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Disclaimer: this publication contains political material

Channeling my Buddy, Jack (He may be gone, but his ideas live on.)



The terrible news, as most Crapper readers already know, is that after an amazing 16 year adventure filled life, our loyal, fierce, and steadfast friend Jack has “flown west.” The good news is that he lived about as amazing a life as any Tibetan Terrier could have possibly had. Also, as many of you know, Jack was one of the few dogs who could communicate directly with humans, and thanks to this ability he and I worked for the past two years putting together his incredible life’s story. His book, *Jet Dog Jack*, is the result of this collaboration between the

two of us. I can tell you that, in reading his story, you can count on laughing out loud, being amazed that Jack lived through some of the things that happened, and shedding a few tears at the sad events that impacted his life. The book is now in print and available in soft cover for \$30 and \$40 for hard cover, postage included. If you would like a copy send your check and address to Chuck Tompkins at 1940 S Broadway, PMB 172, Minot, North Dakota, 58701, or just give me a call at 701-721-5101 and I’ll get one out to you. You can also purchase books on the web site: TompkinsPublishing.com

Jack on Smart Water: “Dad, the word up here in Dog Heaven is that even in spite of consumer prices rising, people on Earth are still paying \$3.75 a bottle for ‘smart water.’ In my dream I laughed and said, “Jack, obviously the ‘smart water’ is not working.”

Jack on Wuhan Relief Checks: “Dad, the word up here in Dog Heaven is that Hunter Biden’s art gallery received over \$500,000 in Wuhan Relief money.” In my dream I replied, “Yeah, isn’t it funny that the Hunter Biden Art Gallery only lists **two** employees.”

The High Cost of Toast

Years ago, Linda and I purchased a Hamilton Beech toaster for \$30 at our local ACE Hardware store. It wasn’t the fancy model, but it had all the ingredients of a great toaster: bread toasted evenly on each side, and toasting adjustments were easy and accurate, but most importantly, bread was toasted quickly. I remember, more than once, remarking on what a nice toaster it was for such a bargain price. Linda, I, and the toaster enjoyed a happy co-existence for many years. However, like so many things in life, there was trouble ahead when Linda and I bought a new home in a city far away, packed our things, and moved the hundreds of miles to the new home.



I’m sure most of you have been through the process of carefully packing your belongings and then when unpacking them, finding some items in great shape from the move, and some not so lucky. To say the least, since we had shipped quite a bit of our contents by common carrier, in spite of the fact most of our belongings came through in good condition, we

JUST SAYING!

It seems that, in our retirement, Linda and I are simply not seeing old friends enough. Not only are we are busy every single day, but we are in Arizona quite a bit of the year. And now that I’m out of the business world it seems we just don’t see everyone like we used to.

That is one reason I have been writing Crapper Chronicles for these past few years. It is a way for us to stay in touch with old friends and gives me an excuse to keep writing. I hope you enjoy it, but since some of the times I get toooooo opinionated, be sure and let me know if you want off the “Crapper” list.

By the same token, if you want to add someone to the list, just shoot me an email and I’ll get it done. Richard Farnham of Farnham Associates on the Big Island of Hawaii does my layout work and makes sure my email list is kept secure.

For past issues of the *Crapper* go to:
<http://www.tompkinspublishing.com/the-crapper-chronicles.html>

had several items that got “killed” and some were “badly wounded.” Such was the case with our favorite toaster. It was one of the badly wounded. Bummer!

It wasn't like the toaster was totally wrecked, but it did have a fairly big dent in its formerly pristine chrome side. None the less, a few days after unpacking, we had provisioned the home with supplies, and decided to have a nice breakfast of “eggs over easy,” a good strong cup of Kona coffee and a few slices of toast. While Linda got the eggs going, I plugged in our slightly wounded toaster and tossed in a couple slices of bread. It was after only a few moments that I noticed there was no delicious aroma in the air. You know; that unmistakable, warm, wonderful, “toasty” scent you can only get from toasting bread. I rushed over to the toaster. It was cold. My friend was dead. The move had killed him. We were devastated. I felt the dent had been fatal. Sadly, almost like when you say goodbye to a pet, I carefully picked up the “body” and placed it in the dumpster. The next morning was coffee only and “toast-less.” Later, when I heard the garbage truck come by, a pang of sadness went through me as they took my old friend away.

