against the accused.

Unsettling Wednesday afternoon was this statement in a fundraising email from Democratic National Committee Chairman **Tom Perez** "*Robert Mueller's testimony reinforced that Donald Trump has not been exonerated of any crimes.*"

Let me reiterate - A person is adjudicated Guilty or Not Guilty. Not Guilty is NOT Exoneration. The cold hard fact is there is not enough evidence to convict Donald Trump of any crime. A Jury can't find Guilty without a strong Prosecution. That is NOT exoneration by any stretch of the imagination.

A crook may have done all sorts of unseemly things but left no trail of evidence behind that Prosecutors could use to prove Guilt. The Jury finds Not Guilty - but not exonerated. By the same token, Trump could/may have done some shady stuff, but there isn't enough evidence to prove it *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt* and certainly not enough to take to a **Grand Jury**.

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

In my estimation, Perez is as stupid and ill-educated as the four representing the "**Squad.**" It seems like the Dems are leaning Left from the top of the party to the bottom of the House.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Monday, July 29, 2019**

## **Claudette Report**

As I reported earlier, Claudette awoke last Wednesday morning at 3:00am with terrible pain in her back. At 3:30 she went to the bathroom to relieve herself and change her diaper. Then she threw up into the bathtub. She wanted to sit in her LaZBoy in the living room. A while later she again threw up in the trash basket. At 5:20 she threw up again. That's when I asked 911 to send EMTs Code One (silent) to take her to the CVRMC ER.

At the hospital they took blood and did batteries of tests, finally concluding that she had a bad infection in her gall bladder. After finally being administered pain medication, she was admitted and scheduled for surgery the next morning. The surgeon decided against it, however, noting that it was too complex and he didn't think he had all the support systems in place to be able to do the job safely. Instead he ordered that she be transported to the Valley (Phoenix Metro Area) to one of two hospitals there that had great support systems in place and excellent surgeons on staff.

It took hours to locate an ICU bed and get a helicopter flight scheduled to take her to Chandloer Regional Medical Center. They sedated and intubated her and hooked her up to a ventilator for the trip. She was loaded onto the helicopter and flown out around 11:45pm.

More tests were done at CRMC in Chandler over-night and Thursday. The resident Gastroenterologist said he wanted to do a procedure Friday morning, but Claudette's nurse had a fit, declaring that the dye used would further damage her kidneys. I suggested that the GE and surgeon get together with her Nephrologist and discuss the issue. They decided to take her off

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

the intubation and if she tolerated it, go forward under general anesthesia without the dye.

The procedure (with an impossible name) was done Friday morning. An endoscope was passed down her throat, through her stomach and into the bile duct in her small intestine. Using the 'scope - a gall-stone and a "bunch of goo" was removed from the duct. Then they looked for anything else that could cause the problem she was having ... It turned out to be a tumor. A biopsy was taken and sent for analysis to determine if it was benign or malignant. Meanwhile, the duct was enhanced with a stent.

Saturday morning she was awake and alert, although somewhat confused. She had been sedated or knocked-out for going on four days and didn't know where she was. She told Janet and me that she was scared and didn't know where she was. We explained that she was safe and there were a lot of doctors and nurses around to see that she remained safe. We had to "teach" her that she was in Chandler Hospital. She said, "Oh, yeah? This is where that a\*\*hole is!" (She had a battery of psych evaluation tests done a while back and she would not let the Doctor administer the last of seven of them!) We assured her that her shrink was at another Chandler medical facility, NOT CRMC. Asked where she was, she finally got it, "Chandler Hospital, and that a\*\*hole isn't here," she exclaimed!

Sunday morning at 4:30 a call came in from the hospital. I didn't hear the 'phone ring but I was up at 5:45 and checked my email. There was a voicemail from Claudette's resident Physician asking me to call back. I did and spoke with the doctor at some length. She said they had done a number of tests on my wife and determined that she did, in fact, have terminal cancer. One of the tests that normally comes up at about 35 for healthy people resulted in a reading of over 700 for Claudette. Urged to do something, the surgeon said there is no way cutting would do anything but cause more trouble.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Doctor wanted me to change my emergency instructions to DNR because Claudette was having trouble breathing and had a number of heartbeat issues overnight. The doctor recommended no cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if Claudette's breathing stops or if her heart stops beating. DNR - Do not resuscitate.

Today (Monday) she is being transported to Globe - and if she gets home alive, she'll be spending her last days at Heritage HealthCare with her ol' man and daughter taking turns by her bedside.

It's hard to believe that my beautiful bride of 57 years - my life partner - will be gone soon. I'll cry for her ... and for me ... and for her memory. And for our son and daughter. But for now, that will all have to wait. What time she has left has to be top-notch.

Dear Lord, please hold us tight ...



Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, July 29, 2019

# Final Report

Claudette was transported from Chandler Regional Hospital's Telemetry Ward just after 11:00 this morning bound for Heritage HealthCare in Globe, just under two hours away.

She arrived at Heritage and was in her room by 1:00pm. Janet and I stayed with her. She was pretty much unresponsive due to the morphine. She stopped breathing at 3:00pm and her heart stopped at 3:03pm. She went peacefully and without pain.

It's hard to believe that my sweet bride of 57 years - my life partner - is gone. I'm so relieved and so very happy for her. She just wanted to be home. God was good to us today.



Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Thursday, August 1, 2019

## Exhausted

My sweet bride of 57 years passed away Monday afternoon at the age of 82.

Overnight Sunday, at Chandler Regional Medical Center they had discovered inoperable terminal cancer. According to her last wish - to go home - she was transported to Heritage Healthcare in Globe, AZ. She was under comfort care and felt no pain. She passed just two hours after arriving in Globe.

I've been busier than a one-armed paper-hanger since my sweetheart died. I've managed to complete all the required tasks except the ones requiring a Death Certificate ... the County Coroner isn't present to sign the original certificate. Instead of four or five days, it could be weeks before Social Security, Medicare and Life Insurance can be finalized. Tough situation.

At any rate, I'm exhausted so I'm gonna lay off the column for a week or so. I've got my mind right just like Cool Hand Luke! I'm ok - just pooped.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, August 19, 2019

## The Last Go-round

Most of you know now that my wife of 57 years passed away on July 29th, 2019 two hours after arriving at Heritage Healthcare Center in Globe, Arizona. She passed peacefully and without pain, a Godsend when you consider what she'd been through in the preceding days and hours. It's a short story that lasted five days.

Claudette had awakened at 3:00am on Thursday the 24th with gripping pain in her lower back, so bad that it made her vomit - a number of times before she was taken to Cobre Valle Regional Medical Center for evaluation and treatment. They did many tests, blood draws, etc., trying to get a handle on what was causing all the pain. After about six hours they finally gave her some morphine and admitted her to the Med-Surg Ward. They tested and poked and probed and finally concluded that she had a big problem with her Gall Bladder and decided it should come out ASAP. That would be first thing in the morning.

The surgeon balked. His very candid words in a 7:52pm medical record were: *"I do not think she is a good surgical candidate. It would be much more appropriate to have a percutaneous cholecystostomy tube placed. That cannot be done at this facility. She also appears very ill and likely would require intubation in the very near future. ... I have recommended that she be transferred as soon as possible to a facility where interventional radiology is available and intensivist or pulmonologist."*

It took a while to find an ICU bed, but it finally happened. She was intubated and flown out to Chandler Regional Medical Center by air transport. It was just before midnight.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Daughter Janet, Claudette's *Assured* in-home care-giver, and I stayed the night in Globe. In the morning we drove to Chandler to visit with Claudette and get updated on her condition. She had been sedated and ventilated for over 12 hours at this point. She wanted to be free of that intubator in the worst way, but she had to have it in because her lungs were failing. Claudette struggled against it and we begged her to please let it do the breathing for her. This is the first time in over 57 years that I had seen my wife cry from pain and fear. And there was nothing to do but dry her tears with a Kleenex. Helpless is the word. All three of us ...

In the early hours of Friday, they'd been doing more tests and found some unsettling problems. The gastroenterologist wanted to do a procedure that would fix the problem with her Gall Bladder ... but the Head Nurse would have no part of it because it involved the use of radioactive dye that could further damage her already failing kidneys. After much discussion lasting into the wee small hours, they finally agreed that the procedure could be done under general anesthesia without the dye.

Janet and I arrived at the hospital shortly after ten in the morning Saturday. They'd done the procedure and found a number of problems which included fixing up the plugged Gall Bladder, removing infection that included a Gallstone and installing a stent. But, in the process they discovered ... a tumor.

Claudette took until just before noon Saturday to come around to where she could stay awake and talk with others. They had taken the intubator out and found that she could tolerate it before the procedure, so she wasn't struggling anymore. She could finally talk. What she said was just stunning. "I'm scared," she whispered, "and I don't know where I am." Both Janet and I worked on building her self-confidence, letting her know that there were doctors and nurses and assistants there to do nothing but keep her safe. After copious coaching we finally got her to exclaim that she was in "Chandler Hospital!"

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

But, just after that, she said with sad eyes, "Teddy, I just want to go home." Again, helpless.

Sunday morning early we got word that some overnight tests had discovered inoperable cancer in her belly. There was no doubt about it - DNR was the choice I had to make. We recommended going with what is called "comfort care" - removing life support and using morphine to allow the patient to slowly pass away without pain or suffering. The doctor recommended not transporting her, stating that it was about 50-50 that she wouldn't make it the two hours from Chandler back to Globe.

But, I remembered her tears and her plea that she just wanted to go home ...

That's what we did. The maximum dose of morphine was administered and away she went!

Janet and I arrived at 1:00pm, just as Claudette was being wheeled into her new room at Heritage Healthcare Center. She stopped breathing at 3:00pm and her heart stopped at 3:03pm. The medicos called it at 15:05. My sweetheart was gone ...

Her tears and need to go home were the only times in our long, glorious marriage that I had seen her so uncomfortable that it made me want to cry. But there was one other time, and I did cry, weeping huge tears into my Kleenex.

We had been sitting having a few drinks after dinner and reminiscing about the past - this was about fifteen years ago. She told me that before we got married (she was 24 and I was just 21 at the time) she had never in her life been alone. She was like many Millennials, living at home with her folks, sleeping in her own bed, safe. And then we got married, packed our stuff and

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon. The next morning she said when I left for work it was the first time she had ever been alone in her whole life! She was terrified! And she never said a word until that evening over drinks more than four decades later! God damn it! I miss that good woman!

I wrote this tome hoping it might help some of you folks who have lost or are about to lose a loved one and have not quite known what to do. Well, this big bad-ass Marine with the tears streaming down his face wants you to know it's ok to cry when things get really sad. But chin up, pals ... God never gives you anything you can't handle with a little bit of prayer and thanksgiving. We only go around once, ya know - so do your best to make the most of it.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, August 22, 2019

## Racist!

A dear friend has a big problem with the **ICE** raids. Not because they could be the result of a racist administration, but rather, because they're screwing up the labor pool. My guy was also pretty much adamant that the raids were not the result of overt racism.

I contend that racism is a ruse foisted by the left. Racism is a made-up charge created by **AOC** and her ilk to counter whenever someone disagrees with their crazy rhetoric. What's more, the Democrat Party has taken up the banner, calling Republicans White Supremacists as well as Racists. Now, it seems, if you disagree with a liberal you're automatically a racist and if you happen to be white male you're labeled a White Supremacist.

Racism, according to the **Merriam Webster** dictionary, is "a belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race." In other words, simply calling someone a racist doesn't make it so. **Rush Limbaugh** the other day tried to define racism, and I paraphrase, "an individual or group outside the law, actively seeking to deprive someone of their rights simply because of their ethnicity."

Here's the thing: Perfectly legitimate **Court Removal Orders** are driving the ICE raids on businesses. The problem, according to my friend, is that ferreting out illegals in the workforce and removing those who are not protected by the mantle of humanitarian mercy does absolutely nothing positive for America. Of course, it has nothing to do with race. Certainly, the majority of those sought by ICE are **Latin** in origin, but there are also workers from the **Middle-east, Asia** and **India** as well as

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

**Africa.** In other words, ICE is completely color-blind, as it should be.

Now, the **New York Times** has created what they're calling the **1619 Project**. The Times has declared that the United States is a racist country actually founded in August of 1619 when the first boatload of slaves was deposited on our shores. The Times says its editorial policy is to expose - on a day-to-day basis - how racism has survived and flourished in America since 1619 - hence, the 1619 Project.

Slavery and the Times aside, the majority of the illegals employed by American business are here trying to support their families, whether they reside here or in some other country. Sending people away if they have committed some misdemeanor does nobody any good.

