



Thayer's

Wild Bunch VIII

By J E Ted Thayer

Thayer's Wild Bunch VIII

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PREFACE

January 2, 2020

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

TedThayer.com



J E Ted Thayer | 01-02-2020

THIS One ...

Is dedicated to the Thayer girls - Ruth, Claudette & Mary-Ellen, pictured left to right here with the Thayer kids ... Amanda, Janet, Courtney, Ruth, Malissa, Mary-Ellen & Claudette.



This work 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 2020.

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 16th of 2016 we switched

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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 2020 will turn out? Stay tuned, kids!

It's gonna be another great ride!

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Thursday, January 2, 2020

When?

That's the question - when? When does the nonsense stop? When are journalists going to stop playing "what facts?"

What happened to the truth? No, I mean the truth, not just the most titillating enhanced details of news stories.

I read the December 26th **Variety** article "Most-Watched Television Networks: Ranking 2019's Winners and Losers" by **Michael Schneider**. He reported that the number one over-the-air network is CBS; second is NBC; third is ABC. Next comes Fox over-the-air network #4 and its cable sister Fox News Network at #5. The absolute worst treatment of "news" is found on #7 MSNBC - followed by #22 CNN - both competing poorly with FNN last year. CNBC faltered at #70. And Fox Business Network at #102.

Two reasons that CBS is tops begins with everybody's favorites, CBS News Sunday Morning and 60 Minutes, TV favorites for decades. Programming on both shows is interesting, in-depth and entertaining.

Remember the tabloid press? You had to walk by them in the check-out lanes of your favorite supermarket. Most shoppers back in the day new that Inquiring Minds Could Care Less! That didn't stop legitimate newspapers from allowing the decline in the quality of their journalism. The **National Enquirer** and the **Sun** set the bar for hysterical headlines.

USA Today aped those formats for a while, but finally dropped the hystriionics. The three papers perfected the art of journalistic cherry-picking. That disease slowly worked its way across broadcast tv, cable and print media.

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Recently, the **New York Times** stooped lower than the National Enquirer, the Sun and USA Today combined with its bogus 1618 Black American History re-education campaign. Its motto since 1896 had been "*All the News That's Fit to Print.*"

According to the **New York Post**, "Because of its plodding thoroughness, the New York Times was dubbed the '*Gray Lady*' and the '*paper of record*' ...the mandate of opinion-free news coverage was tossed overboard during the heated 2016 presidential election, and the paper now displays its bias on every page."

If you pay close attention, you'll find that the NYT is a main source for many of today's establishment journalists who are distrusted almost as much as the Congress!

Make no bones about it - I'm an opinion columnist. However, I do my homework and proudly list the sources of my quotes, unlike the drive-by mainstream media. God, help us all!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

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Monday, January 6, 2020

Challenge

Welcome to the challenge of 2020!

I have a question for you: Who is in control of your Horizontal and your Vertical?

Not **Rod Serling** - that would take us back to 1959, some 61 years to the *Twilight Zone* !

1963 - just 57 years. *"There is nothing wrong with your television set. Do not attempt to adjust the picture. We are controlling transmission. If we wish to make it louder, we will bring up the volume. If we wish to make it softer, we will tune it to a whisper. We will control the horizontal. We will control the vertical. We can roll the image, make it flutter. We can change the focus to a soft blur, or sharpen it to crystal clarity. For the next hour, sit quietly, and we will control all that you see and hear. We repeat: there is nothing wrong with your television set. You are about to participate in a great adventure. You are about to experience the awe and mystery which reaches from the inner mind to ... **The Outer Limits.**"*

The thing about both of those TV shows was how life can challenge each of us. And ... how we meet those challenges.

For some sick reason, I've taken to looking at the onslaught of 2020 as the Outer Limits of the Twilight Zone. I mean, consider the challenges that confront us just as we enter the first week of the new year - the first week of the new decade - the return of the Roaring Twenties!

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Think of it. We're all supposed to be dead or dying in another decade according to **AOC** and that Swedish schoolgirl who turned seventeen just three days ago, **Greta Thunberg**. In 2004 the US Department of Defense predicted that by 2020 our world would be awash with higher seas, colder Winters, drought and hotter Summers, and that Climate Change was the most pressing danger for America and the whole world. Looney government predictions and raging socialist education systems across the world have created a crop of young men and women who are scared to death that they aren't going to survive for another eleven years unless the ubiquitous "we" do something.

Now, that's some kind of a challenge. What exactly is that *something* we are supposed to do? I mean, we have always been up to a challenge when we've known what "it" is.

We've fought (and won) wars to sustain freedom across the world. We've gone to the moon and back. We've been to the deepest point in the world's oceans. We have placed countless thousands of satellites in orbit around the earth - machines that help us communicate and circumnavigate the globe while providing the sciences with incredible amounts of data about the universe around us. We've even sent a **Voyager** - carrying a recording of human songs, stories and scientific data - out of our planetary system, to seek out other life ... perhaps at the edge of the Universe.

We've virtually eliminated **Polio**, a disease few kids of Greta's age have ever heard of, and nearly eliminated all the childhood diseases including **Mumps**, **Measles** and **Chicken Pox**.

We created the 1919 **Ford Model T Coup** and morphed it into the 2019 **F-100**, the best-selling pick-up truck in history. And we have created an aeronautical industry capable of building, flying and sustaining airplanes capable of carrying over 500 people at close to the speed of sound across vast distances.

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According to Thunberg and others of the **Gen Z** (or iGen) population, we of the **Greatest Generation**, the **Baby-Boomers**, **Generation X** and the **Millennials** have so polluted the air, land and seas of this planet that it's dying - perishing in just over a decade. **UNLESS** we all get creative and fix it! Sure. But you tell me ... what is **IT**?

I don't know what IT is, but I do know this: There is no challenge so great and no threat so enormous that we cannot tackle and conquer it ... without breaking the bank, displacing millions or billions of people and messing with Mother Nature and her creatures.

I see the largest challenge to humanity as just one thing: Prayer. Yes. It doesn't matter one's religious beliefs; we all believe in a **Supreme Being**, that awesome Power that controls the Horizontal and the Vertical in our lives. Masonic Tradition tells us that "*No man should ever enter into any great or important undertaking without first invoking the Blessing of God.*"

Billy Graham's son **Franklin** and other evangelicals have it right. Take time out to thank **Him** who goes by the name of **God**, the **Great Architect of the Universe**, **Allah** and all the other names the Supreme Being goes by. Give thanks and ask for guidance.

In short, as written in the **King James Bible, Matthew 7:7-8**: *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

In my almost eight decades on this earth, God has never failed to come through. So, our challenge must be to seek the wisdom

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needed to discard the misguided musings of the AOCs and Greta Thunbergs of this world and look for help in making "it" right through thankful prayer, thoughtful contemplation and a willingness to explore the Outer Limits.

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Thursday, January 9, 2020

Willamette Wilderness Areas

*Last Wednesday, in response to a **Western Slope No-Fee Coalition** plea, I wrote the following to the **Deschutes and Willamette Forests Administration** via the **United States Department of Agriculture**, commenting on their proposition to charge fees to hikers who wish to visit a number of their Wilderness Areas.*

Greetings from Arizona!

Oregon has some of the most spectacular wilderness in the West. My broadcasting jobs were the reasons I lived in Klamath Falls, Coos Bay, Salem and Canby. I worked KGON in Oregon City adjacent to the Willamette River. As you know, the K-Falls area is beautiful. So are the cliffs, beaches and forests along the Oregon coast. The land is a lot flatter around Salem and Canby, but the state's lush mountains and wilderness are not far off.

I was born in Red Bluff, California and raised in Monterey. As Boy Scouts in the '50s, my compatriots and I hiked into the Ventana Wilderness from Big Sur and from a Girl Scout Camp south of Salinas. We never paid any fees to hike into Wilderness and we were not charged to pitch camp for a week at Barlow Flats. None of us had fishing licenses, but we caught plenty of trout!

The point I bring to the table is that Wilderness is where people can go to get away from the busy cities of our nation, breathe the fresh air, smell the outdoors, visit with the wildlife, take in the spectacular views and commune with Mother Nature in her purest forms. There is no amount of money that can buy the experience of just being in the Wilderness.

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As a native of the West, I have to object strenuously at the proposal to inflict a fee for the privilege of hiking into any Wilderness. Hiking does not fall under the FLREA as a "*specialized recreation use*." Walking around is something we learn as infants. There is nothing "special" about it! Using the FLREA phrase as a way to get around Congress' intent to allow ALL Americans unfettered access to their public lands, is flat-out wrong. The richest and the poorest among us should never be deprived of their right to walk anywhere they want, including the most remote Wilderness areas of our great country - especially in the West.

Instead, let me suggest that the presence of Park Rangers and volunteers be expanded a little to keep tabs on visitors hiking into Wilderness areas. Littering and vandalism are misdemeanors that can carry heavy penalties if federal citations are issued to visitors observed committing such crimes. Eliminating "*overcrowding and resource damage*" by charging fees removes that free and unfettered access to those who may not have the wherewithall ... and it is clear that is the intent of the proposed fees.