A few days later, Linda and I embarked on a search for a new toaster. The problem was that we were now located in Scottsdale, Arizona, a town where as our good friend Roger Tollefson always reminds us, “You can buy better but you can't pay more.” It goes without saying, we were unable to locate a \$30 toaster in our new location, but we finally settled on a nice Jenn-Air model for \$110. I was thinking to myself that this must be some kind of wonderful machine! For that kind of money this model should even load itself! Hell, maybe it even goes out to buy the bread!



However, this little story is not over, and it gets more intricate! We unpack the new toaster, plug it into the outlet, throw in a couple slices of bread, and breathlessly wait to see how the marvelous machine will work. What happens? Nothing, nada, zip: No toast. Whaaaaat? I look for another on off switch, I look for extra packing material that we may have over looked, I look to see if we have the toasting adjustment set correctly. Nothing! Then, and only then, do I look to see if the plug is placed securely in the outlet and find.....the GFI outlet.....which was.....tripped! There was no power going to the new wonder toaster so of course there had been no power going to my fine old, slightly wounded, but NOT DEAD toaster either. The stupid, damn GFI had been tripped all along! My old friend had not been dead! He had just been in a coma induced by my ignorance in assuming he was dead and failing to look at the power supply. I had sent him to an unnecessary early grave!

Folks, I was sadly disappointed in myself. But that is not all! After restoring power the nice shinny Jenn Air model, though it would in fact make toast, took FOREVER to do it. Waiting for that toaster to produce a couple of slices took longer than getting a straight answer from a politician.

Of course, true to form, I complained constantly about the new toaster to the extent that, to shut me up, one of the kids bought us a new Kitchen Aid toaster for Christmas. It too was a fine model, but like the Jenn Air, getting toast out of it took forever. Something had to be done. I started to do some research, and I found out a few things: First of all, to “save the planet,” consumer grade toasters now use less power. This means that although they will eventually get your toast done, it's going to take longer. Commercial models don't have this problem and still use enough power to get you some toast, while it is still morning. Common sense tells me that if you dug into power usage a bit, you would find that in view of the fact it takes far longer to make toast with the “consumer” model, the power usage is about the same as the faster “commercial” toasters. Whatahyagonnado? No one ever said that when it comes to hugging trees, using common sense was necessary!



Undeterred, since I was now on a mission to get a REAL toaster, I got online to find a commercial toaster. In no time at all I located the Waring “heavy duty” commercial model WCT800. This baby has it all; lots of power, makes 4 slices at the same time, and most importantly, makes toast IN A HURRY!! By now the fact it was \$469 and change did not even faze me. I wanted toast, and I wanted it in a hurry. Excitedly, I punched in my address, my credit card info and waited. A mere few days later the package arrived and Linda and I were like a couple kids in a candy store. We ripped off the packing material, I grabbed the commercial grade cord and.....whaaaaat? The commercial grade cord has a totally different plug in!! Folks, you have got to try and stay with me to picture my devastation, my anger, my frustration! Nooooooooo!!!



Thankfully this story has a happy ending. I called my good buddy, Ed the Electrician, and for a mere \$279 he installed the requisite new outlet to fit the commercial connector. The Waring model WCT800 makes FABULOUS toast, perfect every time, in a hurry. Yet, I do still have occasional twinges of guilt over consigning my poor wounded Hamilton Beech toaster to the Scottsdale landfill. And once in a while, I think about how we spent \$858 to replace him, but then again, time marches on and the Waring model WCT800 does make 4 slices at a time, of perfect toast, quickly. Bon Appetite!