That's the point: How do we create good things out of the plight of people just barely surviving because of their need to remain anonymous? How do we create American allegiance in these people ... encourage a love for our country, get them to learn English and assimilate into our society? After all ... those are the very things all naturalized Americans must do!

The problem with the ICE raids is that they remove employees from many core American businesses like the chicken processing plants in Mississippi. The snake-in-the-grass is just who replaces those hundreds of removed employees? How do those businesses keep on thriving without that willing labor pool?

This is not to say that businesses that knowingly employ immigrants who are not authorized to work here shouldn't face the Judiciary. So far, few offending business have been punished for employing illegals. Maricopa County Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio was doing quite well rounding up illegals until he ran afoul of U.S. District Judge Susan Ritchie Bolton. The judge

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

found Arpaio's "sweeps" unconstitutional and enjoined him from rounding up groups of brown people from the streets of Phoenix just so he could cull the illegals.

The question at hand: Is it racist to deprive illegals the right to work? If so, do we atone for that racism by issuing Green Cards to anyone who asks? Just because our predecessors may have been slave-owners as a result of a shipment of slaves in 1619 does it make us racist?

**The Congress** must come up with a system that allows immigrants, legal or not, to work in our country as a means of supporting their families located here and abroad, while culling the criminal elements that have infiltrated the crowds of both legal and illegal immigrants to the United States.

In short, is it racist to want imported criminals out of our country?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, August 26, 2019

## AZ Voter Registration

It appears that the **GOP** has been busy signing up new **Republicans** at an accelerating rate. If you believe the mainstream media, Arizona's GOP needs all the clout it can muster, even though it's been out-registering **Democrats** at a ratio of roughly 4.1 to 3.4.

As of **November** 1st, 2018 this was Arizona's total voter registration:

Republicans:	34.67%	1,288,332
Independents/others:	34.34%	1,276,084
Democrats:	30.99%	1,151,745
Total Registered Voters		3,716,161

As of **July** 1st, 2019 these are the voter registration numbers:

Republicans:	34.79%	1,329,409	+41,077
Independents/others:	34.18%	1,306,018	+29,934
Democrats:	31.03%	1,185,612	+33,867
Total Registered Voters		3,821,039*	* Official 3,782,218

Meanwhile, the aggregation of "**Other**" Parties (**Independents**, **Libertarians** and **Greens**) are being out-registered by Republicans at a ratio of 4.1 to 3.0. Of course, none of those three Parties are officially organized, according to the **Secretary of State**.

**Mark Kelly**, **Gabby Gifford's** astronaut husband, has been tapped to take on Senator **Martha McSally** in a state-wide election that will decide whether Arizona remains a red state or turns purple. A week ago Kelly was out-polling McSally. Between August 13th and 14th, **OH Predictive Insights** had Kelly at 46%, McSally at 41% and, of the 600 people polled, 13% were undecided.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

In addition, **Republicans** are looking to unseat long-time 3rd District US House member **Raul Grijalva** who represents much of **Pima County**, the second most populous in the state. Republicans' objective is to take back the House and keep or expand the GOP majority in the Senate.

If you believe the numbers from the Secretary of State's office (**Elections Department**), the Democrats have a hard row to hoe ahead of them if they want to take Arizona.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Thursday, August 29, 2019

# Slow Dancin'

It's been a month since Claudette Thayer passed away. I thought it appropriate to thank this community for its outpouring of love and kindness directed our way. So much praise has been sent this way that a gaping hole in my heart has been filled with gratitude. Only two words can say it: Thank you!

Claudette and I had 57 anniversaries before she embarked on an adventure that I hope to join her on one day. Meanwhile, I have photos of her over the years - flipping in a slideshow on my desktop. I do miss her mightily but the photo show keeps me grounded and centered.

If I have any regrets it would be that I didn't dance with her enough. You see, she was a wallflower. She was a beautiful creature and she commanded her own special space wherever she went. People noticed and smiled. But she never felt worthy and shied away.

She loved to slow dance. Close. Breathing in each-other's ears. Whispering sweet nothings and clutching ever so tenderly. She wasn't up for fast dancing or rock'n'roll. She simply loved to be held ever-so-close and slowly dance in a spot no bigger than three feet square.

Over the years, and it took a lot of them ... I discovered the reason she liked slow dancing. It made her feel protected and safe. In her teen years, you could say, things in her life weren't as stable as they could have been. Let's just say there weren't a lot of little girls in her life.

Claudette had a father and two step-fathers, the last of whom died in a fiery set-of-doubles gasoline truck crash on Highway 17

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

between San Jose and Santa Cruz, said to be one of the most dangerous in California. The second trailer uncoupled and he was trying to catch it to keep it from going into oncoming traffic when the whole thing jack-knifed. When it was all over, all they found of him was his melted belt buckle. Lane was a hero. Only he died. Just another reason for slow dancing.

In retrospect, I wish I could have held her close - slow and easy - before she passed. It's ok, though ... the day will come when we'll be together again. Slow dancing and safe.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, September 2, 2019

## Lyin' on the Carpet

Every year after we bought our second home in Tucson, Arizona Claudette and I made some sort of major improvement to it every Christmas.

Our first home was in Aptos, California, near Santa Cruz. It was brand-new and required landscaping, trees, lawn, stereo wiring, floor covering, accessories for the bathrooms and the fireplace and any number of little details that builders never even consider. The details were going to cost quite a bit so we decided to start a family tradition ... something for the house every Christmas. We paid \$11,390 for the place and sold it for \$26,000 after we moved to Tucson four years later.

We kept up the annual improvements each Christmas to our East-side Tucson home. The first year, I think, we did the South-facing Living Room windows. I had watched the glass guy install film on the windows at work and did the Living Room windows the same way. Yeah, baby! We also did the drapes - tan colored black-out drapes. Talk about cooling down your Tucson Summer! And the glare on the TV screen during afternoon football games was reduced to nothing.

The next project was a planter in the entry. There was a glass window, floor to ceiling, next to the front door, the perfect width for a planter to separate the entry from the sunken Living Room, two red brick steps down the full-width of the room. The planter was made of eight-inch chipped tan bricks topped with six-inch red bricks matching those on the steps. It stood thirty inches high, eighteen inches wide and six feet long, extending to the edge of the central hall, leaving the steps down to the Living Room the same width as the hall. The remainder of the steps across the Living Room made the perfect spot to keep those ever-present

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

knick-knacks. The inside of the planter was finished with concrete covered with roofing compound to keep any moisture from leaking onto the floor. Filled with soil and compost, it housed a small Juniper tree harvested from Reddington Pass east of Tucson and large ferns taken from a canyon up in the Catalinas.

The following year, we thought it would be nice to extend the Living Room wall from the top of the red brick stairs into the entrance to the Dining Room to match the area created by the Planter. In addition, the creation of a pass-through between the Living Room and the Dining Room made hosting guests more comfortable. The new Living room wall was covered with 1/8 inch Cherrywood paneling. The add to the touch, we installed a new TV in the wall, trimming it to fit through one of the floor-level kitchen cabinets. Way cool!

The next Christmas was flooring in the Entry Hall, Dining Room, Kitchen and Back Porch. We picked a soft roll-out faux Flagstone tile matching the Living Room paneling. It took the installers less than an hour to put it in place. And it was just beautiful!

Probably the biggest project we ever undertook was the Fireplace. It was made of the same eight-inch chipped tan brick as the Planter and used the same red brick for the hearth and mantel. Above the hearth, it matched the height of the Planter on the West side of the Living Room and spanned the entire East wall! Construction involved laying a concrete slab outside the wall to support the firebox and chimney and cutting a hole through the wall, which was made of tempered adobe. Now that was a mess! By the time we had completed the hole, all of the Living Room and Entry, as well as much of the hall and Dining Room, were covered in this reddish-tan dust. Mrs. Thayer was not a happy camper! And that was just the beginning! But, the firebox, firebrick lining, lintel, chimney, ash-dump, clean-out and

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

the tan chipped brick Wainscoting all came together two days before Christmas - just in time to put up the tree! It was awesome.

Another Christmas project was to complete the floor covering. The Living Room, Hall and Master Bedroom were covered with three-quarter inch foam padding topped with tan three-quarter-inch-deep cut-pile carpet. The combination was so thick you had to trudge through it! The eggshell white tile in the main Bath and the two kids' floors was left as-is. We had friends over often, so as a conversation piece for those who may have wandered back that way, we had bright orange shag carpeting installed in the Master Bathroom. Soft under the feet after a shower! The best part, though, was the Living Room ... you could lie on the floor and watch the TV comfortably. And the kids just loved it!

There were two furnishing projects over the years. For Christmas one year, we did the Master Bedroom up with a California king-size mattress, box springs and headboard with matching nightstands. Did you know that a Cal King is six feet wide and seven feet long? OMG! And to think we had been sleeping double for all those years!

The other project was for Claudette's thirty-fifth birthday. I made a smokin' deal with my old friend Austin Egron, the owner of Tucson's Bargain Center Furniture Store. *"In Spanish, 'ganga' means 'bargain.' And since that's the name of my furniture store, it's the perfect trademark,"* he said in a 1983 Arizona Daily Star article. Well, Austin made me a *Ganga* on a living room set of top-of-the-line Kroehler furniture. It consisted of a seven-foot couch, huge love-seat and recliner, all with high backs and covered with brown Teddy Bear fabric that matched the carpet. There was also a big automan suitable for sitting. The set alone would seat nine comfortably. We worked it out so the furniture was delivered just before a slew of guests arrived for the party. Claudette was absolutely floored!

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

We've kept up that tradition ever since moving to Globe in 1992. That tan three-quarter-inch-deep cut-pile carpet was installed in our Park Model some years back, and it's still great to lie on and watch TV. Last Christmas, we got two enormous matching wine-colored La-Z-Boy recliner-rockers. That was nice. I have no idea what to do this year. We'll have to see ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Thursday, September 5, 2019

## How to Build a BLT

If nothing else, I am a connoisseur of Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato Sandwiches. However ...

It started many moons ago at a small cafe on Alvarado Street in Monterey, California. There, as a teen, I was introduced to Cold Ham on Toast served with a piping-hot cup of coffee. Actually, it was just a 1/4 inch slice of ham on toasted, buttered rye bread with a touch of mayo on one slice and a glop of yellow mustard with a kosher dill pickle slice on the other. You had to been there. It was the '50s!

I remember a very long time ago when you could get a fifteen-cent hamburger and a ten-cent chocolate or vanilla shake at McDonald's. Two-bits for a burger and shake. Those were the days, my friends. These days, it just ain't the same. How do you screw up one all-beef patty, catsup, mustard, diced onions and a pickle on a sesame seed bun? Last McDonald's burger I had came with no catsup or mustard, there were two sesame seeds on the bun and it was stale. A burger (the original) these days is \$1.99 and a medium shake is another \$3.99, not counting sales tax. At the very least \$5.98, some 24 times as much for fast food that back in the day was 25 cents! The quality-control has definitely not kept up with the price!

My first really great sandwich was actually a burger at the Sno-White Drive-in in Gilroy, California - where I met my wife. One of her friends, Willis, was the main guy behind the counter. Nobody seems to remember his last name but he sure knew how to make a hamburger! Willis was one of those mysterious effeminate people that you really didn't want to know about back then. But, he was, by God, one heck of a cook! And the girls just loved him. Willis would take a warm buttered bun, slather it

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

with mayo on one side topped with shredded lettuce and three thin slices of tomato, and a mix of catsup and yellow mustard finished with a dill pickle slice on the other. Oh, yeah ... then there was a lean medium-rare hamburger stuffed in between. Oh boy! The Sno-White in Gilroy closed decades ago. It re-opened at Aptos-Seacliff Beach where they still serve that famous burger Willis used to whomp up. Although, they don't shred the lettuce anymore.

I've been racking my brain, trying to remember when I first wrapped my lips around a BLT. Perhaps it was at Helsing's at the corner of Speedway and Stone in Tucson, another joint closed and gone since the '70s. But, boy, was it good!

Jerry's in Globe used to serve a good BLT. Somehow, I liked them for breakfast! That was another decent restaurant that found the end of its days after the family of the original owner decided to give it up..

A couple of decades ago, I discovered Judy's Cookhouse at the intersection of US 60 and AZ Hwy 188 between Globe and Miami, Arizona. Theirs is a really good BLT. I like mine with a side of cottage cheese.