Please don't impose fees intended to keep us away from our Wilderness areas.

Best wishes and thank you for caring for our public lands.

*The comment period on those fee impositions had been extended to Friday, January 10th, but it wouldn't surprise me if they accepted emails until as late as January 14th, when a public hearing will be held at 9:00am at **Keizer Community Center, Claggett Room, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer, Oregon 97303.***

Direct email, if it pleases you, to:

WillametteRecFeeComments@usda.gov

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Monday, January 13, 2020

Number 58

Fifty-eight years ago Claudette and I were married in front of the fireplace in my folk's home in Pacific Grove, California. Claudette Ann Gordon's sister Karen was there, along with my brother Bill, Sister Mandy, Mom Ruth and Dad Duke Thayer.

It was a nondenominational wedding with a Presbyterian Preacher friend of the family, who had baptized both Claudette and me the day before, presiding over the festivities. What a fantastic thrill!

My mother was not all that happy about it because Claudette was three years and three months and three days my senior and had been married once before. I was aware that her previous marriage was annulled because it was never consummated. Her first was a Catholic marriage so Claudette worked very hard with the Church to assure that the annulment was accepted. It was, by the Holy See - even though she had never been baptized by a Catholic Priest!

Claudette passed away last July 29th at the ripe old age of eighty-two years, three months and fifteen days - fifty-seven years, six months and sixteen days of it as my loving spouse! I can't really celebrate this day as our anniversary because she isn't here to share it with me. That's so sad, but I can thank God for the time we had together.

I've spent enough time mourning her passing and going through the sadness and depression that comes with such things. For me, it's a celebration. I'm jubilant that Claudette was my partner and mother of our children, the grand lady who put up with my nonsense all those years. I thank the Good Lord for keeping us together for over a half-century. Right-on!

Yeah. You know I miss her ...

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Best Christmas Story

The [2019] Christmas Story You Never heard.

One of my very best friends sent this from Carmel, California.

(It's late ... but, hey he's old, too!)

It started last Christmas, when Bennett and Vivian Levin were overwhelmed by sadness while listening to radio reports of injured American troops. "We have to let them know we care," Vivian told Bennett. So they organized a trip to bring soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital to the annual Army-Navy football game in Philly Dec. 3.

The cool part is, they created their own train line to do it. Yes, there are people in this country who actually own real trains. Bennett Levin - native Philly guy, self-made millionaire and irascible former L&I commish - is one of them.

He has three luxury rail cars. Think mahogany paneling, plush seating and white-linen dining areas. He also has two locomotives, which he stores at his Juniata Park train yard. One car, the elegant Pennsylvania , carried John F. Kennedy to the Army-Navy game in 1961 and '62. Later, it carried his brother Bobby's body to D. C. for burial. "That's a lot of history for one car," says Bennett.

He and Vivian wanted to revive a tradition that endured from 1936 to 1975, during which trains carried Army-Navy spectators from around the country directly to the stadium where the annual game is played. The Levins could think of no better passengers to reinstate the ceremonial ride than the wounded men and women recovering at Walter Reed in D. C. and Bethesda , in Maryland .

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"We wanted to give them a first-class experience," says Bennett. "Gourmet meals on board, private transportation from the train to the stadium, perfect seats - real hero treatment."

Through the Army War College Foundation, of which he is a trustee, Bennett met with Walter Reed's commanding general, who loved the idea. But Bennett had some ground rules first, all designed to keep the focus on the troops alone:

No press on the trip, lest the soldiers' day of pampering devolve into a media circus.

No politicians either, because, says Bennett, "I didn't want some idiot making this trip into a campaign photo op"

And no Pentagon suits on board, otherwise the soldiers would be too busy saluting superiors to relax.

The general agreed to the conditions, and Bennett realized he had a problem on his hands. "I had to actually make this thing happen," he laughs.

Over the next months, he recruited owners of 15 other sumptuous rail cars from around the country - these people tend to know each other - into lending their vehicles for the day. The name of their temporary train? The Liberty Limited.

Amtrak volunteered to transport the cars to D. C. - where they'd be coupled together for the round-trip ride to Philly - then back to their owners later.

Conrail offered to service the Liberty while it was in Philly. And SEPTA drivers would bus the disabled soldiers 200 yards from the train to Lincoln Financial Field, for the game.

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A benefactor from the War College ponied up 100 seats to the game - on the 50-yard line - and lunch in a hospitality suite.

And corporate donors filled, for free and without asking for publicity, goodie bags for attendees:

From Woolrich, stadium blankets. From Wal-Mart, digital cameras. From Nikon, field glasses. From GEAR, down jackets.

There was booty not just for the soldiers, but for their guests, too, since each was allowed to bring a friend or family member.

The Marines, though, declined the offer. "They voted not to take guests with them, so they could take more Marines," says Levin, choking up at the memory.

Bennett's an emotional guy, so he was worried about how he'd react to meeting the 88 troops and guests at D. C.'s Union Station, where the trip originated. Some GIs were missing limbs. Others were wheelchair-bound or accompanied by medical personnel for the day. "They made it easy to be with them," he says. "They were all smiles on the ride to Philly. Not an ounce of self-pity from any of them. They're so full of life and determination."

At the stadium, the troops reveled in the game, recalls Bennett. Not even Army's lopsided loss to Navy could deflate the group's rollicking mood.

Afterward, it was back to the train and yet another gourmet meal - heroes get hungry, says Levin - before returning to Walter Reed and Bethesda. "The day was spectacular," says Levin.

"It was all about these kids. It was awesome to be part of it."

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The most poignant moment for the Levins was when 11 Marines hugged them goodbye, then sang them the Marine Hymn on the platform at Union Station.

"One of the guys was blind, but he said, 'I can't see you, but man, you must be beautiful!' " says Bennett. "I got a lump so big in my throat, I couldn't even answer him."

It's been three weeks, but the Levins and their guests are still feeling the day's love. "My Christmas came early," says Levin, who is Jewish and who loves the Christmas season. "I can't describe the feeling in the air." Maybe it was hope.

As one guest wrote in a thank-you note to Bennett and Vivian, "The fond memories generated last Saturday will sustain us all - whatever the future may bring. "God Bless Bennett and Vivian"

Thanks, Chuck.

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Monday, January 20, 2020

HR on Board

I came across this memorial the other day on Facebook. Facebook has gotten a bunch of bad raps lately, so I thought this could take a little bit of the sting off of folks who are Facebookers. This is especially good today, MLK Day. Although his grammar and punctuation are a little rough, this tome speaks well of its author and of the kindness Americans are willing to share.

David Carnevale | 07-14-2019

My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. on this flight." (H.R. stands for human remains.)

"Are they military?" I asked.

'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I've already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the Flight Deck. You can board him early,' I said...

A short while later a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier.

The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us. 'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia ,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

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I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military, and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the Flight Deck to find his seat.

We completed our preflight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure.

About 30 minutes into our flight, I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin. 'I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying, is also on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left.

We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia . The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendants voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it', I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who

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connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

"Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now, and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family.

"The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal, where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

"Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks."

I sent a message back, telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, "You have no idea how much this will mean to them."

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with

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the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

"There is a team in place to meet the aircraft", we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller, we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, "Take your time."

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said: "Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking: I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you."

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later, more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of God Bless You, I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle

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and out of the airplane. They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these United States of AMERICA.

Foot note:

I know everyone who reads this will have tears in their eyes, including me. Prayer chain for our Military... PLEASE SHARE THIS! Please send this on after a short prayer for our service men and women. They die for me and mine and you and yours and deserve our honor and respect.

Prayer Request:

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our troops around the world... There is nothing attached. Just send this to people in your address book. Do not let it stop with you. Of all the gifts you could give a Marine, Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and others deployed in harm's way, prayer is the very best one.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Thank you all who have served, or are serving. We Will not forget!!!

Thanks, David, for that uplifting story.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Expect the Unexpected

The **Trump Impeachment Trial** got underway the other day, preceded by robust partisan arguments about the "Rules" and potential witnesses testimony that might follow Part One of the trial. In the process, the leadership of both parties bore the brunt of criticism from each other, their constituents and the mainstream media.

President Trump, meanwhile, was at the Davos, Switzerland **World Economic Forum** making headlines with his teenage nemesis, Climate Activist **Greta Thunberg**. Both addressed the DAVOS WEF with Trump touting the progress the United States has made in just three years in economic growth and development and advising those in attendance to ignore "the prophets of doom." Thunberg advised, "Act as though you loved your children."

Trump returned to the Capitol late Tuesday, in time to keep tabs on his Impeachment Trial in the **US Senate**. The Trial continued Tuesday afternoon after more bombast and posturing from Senate Leadership on both sides of the aisle.

Capitol Police were out in force, charged with containing the **Press Corps** to a small area in the hallway outside the Senate to keep from the sorts of interruptions that have happened in the closed-door Upper Chamber in the past.

The incessant accusatory use of adverbs, adjectives and adjective phrases in the language used by the House Managers seemed a little over the top to me. This was just part of the debate on the Rules. But, shortly after midnight, **Chief Justice John Roberts** had to scold both Democrat and Republican Managers.