Shorts:

How to Make Your Customer Love You: Although I use computers and cell phones every day, I most certainly don't consider myself an expert. Compared to most young folks, you could probably say that, in terms of overall knowledge, I would barely rate above the basic level. Therefore, though I hate to do it, there is no doubt that when

I have a technical issue with my iPhone or computer, I run to a younger person, with the necessary expertise, to get me back up and running. If I happen to be in Minot, James at *Pro IT* (888 776 4828) gets me back on track, and if I am in Scottsdale my computer woes are taken care of by Paul at *Tech Doctor* (602 820 0545). However, until today getting needed help on my Verizon phone has been a challenge. That all changed when I stopped into the Verizon store in Fountain Hills, AZ this morning. I had to get some new software installed and a few other technical things done and of course, dreading having to go in and beg for help, I had been putting it off. However, my new hearing aids demanded this software upgrade and so, hat in hand, I stopped in, cold turkey, to visit Brittany and Nick at the Verizon store located 16605 E Palisades, Fountain Hills, AZ (480 837 9400). Wow! Rather than making me feel guilty for taking up their valuable time, or worse yet, treating me like the computer dumb older person I indeed am, they simply got to work, installed the needed upgrades in mere minutes, and in the process TOTALLY made my day! Thanks to all three of these great service providers. People like you make the technical world work for people like me!!!



But the Winner of the Amazing Customer Service to Chuck and Linda is:

(DRUM ROLL PLEASE...) Carousel USA!!!! What does Carousel USA do, you say? They manufacture turntables for cars, radar domes, tanks, large equipment, or virtually anything that needs a large turntable. These turntables can be located inside, outside, and in many cases, do not need you to cut up the concrete floor of your garage to install one. In our case we needed a turntable that sits in our garage. You can drive your car in and the turntable turns it around so you don't have to back out of your long, twisting, narrow, dangerous, (need I say more) driveway. Wow! What a product! Not only that, but the turntable arrived on time, was installed in a mere few hours by amazing technicians, Chris and his assistant, LaKendric, who also both, incidentally, showed up exactly on time. Even more amazing, the turntable worked perfectly and the bill was to the dollar what they said it would be. Folks, these turntables are not a little product and to get one installed up and running in such a short time was an amazing feat to watch. Chris told me he goes all over the United States, and indeed, he has been in many foreign countries as well, installing units. If you, like we were, are tired of the hassle of backing out of a tight space garage, give these guys a call. They will build one for you, deliver it, and get you up and running in no time. *Carousel USA*, ask for John Thomson - 866 796 5975 or john@carousel-usa.com, their address is 6370 N Irwindale Ave, Irwindale, CA 91702. Oh, yes and one more thing. This is an American product, built by an American Company!



2022 St Paddy's Day Party Breaks Record: Chuck and Linda's most excellent St Patrick's Day party for 2022 broke all previous records with 31 people in attendance for this year's event. Promptly at 6:15 PM guests were informed that it was time to eat by the traditional playing of *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* by host Tompkins, on his trumpet. Since the guests at the party are all instructed to "COME HUNGRY," the fact that they consumed 28lbs of corned beef, 12lbs of potatoes, 2 heads of cabbage, 10lbs of carrots, 2 loaves of soda bread, and one most excellent cake, was no surprise.



Also consumed were numerous bottles of wine and, of course, the requisite amounts of Guinness and other beers. In true Irish fashion the "green clad" guests left the party stuffed with food and happy conversation.

File Under ARE YOU KIDDING ME? If you have any doubt at all in what direction our current Washington leadership is headed consider this: In the recent White House Initiative on Asian Americans, one of the people championed was none other than avowed Communist/Maoist, Yuri Kochiyama. This is the very same woman who cheered the efforts of Osama Bin Laden, expressed support for the communist massacre of their opponents in Peru, and who also supported Chairman Mao's "Giant Leap Forward" in China, which saw the death of literally millions of Chinese. I guess all you can say to this insanity is "Let's go Brandon."

But Wait There is More: Not to be outdone, Governor of the People's Socialist Republic of California, Gavin Newsom's wife Jennifer, recently named former Black Panther terrorist/communist, Angela Davis, as a notable black woman to be admired.

In My Opinion: Tiny Fraction of United States Population Drives Undue Amount of Conversation/Controversy:

It seems that in the United States these days, we are constantly being told we have to accept men who want to be women, women who want to be men, people who may identify as either, people who won't eat meat, people who are of different ethnicities, and people of different religions. So, to clarify what the ACTUAL percentage of the United States population has a certain belief, lifestyle, race or food preference here are some interesting statistics from the United States Census Bureau. But first, I need to explain that the below numbers in bold print are the percentages that people THOUGHT each category had. In other words, whereas the gay/lesbian population of the United States is only 3% overall, people felt this segment of the population was 30%! Transgender people are a mere .6% of the United States population, yet it is

Canyons in the Sky

I have glimpsed the glorious shades, the colors; white, gray, yellow, purple, green and blue.