I think it was the I-Hop in Barstow, California where they served a great BLT just last year. We were returning from my 60th Monterey High School class reunion. There wasn't a crumb left on my plate when I was done! That generally speaks to some kind of deliciousity.

But, I think the best BLT I've ever had was at La Luz del Dia, a hole-in-the-wall cafe in downtown Globe. They make theirs with the same care and feeding that Willis used to use with his burgers in Gilroy. You get your choice of bread ... I like mine white ... toasted and buttered ... with four full slices of bacon, folded with a press as they cook. They use Costco brand mayonnaise gently

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

painted on both sides. Then shredded lettuce is piled on followed by thin slices of tomato topped with the bacon. La Luz serves theirs with potato chips. Yummy!

You'll have to excuse me, now ... I need to go round up some grub!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, September 9, 2019

## The Fridge

Exactly twenty years ago we bought a refrigerator. The one that had come with our Park Model home was still alright, but ten years old. We were in financial trouble and our attorney said it was time to file for bankruptcy.

Once upon a time, going bankrupt was the horror of all horrors. Over the years, however, the laws governing personal bankruptcy changed and so did the whole idea of going broke.

Our attorney said we were to stop paying any bills that didn't involve housing, transportation, food or utilities. Every penny left over each month was to pay him \$100 and the rest was to go for "supplies". He said that the courts now allow for everything it would take to move to a new location and start anew - everything it would take to get you through a year - just like the folks did during the settling of the West.

That meant that we got to use the cash left over every month to "settle" into our "new" home in Wheatfields - our 400 square foot 1989 Park Model mobile home. It meant accumulating a year's-worth of food - both canned and sundry - and frozen foods like juice, vegetables and meat, including close to a quarter of a beef!

It also involved a year's-worth of toilet paper, paper towels, bath soap, dish soap, towels and wash-cloths. And it included a new refrigerator, a freezer, floor-covering, bedding and four weeks-worth of socks and underwear! All of it purchased locally.

But this story is about the fridge. We went to see our friend Patsy, the Miami white-goods vendor at Hi-Tyme Appliance Center. She stocked pretty much every brand-name appliance and we shopped our brains out! We settled on a Gibson Freezer and a Gibson refrigerator. The freezer fit within 1/2 inch of the inside

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

dimensions of the outside shed and the fridge fit perfectly in the spot inside that housed the old one.

Bankruptcy was good to us. It settled after just six months and set us up for success long into the future. Paying close attention to its finances is something that every family should do with care. Bankruptcy is not fun, but it teaches the participants how to cope with debts that can sometimes get out of hand.

Now, about that fridge. The new one, again, came from Patsy's Hi-Tyme Appliance Center. This time around, however, it was a GE refrigerator. Good deal. Paid cash.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, September 12, 2019

## Discipline

The following paragraph was posted on **Facebook** last week:

"Being taught to avoid talking about politics and religion has led to a lack of understanding of politics and religion. What we should have been taught was how to have a civil conversation about a difficult topic." *Anonymous*

**The Greatest Generation** and **Baby Boomers** were taught civility from a very early age ... but somehow **Generation X**, many **Millennials** and the **Gen Z** (or i-Geners, as they're called) have missed the boat! Sure, it starts at home, but personal discipline should be reinforced during all those years in school.

For going on four decades discipline has mostly included time-outs, lunch suspension and in-school suspension. I've seen the old nose on the wall time-out trick a few times but many school administrations frown on any "public" punishment, including admonishment and corner-sitting. Rough-housing on the ball fields and playground have gone the way of monkey-bars, swings and slides. Too dangerous, they say.

Today's kids haven't had the opportunities to grow in the ways they interact with one another - how to argue a point, how to show respect for others, how to act in public, how to stick up for themselves, to be able to sincerely say they're sorry, to avoid foul language and to understand the importance of personal integrity.

As a result of "helicopter" parenting and educational systems we have **Snowflakes** ... young people who who don't feel safe and don't know how to assure their safety, but are perfectly willing to join others to verbally (and physically) attack,

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

condemn and harass anyone who disagrees with them or their politics.

These are unmotivated young people who can't keep a job, mainly because they either call off sick too often or just can't show up on time. There is a huge glut of people who work as "temps," taking temporary low-paying jobs wherever they can be found and relying on the government to provide their food and healthcare.

An investigation finished recently sought to discover why America's birth-rate is insufficient to replace the existing population. What the researchers found was stunning. Half the women of child-bearing age are not marrying because there are not enough fully-employed men who are locked into their jobs and able to provide a home, security and sustenance for a family. The ones left over are the ones whose every other word is the F-bomb, angry young people incapable of civil discourse, hardly able to care for themselves, much less a family!

In 1966, American sociologists and political activists **Richard Cloward** and **Frances Fox Piven** called for overloading the U.S. public welfare system to precipitate a crisis that would lead to a replacement of the welfare system with a **Socialist system** of "*a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty.*"

Are disenfranchised 18 to 44-year-olds the ones the Liberals are counting on to fall for promises of free stuff ... free healthcare and education, college loan forgiveness, guaranteed income whether working or not? Are these people the ones with the discipline who will show up, paid or not, for demonstrations and rallies? Are these the people, along with White college-educated Women, Latinos, Blacks, Asians and the LGBTQ "community" expected to not only keep the House but also to take back the Senate and the White House? Really?

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

I'd like to hear what a few main-stream Democrat and Independent friends think about this ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, September 16, 2019

## Shocked!

I'm absolutely, completely blown away! Shocked! How did this happen? I heard on the news last week that I am **not** a Baby Boomer.

I was born in January of 1941! My brother Bill was born in August of 1943. My sister Mandy popped out in November 1945.

The news story surfaced last week ... I don't know why ... but it did. Baby Boomers were born, according to the experts, between 1946 and 1964. That makes me and my siblings members of the "Greatest Generation", an honor earned by none of us.

Both my brother and I joined the US Marine Corps, but neither of us served in World War II. WWII ended September 2nd, 1945.

1900 - 1924	G.I. Generation
1925 - 1945	Silent Generation - Traditionalists – The Greatest Generation
1946 - 1964	Baby Boomers
1965 - 1976	Generation X
1977 - 1995	Gen Y - Millennials
1996 - TBD	Gen Z - iGens - Centennials

**ThoughtCo.com** tells it this way:

by Matt Rosenberg

Updated June 08, 2019

Generations in the United States are defined as social groups of people born around the same time who share similar cultural traits, values, and preferences. In the U.S. today, many people

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

readily identify themselves as Millennials, Xers, or Boomers. But these generational names are a fairly recent cultural phenomenon and they vary depending on the source.

### **The History of Naming Generations**

Historians generally agree that the naming of generations began in the 20th-century. Gertrude Stein is considered the first to have done so. She bestowed the title of Lost Generation on those who had been born around the turn of the century and bore the brunt of service during World War I. In the epigram to Ernest Hemingway's "The Sun Also Rises," published in 1926, Stein wrote, "You are all a lost generation."

Generational theorists Neil Howe and William Strauss are generally credited with identifying and naming the 20th-century generations in the U.S. with their 1991 study "Generations." In it, they identified the generation that fought World War II as the G.I. (for Government Issue) Generation. But less than a decade later, Tom Brokaw published "The Greatest Generation," a best-selling cultural history of the Great Depression and World War II, and that namesake stuck.

Canadian author Douglas Coupland, born in 1961 at the tail end of the Baby Boom, is credited with naming the generation that followed him. Coupland's 1991 book "Generation X: Tales For an Accelerated Culture," and later works chronicled the lives of 20-somethings and came to be seen by some as defining that era's young.

### **Did You Know?**

Generational theorists Neil Howe and William Strauss suggested the name **Thirteeners** (for the 13th generation born since the American Revolution) for Generation X, but the term never caught on.

Credit for naming the generations that followed Generation X is less clear. In the early 1990s, the children following Generation

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

X were often referred to as Generation Y by media outlets like Advertising Age, which is credited with first using the term in 1993. But by the mid-'90s, as buzz about the turn of the century grew, this generation was more often referred to as Millennials, a term Howe and Strauss first used in their book.

The name for the most recent generation varies even more. Some prefer Generation Z, continuing the alphabetical trend begun with Generation X, while others prefer buzzier titles like Centennials or the iGeneration.

You can read more at  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/names-of-generations-1435472>

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, September 19, 2019

## In Dreams

Claudette Orbison was only 24 when she died on June 6th, 1966. She and Roy were just taking off on a motorcycle tour when a truck pulled out in front of her. She died in Roy's arms an hour later. Roy was devastated. This was the sweet thing he had written about when he composed the Everly Brothers' hit song "Claudette." And all of a sudden she was gone. Sad state of affairs.

Every time I hear the Orbison song "In Dreams" it reminds me of my own Claudette, who also was taken at an inopportune moment, albeit at the age of 82. I thought for some reason that Orbison had written "In Dreams" after his wife Claudette's untimely death. But that is not the case. Orbison wrote "In Dreams" in 1963. I could find only one reference about what caused him to pen such a haunting and beautiful piece.

According to **SongFacts.com** "Roy Orbison claimed in interviews that the lyrics for this song came to him in a dream; he wrote the music once he woke up. Typical of many Orbison songs, it's a heartbreaker: asleep at night is the only time he can be with the one he loves, as when he wakes up, she's gone."

Be that as it may ... I'm sure he penned it for all the folks who have ever lost a dear friend, close relative or life partner to that "house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens."

### In Dreams

[Roy Orbison](#)

A candy-colored clown they call the sandman  
Tiptoes to my room every night

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Just to sprinkle stardust and to whisper  
"Go to sleep. Everything is all right."

I close my eyes, then I drift away  
Into the magic night, I softly say  
A silent prayer like dreamers do  
Then I fall asleep to dreams, my dreams of you

In dreams I walk with you  
In dreams I talk to you  
In dreams you're mine, all of the time  
We're together in dreams, in dreams

But just before the dawn,  
I awake and find you gone  
I can't help it, I can't help it, if I cry  
I remember that you said goodbye

It's too bad that all these things  
Can only happen in my dreams  
Only in dreams,  
in beautiful dreams

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqZs7Vl\\_xg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqZs7Vl_xg&feature=youtu.be)

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, September 23, 2019

## Slime

I've been wondering what has happened to our American Democrat Party.

Once upon a time, I was a leader of the Gila County AZ Democrat Party. I resigned my post to run for public office, only to see an East-coast liberal take the wheel. It turned out to be a disaster because his liberal stances and attitudes turned away a lot of otherwise conservative Dems. Within a decade blue Gila County had turned mostly purple. Today's elected leadership in Gila County is made up mostly of folks affiliated with the GOP.

And we're having the same political battles locally as they're having nationally. The difference today, compared with a decade ago, is that civil discourse has gone the way of the horse and buggy. Although rural people are not as coarse as urbanites, they can still get pretty nasty!

Two things have happened. First, the Democrats have moved to the Left and taken the once trusted fourth estate with them. Today, if you don't agree with the latest propaganda, you're not allowed to present a salient rebuttal. Instead, you're shouted down and called names. Second, there has developed a propensity to make up stories that have little or no truth to them. A simple accusation of wrong-doing by an "un-named" source is turned into fact by an over-zealous press and unscrupulous politicians.

This new "fake" journalism allows the mainstream media to publish articles noting that so-and-so must be unfit because he was accused of wrong-doing. Then, the story spreads like wildfire, feeding on itself because it's in print from many sources and good journalists always have at least two sources for their

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

stories, when in reality there is only one, unidentified and unconfirmed.

This recently happened to US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh based solely on uncorroborated information from two New York Times reporters. The sad part is that such baseless accusations needlessly hurt families as well as individuals. He who would dare to object had better watch his back because the baseless name-calling is nigh. There could be hope though - the normally Liberal Washington Post (WaPo) condemned the NYT allegations.

As near as I've been able to tell, propaganda and nastiness is turning off America's Democrat Base and creating a new class of voter ... one leaning Independent and more than likely to vote Republican, if at all. As I see it, the only people not disgusted by today's politics and fake news from the mainstream media are the slime who get off on yelling epithets at strangers!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, September 26, 2019

## Get Yo' Mind Right

There have been some pretty dark days in my life over the past two months. Losing the lovely woman I'd been married to for over half-a-century has made the clouds even darker. After a while, though, you have to pull a "Cool Hand Luke" and get yo' mind right. Well, I've got my mind right, Boss.

All ya really gotta do is stop, rejoice for what you've been so fortunate to be a part of and appreciate all the wonderful and beautiful things that surround us!