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According to **Fox News First**, "The spat began when [**Jerrold**] **Nadler** spoke in support of the eighth amendment of the day proposed by Senate Minority Leader **Chuck Schumer** to Senate Majority Leader **Mitch McConnell's** ground rules for the impeachment trial. Schumer's eighth proposed amendment, issued as the clock struck midnight, was to issue a subpoena for former National Security Adviser **John Bolton**, who has reportedly described Trump's conduct as akin to a 'drug deal.' Each of his previous attempted alterations to McConnell's rules had been rejected by a united Republican contingent by a vote of 53-47.

"The outbursts prompted Roberts, who as Chief Justice of the United States is constitutionally required to serve as the presiding judge in the impeachment trial, to admonish the Chief House Manager as well as White House Attorneys ... adding that 'those addressing the Senate should remember where they are.'

"I think it is appropriate at this point for me to admonish both the House managers and the president's counsel in equal terms to remember that they are addressing the world's greatest deliberative body,' Roberts said, after a particularly tense exchange between House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler and the president's lawyers ... Roberts asked them to 'avoid speaking in a manner and using language that is not conducive to civil discourse,'" **PBS** reported.

Democrat Leadership in both the Senate and the House want witnesses and documents to be first on the agenda with arguments before a final vote. The Republican Leadership insists on imposing the Rules approved by the Senate majority - arguments first, followed by an up-down vote on witnesses and documents

According to **The Washington Examiner**, "If all 47 Senate Democrats vote to convict on conclusion of the trial, a prospect far from guaranteed, 20 Republicans would have to join with them for Trump to be removed from office. Since early in the

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House investigation last fall, it has been apparent the president is not in danger of this sort of large-scale defection."

Fox News reports, "The Russians could attack the U.S. and removing President Trump from office is necessary to preserve the integrity of the 2020 election. Those were the claims Wednesday from Democrat Adam Schiff on Wednesday during Day 2 of Trump's Senate impeachment trial."

According to **PBS**, "The chief justice's 65th birthday is Monday, and the justices generally make time to celebrate birthdays at the court. They get together to sing 'Happy Birthday' and have a toast." It is not clear yet whether the Senate will be singing to Roberts.

The President's Attorneys could present his side and wrap it up as early as Monday. That would open the door for that up-or-down vote on witnesses and documentation. If that goes down in flames, the vote on Conviction or not could happen late Monday or Tuesday. Don't count on it, but as the illustrious Love Goddess Judy Tenuta exclaimed, "It could happen!"

What I've seen and heard of this classic third-in-history Impeachment Trial, so far, has me convinced that the Leadership of our Congress is only interested in grandstanding in a boring, outlandish and uninteresting manner, thus presenting the greatest political yawner of all time!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thayer's Wild Bunch VIII

Monday, January 27, 2020
The Money Game
J E Ted Thayer | 01-27-2020

We were sitting in the bar up the street after 18 holes of golf at the Cobre Valle Recreation Center in Globe-Miami, Arizona. It's where we go to settle up the Money Game every Friday.

I asked one of my golf buddies, Bill, for some help: "I have a column to write for Monday and I don't want to write about the President's Impeachment Trial - do you have any suggestions?"

Bill thought for a second, scrunched his face a little and then said, "I don't know, Teddy, let me think about it. I'll let you know." Some time later, Bill suggested, "Why don't you write about our Friday Money Game?" Good idea! Maybe there are some golfers out there who'd like to learn a new kind of regular tournament to play with friends.

The Money Game is an 18 hole tournament that applies each player's full handicap strokes or "pops" to each hole ... except "pops" on par three holes are limited to one each. This doesn't seem fair to high-handicappers, who may be penalized on par three holes. Low handicappers complained a long time ago that those players with high handicaps were inordinately winning the money compared with other players, so this minor adjustment was made to handicapping. The logic makes sense ... almost any player has an equal chance of getting the ball close to or on a par three green. While it is true that high handicappers earn their pops around or on the green by missing perfectly ordinary shots, it is equally true that everybody has a shot at par.

One other exception was made by limiting the number of strokes taken to three over par. No player would take more than six on a par three, seven on a par four and eight on a par five. This is a

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way of "giving back" to high-handicappers, who can easily break for 4 or 5 over!

Groups of three or four gather at a set time to play eighteen holes. Each player is responsible for giving the scorekeeper for his (or her) group, who will mark it on the score card. "Pops" are added to each hole for each player in accordance with the handicap rating on each hole. This can be done by the group scorekeeper or after play is completed.

So with that discussion under our belts, let's get on with the way the game works. It's called a two-person team blind draw, best ball skins game paying twenty-five cents per hole per player. 18 holes at 25 cents each works out to \$4.50 per player, except that birdies earn another quarter from each player! Depending on the number of players, there may be from one to three places paid out of the entry fee (which is five dollars in our game.)

For the un-initiated, after the players finish and gather - wherever - their names are put in a hat and two-person teams are drawn. If there are an odd number of players, the names are put back in the hat and one is drawn to complete the last team. This means that one player will get two shots at being on a winning team! That completes the blind draw that creates the teams.

We use an 8 x 11 sheet made up with as many lines needed to list two players for every team. The columns are laid out as follows:

Name	Skins	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total	Total	Place	
Team Net Totals																								

As you can see, it's the players name followed by how many skins he/she won, followed by the net score for each hole

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including the front and back nine totals and the final score. This leaves room to place the one to three teams in the money.

Score cards are collected and each player's net score (gross score minus the pops) for each hole is recorded. [In games with an odd number of players ONLY the player's names are entered.]

Next each column of scores is scanned from top down to find the lowest score, which earns a skin (and that score is circled). If there is more than one low score on a hole, it becomes a "push" and the skin for that hole carries over to the next. When a skin is won, each pushed hole before is awarded to the player of that hole (by circling each.) If the low score on a hole is the result of a birdie, another hole is awarded a skin. Thus, if there are eighteen skins and one birdie, there would be \$4.75 needed by each player to settle the skins. On the other hand, if the last two holes are a push and there are no birdies, each player would only need \$4.00 to settle skins. Got it? No? Read it again!

After all the skins have been accounted for, the count of each player's total skins are recorded. THEN, the odd player is added to his team mate and his scores copied for the team (this is why the skins are done first!)

Next, the net scores for each team are combined and tabulated to determine which team has the best total net score. Here's the deal: If there are up to six players, the total of the entry fees are awarded to the team with the lowest net total. If there's a tie, the pot is chopped. If there are seven to ten players, the entry pool is paid two-thirds and one-third. Ties chop. Eleven players and up pay three places 50%, 30% and 20% of the entry pool. After the winning teams are determined and paid it's time to do the skins.

There are a gazillion ways to pay the skins. Someone who can do the math in his head can dispatch the skins in no time flat, but there are those of us who prefer to pay them out by the player.

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Let's say player one has three skins - that means that everyone but the recipient must pay him 25 cents per hole (75 cents). Say, player three has eight skins, which means everyone else must cough up \$2.00. That leaves seven skins to go. Say player eight gets all of them - that means everyone else must pay him \$1.75.

I came up with a way to increase turnout for a regularly scheduled two person team, blind draw, best ball skins tournament. Any time there are fewer skins paid out (as in a number of pushes at the end) each player kicks in a quarter for each pushed hole to carry over to the next tournament's entry pot. For instance, ten players with two pushed holes would contribute 50 cents each (\$5.00 total) to the next tournament's entry pot.

So that's how we play The Money Game in Globe-Miami, Arizona. It takes little organization other than someone to record the final results and someone to help divvy up the spoils!

I'd like to give credit to a few friends and golf buddies. Even though my prowess has faded some in the last few years, I still try my best to keep up with Danny, Bill, BillyWag, Dan, Rick, Hose A, Hose B, Joe S, Pete (bless his heart), Terry, Jim, Tony, Larry, Bob, Michael, Dale and Geno, to name just a few! Thanks, boys.

It's a cool game, people! Give it a try. And good luck to ya.

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Thursday, January 30, 2020

Change Your Name?

We have here a story about name-changes. It applies mostly to women who change their names as a result of marriage or divorce. It could apply also to the kids of broken homes who change their moniker to honor one parent or another.

My daughter Janet has been hard at it going through the throes of her third (yeah, 3rd) divorce. She lives next door in a travel trailer I bought for her last year. I wanted to get her on the title for the thing but we agreed that wouldn't happen until she got her new (original) name back.

It was President Ronald Reagan who warned America at a Press Conference about the most terrifying words in the English language: "I'm from the Government, and I'm here to help."

Well, her divorce was finalized a little over two weeks back so we figured on a trip down to the Arizona MVD for four title changes and a drivers license correction. We needed to get Janet's new name on her car title and added to the travel trailer title. In addition, we needed to remove my dear departed wife Claudette's name from the titles to my car, the Park Model and the travel trailer. No sweat, right? Think again, sugar pie!