With shapes forever changing, in ever different hues.

The towers, canyons, mountains, hills, and plateaus, delight the eye.

I shall simply never get enough time to view, The Canyons of the Sky.

I've flown around, and through, and beside them, watched them tower far above.

Slipped my plane so close above them, felt them close around me, like a glove.

I've seen their power; greatly feared them, when the lightning flashes high.

But the fear was tinged with wonder, for the Canyons of the Sky.

What a place they would be to dwell, or be some already there.

Maybe Angels, God or Spirits, suspended in the air.

With views and shapes, forever changing, delighting each and every eye.

Existing there in heaven, among The Canyons of the Sky.

Sometimes Heaven is too abstract. It seems very far away.

Yet, when I'm flying in these canyons; it's close, it's here today.

So I'll strive to be more worthy, to be a better man, I'll try.

That when my life is done, my spirit may live; among The Canyons of the Sky.

Chuck 7/8/06



perceived by the general population they make up 21%! Wow, what a difference!

Gay and Lesbian: 3% (30%), Bisexuals: 4% (29%), Transgender: .6% (21%) Vegan 5% (31%), White 64% (59%), Hispanic 17% (39%), Black 12% (41%), Asian 6% (29%) Native American 1% (27%), Jewish 2% (30%), Muslim 1% (27%), Christian 70% (58%)

Folks, the purpose of me putting out these ACTUAL percentages vs. the PERCIEVED percentage of the population is this: There is a concerted effort by the Socialist/Communist countries of the world to weaken and destroy our American way of life by dividing, tribalizing, and separating us a people. One of the ways to do this is to constantly portray, in many cases, tiny subsets of our population as being unfairly marginalized, downtrodden, maligned, or taken advantage of. The Socialist/Communist countries would like nothing better than to see we as a people tear our great country apart trying to right, in many cases, nonexistent injustices for tiny percentages of our population.

There is no doubt that now, or in the past, people and groups of people in the United States have been misused and abused. Decades ago, when my ancestors came to America from Ireland, unbelievable as it may seem today, many businesses at the time posted signs "NO IRISH." In the American Civil War, over 500,000 white people died in order to, among other things, free black slaves. Of course, in the past and even now, not all people are getting exactly the advantages of other people. However, the fact remains that we, as a nation, give more opportunity, more advantages, and more assistance to our people, in helping them to succeed, than any other nation on the face of the earth.

People, we are Americans, and the vast majority of us accept people for who they are, not what color their skin is, what they like to eat, what religion they have, or what sexual preference they have. Once again, "We are Americans and we are dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."

The vast majority of us also feel that, though everyone is created equal, it is up to the individual and their efforts to achieve whatever they want to accomplish in our great country. Of course, as a people, we are not perfect. No one person or country is. However, the path to being a better people, and country, is not to tear apart and dismantle the greatest nation on earth and turn it into another failed Socialist/Communist hell hole. In view of the murder and havoc being brought upon the innocent people of Ukraine at this very moment in history, there is ample proof of the saying "You may vote yourself into Communism but you will have to shoot your way out of it." Socialism/Communism kills free will, innovation, and opportunity. It allows no separation of civilian/military goals and sharing of data. Why do you think our colleges are stuffed with students from Communist countries desperate to steal our intellectual property?

We are Americans and this battle against Socialism will be fought and won at the local and state level. This effort to divide us as a people and indoctrinate our children is as real as it is dangerous. It is time for all Americans to think about it, talk about it, and if at all possible, do something about it.

Prayer Corner:

Prayer has power. If you have a moment, sit down, bow your head, and say a prayer for someone you know who is in pain, suffering, or are in need of guidance. Better yet, give them a call: Let us pray.

As always, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Crapper, and remember, we have our families, our friends, our health, and time.... The rest is simply smoke and mirrors!