I was out in the yard and the lawn had been mowed recently. It was so pretty and, even though I'm allergic to bermuda grass clippings, it smelled wonderful.

Cinnamon, our kitty, was out creepin', pouncing on grasshoppers, chasing a lizard around one of the mesquites, generally enjoying being outdoors.

There was a humming bird at the feeder that hangs from the awning over the front porch. The bird's tiny feathers flashed red, green and blue in the sun as it zipped up and down in the air, stopping only to lap up that tasty sugar water.

There was a fly on the bannister. It was doing its fly thing, cleaning up whatever it thought was edible. Have you ever really watched a fly busy chowin' down? They're amazing little creatures that can stay alert to any danger lurking around while still feeding on whatever happens to be within reach of their tiny little proboscis.

We have a colony of fire ants in the yard. They don't bother anybody as long as they're left to do their ant business. Interesting



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

to watch, but not too closely. Their bite/sting really is like fire! These little ants look very much like sugar ants, only red, and they have dark abdomens relative to the rest of their bodies. They, like the kitty, are adept at catching unsuspecting bugs and even lizards. It's said they'll take on a frog and even a mouse and devour it overnight.

Speaking of bugs ... it's wonderful, the array of insects here in the southwest. We have several species of bees and wasps, hundreds of different butterflies and moths, and numerous beetles. All make for interesting watching. Whenever it rains, there are puddles left over. I have no idea where they come from, but little blue butterflies no bigger than your fingernail seem to appear out of nowhere to feed at the mud and taste the water.

I remember as a kid lying face down on the front lawn, on my elbows, watching the tiny lives that dwelled there. It's not that much different now, except it's easier to sit in a lawn chair. All the better if you have a cold beer at hand!

If you want to get yo' mind right, all it takes is a little time out to appreciate mother nature.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

**Monday, September 30, 2019**

## **Ten Years**

I was listening to the car radio the other day when a commercial came on touting the proper care and feeding of air conditioners. They were compared to cars. It's said that an air conditioner can work for ten years with only an occasional cleaning, but cars require regular maintenance. Without it, they'll rarely last three years.

That got me to thinking ... how do they make an air conditioner so reliable?

I have the advantage of having been a multidisciplinary engineer. My specialties involved manufacturing, industrial, product quality, ordinance safety and broadcast engineering.

A new product goes into production after extensive testing to assure that it will meet the expectations of its consumers. Most products will last years with nothing more than an occasional dusting and cleaning. Think of the numerous products there are to which that statement applies. TVs, stereos, most computers, iPhones, clocks, microwave and toaster ovens, toasters and coffee-makers.

Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners are the heavy-lifters of manufactured items. Somehow, they don't break that often. Most carry long-term warranties on their compressors and limited warranties on the rest of their parts. So, how do they do it?

As stated earlier, development of a new product involves lots of testing to assure quality. Warranties are usually based on what they call MTBF or Mean Time Between Failures. Failures

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

generally happen to the least reliable parts of a product, not the product itself.

Creating an indestructible product is well nigh impossible, but that concept has created compressors that seem to last almost forever - that's how manufacturers can offer long warranties on them.

Generally speaking, most manufacturers don't make their own compressors - they obtain them from reliable suppliers. The suppliers make such huge quantities that they must have extreme testing, a Continuous Measureable Improvement program and product quality procedures in place. As a result, MTBFs can run as high as one-hundred-thousand hours on many products - over ten years!.

The central part of an air conditioner is its compressor. And that's why they last so long.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, October 3, 2019

## There Ain't No Tens

Country music singer Bobby Bare recorded the hit Shel Silverstein song "Numbers" back in 1980. It was a dissertation on how men and women judge each other:

*I was sittin' in Friday's suckin' on a glass of wine  
When I walked a chick who almost struck me blind  
Had wet blue eyes and her legs were long and fine  
On a scale of one to ten, I'd give her a nine.*

As the story goes, he and this babe took turns insulting each other over their looks. Bobby winds up the tale with these wise words:

*No matter how good they look at first  
There's flaws in all of them  
That's why on a scale of ten to one, friend  
There ain't no ten.*

Which brings up an episode that happened to me over the weekend at a well-run national chain hotel. After working perfectly in the evening, the door lock quit responding. Repeated swipes of the card key yielded no entry. Not that it was much of a big deal, but I had taken breakfast back to the room and couldn't get in! Staff was all over it - used the master card key to open the door for me.

Later, a supervisor came by and tried his card and then mine. It worked! His card had reset the door lock. That was the only thing that rated anything less than a nine. I gave the door problem an eight in a follow-on survey because the staff had been all over it like stink on ...

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

I heard from the manager and he wasn't happy about the eight. He said corporate policy holds that there is no difference between an eight and a zero on a survey. He said it hurts the team.

I want to quote verbatim what I wrote back to him:

*[Y]ou complain that an 8 is no better than a zero, score-wise. I would beg to differ.*

*Zero is representative of abject failure, in my estimation. Ten is perfect - there is no room for improvement. Any score of six or above [in my world] is good and positive.*

*As a retired multidisciplinary engineer, I appreciate the concept of **CMI** (Continuous Measurable Improvement).*

*With respect to an eight as it relates to locks becoming deactivated for whatever reason ... think about it. The staff did its job by clearing the problem. That's a ten.*

*But when will the root cause be discovered? That makes it a nine.*

*Is this issue a high priority, above all else? And just what will it cost to discover the root cause and apply the fix to all door locks in the facility? Just from a common sense point of view, this is definitely an eight!*

*From my perspective, there is always room for improvement, otherwise **Kaizen** would not be such a valuable tool. As country music star Bobby Bare sang, "There Ain't No Ten!"*

*Kindest regards. And thank you for your gracious hospitality.*

This issue should be revisited at the corporate level. Especially since I gave all the staff 10s.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, October 7, 2019

## How to Tell a Liberal

For a long time I've been trying to figure out how to tell if someone is a Liberal or a Conservative. Just shootin' the breeze with someone doesn't come with many tells. If you're sitting at a bar telling stories out of school, you're not gonna have too many clues.

I have noticed that there are some physical attributes that easily distinguish between Liberals and Conservatives - for the most part. Nothing is absolute, but you've gotta start somewhere.

A while back I did a column about power-players. President Trump is one of those people. His body language gives him away. He sits leaning slightly forward toward his subject and clutches his hands together between his knees. This is the power position. This is the way most powerful Conservatives approach conversations and especially negotiations.

Liberals don't generally take this power position. Instead they smile - or even grin. It doesn't matter what the subject is ... sad or testy or angry or forceful ... there is one thing you can count on: "Whiney eye-brows." Kamala Harris exhibits this trait. This stance finds the perpetrator's eye-brows sloping up on a line from the cheeks to the forehead. Generally speaking, the dissertation accompanying whiney eyes is mostly negative ... and every now and then it comes with combative behavior.

Some big-time Liberals like Clinton, Pelosi and Booker take on conservative eye-brows slanting up on a line from between the eyes to the temples. Poised, if you will, for battle. But the giveaway is always the negative slant to the subject matter.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

A good Conservative will stand up straight, grab someone by the elbow and say, "Hey, c'mon over here and talk to me. I've got some interesting stuff to share." Meanwhile, the true Liberal will stand in the middle of a crowd of people with his (or her) whiney eyes and decry loudly, with a smile, that the World is going to Hell in a hand-basket.

Somehow, Liberals seem to be perpetually apolitical, while Conservatives could care less. And we haven't even touched on Independents!

So how do you tell a Liberal? Whiney eyes and a mostly negative attitude.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, October 10, 2019

## Harry Reid Set the Bar

Roger Kilmball | 09-20-2019 AmericanGreatness.com

*"Now we've got him, lads. Impeachment is just around the corner." The New York Times said so. So did CNN and MSNBC. So did Nancy Pelosi, soon-to-be-former speaker of the House. Representative Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) was so certain of it that he thought he could get away with pretending to read the transcript of Donald Trump's call with the Ukrainian president while actually just making stuff up.*

*Really. There he was, piece of paper in hand, addressing the House Intelligence Committee (and millions of viewers at home), exuding his signature "the-President-is-not-above-the-law-deer-in-the-headlights-automaton" countenance. The whole thing, Schiff said, was a "mafia-like shakedown."*

*"I want you," he pretended to read, "to make up dirt on my political opponent, understand, lots of it, on this and on that. I'm going to put you in touch with people, not just any people, I'm going to put you in touch with the attorney general of the United States, my attorney general Bill Barr. He's got the whole weight of the American law enforcement behind him."*

*When it was pointed out that Donald Trump said none of that, Schiff replied that his words—his lies—were a "parody."*

Former Senate Majority Leader, **Harry Reid**, was a good teacher because, as Judge Jeanine said last week "this sack o' **Schiff**" isn't the only one playing games with the truth.

Current Speaker of the House, **Nancy Pelosi**, has honed her truth-stretching blade to a precariously sharp edge. Pelosi's on-again-off-again **Napoleon** Complex has turned the United States House of Representatives into a **Circular Firing Squad**.



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

House Judiciary Committee Chair **Jerry Nadler** is well-versed in creating fabrication from thin air with just the twist of an adverb or pronoun.

And Freshman Representative **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** has taken the whopper to a new level with the preposterous **Green New Deal** and the claim that the world as we know it will end in just a dozen years. The **GND** is a proposal that aims to address climate change and economic inequality. The details of the proposal, however, show that it is nothing more than a thinly-veiled plan to advance Socialism in America.

"**The Squad**", composed of **AOC** and her pals **Ilhan Omar**, **Ayanna Pressley** and **Rashida Tlaib**, has managed to turn the House of Representatives into a horde of drooling idiots.

Over in the Senate, Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** can be found mike-side, aggressively twisting the truth almost every day.

The only one of this batch of Liberal Democrats that doesn't openly display anger as part of the serious daily prattle would be Nancy Pelosi. After all, she's a died-in-the-wool, All-American Beauty Queen, known for her poise and grace (for the most part.) In all actuality, she is not the person named "**Miss Lube Rack**" of 1955. A photo by **LIFE** magazine photog **Allan Grant** was clicked in June of 1951 at a promotional event for an automobile/appliance complex in Los Angeles, California. Pelosi would have been eleven at the time. The pic has been in circulation since the mid-'50s.

Of course, you already knew that Harry Reid set the bar for this sorta stuff some years ago.

In the October 6th **Townhall.com**, "From his constant declarations of 'proof of collusion' to his denials of any

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

knowledge of the whistleblower before Congress was notified, Adam Schiff has a history of not only of lying, but of being caught doing so."

And now they've lined up a second "whistleblower." How do we know this? A leak maybe?

Meanwhile, back at the ranch ... **Roy Rogers** and **Dale Evans** have been out rounding up liars, story-tellers and other such ne'er-do-wells to provide fodder for the faux impeachment hearings happening in the US House of late.

Last Sunday the **Boston Herald** took the words right out of my mouth: "If you think the Democrats' impeachment charade is anything other than yet another orchestrated political hit job against the president, I have a bridge I want to sell you."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, October 14, 2019

## Tired

Just for the sake of discussion ...

I'm tired. Tired of opinions presented as news. Tired of biased reporters claiming to be balanced journalists. Tired of accusations and innuendo as news. Tired of "unnamed sources." Tired of language being manipulated to make something appear what it is not.

I'm weary of the likes of liberal story-tellers such as **Rachel Maddow, Chuck Todd, Anderson Cooper** and the ubiquitous **Don Lemon**.

**Shepard Smith**, after hanging out in the reporter/newscaster seat for the 23 years since the network's inception, bailed last Friday from Fox News' afternoon anchor position. There is speculation that there was unhappiness with his ratings, but there is also dishing about a dustup he had with evening host **Tucker Carlson**. (That from "un-named sources.") The fact is ... he was turned off by the mostly pro-Trump slant on the network's opinion shows.

Although he tried to keep his reporting on point, Shep can join the **CNN** and **MSNBC** liberals as the reason DePauw University professor and media critic **Jeffrey McCall** observed that "News consumers are increasingly suspicious of programs that blend news and opinion, and a news organization's failure to properly label contributes to the national decline in credibility from the public."

I miss **Paul Harvey**. And "*The Rest of the Story*." I miss **Chet Huntley** and **David Brinkley**. For sure, I miss **Tony**

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

**Snow, Peter Jennings, Hannity and Colmes, Walter Cronkite, Jim McKay, Charles Kuralt and Howard Cosell.**

If it's opinion you crave today, look up **Nancy Giles, Mo Rocca, Ben Stein, Greg Gutfeld, Kat Timpf** and **Jesse Watters**. They're all very opinionated but possess great senses of humor and present their subjects on point and in thought-provoking ways.