The gal at MVD said she couldn't change the name on Janet's Drivers License without evidence that she had changed her name with Social Security. She said that would take overnight if it happened that afternoon - the name-change would happen at midnight and the MVD would be able to verify the new name that way. You can't just change the name on your Drivers License because the Judge says so!

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So, we went gallivanting off to the local Social Security office the other side of town.

We walked in and sat down on the Group W bench where we waited until Janet's name - er, number - was called. The woman at the window (behind a sign that said "In training. Please be patient.") perused Janet's new divorce decree and said, "We can't do it, ma'am, because this copy is not certified." The round embossed stamp found on many Government certified legal copies was missing!

So, off to the Courthouse we went to get her decree certified. The clerk had a hard time because she couldn't find Janet's Court Records file. But, she had been involved with Janet's case and finally got out the rubber stamp, filled in the proper information, and affixed the official embossed stamp. After a \$30.00 fee we went back to the Social Security Office. The clerk confirmed that Janet's name would change automatically at midnight.

We headed home, hoping everything would be good at AZMVD. We agreed to get together after three that Friday, when she would be through with her last client for the week.

Murphy's Law states that, "If something can go wrong, it will." The quote originated in the '40s, about the same time "SNAFU" came into being. (Look that one up yourself!) We had been to three different levels of Government and still didn't have a Drivers License corrected and four titles changed.

At the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles, Janet was able to get the name changed on her Drivers License and, with her Death Certificate, we were able to remove Claudette from the travel trailer title and add Janet to it. Plus, she was able to get the name changed on the title to her car. Yay!

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Murphy was still lurking, though. My sister Amanda was on the remaining two titles (Park Model and Sentra), and she (who lives south of Tucson) had to be present in person to sign any changes to them. Fortunately, the clerk said that Mandy's Power of Attorney would be fine instead of her in-person signature. So, I mailed a POA form to Mandy to sign in front of a Notary and return. It was returned to my mailbox last Friday.

Janet's new Social Security card had arrived last Thursday and her new plastic drivers license arrived Monday, so we hit the Arizona Motor Vehicle Department that afternoon. Claudette was replaced by Janet on the titles. Thank goodness that was done! After finishing that business we headed for the bank.

With her new plastic ID and Social Security Card and Claudette's Death Certificate Janet was added to the bank accounts and Claudette was finally and sadly removed.

By the way, you can't just add someone to your bank account just like that. That has to wait because they require a plastic ID with the correct name on it, a matching Social Security number and current address and contact number. MVD issues a paper Drivers License and mails the plastic one "in about a week." The bank takes "about a week" to verify all the information for new signatures on exiting accounts.

With the one thing to go, yet, I made Janet the beneficiary on my Life Insurance policy. Fortunately, that was just petty paperwork online. And it only took two-and-a-half weeks!

Peering from behind the computer monitor, he asked, "Has Murphy left town yet?"

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Monday, February 3, 2020

2019-nCoV Coronavirus

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) "is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus, which has resulted in more than a thousand confirmed cases in China, including cases outside Wuhan City. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other [international locations](#), including [the United States](#)."

Everything you ever wanted to know about the [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) you'll find at this [CDC link](#). Believe it or not, it's not such a big deal if you simply follow the same rules you follow to avoid colds and flu. 2019-nCoV is loosely related to SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - 2003) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome - 2014), coronaviruses that had hospitals all over the world learning new ways to contain diseases found inside their facilities. 2019-nCoV is a betacoronavirus, like MERS and SARS, all of which have their origins in bats.

The **CDC** tells us, "It's important to note that how easily a virus spreads person-to-person can vary. Some viruses are highly contagious (like measles), while other viruses are less so. It's important to know this in order to better understand the risk associated with this virus. While CDC considers this is a very serious public health threat, based on current information, the immediate health risk from 2019-nCoV to the general American public is considered low at this time.

"For confirmed 2019-nCoV infections, reported illnesses have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

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- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath"

Generally speaking, 2019-nCoV begins with cold-like symptoms after incubating from two to fourteen days. That's followed by fever and cough. Shortness of breath and pneumonia follow quickly. Most adults suffer from the virus as if it was a cold or mild flu. People most at mortal risk are infants, the elderly and infirm.

Current US Cases Under Investigation as of January 31, 2020

Positive	6
Negative	114
Pending	121
Total	241

CDC: "There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses."

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Thursday, February 6, 2020

What a Week!

Over three years is what it took to impeach and then exonerate the President. Three years!

They were demanding his impeachment just after his election. Was it a hoax, as the President charged? Was it a plot to overthrow America's Executive Branch? Was the Democrat Party united to remove **President Donald John Trump** from office to get even for its loss in the 2016 election?

As an onlooker, I've concluded that **Nancy Pelosi**, the Speaker of the House, lost control of her members and could very well lose her job because of the months-long circus she allowed to continue.

The googly-eyed House Intelligence Committee Chairman **Adam Schiff** was so over-the-top he became the butt of skits and memes on Network and Cable TV as well as Social Media. His counterpart on the House Judiciary Committee, **Jerrold Nadler**, was not much better.

Schiff became known for his ability to create credible fantasies on-the-fly. Nadler was the iron-fisted Chair who repeatedly denied requests for "face time" from Republican members of his Committee.

The final product created from the work of the two Committees became the two **Articles of Impeachment** that Pelosi held for a month before having them delivered to the Senate.

During the House hearings only one witness, **Gordon Sondland**, the U.S. ambassador to the European Union, had actually spoken with the President about an August 25th Ukraine phone

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conversation, asking specifically what he wanted, to which President Trump exclaimed, "I want nothing. I want nothing. I want no quid pro quo!" All of the hours and hours of the remaining testimony were either speculation, historical analysis or hearsay, none of it admissable on its face in a court of law.

When the Articles of Impeachment came under fire in the Senate based on the record created in the House, the **House Managers** demanded that witnesses and documents be admitted as evidence. Experienced observers understood immediately that the proposition was not going to happen because it would comprise another big waste of time beating a dead horse.

So the Senate voted and denied the acceptance of witnesses and documents, crediting the House for failing to do its job in the first place. Both the House Managers and the **White House lawyers** made passionate presentations why the President should and should not be convicted and removed from office.

Late Tuesday everything went on hold so President Trump could present his **2020 State of the Union Address** to the Congress. It was up-beat almost all of its hour-and-a-quarter. Except when House Speaker Nancy Pelosi tore up her copy of the speech, later claiming it was full of lies. Fox host **Sean Hannity** later called Pelosi's antic "one of the most classless things ever done in the history of the State of the Union."

Conservative radio host **Rush Limbaugh** was in the gallery by invitation, sitting next to the **First Lady**. Limbaugh, who announced Monday that he had stage four lung cancer, wept openly when **Melania Trump** presented him with the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**. Watch the surprise: https://hannity.com/media-room/watch-trump-surprises-rush-limbaugh-with-presidential-medal-of-freedom-during-state-of-the-union/?utm_source=socialflow

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13-year-old **Iain Lanphier**, who wants to join the Space Force, was in the Gallery being encouraged by this 100-year-old great-grandfather, **Charles McGee**, a WWII veteran Tuskegee Airman who also served during the Korean and Viet Nam Wars. And, the reunion of a military mom and her two children with their husband and father, Sgt. 1st Class **Townsend Williams**, who had been in Afghanistan on his fourth deployment to the Middle East, was out-freakin'-standing! The President announced, "I am thrilled to inform you that your husband is back from deployment," as **Amy Williams** held a hand over her face with surprise. "He is here with us tonight, and we couldn't keep him waiting any longer."

Vice President **Mike Pence** led the standing and sitting of the Republicans and Nancy Pelosi did the same with the Democrats and Independents. There was plenty of exercise for all!

Yesterday, President Trump was acquitted by the Senate, becoming the third US president to be initially impeached and eventually acquitted. Relative to **Article One**, there were 48 votes to convict and 52 to acquit. In a move that surely solidified his place in American history, Republican Senator **Mitt Romney** of Utah was the only GOP member to break ranks and vote to convict. On **Article Two**, there was a party-line ballot with 47 votes to convict and 53 to acquit. In neither instance was there the necessary two-thirds vote (67) to convict and remove President Donald John Trump.

It's a Presidential election year with all 435 two-year seats in the House up for grabs and 33 in the Senate good for six years each. Which will out - civility or nastiness? Stay tuned, troops!

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Monday, February 10, 2020

Non-partisan Partisanship

An good friend sent me a YouTube video by email over the weekend. It was inspiring and patriotic. If I had any criticism of the video, it would be to complain that the creators should set the President and politics aside. The voiceover can stay. The rest is as non-partisan and patriotic as any American could want.

Imagine that this presentation was narrated by both Donald J Trump and John F Kennedy and perhaps, Ronald W Reagan and Harry S Truman.

See for yourself. I'm very interested in your thoughts:
<https://youtu.be/aDrtQIN6CkY>

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Thursday, February 13, 2020

Crazy Political Quips

I was watching **Trish Reagan** (she's a peach!) on **Fox Business** the other night. She had just finished interviewing **President Trump** after his Rally in New Hampshire. She and her cohort were talking turnout numbers when one of the Fox reporters mentioned in passing that Trump had noted there were more folks waiting on line for the restroom at the Trump rally than at all the Democrat rallies combined! OMG!

