



Thayer's

# Wild Bunch VII

By J E Ted Thayer

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

**Published by J E Ted Thayer**

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PREFACE

January 3, 2019

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**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

## **Cricket?**

**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.



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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

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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.

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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

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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**.

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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

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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 ...

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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!

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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?"

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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."

I 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?'

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"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

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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.

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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



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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

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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 ...

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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

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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!

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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.

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**Thayer's**

# **Wild Bunch VII**

**By J E Ted Thayer**