I'd like to see more of **Dennis Miller** and **Jon Stewart**! Two guys I miss more than Miller and Stewart, though, are **Johnny Carson** and **Jay Leno**. Even though they all picked on the President and the Congress, their monologues were always top-notch and sharply on the subject matter. I don't recall ever hearing a snide or nasty remark from any of them.

What used to be a five-or-six-minute lead story has become "the news cycle" lasting intermittently for days on end, for the most part feeding on no sources other than The New York Times, CNN, WaPo and MSNBC. I'm tired of the nonsense on so-called network "news" shows today and wish their reporting was a lot less time-consuming and a lot more fact-based, interesting and perhaps humorous.

But then, that's all just for the sake of discussion ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, October 17, 2019

## Picking Away

A good friend and I meet semi-regularly to discuss the week's adventures in politics. He's not particularly enamoured with my bent toward conservatism and I'm equally put-off by his view of things from a slightly left-of-center position.

While I was a Republican from the early '60s until the early '90s, my friend was a Democrat until the mid 2000s. I became a Democrat leader in the early '90s after moving from Tucson to Gila County, AZ. Over time, we both tired of the extremes in both parties. My friend changed his affiliation to "Independent." Since there is no organized Independent Party in Arizona, I opted for "NPD" or *No Party Declared*. Now, thank Goodness, neither of us is required to have allegiance to any Party.

Both of us have been on the same side of just about any issue in Gila County. The Rick Renzi debacle, Central Arizona Economic Development, care and feeding of the infrastructure, development of Gila County's Provisional College and many other projects and subjects.

Of late, we've been drifting apart on some of the basics. I maintain an allegiance to President Donald Trump, not because of his off-the-wall ways, but rather because he is my President. My friend respects the office, but despises "The Donald." I resist the mainstream media's constant picking away at the President in its three-year drive to have him ousted from Office. I fear that my guy has allowed the constant propaganda to affect his powers of observation.

Both of us feel strongly that our country's Chief Executive could be a lot more Presidential. His past peccadilloes are not

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

becoming. Nor is his sometimes coarse language. Although he's portrayed as a Racist by many, he seems to have a genuine appreciation for "non-whites."

While we disagree on his motives, Trump appears to have kept more promises in his time in Office than any of his predecessors - and he's proud to tick off the accomplishments one at a time. To name a few ...

full employment (3.3% unemployment) with the highest Black, Hispanic and Women's employment ever; a secure border (the "Wall" not yet complete but a work in progress); tax cuts added roughly \$2,500 to a typical middle-class family of four's after-tax income, which has risen some \$6,000 since Trump took office; expansion of the manufacturing sector; making America energy-independent by allowing "fracking"; all-time record Stock Market performance and creation of the USMCA trade agreement via modernization of the former NAFTA Agreement.

The Jobs thing is what blows my mind. There have been so many new jobs created that there are not enough people to fill the demand. As a result, employers have been jacking up wages the better to attract new-hires. On-the-job education and training have become corporate necessities because of the glut of new jobs and nobody to fill them. And people who have not worked in years because they couldn't find work are receiving paychecks again. That's just astonishing!

While my friend is turned off by Trump's alleged "criminality" and story-telling, I recognise that much of that perception comes from propaganda created by highly-skilled members of the mainstream media in concert with the liberal wing of the Democrat Party. To me, the problem appears to be the fact that Republicans and independent thinkers are doing very little to alter that public perception.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

From my perspective, I think my friend and I see pretty much eye-to-eye on most political issues, we just differ in our opinions of the worth of President Donald J Trump.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, October 21, 2019

## Potato Heads

The following was published on Facebook on October 14th by Debbie Leverance

Origins:

On Oct. 4, 2019, the **PotatriotsUnite** website published an article positing that U.S. House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** had diverted \$2.4 billion from Social Security in order to cover the costs of an impeachment investigation into President **Trump**:

***"Pelosi Diverts \$2.4 Billion From Social Security To Cover Impeachment Costs***

*"Freedom isn't free, the saying goes. And neither is the opposite of freedom, which for today's purpose, is the impeachment of President Donald Trump. Counting legal fees for a slew of legal teams, experts, time, maintenance, and constant deliveries of Chardonnay, you and I, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, are looking at about 2 and a half billion dollars. Hope your boss can give you a raise."*

The site has this disclaimer: *"Everything on this website is fiction. It is not a lie and it is not fake news because it is not real. If you believe that it is real, you should have your head examined. Any similarities between this site's pure fantasy and actual people, places, and events are purely coincidental and all images should be considered altered and satirical."*

But as you know, a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on.

Hope you read the disclaimer.



Thursday, October 24, 2019

## New Glasses

The other day I went to my Optometrist for a check of my dry eyes and detached right retina. In addition, I was there for a new prescription for the lenses in my glasses. No big deal, right?

I've had two pairs of glasses just about forever! One pair is for golf - Pilot's glasses with a heavy green tint, blended lenses with the same frame for about twenty years. My regular pair is for every day use and its frame is probably twenty-five years old. (I like what I like, not what's in fashion!) You gotta know I had no interest in a new frame to go with the new lenses. (I saw the pitch coming and side-stepped it in favor of a chat about the new lenses' nomenclature.

Having single-vision lens implants (from cataract surgery a quarter-century ago), I must have blended lenses with a graduated gray tint. No problem. The doctor had recommended Polycarbonate material with all the bells and whistles. Sounded reasonable until we started getting into my wallet.

The last time I had lenses replaced was 2014. I got a new prescription from my local Optometrist and I had it filled in 90 minutes at LenseCrafters in the Superstition Springs Shopping Center, 45 minutes away in Mesa. They were plastic blended lenses with UV protection and graduated gray tint. If memory serves me correctly they ran somewhere in the range of \$150.00.

Replacing the lenses, with all the recommended bells and whistles, was going to run over \$500.00. Yes ... just the lenses! I was sorely tempted to just take the prescription and hot-foot it down to Mesa. But I do have some loyalty to local businesses, so I asked what it would cost to simply replace my lenses with the same basic specifications as the old ones. \$337.00. And it would

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

be about two weeks. Why so long? They have to send them out to Southern California because they don't have a local lab.

My hot feet were burning for a trip to Mesa.

But, I'm wearing my golf glasses for the next two weeks (or so) out of loyalty to our local businesses and their hard-working employees. I'll let you know how it works out.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, October 28, 2019

## Three Months

I don't know how other people handle the passing of family members. I just don't know. It will be three months tomorrow since my sweet Claudette lost her life to cancer and there are scenes that keep recurring in my mind that I wish I could have changed. I'm sure everyone who has ever lost a loved-one knows that of which I speak.

It's impossible to imagine sitting bedside, waiting for that fateful moment that somehow awaits us all. Will it be horribly painful or will it be through a painless haze? Or will there be no such thing because of a life snuffed by a crushing accident or an act of violence?

Will Jesus be there waiting to take us by the hand? Or will He wait for us to escape our corporeal being in favor of eternal life at the right hand of God?

Will we be welcomed into the Kingdom of the Great Architect of the Universe or will we just fade away into eternity?

Is there anything that could be done to prevent our passing - to keep us around just a little bit longer? Would we, in those last fleeting seconds, yearn for intervention? Or would we look forward to meeting our ancestors in another life?

There are those that believe that we are part of a Grand Cycle ... we never die ... but rather, come back as another life. Perhaps a Grasshopper. Or maybe a goat or a great orator!

If we are all part of a grand scheme, will we just become, again, part of that great cosmos of the Universe?

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

These are the questions we all face when life ends. These are the big deals that go with one of us passing on to another life. These are also the questions faced by our families as we slip away into eternity. What about those we leave behind?

Those who have not lost a spouse have no idea how difficult the days, weeks, months and even years can be following those last fateful seconds of life.

Initially, there is relief that the loved one's ordeal is over. And then comes the grief that no friend or relative can assuage. Couple the worst of distress with the many chores yet to be faced without the support of the missing spouse and you have a clue to what's in store.

Why wait to figure out what happens to the departed's clothing, trinkets, collections, figurines and keepsakes? Without seeming ghoulish, it's a good idea to decide what goes to which relatives or to Goodwill or the Church or the local Safe House. Should there be a yard sale?

This is why it's wise to have a detailed and prioritized plan listing everything that has to be done after the passing of one's spouse. Getting started may seem a little insensitive, but it will make the time after so much easier - and perhaps comforting. It helps to have a couple of family members or close friends involved in both the plan and its execution.

Think of the paperwork that must be done:

- Final arrangements made with Funeral Home - applied for Death Certificate

- Employer (if any) notified to change Pension Benefits as needed

- Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid advised - requires Death Certificate

- County Recorder advised - Death Certificate provided

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Life Insurance notified - Death Certificate provided  
Health Insurance notified - may require Death Certificate  
Home and Auto Insurance advised, changes made  
Checking and Savings advised, *changes should not made until  
Life Insurance is paid*  
Debit/Credit Cards advised, changes made  
Titles for Home, Auto, RVs changed to reflect owner changes -  
Death Certificate provided  
Notify Utilities - Gas, Electric, Telephone/Cell Service,  
Cable/Satellite TV Service

Make sure the Marital Community is on all things to which you have title. It's a way to stay out of Probate. Most of us live in Community Property States. If the Community's titles are in both names - at least - and everything else is owned outright, ownership passes automatically to the surviving members of the Community and Probate is not necessary to "divide up the goods," so to speak. Further, the Community can include other people listed as OR on the titles such as children, other relatives or close friends, whose signatures can be useful when it comes to disposing of assets like unused automobiles, boats, RVs and real properties.

Oh, and for Heaven's sake, make sure there is at least enough cash on hand to take care of the minimums at the Funeral Home (Like a simple obituary and at least four Death Certificates.)

After the plan is compiled, it helps to have an attorney look at it to see if anything is missing.

I penned this missive for two reasons. First, I wanted to let my heart breathe a little. It's difficult being a widower - so much has to be held back from friends and relations because they just don't understand; and after all - I am the big guy in the room. Second, I want as many people as possible to know they are not alone. It's

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

ok. Be thankful. No. Grateful for the time you've had together ...  
and treasure it for all time!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, October 31, 2019

## A Scary Halloween

Last night my friends in the Globe, Arizona Rotary Club held their Wednesday meeting at the Lamont Mortuary, a bizarre way of celebrating Halloween. It was a pot-luck get-together and participants were encouraged to dress the part. I went as Dracula in disguise - wearing my street clothes, only slightly made-up. In honor of the occasion, I took two-dozen *deviled* eggs!

Daughter Janet went along dressed in her go-to witch garb - actually, she greens-up pretty good! We all had a wonderful time at Ian Lamont's Mortuary.

Today, it's another scary moment in Halloween history: The US House of Representatives is supposed to vote on a resolution that outlines the rules and procedures to be followed in a formal public investigation to gather evidence to support Articles of Impeachment of the President. From what I've read (The resolution was released to the public Tuesday), it appears that Schiff is given carte blanche to do whatever he wants.

I write these missives some hours (or even days) before posting them - so I have no idea how the House vote went. Will it affect the futures of Schiff, Pelosi and Trump? ¿Quien sabe?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 7, 2019

## California Fires

As a native-born Californian (Red Bluff) living in Arizona since 1967, I can state unequivocally that the Golden State voted its way into its current pickle. Its Governor and Legislature, over many decades, have danced so closely with the Left that residents are running out of places where they can afford to live. Affordable housing is a myth - so much so that the homeless population has exploded along with the state's wildfires.

Annie Lowrey's October 30th *The Atlantic* article hit the nail on the head when she summarized, "*California's housing crisis has exacerbated its wildfire crisis, and its wildfire crisis has exacerbated its housing crisis. That vicious cycle is nowhere near ending.*"

California's wildfires are not caused by Climate Change (aka Global Warming), but rather the Governor, the Legislature and State and Federal authorities caving in to the demands of Liberal environmentalists.

Responsible caretakers of California's wildlands and overseers of the *WUI* (wildlife-urban interface) have been prevented from doing their most pressing function(s) - that of caring for and maintaining the lands in their charge. Thinning the forests and encouraging the grazing of grasslands have become nonexistent in the environmental playbook as the result of pressure from the likes of the *Sierra Club* and the *Center for Environmental Diversity*.

It wasn't many years ago that Arizona woke up to the fact that wildfires were devouring much of its revered Sky Islands and endangering populations along the Mogollon Rim. The push for change came from elected officials representing Gila County



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

working with County, State and Federal authorities. They teamed up to re-introduce logging to the high country and to encourage cattle grazing on the grasslands in Winter and the mountains in Summer.