There have been plenty of other goofy political lines in the past. For instance ...

Barack Obama: "Now, I know that he's taken some flak lately but no one is prouder to put this birth certificate matter to rest than The Donald. And that's because he can finally get back to focusing on the issues that matter, like, did we fake the moon landing? What really happened in Roswell? And where are Biggie and Tupac?"

Ronald Reagan: "Politics is supposed to be the second-oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

Lyndon Johnson: "If one morning I walked on top of the water across the Potomac River, the headline that afternoon would read: 'President Can't Swim.'"

George W Bush: "When I take action, I'm not going to fire a \$2 million missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt. It's going to be decisive."

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Jimmy Carter: "My esteem in this country has gone up substantially. It is very nice now when people wave at me, they use all their fingers."

Bob Dole: "Our intent will not be to create gridlock. Oh, except maybe from time to time."

Bill Clinton: "Being president is like running a cemetery: you've got a lot of people under you and nobody's listening."

Newt Gingrich: "A mere forty years ago, beach volleyball was just beginning. No bureaucrat would have invented it, and that's what freedom is all about."

Jimmy Carter: "I've looked on many women with lust. I've committed adultery in my heart many times. God knows I will do this and forgives me."

Jack Kemp: "In a recent fire, Bob Dole's library burned down. Both books were lost. And he hadn't even finished coloring one of them."

Gary Hart: "The attractive lady whom I had only recently been introduced to dropped into my lap ... I chose not to dump her off."

George H W Bush: "Please don't ask me to do that which I've just said I'm not going to do because you're burning up time. The meter is running through the sand on you, and I am now filibustering."

Marion Barry: "Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

Barry Goldwater: "If you don't mind smelling like peanut butter for two or three days, peanut butter is darn good shaving cream."

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Harry S Truman: "My choice early in life was between whether to be a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference."

Dan Quayle: "I was recently on a tour of Latin America, and the only regret I have was that I didn't study Latin harder in school so I could converse with those people."

Everett Dirkson: "I am a man of fixed and unbending principles, the first of which is to be flexible at all times."

Mike Huckabee: "Running for president is like sticking your face in the blade of a fan."

Winston Churchill: "A politician needs the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen."

And so it goes ...

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Monday, February 17, 2020

Kelly \$20M, McSally \$12M

Enjoy your Presidents' Day! Meanwhile ...

Gabby Gifford's husband, Astronaut **Mark Kelly**, has been working to create a treasure chest of cash to use against incumbent Arizona Senator **Martha McSally**. Last week it was reported that he amassed almost double the cash that McSally had collected. Kelly pulled in \$20 Million vs. McSally's \$12 Million.

This points up the huge amounts of money at stake in this 2020 election cycle.

New York Mayor **Mike Bloomberg** is looking to spend over \$400 Million in just the first quarter of this year to force a place in the Democratic array of Presidential candidates. **President Trump** has said he would rather face Bloomberg in the General Election than any other Democrat. The question is - can a multi-Billionaire buy the Democrat nomination?

Which brings us back to the Kelly/McSally match-up. Is the **Democrat National Committee** ready to couple with the **Democrat Senate and House Committees** to contribute whatever it takes to flip the Arizona Senate seat? By the same token, are the **RNC, House and Senate Republican Committees** ready to out-spend the Democrats in Arizona?

Election spending limits and who gets to do the spending was a question answered by the **US Supreme Court** not that long ago when the majority agreed that corporations are people and entitled to spend as much money as any other person in the electoral process. **Wikipedia** says, "Since the Supreme Court's ruling in **Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission** in 2010, upholding the rights of corporations to make political

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expenditures under the 1st Amendment, there have been several calls for a Constitutional amendment to abolish corporate personhood. The *Citizens United* majority opinion makes no reference to corporate personhood or the Fourteenth Amendment, but rather argues that political speech rights do not depend on the identity of the speaker, which could be a person or an association of people."

It turns out that funding for the Kelly vs. McSally race could end up being the greatest amount amassed for *any* Arizona election. *Ever!* If Bloomberg can effectively buy the Democrat presidential nomination, could Kelly buy the Arizona Senate seat out from under McSally?

Care to guess how many Billions will be spent on the 2020 election cycle?

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Thursday, February 20, 2020

Beat Trump!

So far, the Democrats just want to beat President **Donald J Trump**. I ask you ... would you rather vote for someone with real, implementable plans to improve the lives of all Americans or someone whose top priority is to replace Trump? Even new-comer multi-billionaire **Mike Bloomberg** exclaimed, "I'm running to beat Donald Trump!"

I'm trying my best to remain non-partisan, but it's getting more difficult every day to maintain a journalist's objective view. Yes. I'm doing my darndest to remain objective ... but every time I hear **Chuck Schumer** or **Nancy Pelosi** speak, I get chills up and down my spine! Where are the common-sense Democrats in the House and Senate? Why aren't they getting any face time in the mainstream media - **NYT**, **WaPo**, **CNN**, **MSNBC**, et al?

I concluded long ago that the vast majority of Americans easily relate to one another. There's very little difference between a mainstream Democrat and a mainstream Republican and even mainstream Independents have the same red American blood in their veins!

I ask you, why do we get **Antifa**, **BLM**, **Pink Pussy Hats** and **AOC's Squad**? Is the leading Democrat presidential candidate Socialist **Bernie Sanders** actually neck and neck, so to speak, with Mayor **Pete Buttigieg**, an openly gay man legally married to another gay guy? Communist-leaning or limp-wristed, Democrats I know are definitely not buying The Donald's words to Black Americans, much less Bernie and Pete, "*What the Hell do you have to lose?*"

I'm still struggling daily to maintain an open mind when it comes to the fringes of both parties, far left and far right. It's very

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difficult to maintain my objectivity, knowing the vast majority of Americans, no matter their party affiliations, feel exactly the same way and wonder what happened to their beloved America.

I have no idea what happened to the leadership of the party I once was proud to call mine as its County Vice-Chair. We had some crazy stuff back then, but we certainly didn't define ourselves by the degree of hatred we had - or didn't have - for the President of the United States ... and certainly not by any Marxist leanings or public sexual preferences. Somebody, please tell me what the Hell happened?

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Monday, February 24, 2020

Schnapps Stories

I was reminiscing the other night about my adventures as a Home Entertainment Repair and Maintenance Specialist (TV Repairman). I owned a business in Tucson that did mainly in-home repair and service of TV sets and antennas.

Late one day after a house call - the last one - the woman who owned the TV asked if I had any more calls to do and I told her no, I was through for the day. Earlier in the year, I had serviced her TV and took in for further service. (Most service calls involved testing a few tubes, replacing a couple and vacuuming the insides of the TV.)

The woman was happy with the service and said when we returned it to her home, it looked better than it did when it was brand new. Nice compliment! I had suggested that she get it checked every three months or so, just on a counta. She took the advice to heart and we had a regular call from her to come check everything out - that would be the Antenna, the cabling into the house and the TV itself. (All for a mere \$12.50 at the time.)

So, this regular call turned into a last call - so to speak. She was a Jewish lady and she was very generous. After each service call we would sit and chat at her kitchen table for a while before I had to go. She always opened the freezer at the top of her Fridge ... and brought out a bottle of Peppermint Schnapps. She'd pour us each a double-shot of that icy, sweet elixir and then we'd sit and chew the fat for a while.

Ah, the stories she told. Her family had escaped the Holocaust in the early '40s and emigrated to the United States when she was a young child. Some time after her folks had passed, she decided to move from New Jersey to Tucson because she heard it was

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friendly to Jews and had plenty of sunshine and lots of that healthy Arizona air. She was a genuine piece of work!

Anyone who has ever done in-home service knows how gratifying some of their customers can be. I wish I could remember her name, but that was once upon a time ... many years ago.

Did you hear the one about the priest, the minister and the rabbi? Ok, so a priest, a minister and a rabbi walk into a bar and the bartender says, "What is this? A joke?"

Oy! She told good stories!

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Thursday, February 27, 2020

Objectivity

A week ago I penned a tome about my struggling to maintain objectivity in the face of all the crazy stuff being thrust upon Americans by their political leaders. One of the comments about my little treatise on Facebook was from Gloria Lopez.

[With revised grammar] she wrote: "I am mystified and would love to hear how you overlook some of the things Trump has done and still remain impartial! Now, [I'm] not trying to argue because that would get us nowhere! But rather, [I'd like] to hear someone's thoughts on how they can overlook some of the things Trump does! I would love you to enlighten me, because you do not sound like these other people that just want to argue and call you names! Can we meet? I know you are much more schooled than me so all I ask is to be civil!"

I wrote back to her as follows: "Gloria ... you sound like you've got a head on your shoulders. I rarely do sit-downs with others that are not good friends, so that part's off.

"Meanwhile ... I learned many moons ago to overlook others' peccadilloes because we all have them. It's like my mom used to say about my little brother, "Oh, that's just Billy." I think she'd say the same about Trump.

"In the overall picture of Life, the Universe and Everything, Trump's silliness is relatively unimportant and generally unimpressive. I simply have no need to get my shorts in a wad about anything The President says or does. I'm impressed by his mostly positive attitude about America and her people.

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"On the other hand, I'm not the least bit impressed with the constant negativity drooling out of the mouths of the likes of Schumer and Pelosi.

"It's important to keep these things in perspective - Schumer and Pelosi are the top politicians in their party and they do know how to play that game very well. That fact allows me to maintain my objectivity.

"I try to remain mindful that Trump, Schumer and Pelosi just have different ways of looking at things and radically divergent perspectives on how things do and should work.

"I hope you understand now why objectivity means so much to me. Thanks!"

Later in the FB Post, Gloria responded, "... the problem is this: They can promise, but will they stand with their promises? Again thank you for explaining!"

I hope that concerned folks like Gloria can adopt a skeptical attitude that values all input equally, allowing huge latitude and ignoring the sometimes crude language used by others. This is a healthy way to maintain one's objectivity and integrity at the same time.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, March 2, 2020

TIME Passes

For many decades I was a **TIME** magazine subscriber and I saved many because of their unique content. Occasionally, I sit down and re-read an issue from the past for clarity. I have most of the Trump-centered copies, including the *TIME's 2016 Person of the Year* issue.

Recently - while sitting in the "Library" - I had occasion to browse through *TIME's 2016 Person of the Year* issue, re-reading an article about the magazine's choice. A couple of years ago, I cancelled my *TIME* subscription because their journalism had slipped away from center and their reports included way too many adjectives and adjunctive phrases for it to remain as objective as its reputation had purported over the years. Even though the article appeared slanted, it still contained some interesting information.

Of late, the political environment has the Left claiming that middle America's pay increased during the Obama Administration's reign, but not so during Trump's Administration. The December 19th, 2016 issue of *TIME* states that, "... between 2001 and 2012, the median incomes of households headed by people without college degrees - nearly two-thirds of homes - fell as they aged, according to research by Robert Shapiro, an economist who advised Bill Clinton's campaign. As American productivity and gross domestic product grew in the first decade of the new century, median wages for all Americans broke away, effectively flatlining. Most Americans making less than the median income, but not so little as to qualify for poverty benefits, suffered income losses of about 5% between 2007 and 2013, according to research by Branko Milanovic, a former World Bank economist. ...

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Political gridlock in Washington, and the mild austerity it created, weighed everything down."

Beneath a graphic depicting US income growth between 2007 and 2013 was the paragraph, "Incomes have stagnated or fallen since the recession. The lower-middle class has been among the hardest hit, which has widened the income gap."

A **CNBC** article published last September states that "According to [a 2018 report](#) from the [Pew Research Center](#), 52% of American adults live in 'middle class' households. The median income of that group was \$78,442 in 2016."

A **statista.com** bar chart includes the following median incomes from 2007 through 2018:

2007	59,534	2013	56,479
2008	57,417	2014	55,613
2009	57,010	2015	58,476
2010	55,520	2016	60,309
2011	54,673	2017	62,626
2012	54,569	2018	63,179

2019 data was hard to find, but according to an August 2nd article in **seekingalpha.com**, "Median household income in the United States rebounded to reach a new record high of \$64,430 in June 2019."

I was puzzled by the difference in the 2016 figures from CNBC compared to Statista. The CNBC number from 2016 (\$78,442) was the median income of the US middle class, which constitutes roughly 52% of all American households. The Statista number for 2016 (\$60,309) is the median (or average) income for ALL US households that year. The large (29%) quantity of low income households is what drives that \$18,133 difference.

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Wherever you look in the available statistics, whether from the government (like the **Census**) or research institutes (like **Pew**), the facts fail to support the contention that Americans are worse off under the present administration than the previous administration.

Between 2012 (the lowest part of the Great Recession) and 2016, median incomes rose from \$54,569 to \$60,309, an increase of some \$5,740 in four years, an average increase of \$1,435 per year.

Between 2016 and June of 2019, household incomes rose from \$60,309 to \$64,430, a difference of \$4,121 in just two-and-a-half years, averaging \$1,648 per year.

Those stats demonstrate pretty clearly that today's middle class homes are reaping pay increases equating to just over 6% per year compared to how they were doing in the waning years of the previous administration - a little over 2.5% per year.

You've got to hand it to the **Obama** Administration ... they brought us back from the depths of the largest economic downturn since the 1930s and in just four years, returned median income to slightly over what it had been in 2007, before the recession. It is true that the **Trump** Administration's economic performance exceeds Obama's, but it was the 44th President's administration that set the stage for the massive economic expansion happening under number 45, Donald J Trump.

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Thayer's Wild Bunch VIII

Thursday, March 5, 2020

It's YOUR Census

March 12th through March 31st people will receive **Census 2020** forms to complete and return to the government. The "live" Census by 'phone, on-line or in-person is scheduled to begin on April 1st. There are plenty of folks who just don't understand what it's all about and why it's so important.

Having served on the **Gila County Census 2000** Committee, I can tell you there have been a number of proposed changes to the 2020 Census questions that have not made it past go.

Start with exempting "undocumented" immigrants from the census. The major reason for the census is to provide data to guide the number and allocation of each state's representatives to the **US House**. The data collected also guides each state's boundaries for legislative offices and school districts.

There's been a great deal of concern among the electorate that illegals, if not counted, would warp representation in states like **California, Arizona, Texas, Florida** and **New York**. Nearly a quarter of the nation's undocumented immigrants reside in California, where they constitute more than 6% (2.4 million) of the state's population of just under 40 million. Most of the United States' 10.7 million unauthorized immigrants live in just 20 major metropolitan areas, with the largest populations in **New York, Los Angeles, Houston** and **Dallas-Fort Worth**, according to early-2019 Pew Research Center estimates based on government data.

The reasons for concern are the probable loss of federal revenue and representation in the US House. If 6% of California residents are not counted, that could result in a 6% decrease in **FY2021-22** federal dollars flowing into the state. California leads the nation

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in federal revenues - in FY18-19, amounting to just over ***\$436.1 Billion***. Take away 6% and you're talking serious money - over ***\$26.2 Billion!*** On top of that, California's 51 member Delegation to the US House could be decreased by 6% , reducing the delegation to 48.

The **Supreme Court of the United States** was ready to hear arguments pro and con about the **Trump Administration's** proposal to require unauthorized immigrants to declare their status on the census form. The proposal was dropped after it became clear that the **SCOTUS** would not hear the case before the forms had to be finalized and printed. Another reason it was dropped was fear that the true count would be warped because illegals would simply not fill out the form, fearing deportation if the data was not kept from **ICE** and the **Border Patrol**.

ConstitutionCenter.org presented an article March 12th of 2019 on the subject that pretty much covers the unauthorized immigrant problem. Here are the operative paragraphs:

"Since, under the founders' version of an 'actual enumeration,' representation in the House depends upon state populations, scaring off a large number of households from responding would hit hardest in states with larger concentrations of non-citizens and Hispanic citizens. California, for example, might lose one to three of its present 53 House seats.

"Moreover, the division of seats in the House of Representatives after the 2020 census - no doubt reflecting some shifts of people from state to state - would affect the population totals on which redistricting of seats is done for the House, for state legislatures, and for at least some multi-member governing bodies at the local level. And, in addition, the under-count would mean that some states and local government would receive lesser shares of the total of some \$700 billion in federal money that is now distributed on the basis of state populations."

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US Census information is used to create data banks full of statistics about the population of the United States and its territories. Visit the 2020 Census web site to learn more about it.
<https://2020census.gov/en/important-dates.html>

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Monday, March 9, 2020

Dilemma

Democrats appear to have a huge dilemma.

If they pick Bernie they almost automatically fall into a pitched battle to educate the public about the difference between Socialism and Capitalism. Kids like the idea of Socialism and all the "Free stuff." Convincing them to keep that view in the face of facts and history about Socialism and Communism is going to be a tall order.

If Everybody's Crazy Uncle Joe becomes the Democrat candidate for President, they're going to face incredible pressure to prove his mental status is fine as frog's fur. They're going to have to figure out how to keep him from blurting out stupid stuff like "Super Thursday" and "Lying Dog-faced Pony-soldier."

And they're going to have to figure out how to keep violent demonstrators at arm's length. Last week there was news that both Bernie and Joe will have Secret Service protection by April 1st. They're gonna need it!

From my vantage point as a one-time Democrat leader, the solution to the "Bump Trump" quandary is - and by God, I'm serious about this - Hillary Clinton. She is the only person that can attract enough people to oust Donald Trump. She got millions more votes in the 2016 election, but Trump beat her to death in the Electoral College. That's because the Clinton campaign didn't go for the Electoral College delegates - which Trump did. Clinton can beat Trump if her campaign goes for the Electoral College. Forget the popular vote!

I don't know ... but, when you compare the Trump and Obama Administrations, it doesn't look like the rank and file of either

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party have any warm and cuddly feelings about the prospective Democrat presidential candidates.