Some 7,148,775 people have been adversely affected by drought in the six Southwest states including California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. The worst of the drought is centered on the Four-Corner states.

The Grand Canyon state has had no major high country wildfires since new land management policies were put in place. Arizona has been thinning tree stands and clearing underbrush in its forests. Grasslands, such as those consumed this year by the Woodbury fire on the Tonto National Forest, still remain at risk around all of the Southwest

PG&E, California's giant natural gas and electric utility, is blamed as the cause of many of the state's wildfires. It should be noted that much of the company's right-of-way has not been cleared of overgrowth for years because of the state's eco-driven land-use policies. PG&E has some 24,000 employees serving over 16 million customers who live in over 70,000 square miles of Northern, Central and Southern California. There are 106,681 circuit miles of PG&E distribution lines and 18,466 circuit miles of interconnected transmission lines. That's a lot of right-of-way to maintain!

Simply put, California's land management policies have not been allowed to keep up with land use across the state. Couple that willful negligence with drought and the Santa Anna winds and the vast majority of the Golden State is at risk.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, November 11, 2019

## Veterans Day

Americans everywhere stop what they're doing at 11:00 am every November 11th for a minute of prayer. It's a moment for thanks and reflection to honor our Veterans and those who went before, giving their all to protect freedom across the world. This special time memorializes the day, hour and minute that World War One came to a halt.

**Military.com** provides a brief history of Veteran's Day:

"Veterans Day, formerly known as Armistice Day, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was 'dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as *Armistice Day*.' As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

"In 1954, after having been through both World War II and the Korean War, the 83rd U.S. Congress -- at the urging of the veterans service organizations -- amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word 'Armistice' and inserting the word 'Veterans.' With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, Nov. 11 became a day to honor American veterans of all wars."

Proud US citizens, whither so ever disbursed around the world, pause at the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month for a moment of silence out of respect for those who died to keep the banner of freedom flying across the globe.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 14, 2019

## Why VA Went Blue

As a result of last week's elections, Virginia will have an all-Democrat legislature for the first time in twenty-six years. There will be a gubernatorial election in 2021 to replace current Democrat Governor **Ralph Northam**. In the interim, Virginia is a Blue State.

How is it that this once solidly Red State flipped blue? It's been headed that way for a couple of decades because of Millennials. Please, let me elucidate.

Over the last couple of decades students attending colleges and universities across the northeast were learning the ways of liberalism. Those majoring in Liberal Arts discovered upon graduation that prospects for making a decent living were not good in New York and New Jersey, especially since many had not obtained Pell Grants to pay for their education.

Grads soon discovered that living costs were far lower in Virginia. As a result, Millennials began moving to the greener pastures of Virginia, particularly the northern portions around the metro area consisting of Washington DC, Arlington and Alexandria. Liberals, for the most part, register as Democrats, so Virginia's Democrat Party began a steady march toward the political majority.

Meanwhile, western southern and rural areas of the state stagnated and remained mostly Republican with the exception of Union-dominated southeastern cities in the Black Belt.

**Wikipedia** tells us that "Virginia went Republican in 11 out of 12 presidential elections from 1948 to 2004, including 10 in a row from 1968 to 2004. However, Democrat Barack Obama carried

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

the state's 13 electoral votes in both the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections ...

"Democrats took full control of the state's legislature [last week], flipping at least two state senate seats and five state house seats from Republican to Democratic candidates."

There was a story circulating last week that Virginia Republicans had given up canvassing neighborhoods in the mostly Democrat dominated areas of the state. One long-time GOP woman was disappointed that nobody came to her door to ply her with fliers and bumper-stickers, reminding her to be sure to vote. It could be that many like her simply stayed home because only 59% of registered voters turned out compared to 72% 2016.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, November 18, 2019

## Hearings?

Well, the Schiff Hearings have turned out to be a big yawn. It seems that most Americans could care less! And this attitude goes across Party lines. However ...

According to the **Wall Street Journal**, "Some 13.1 million people tuned in to watch the first day of public hearings in the impeachment inquiry across the major cable and broadcast networks [last week], as two senior U.S. officials testified in front of lawmakers and a daytime television audience ... **Fox News** claimed 2.9 million viewers, followed with 2.7 million on **MSNBC**, **ABC** and **CBS** came in at about 2 million each, 1.9 for **CNN** and 1.7 [hangin' in] with **NBC**."

Friday's hearing was even more boring and it showed clearly that there "ain't no *there* there."

**CBS News** transcribed the following:

"**Stewart**: Do you have any information regarding the president of the United States accepting any bribes?

**Yovanovitch**: No.

"**Stewart**: Do you any have information regarding any criminal activity that the president of the United States has been involved with at all?

**Yovanovitch**: No."

**McClatchydc.com** reported Friday that GOP Rep. **Devin Nunes** of California said in his closing remarks, "I hate to break it to my colleagues, if there's anyone else out there watching television ratings, but they must be plummeting right now."

I'd rather watch 60 Minutes, thank-you-very-much.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 21, 2019

## Letter from SGM Steve

My good friend Sergeant Major Steve Domina sent me a letter last week that I thought I'd share with everyone. He comments on the Impeachment Inquiry hearings and tells a story that will help you feel normal again!

***OMG! Watching the Impeachment Inquiry hearing is Maddening! Watching Chairman Schiff sitting in his pompous chair, bloviating and pontificating over all was nauseating. All the Democrats against the Republicans playing "one ups man ship" and all vying for camera time, is unbearable.***

***When I was stationed at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy, we had one or ten Sergeants Major who were like that. And just as unbearable!***

***One day, I wrote a little note, and placed it on the desk of the biggest bloviator of all. Herewith is an age related summary:***

***"How Important Am I?"***

***"To find out how important you are, follow this little test, and the answer will be shown below.***

***"Step 1: Take a 7.5 gallon wastebasket and line it with a plastic bag large enough to go over the top.***

***"Step 2: Place this wastebasket on your desk, or other suitable sturdy device (no chairs with casters.***

***"Step 3: Fill the wastebasket with water to the top,***

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

*just short of over-flowing.*

*"Step 4: Take your right/left hand,  
make a fist (encase your thumb within your fist),  
and slowly insert your hand into the wastebasket  
until your fist is at the bottom, sitting squarely there-on.*

*"Step 5: On the count of 3 (anyone can count for you),  
pull you arm straight out of the water-filled wastebasket.*

*"Step 6: IMPORTANT! Be sure to estimate the size of the hole  
left  
in the wastebasket when you arm is removed!*

*"Step 7: Results are as follows:*

*" a. The hole is still there = you and God are on a first name  
basis;*

*" b. The hole is partially filled in = you've pissed off God lately  
and that's that;*

*" c. The hole has vanished = You're one of the crowd. Sit down  
and relax, it'll get better!"*

***Boy, when Dan read that he was hopping mad. But when he  
calmed down, he remembered that he was one of many with a  
job to do.***

***Sure hope the Dems do that!***

SGM Steve post-scripted his letter, ***My result? C!***

A couple of interesting tid-bits: The SGM in the army is the top  
advisor to the Commanding General at brigade level and up.  
The highest-ranking Marine SGM advises the Commandant of

### **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

the Marine Corps. A Marine Gunnery Sergeant Major and an Army Sergeant Major are both rated pay grade E-9, but the Army SGM out-ranks the Marine! Go figure.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, November 25, 2019

## Two Things ...

Like a few others across the country, I actually watched the House Impeachment Hearings. Even though they were mostly boring, I came away with two impressions and one conclusion.

**First - A.** There is a cadre of government insiders who, coupled together, support US House Oversight Committee Chairman **Adam Schiff**'s contention that President **Donald Trump** violated provisions of Article Two, Section Four of the US Constitution regarding *Treason, Bribery or other High crimes and Misdemeanors*.

**B.** What the President describes as a *"Hoax perpetrated on the American people"* was mostly Adam Schiff bloviating to enforce the power granted him by a House resolution.

**C.** But it also created huge volumes of testimony supporting the allegations that Trump and/or his campaign cooperated with **Russian** and/or **Ukrainian** operatives to Obstruct Justice, committed **Bribery** relative to an **Arms Deal** with The Ukraine, and colluded with the Russians and/or The Ukraine to affect the outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election.

**D.** The opinion of a Dem **Focus Group** convinced leadership in the House that seeking proof against The President of participating in a *quid pro quo* was over the heads of most Americans. Instead, they suggested that it should be called **Bribery**. The Latin *quid pro quo* means *a favor or advantage granted or expected in return for something*. The objective was to tie allegations of Bribery directly to Art. II, Sec. 4 of the US Constitution.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

**E.** The volume of evidence compiled over two weeks of public House Oversight hearings is enough to convince a plurality of Democrats that the President is a criminal and should be Impeached by the House and Tried by the Senate as a result.

**Second - A.** All of the evidence tying President Trump to a quid pro quo, Bribery or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors was supported by volumes of hearsay.

**B.** The fact is that only one witness actually spoke with The President. Ambassador Gordon Sondland called the President and asked what he wanted. Sondland testified that the President said "*I want nothing. I want nothing. I don't want quid pro quo.*" He and one other witness were allowed to listen in on telephone conversations between Trump and foreign dignitaries. Neither could say they overheard a quid pro quo or bribery on the call(s).

**C.** All of the other witnesses confirmed that they had not heard a telephone conversation or were not present when the President allegedly committed a quid pro quo and none had ever spoken directly with the President.

**D.** He-said-she-said (hearsay) is not allowed as evidence in American courts. When one of the participants objected, Chairman Schiff declared that hearsay is allowable in the House Oversight Committee hearings.

**E.** None of the witnesses, when asked directly for a yes or no answer, would confirm having direct knowledge of any quid pro quo, bribery, collusion, or obstruction of Justice.

**Finally** - Getting to the main point of the House investigation into quid pro quo or Bribery, Representative **Lee Zeldin**, speaking to top Ambassador to the Ukraine **Bill Taylor** during

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

one of the House Oversight hearings, exclaimed, "*This isn't firsthand. It's not secondhand. It's not thirdhand - but if I understand this correctly, you're telling us that **Tim Morrison** told you that Ambassador **Sondland** told him that the President told Ambassador Sondland that [President] **Zelensky** would have to open an investigation into **Biden**?*"

**Taylor** replied, "*That's correct.*"

If the **House Judiciary Committee** presents **Articles of Impeachment** and a simple majority votes to Impeach the President, the rules will change. Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court **John Roberts** will preside over a trial in the Senate. He will enforce Federal Court rules of evidence in the trial. Chief Roberts will only accept direct evidence supporting allegations of Treason, Bribery or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 28, 2019

## Thanksgiving Confessions

I've claimed for years, even decades, that I am a Marine who served our country honorably for six years between September 1958 through September of 1964. In addition, much like Democratic Presidential candidate Senator **Elizabeth Warren** of Massachusetts, I can claim ties to America's native **Cherokee Nation**.

I'm thankful to have signed onto the **Marine Corps PLC Program**. The fact is, I never completed the PLC Program and never became a Marine Corps Fighter Pilot. It's also true that there is no documentation to prove my Cherokee roots, although I have no qualms about claiming my Native American heritage. Please, let me elaborate.

**First:** Relative to my service in the Marine Corps, the fact is that I never left America's shores and never fell under fire. With one exception, all of my active duty service was for training. The closest I ever came to going under fire was when I and others in the Marine Corps Reserve at the time were called up in October of 1962 when President **Kennedy** imposed a shipping blockade on Cuba. It was called the **Cuban Missile Crisis**.

Cuba had worked with the **USSR** to set up missile bases along its north side, just 90 miles away from Florida. An American U-2 spy-plane had photographic proof that the Russians were providing Nuclear missiles to Cuba. President Kennedy decided that the missiles had to go and no more could be transferred to Cuba from the USSR. He imposed a blockade on Russian shipping to Cuba and demanded that the missile sites be disassembled or the US would take them out forcefully. At the same time Kennedy dispatched US Naval power to the Straits

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

of Florida and western portions of the North Atlantic to enforce the blockade.

It was a nail-biting standoff over a period of 13 days, during which the slightest twitch could set off Nuclear War. But Soviet Premier **Nikita Khrushchev**'s last-minute offer to remove the Cuban missiles in exchange for the U.S. promising not to invade Cuba was accepted. President Kennedy also secretly agreed to remove U.S. missiles from **Turkey**. Marine Corps reservists across the country breathed a sigh of relief and stood down.