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Thursday, March 12, 2020

Self-Hypnosis

I was seventeen in January of 1958. The Fall of 1957 found me in the offices of a Pacific Grove, CA Shrink's office. I had a number of physical as well as mental problems and was looking for some advice.

For starters my girlfriend and I had sadly parted company. And I couldn't find a church in the whole Monterey Peninsula that was open at night. Things could have been a lot better for a 16-year-old in the late '50s. A visit to a psychologist seemed to be a good idea at the time.

I went knocking on the door of this guy (whose name escapes me to this many years later) and was gained admission into a nicely-appointed old-timey ginger-bread house decorated in Grey and white. The guy was willing to help me get over my doubts and misgivings after listening for about twenty minutes. He said he could help if I paid him a dollar for every visit. (How many Shrinks do you know that go for a buck an hour?) We agreed to meet on Saturday mornings for a month to see what happens. 10:00am. Smokin' deal!

We figured out that girlfriends and heartbreaks are a given for mid-teens and I got over it. And we agreed that the Lord exists everywhere, not just in churches and synagogues. I came to appreciate visiting with God outdoors in secluded spots around the Monterey Peninsula. My Shrink helped me get my mind right and enhanced my dad's advice to "keep good thoughts."

After a couple of weeks, we turned to physical problems. I had hurt my neck in the eighth grade doing a swan dive over the high-jump bar to beat my classmates. The pain had worked its way down my spine and sometimes made routine physical

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exercise uncomfortable. I was on the Varsity Swimming Team at Monterey Union High School. The regular training and daily work-outs were doing a good job of holding the discomfort to a minimum. But there was still the throbbing lower back pain occasionally. Sitting or standing for long periods of time wasn't a good thing. With the swimming and exercise, I was doing the right thing.

The last two visits involved mind-over-matter. My Shrink taught me self-hypnosis. I want you to understand how it works, so please humor me. Using your own "little guys" you can make big changes in how your body (and mind) react to mitigate pain and discomfort.

From here, I'll teach you how to practice self-hypnosis. I don't claim to be an expert in this field. But, I can tell you it works for me. If you don't care, skip it.

Good luck. :-) Semper Fi.

First, on a bed or comfortable couch, take a relaxed reclining position, on your back, feet slightly apart, arms at your sides next to your hips, palms down. Close your eyes. Taking big breaths, after each exhaling slowly, count from one to ten. With each breath, think to yourself, "One ... I am warm and relaxed and comfortable. Two ... I am warm and relaxed and comfortable." And so on. You don't want to hyperventilate so don't hurry. This whole deal is all about imagination and visualization.

Next, in your mind's eye, shift your attention to your toes for ten more turns. Visualize. Think clearly in your mind, "My toes feel warm and relaxed and comfortable."

Then, move your attention to your feet. Again, think 10 times to yourself that your feet are feeling warm and relaxed and comfortable. If it makes you comfortable, you can whisper.

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And so it goes, each time pausing to repeat the "warm and relaxed and comfortable" phrase ten times before moving on to the next.

The routine goes - toes, then feet, then ankles, shins and calves, knees, thighs, hips, finger-tips, palms, hands, forearms, elbows, arms, shoulders, tummy, chest, neck, face and head.

Last - concentrate on the part of your body that bothers you most. Zero in on that part and re-state that it feels warm and relaxed and comfortable - visualize - ten times.

Finally, say to yourself that "It's ok if I doze off... my *little guys** are going to work and I will awake relaxed and refreshed." Concentrate on relaxing and think to yourself, "It's ok ... my *little guys* are at work on my _____." And then encourage them to go about fixing the problem. "One. Go to it, *little guys*, let's fix that _____." Ten times. With big easy breaths.

**I always visualized the parts of the bloodstream that heal and bring positive change to body chemistry as the "little guys" who do the work of healing and keeping us well.*

Remember ... each step, it's ten times! It takes a while ... up to an hour or more.

You may doze off during this exercise and it's ok. Even if you don't finish the routine, you're warm and relaxed and comfortable. And, if you sleep, you will awake relaxed and refreshed.

Does it work? In my thirties, I had a bone spur just above the inside of my left knee that very often caught the nearby tendon and plucked it like a guitar! Talk about hurt! The fix was a surgical hammer & chisel. I opted for self-hypnosis. After two

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weeks with my *little guys* at work, there was no pain, no spur. X-rays showed that it had softened and folded over on itself like a little mushroom, allowing the tendon to slide over it painlessly rather than pluck.

The Power of Positive Thinking is a 1952 best-selling book by **Norman Vincent Peale**. Pastor Peale's work describes how to achieve a permanent and optimistic attitude through unending positive conscious thought, usually through affirmations or visualizations.

If you like, read Peale's book and discover why self-hypnosis is really mind over matter!

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Monday, March 16, 2020

ABC7 via Facebook

Rules to avoid illness from COVID-19.

Wash your hands! Plain ol' soap and hot water works just fine.

Don't touch your mouth or nose (face) and make it a habit!

If you have to cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your elbow.

Disinfect counter-tops and table tops before cooking and/or eating.

Don't share ... food, 'phone, etc.

Stay about three feet away from people you think could be infected.

New information: Washing and cleaning are most effective against this virus because it cannot survive "in the wild." It needs to establish itself in the lungs to survive.

Memorize the following symptoms:



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Thursday, March 19, 2020

Never Too Late

It's never too late to teach an old dog new tricks.

I've been an IT kinda guy since the time I cut my teeth on an Altair computer in 1980 at the UofA in Tucson. I learned Fortran to interface with the University Computer Center and MS Basic (and compiling) to write business and communications routines for one of the very first IBM-PCs. I was also doing system-level programming to create drivers for printers.

Now, I maintain and care for my ASUS computer and its interfaces to the world as well as its software, hard drives and firmware. On top of that I write two columns per week that are emailed to about two-hundred friends and posted on Facebook for another 2300 friends. In addition, I am the webmaster-host of ten websites on GoDaddy - BlondiesGlobe.com, GuayosRestaurants.com, GlobeRotary.org and TRSD.org to name a few.

At one point about a decade ago I was manually up-loading the data to the websites on GoDaddy. It was very time-consuming, so I bought an up-loader application (Ipswitch) that did all the work for me. Meanwhile, back at the ranch, GoDaddy was updating things including the way many of their interfaces worked. Early this month my hosting site became infected with "malware," as they call it. GoDaddy Support helped me get it squared away and I purchased GoDaddy Security for four of the most important websites and a Firewall for the Hosting site. But somehow, in the process the Password for access to the websites by my uploader changed.

At 79, I couldn't access the sites on GoDaddy, so this old dawg needed to learn a new trick!

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I asked the tech what it would take to be able to do what I used to do ... just in case. He said, "Well it's not that much different from what you used to do ... it's just how to get there." And he took me through the clicks needed to get me to the same place I used to be. It was out-freakin'-standing!

I don't have to use my up-loader any more ... but I'll keep it. New Password. It works!

This is a good thing because it enabled me to quickly post cancellation notices for the Globe Rotary Club and Tri-City Regional Sanitary District meetings because of the CoViD-19 virus.

So, it just goes to show ... sometimes you CAN teach an old dog new tricks!

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Monday, March 23, 2020

Zinc?

Got a note from a good friend the other day inquiring if there was anyone at the County level who could somehow make chloroquine available for use against the **Wuhan Coronavirus**.

Three recent studies claim that chloroquine is effective as a protectant and medication relative to **COVID-19**, the US government name for the Flu-like disease that originated in China's Wuhan Province.

James Delingpole wrote in **Breitbart** last Wednesday that "there's an effective treatment already and it's available and cheap, according to studies." He continues "**Chloroquine phosphate**, an old-fashioned anti-malarial drug, has shown strong results against COVID-19 infections in **South Korea** and **China**." (Emphasis added.)

I'm always a little cynical about claims by journalists that "**recent studies**" are about anything but **Fake News**, so I kept reading to see if the so-called studies were included along with their Principal Investigators' names. Viola! They were!

Referring to <https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/03/17/an-effective-treatment-for-coronavirus-covid-19-has-been-found-in-a-common-anti-malarial-drug/>, Delingpole wrote that **Anthony Watts** had tracked down three studies "demonstrating its efficacy against the Coronavirus."

The first was done by **James M Todaro** and **Gregory J Rigano**, in association with **Stanford University School of Medicine** and **National Academy of Sciences Researchers**.

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The second was done by **Jianjun Gao, Zhenxue Tian, Xu Yang.**

And the third was published in the journal *Nature* titled "Remdesivir and chloroquine effectively inhibit the recently emerged novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in vitro."

You can read them all at the link above. Careful ... some of the language is "out there!"

Delingpole writes "The reason that Chloroquine works, I understand from an expert in viral pandemics, is that [it] enables the body to absorb more zinc. Zinc appears to be the most effective agent in disrupting the virus and preventing the 'cytokine storm', which is the deadly phase in which the virus tricks the body's immune system into attacking its own healthy tissue, with often fatal consequences."

That paragraph led me to investigate zinc. As I wrote back to my friend, "50 mg zinc per day as an OTC supplement might make a difference in lieu of chloroquine, which requires a prescription. As you probably already know, zinc enhances the immune system. However, more than 50 mg per day can reduce copper and iron absorption, affecting red blood cell production and reducing levels of HDL, the so-called 'good' cholesterol."