**Second** is my Native American heritage. I, like Democratic Presidential candidate Senator **Elizabeth Warren**, have Cherokee DNA in my blood. It comes from the era of the horrific **Trail of Tears** in which the US Government rounded up Native Americans in the southeast part of the United States and re-settled them to Oklahoma and other parts of central and southwest America. According to **History.com**, they were "forced to march more than 1,200 miles to 'The Indian Territory' ... Whooping cough, typhus, dysentery, cholera and starvation were epidemic along the way, and historians estimate that more than 5,000 Cherokees died as a result of the journey." My relatives managed to evade capture in **North Carolina** by fleeing into caves hidden high in the mountains before the **Army** and **Federal Marshals** arrived. "Nearly 125,000 Native Americans lived on millions of acres of land in **Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina** and **Florida** - land their ancestors had occupied and cultivated for generations. By the end of the [1830s] decade, very few natives remained anywhere in the southeastern United States."

So, why is it that I cannot prove lineage to the Cherokees of North Carolina? It's as simple as a signature on a government document! As they literally herded south-eastern natives to the mid-west, the Feds did what they now call the "**FBI Census**."

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

All of the natives who were rounded up had their names recorded in the Census of Indians being removed from the southeast. My relatives were never counted, never recorded because they were hiding out in caves in North Carolina's mountains. There is no record of their existence ... no proof of birth, no proof of their lineage. That's where Elizabeth Warren and I are joined at the hip.

The way I know my heritage is the same way Warren knows hers: because of the "stories" passed down from my mom **Ruth Hance Thayer**, which she heard from her mom **Maude Wine Hance Thurston**, which she heard from her mother **Partheny Rutledge Hance**, wife of **George Washington Hance**. The Hances and the Rutledges share common lineage to one **Melissa Ann McCay**, a full-blooded Cherokee woman who escaped the Trail of Tears and, for lack of presence in the FBI Census, never existed! At any rate, my brother Bill and sister Mandy and I are purported to be one-sixteenth Cherokee ... with no way to prove it!

**Be that (or those) as it may ...** I want to say **Thank You!** to all my friends that read this email and/or **Facebook** post twice a week. I'm thankful that I can make a difference and thankful that there are as much as 2,500 folks across the country who are influenced by my screeds. Thank you all and thank the Lord for the first amendment! Have a great Thanksgiving!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Friday, November 29, 2019

## Lineage Confusion

I wrote yesterday, that like Democratic Presidential candidate Senator **Elizabeth Warren**, have **Cherokee** DNA in my blood. It stems from the era of the horrific **Trail of Tears** in which the US Government rounded up Native Americans in the southeast part of the United States and re-settled them to Oklahoma and other parts of central and southwest America.

According to **History.com**, they were "forced to march more than 1,200 miles to 'The Indian Territory' ... Whooping cough, typhus, dysentery, cholera and starvation were epidemic along the way, and historians estimate that more than 5,000 Cherokees died as a result of the journey." My relatives managed to evade capture in **North Carolina** by fleeing into caves hidden high in the mountains before the **Army** and **Federal Marshals** arrived. "Nearly 125,000 Native Americans lived on millions of acres of land in **Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina** and **Florida** - land their ancestors had occupied and cultivated for generations. By the end of the [1830s] decade, very few natives remained anywhere in the southeastern United States."

So, why is it that I can't prove lineage to the Cherokees of North Carolina? It's as simple as a signature on a government document! As they literally herded south-eastern natives to the mid-west, the Feds did what they now call the "**FBI Census**." All of the natives who were rounded up had their names recorded in the Census of Indians being removed from the southeast. My relatives were never counted, never recorded because they were hiding out in caves in North Carolina's mountains. There is no record of their existence ... no proof of birth, no proof of their lineage.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

The way I know my heritage is the same way Warren knows hers: because of the "stories" passed down through the years.

My sister **Mandy** says I made one small error in my telling of the story yesterday. The Cherokee blood line runs through our mother **Ruth Hance Thayer**, thence through my grandfather **Harvey Hance**, **Maude Wine Hance Thurston's** first Husband. **Partheny Rutledge Hance** was Harvey's mom and the daughter of **Melissa Ann McCay**, the full-blooded Cherokee woman who escaped the Trail of Tears. Nobody knows who fathered Melissa McCay. Brother Bill, sister Mandy and I are still one-sixteenth Cherokee ... we just can't prove it by the FBI Census of Natives removed from the American Southeast. A record of Melissa McCay (or McCoy, for that matter) cannot be found in the Archives of the Cherokee Nation headquartered in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

My sister hosted Thanksgiving this year. It was a pseudo-pot-luck! Fun! I hope you all had a fantastic Thanksgiving, too!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.



Monday, December 2, 2019

## Fried Balogna Sandwich

I really didn't know why I bought a batch of sliced balogna the other day, but I did, along with two big 'maters. Now, I know. It's not because of all the political baloney floating around out there ... it's because, other than toasted cheese, it's an iconic all-American sandwich that is as good for lunch as it is for dinner!

I Googled it and found a lot of recipes for fried balogna samiches and then tried to put the best of the best together to whomp up the following delicious mess. You can also add White Onion rings or sautéed Red Onion rings!

**Warning:** There are purists who insist that a fried balogna sandwich is built only from white bread, balogna, American cheese and mustard. No mayo, onions, lettuce or 'maters!

### Fried Balogna Sandwich

2 Slices Balogna	2 1/4 inch slices Hot-house Tomato
2 slices Sourdough or White Bread	2 Slices American Cheese
1 Tbsp Mayonnaise	2 Tbsp Salted Butter
1 Tbsp Yellow Mustard	2 Tbsp Shredded Iceburg Lettuce

In large frying pan on medium heat, melt 2 Tbsp salted butter. After cutting an "X" in the middle, put two slices of Balogna in frying pan. (The Balogna will be ready to turn over when it starts to turn brown, the crispier the better!) While Balogna is getting ready, toast two slices Sourdough or White Bread. As toast is working, cut a large Beefsteak or Hot-house Tomato into quarter inch rounds. Now, shred about 2 Tbsp of Iceburg Lettuce. When toast is done apply and spread a glop of Mayonnaise to one slice and a glop of Yellow Mustard to the other. After the Balogna is turned, put a slice of American Cheese on top of each. When the Cheese has melted, put one slice of Balogna & Cheese on each side of the toast. Next, on one side, put two slices of Tomato; on the remaining side goes the Lettuce. Now, fold the two sides together, slice the results in half & YUM! This goes with just about any beverage.

You're welcome to copy and print the recipe or just print this page and cut it out.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, December 5, 2019

## Agree to Disagree

Back in 1994, while **Newt Gingrich** was busy rejuvenating the Republican Party with his **Contract with America**, it was ol' Claghorn Foghorn **J D Hayworth** who revived the phrase "Agree to Disagree." Hayworth was elected to the US House of Representatives, replacing Karan English in January of 1995.

**Phrases.com** claims that 'agree to disagree' is to be found in the text of a 1770 sermon by the English theologian **John Wesley**. However, **Wikipedia** says that in a letter to his brother Charles, Wesley attributed it to [**George Whitefield**]: "If you agree with me, well: if not, we can, as Mr. Whitefield used to say, agree to disagree." Whitefield had used [the phrase] in a letter as early as June 29, 1750.

After he was elected to the US House of Representatives from Arizona's Sixth District, Hayworth used the phrase often. Back in the day, just as today, there was plenty of partisanship. Hayworth, being a former radio and TV sports announcer, used his skills to mesmerize his constituents as well as politicians on both sides of the aisle.

Turning one's TV to **CSPAN** almost any evening would find J D Hayworth jackin' his jaws from the House Floor urging nay-sayers to agree to disagree. There probably was only one other politician alive who was more convincing ... that would be President Ronald Reagan, although Bill Clinton could have come in a real close second.

Hayworth's flashy bombast earned him the Claghorn Foghorn moniker, after Warner Brothers' Looney Tunes cartoon classic animation character, **Foghorn Leghorn**. J D Hayworth, who served four terms in



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

the US House from 1995 to 2003, was best known for his late-night speeches and urgings to constituents and House members to Agree to Disagree.

Having first registered as a Republican in Aptos California, I have changed parties twice in my life. I got active with the GOP after moving to Tucson in the late '60s. I registered Democrat after moving to Globe Arizona in 1992. I was active as the County Democrat Vice-chairman for nine years. Losing a bid for County Supervisor, I registered as NPD (No Party Declared.)

Now, I have no problem dealing with political arguments one way or another because I've agreed to disagree without being disagreeable! There is no party loyalty to bow down to anymore, so I'm able to sort through the piles of BS out there and get to the crux of a subject. I don't know for sure, but perhaps that's why my columns are so widely read. Thank you!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, December 9, 2019

## Finally

Last Thursday, US Speaker of the House **Nancy Pelosi** announced that the House was going ahead in the quest to Impeach President **Donald Trump**. She Directed the House Judiciary to go ahead and prepare Articles of Impeachment. It had been three years and ten days ago (November 25, 2016) since Democrats declared their intent to Impeach the winner of the 2016 election, the not-yet-Inaugurated President Donald J Trump.

Two days after his Inauguration there was a news article confirming that the Democrats were coming for The Donald. Whether the Impeachment quest began on November 25th, 2016 or January 22, 2017 is moot at this point. The Dems quest to reverse the results of the 2016 Presidential election could come close to success. If a vote comes before the Christmas Break, it could be bad news for House members voting "Aye" *and* running for re-election in the swing states. On the other hand, if the vote doesn't happen until the New Year, those members, over the holidays, might have been pushed by their constituents into voting "No."

There is some speculation that Pelosi pulled the plug on further witness testimony to cut short the time needed to Impeach the President as well as to take some of the distraction away from today's [Monday] release of the AG's FISA Report.

TV watchers across the country sighed a communal breath of relief with last week's news ... until they realized that the almost-certain to pass Articles of Impeachment have yet to pass the House Judiciary Committee, much less the full US House of Representatives.

## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

If the Articles make it to the House floor for a vote it will take a simple majority of 218 "Ayes" to affirm and forward them to the Senate for Trial. Remember, with 435 members of the House, half is just 217. In the House there are 233 Democrats, 197 Republicans and one Independent. Should 17 Democrats vote against Impeachment, the deal is off! (16 Dems if the Independent also votes "No.")

Last Wednesday, Judicial Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler confirmed that the Judiciary would be done with its job by December 11th. There are 24 Democrats and 17 Republicans on the Judiciary Committee. So, if the Judiciary is done with its business by this Wednesday, the tale could be told this Thursday. I'm betting that a 24-17 Party-line vote will send it to the House floor.

This player is betting short of a Full House: 223 Democrats, one Independent and no GOP!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, December 12, 2019

## Articles of Impeachment?

The US House of Representatives is due to vote sometime next week on **the Articles of Impeachment** leveled against President **Donald J Trump**. The House Judiciary Committee creates the body of the Articles, called the mark-up, and then votes whether to send the completed document to the floor. It was a little crazy on Tuesday at 9:00am when it was announced that the Impeachment vote would happen before the Christmas Break. The up or down vote was to be scheduled before the Christmas Recess to avoid complications that could come up because of litigation pending in the Federal Courts.

It's unclear what evidence there is of specific crimes in the Impeachment charges, the first of which is for "**abuse of power**" and a second for "**obstruction of Congress**." It remains foggy what constitutes the specific "**high crimes and misdemeanors**" of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. No witnesses interrogated during the House hearings could name specific crimes committed by the President.

A trial balloon was floated Monday by a coalition of ten Representatives proposing that rather than Impeachment, the House should **censure** the President. This would more than likely ease cloudy forecasts for re-election of those who vote "aye" for Impeachment.

It got even crazier an hour after the Impeachment announcement when House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** announced agreement on the **USMCA** Treaty. That's a big deal considering that it was the President who spearheaded the effort to create the Treaty. Ratification of the replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement (**NAFTA**) will surely answer charges that the Democrats have done nothing while wasting the better part of

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

two years seeking evidence to support Impeachment of President Trump. Yesterday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that ratification of the USMCA Treaty would go nowhere in the Senate until the Impeachment Trial was completed next year.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the **IG Horowitz DOJ/FBI/FISA report** was released Monday. In a nutshell, it found that, while the FBI did some admittedly stupid stuff, the investigation found little, if any, evidence to support charges of some kind of behind-the-scenes Coup. US Attorney General **William Barr** has taken issue with the Inspector General's conclusion that there was no spying on the part of the FBI. Barr, who has much broader authority to pry into dusty corners of the government, both here and abroad, said his reading of the report supports the charge that there was wide-spread spying on the President's goings-on. The **Wall Street Journal** observed "The report relates a trail of terrible judgment and violations of process."