Regarding chloroquine, my friend wrote back that "Off-label use of prescription drugs is not unheard of but this would be a huge move, not just a one or two! Glad to hear this morning that the FDA is going to be looking into it."

Meanwhile, I've been taking that 50 mg zinc supplement daily since mid-January!

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Thursday, March 26, 2020

About the Shower

We bought our Park Model Mobile Home in 1993 from a local couple who had lived in it for three months and whose folks had lived in it for another three months.

They found a site in Roosevelt where the builder was setting up portable housing units much larger than the Park Model. Their folks came to visit and loved the new sites, so they stayed in the Park Model while their new outfit was being placed.

That was all in 1989. The thing had only been lived in six months when we bought it for cash three-and-a-half years later. It was barely broke in! The owner had it up for sale for three years and it hadn't moved. So we were able to buy this \$18,000 home for \$10,000. Wow!

A quarter-century later Claudette's health took a down-turn and I was still earning good money on top of my Social Security so I decided to do some improvements. First on my list was glass doors for the shower. Claudette was worried that she could fall getting in or out of the shower and shower doors worried her, so that project went on the back burner.

Two years later Claudette Thayer, 57 years my devoted wife, passed away at age 82. I miss her terribly, but life must go on. Since her passing I've been up to my eye-balls in projects!

There were all the clothes and personal effects to distribute. Pots, pans and dishes were also on the list. Rejuvenating the oven was another project. New vertical blinds replaced the broken assembly in front of the living room sliding doors. I still have to sort and pitch the spices. And I haven't gotten to the coats and jackets yet. I've cleaned the collections of coffee cups hanging

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in the windows but the bears sitting in baskets Claudette wove back in the '70s, as well as the ones in high places like the tops of the bookshelf and the movie screen, are waiting for the vacuum cleaner.

A few days back, I tackled what I had suggested years ago - installing those shower doors! I'm not afraid of falling - there are grab-bars in the shower, so I feel comfortable with it.

There's something about mobile homes - especially ones designed as travel trailers or RVs. They aren't always plumb, square and level, no matter what you do! I followed all the shower door installation instructions to the letter, even cutting a smidgen larger than needed so I could custom file parts to fit precisely.

That's all well and good, but the walls of the Thayer bathroom are $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wider at the top than at the bottom, so the shower doors were off a little. I had to adjust the hangers on the left door to extreme *down* on the left and extreme *up* on the right! And it still didn't line up perfectly - got $\frac{1}{16}$ inch to go. That alone will be another project! With a file and a beer.

Meanwhile remember: Wash your hands a lot. Don't touch your face. Don't touch others' hands, face. Clean surfaces like counter tops and tables, door knobs and light switches often.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

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Monday, March 30, 2020

Match This!

I don't know about the rest of you, but lately I've been getting a lot of political duns for loot. The thing is, most want small amounts (\$3, \$10, \$30) that will be doubled or trippled, even quitupled, if you cough up the money. They don't know there'll be no donations from me until September or October.

Meanwhile, I've been wondering how can they do that? Do they line up some fat cat and hook him for a committment to match the total taken in during the promotion by two to five times? That would seem to make sense.

It would also explain why both parties are saying that most of their money is coming from small donors in amounts of three to five dollars. I think the brains behind the first Obama presidential campaign came up with the concept of using the internet, cell phones and email to find and grow today's small donor gold mine.

I can tell you first-hand that it beats the dickens out of mailers and door-hangers. And while door-knocking is great for personal contact, it's a tough way to raise funds.

What if your name wasn't Bloomberg and you didn't have a half-a-billion dollars to spend?

Finally, remember: Wash your hands a lot. Don't touch your face. Don't touch others' hands, face. Disinfect surfaces like counter tops and tables, cabinet handles, door knobs and light switches often. Don't forget the car: Steering wheel, shifter, radio/stereo, headlight light and turn-signal switches, window cranks/switches, door locks as well as inside and outside door handles!

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Thursday, April 2, 2020

No Photos

Back when I was a kid in the '50,s we used to vacation from California to Arizona to visit old friends and family in Phoenix, Mayer, Cottonwood and the Hopi Reservation. We always took pictures of Aunt Minna and Aunt Verde and Uncle Charlie and the Ormes, Emery Dennis and Hopi Chief Tewaquaptewa.

Emery was a Hopi friend my dad met when he was a cat-skinner working Hoover/Boulder dam in the late '30s. I have no idea how they became friends, but it was evident when we went on vacation. We always took gifts of blankets for Emery's family and friends. He was a Hopi Medicine Man and he had introduced my dad to Hopi Chief Tewaquaptewa.

We always got a treat when we visited the Hopis on First Mesa. Blue Piki Bread! Somehow, one of Tewaquaptewa's women was always making Piki Bread when we came to visit. She had a big flat stone - it appeared to be granite - sitting over an open fire. She'd take a glop of Grey-blue corn goo out of a pot and slosh it on the stone. It cooked very quickly, was peeled off the stone like paper and rolled up into a tube of yummy deliciousness! (My sister found some Hopi Piki Bread in a stash at the Ranch a couple of years ago after our parents had passed. That stuff has an infinite shelf life!)

Tewaquaptewa was also a prolific Kachina-Doll-maker. He made it a point to give each of us kids a Kachina Doll. He made the dolls out of cottonwood, carved the "old way" with the feet looking more like a single cloven hoof and legs and arms in relief. Sometime in the late fifties young Hopi men began creating more elaborate works using various types of wood. They were human figures, clad in the attire appropriate to the celebration represented - really, works of art that today can fetch

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in the thousands of dollars! The "old-style" Kachinas were relegated to their original purpose - gifts for the children during the many Hopi celebrations.

The last time I visited Oriabe, Chief Tewaquaptewa was no longer alive and one of Emery's daughters was getting married. We were invited to stay and watch. It was a treat. So was the corn cake after! I got to take pictures of the bride and groom but not the ceremony. It was quite an experience.

After we left First Mesa we stopped at the Trading Post on Second Mesa, looking to buy a couple of Kachinas. All they had were about twenty beautiful art pieces priced between fifty and two-hundred dollars. I asked about the more traditional Dolls and the proprietor said they didn't sell them anymore, but that there was an old man up the street who still made them. He was sitting on the stoop, carving a Kachina and we asked if he had any that he would give to us and told him we would pay him well. He went inside and came out with two, each about five inches tall, made in the old style. He said he'd take ten bucks for the pair. I gave him twenty bucks each! My son has them today.

There has always been a rule in Native American culture: Don't take photos of an Indian because it takes a piece of their soul. It should be stated clearly that the operative words are "without specific permission." My family may still have a stash of great photos of Tewaquaptewa and Emery Dennis and their kids and Hopi pottery and Kachinas and teen-agers. Remember ... they were all taken with permission.

So: No Indian photos without permission. Ok?

Isn't that a copyright thing, anyway?

Please remember: Wash your hands a lot. Don't touch your face. Don't touch others' hands, face. Disinfect surfaces like counter

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tops and tables, cabinet handles, door knobs and light switches often. Don't forget the car: Steering wheel, shifter, radio/stereo, headlight and turn-signal switches, window cranks/switches, door locks as well as inside/outside door handles!

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Monday, April 6, 2020

The Real Deal

Last Thursday, I watched a video recorded by a Texas doctor/surgeon that scared the living crap outa me! **Duc Dong Vuong, MD, General Surgeon**, who works at **CHRISTUS St. Joseph Medical Center** in Houston, accomplished his purpose: Scare the living shit outa you! Excuse the language, please ... but it's not nearly harsh enough. This is a deal that requires your attention, and hopefully that of your friends and family!

At the end of this column is a link to the **YouTube** video this guy created. It's long and it's technical and it's peppered with obscenities and it's scary. Get yourself a stiff drink, kick back in your most comfortable spot and be prepared to have the crap scared out of you.

This is more crazy stuff than you've ever seen at the movies. This beats the living Hell out of **Friday The 13th, Halloween, Jason, Freddy Krueger** and **The Andromeda Strain** combined! It's thirty-five minutes of the **REAL DEAL**

Get pencil and paper and take notes. This video is the damndest science class I have ever attended. You can always play the video again, but the notes you take will help you understand how serious this **SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)** really is ... **DEADLY** serious!

Now ... click on this link and hold on tight!

<https://youtu.be/4J0d59dd-qM>

A word about mask-wearing. CDC says do it - couldn't hurt. Nonsense. You wear a mask for two reasons ... you're a robber or

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you need protection. The operative word is efficacy. There's a chart here. Pay attention to efficacy (Efficiency.)



Remember: Wash your hands a lot. Don't touch your face. Don't touch others' hands, face. Disinfect surfaces like counter tops and tables, cabinet handles, door knobs and light switches often. Don't forget the car: Steering wheel, shifter, radio/stereo, headlight and turn-signal switches, window cranks/switches, door locks as well as inside/outside door handles!

Be well and prosper.
Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