Still pending is the **Durham CIA/NSA report**, a work in progress with much broader authority than the IG's investigation, allowing peering into a vast array of the government's secret, dusty corners.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, December 16, 2019

## Strength, Hate, Respect

President **Donald J Trump** is a strong leader who is hated by the Liberal Elite and still has an abiding respect for America's working class. **Strength, hate** and **respect** are three words that comprise the centerpiece of an article about Trump that I came across this week. Added to the things I already knew about him, the substance of that opinion piece filled in the missing parts of a picture-puzzle I have long overlooked.

We know that Donald Trump was exposed to the real estate and construction trades at a very young age. And we know that he loved to go walk around his dad's construction sites and chat with the workers. We also understand that he attended a military school where he excelled at football. In spite of his schooling, he was exempted from military service because he had developed heel spurs some time after graduation. Each of these things, I believe, contributed to honing his leadership qualities. Learning early on how a building site works, developing an easy rapport with people who dirty their hands and risk their lives at work, military leadership training and the team-work that football teaches, all went into shaping the man we know as our 45th President.

Trump gets his coarseness from construction sites. He doesn't drink or smoke, but he can cuss like a drunken cigar-smoking sailor! While he can deftly lead a group of well-educated experts through a debate on just about any issue, he can be brusque in bringing a boring conversation to a speedy halt. He has the capacity to engage in extreme diplomacy, but he can also be as rude and foul-mouthed as anyone you could meet at the neighborhood bar. Those qualities combined make for a man who is admired for his ability to communicate effectively with the working class and at the same time be absolutely despised by



## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

the elite. More succinctly, Donald Trump knows the difference between sandpaper and silk.

The President displays an innate ability to praise working folks in our nation's factories, ranches and farms as well as those servicemen and women and first-responders who put themselves at risk every day to keep us safe. He's also very good at calling out insiders, the liberal Left and the elite who, in turn, hate the very mention of this name!

Who but Donald trump could get away with calling out the impeachment investigations against him at a political rally in Sunrise, Florida on November 26th. The **Washington Examiner** spelled out the President's words: "*The radical Left Democrats are trying to rip our nation apart. First, it was the Russia hoax, total hoax,*" Trump said. "*The Mueller deal, you member that mess? They had nothing. Two years they spent, \$45 million, and the real cost is many times that number. Now, the same maniacs are pushing the deranged,*" Trump said. "*They're pushing that impeachment witch hunt, and a lot of bad things are happening to them. You see what is happening in the polls. Everybody says, that is really bullshit.*" The line brought applause and cheers for nearly 30 seconds while sporadic chants of "*bullshit, bullshit*" broke out among the crowd.

Who but Donald Trump would have to **strength** to stand up to the almost daily accusations and clamor aimed at him both personally and professionally since before he was inaugurated?

Who but Donald Trump could **hate** be aimed at more than any other public figure in history, except perhaps Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin or Saddam Hussein?

Who but Donald Trump has been as extravagant with praise and **respect** for the military, first responders and blue-collar workers?

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Let me add one more: Who but Donald Trump has publicly and privately done his level best to deliver on his campaign **promises** ... one at a time?

Some would doubt my veracity, so a few questions remain. Do I love Donald Trump? No.

Do I hate Donald Trump? Nope. Am I a Republican? No way!.

Am I a Conservative? No.

Am I a Democrat? No more. Am I a Liberal? Not even!

I am an opinion journalist ... mainly because I have no loyalty to any political party or ideal.

While his language, manners and demeanor can be frustrating, I appreciate our President because he has the **strength** to stand up to the **hate** heaped on him every day and can still stand tall and show **respect** for America's workers, its military and its first responders.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, December 19, 2019

## Where's the Beef?

Where is all the evidence that googly-eyed **Adam Schiff**, Chairman of United States House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said he had about Russian collusion with Republican presidential candidate **Donald J Trump**? Even after the **Mueller Report** showed otherwise, Schiff continued to insist there was criminality "right there in plain view."

In essence, the Mueller report said there was no evidence of Presidential collusion with Russia, leaving no basis for charges of obstruction of justice. In other words, how do you obstruct justice when there is no crime?

Then came House Judiciary Chair **Jerry Nadler** with the same stuff, just different charges. He claimed that last July 25th the President had a 'phone call with the recently-elected President of the Ukraine **Volodymyr Zelensky** in which he "bribed" him with hundreds of millions in US military assistance in trade for a promise to investigate the connections between Democrat Presidential candidate **Joe Biden's** son **Hunter** and the Ukrainian Gas Company **Barisma**. That would be a "**quid pro quo**."

Nadler hoped to prove a quid pro quo or **bribery**, a charge worthy of Impeachment. Bribery is one of two specific charges in the US Constitution forming the basis for Impeachment - treason and bribery - the rest being "other high crimes and misdemeanors." It turned out that only three witnesses could testify that they were listening in on the call between the two presidents. Each of the three said that some of the conversation was "inappropriate" but none would say that there was a quid pro quo or bribery proposed in the call.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

One witness spoke directly with Mr. Trump after becoming concerned about Nadler's charges of quid pro quo. According to **PBS NewsHour** "Testifying in an impeachment hearing, **Gordon Sondland**, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, recounted his phone call with President Donald Trump in which the president said there was 'no quid pro quo.' 'It was a very short, abrupt conversation. He was not in a good mood and he just said, I want nothing, I want nothing, I want no quid pro quo,' Sondland said."

To be fair, Sondland's call to the President - after some reflection - caused him to recant his earlier testimony in which he concluded there was a quid pro quo. The fact is Sondland is the only witness who spoke directly with the President about the issue.

When specifically asked, not one of the witnesses testifying could affirm that there was a crime committed, as both Schiff and Nadler had charged. No trial-admissible evidence, pro or con, was submitted during either Committee hearing that was not hearsay or presumption with the singular exception of Gordon Sondland's testimony.

Meanwhile, President Trump, in response to volumes of subpoenas from the House Judicial and Intelligence Committees, invoked **Executive Privilege** and appealed their legality to the Federal Courts. That prompted the second of the charges for Impeachment: **Obstruction of Congress**.

Nevertheless, the Judiciary Committee voted two charges out for consideration on the floor: **Abuse of Power** and Obstruction of Congress. Having a chat with the head of another state without involving the **State Department** or the **FBI**, the **CIA**, the **Congress** - or **whatever** - is supposedly a no-no, and therefore, an Abuse of Power. Directing those who answer to the Executive Branch to not testify before the Congress when Executive

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Privilege is invoked is not only Abuse of Power, but also Obstruction of Congress!

So there you go. When you winnow all the folderol out of weeks of posturing and obviously coached testimony, there is no evidence to prove any impeachable wrong-doing on the part of the President. But the House voted to impeach him on both counts anyway!

There have been some rumbles from insiders that Speaker Nancy Pelosi may hold the approved Articles of Impeachment and not forward them to the Senate. That remains to be seen. The assumption is that if the **Senate** is not allowed to take the charges to trial, the House Democrats will be able to tout the Impeachment - the third in American history - and not suffer the political damage that a Not Guilty verdict in the Senate would hand them.

Guess we'll just have to wait until after the first of the year to see if there is an actual trial with enough evidence to convict the President of two charges that, on the face of them, do not appear to meet the Constitution's definition of *treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors*.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

## Thayer's Wild Bunch VII

Monday, December 23, 2019

# LSMFT

Back many decades ago the American Tobacco Company introduced the Lucky Strike brand which quickly became the largest seller of all tobacco products of the day. The Luckys ad campaign included the phrase "LSMFT" - Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco.

On my end of the family it stood for "Lord Save Me from Thayer."

My daughter Janet went out job-hunting. When she returned she wrote on her Facebook page, *"Job interview... round two callbacks. I can do this ... feeling nervous."*

A few hours later she wrote, *"Thought the interview went well... at the end, my interviewer told me, 'We'll let you know within 3-5 days.'*

*"There was a message on the machine from them when I got back home... saying to call them. Did that immediately, but got their voicemail..."*

***"Word is, if they decide not to hire you, you just get an email, and if they want you, they'll call... so.... feeling hopeful."***

In response her ex-husband posted: *"Remember you're still a Creedon that means double EE foR Excellent. You got this."*

My daughter replied, *"rotfl [Rolling on the floor laughing] - I was a Thayer first, and always will be... Dad insists the letters on a pack of Lucky Strikes don't stand for 'Lucky's Save Me From Tar...' They stand for, 'Lord, Save Me From Thayer!' Now git outa the way!"*

Whether you smoke or not, have a delightful Christmas!

Monday, December 26, 2019

## Crying in the Night

I woke up crying the other night, weeping for my lost love, Claudette. It was the morning before Christmas Eve, and for some reason I was thankful to have her memory close to my dreams. For whatever reason, I thanked God, yet again, for having shared her life with me.

The tears streamed down my face, and all I could do was thank the Lord for waking me to pen these words of praise. How is it that I was blessed with such a wonderful creature for more than half the time that many folks are allowed in their whole lives with their spouses? There is no amount of gratitude to account for such a gift.

I lay in bed in the dark, tears streaming onto my pillow, somehow wanting to get up and share my thoughts with those who do the same each night, missing their dear beloved.

So I got up, came out to the living room and sat down in my La-Z-Boy, where I write my twice-weekly columns, and created this tome in memory of all - I say all - of the husbands and wives who have passed, leaving a loving spouse to pine in the night over their lost loves.

It's just after midnight and tears are streaming down my cheeks. I'm supposed to be asleep. But I had to get up and try to soothe the others out there who, like me, endure their losses alone each night.

May you be blessed with kind and loving thoughts of your dear, departed loved-ones. And may this season of thanks bless you with the pride of having lived with such grace.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, December 30, 2019

## She's Gone

It was five months ago, yesterday, that my lovely bride of fifty-seven years met her demise at the hands of a disease she had survived for 43 days shy of twenty-seven years. Think about it. Isn't that incredible?

Diagnosed with Ductal Cell Carcinoma in September of 1992, just after we moved to Globe-Miami, she underwent a mastectomy at the M&I hospital that "got it all", and began a course of treatment that would last the rest of her life. Tamoxifen held the breast cancer ogre at bay for over a quarter-century, eclipsing the "five-year-survival" test! Just incredible ...

What is sad to me is that it took a blood test for cancer (I didn't know there was such a thing) that turned up a positive reading of over 700 when "normal" is in the range of 35. This was after an exploratory procedure discovered an infection in, and a tumor on, her inflamed Gall Bladder, a source of incredible pain.

Claudette's pain management regimen was excellent - morphine slowly dripping into her IV while they worked on finding the cause. After the blood test predicted that she would not survive the week, even with Herculean efforts, the attending physicians asked if DNR would be appropriate. She had wide-spread cancer as well as untenable breathing difficulties.

They call it "Comfort Care" - each hour a single drop of Morphine is administered orally under the tongue. It induces a barely aware sleep state that allows the patient to die in peaceful, pain-free bliss.

I look back on my family's history and understand the value of Comfort Care. My Dad died at age 82 of metastasized Prostate



## **Thayer's Wild Bunch VII**

Cancer - he passed at Tucson Medical Center. My Mom died at home of a raging infection caused by shoddy care at a rehab unit after a fall that broke a hip. She was 97. My sister-in-law died from broken bones and complications of falls caused by advanced dementia. And my wife Claudette died of an unforeseen cancer at age 82.

I can't imagine the suffering of those families who watch their loved-ones pass without the benefit of Comfort Care. It's bad enough to know death is near, but witnessing the torture meted out by terminal diseases has to be unbearable. Every time I look at Claudette's portrait on the living room wall, I thank God, think of the gentle way she passed, pray for those who have left this earth in agony and for their family members who surely despair that they couldn't have made a difference.

My rehab from Claudette's demise is a treatise about my wife - a memorial, if you will. It's title is simple: "She's Gone" When I am finished, I'll publish it on my website. Although I shoulder the guilt of approving the DNR orders, and there is no doubt that I will pine for her the rest of my life, it's comforting to know that others will have benefited from those things she left for all of us.

As we ready ourselves to enter the new year, please take a little time to pray for those folks enduring the last throes of life ... and for their friends and family suffering the incredible pain of losing a loved-one. God bless.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thayer's

# Wild Bunch VII

By J E Ted Thayer

