



NOW WHAT?

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JUST SAYING!

Since I have now sold the company and do not write their newsletter any longer, I have decided to do a personal newsletter, once in a while, just for the fun of writing and as means of getting out general information Linda and I and our friends have found helpful and maybe even humorous. After discussions with friends at a recent gathering, the name “The Crapper Chronicles” seemed to be a favorite. Wine was, however, involved; but for now that will be the name.

As all of you know I seldom get political in Crapper but Linda and I have a friend who is running for the Minot City Council. Some thoughts in my first article.

This is the eighth newsletter of my retirement years. I am archiving all newsletters on my website at www.TompkinsPublishing.com.

Dave Shomento for Alderman



As all of you know I seldom get political in Crapper but Linda and I have a friend who is running for the Minot City Council. The reason I bring this up is Dave and indeed his entire family have been for generations lifelong business people, are members of and are heavily invested in our community. Furthermore, Dave is the type of guy who actually researches things happening in the community to come to an informed decision as to the best course of action. If he does not know enough about a given question or problem that comes up he will contact people who do know so he can make an informed and intelligent decision as to what needs to be done. Having been in business for himself, he is well aware of the consequences poor decisions can have. So many times we hear people say ‘we don’t have a voice’. Dave is approachable and will take the time to be that voice. Linda and I are asking Minot residents to not only take the time Tuesday, June 12 and go to the Minot Auditorium and vote for Dave Shomento, but to tell your friends to do so as well. Dave is local, honest, informed, will speak his mind, and this town needs him. PS this is NOT a paid political advertisement. It is just the way we feel.

“So, I Was Talking to My Buddy Jack”

On our walk the other day Jack and I came up with this little gem from the archives of the Crapper Chronicles. Salmon ARE NOT becoming extinct. It seems in the not too distant past there was a huge outcry that salmon were being fished into extinction. At the time strict limits were set, new laws passed, fines assessed, and we were told at the time, even this could probably not save the fate of the species. Yet, a short few years later what do we see these days on virtually every restaurant’s menu? Salmon, salmon, salmon, endless and unending varieties of salmon. The facts are that in a very few short years the “nearly extinct” fish has become so plentiful it is one of the cheapest and most common of all fish items on the menu. The reason for the non-extinction and oversupply of salmon? First of all far better salmon “farming practices,” with maybe a bit of help from the stricter laws. Jack is a very LOGICAL dog and he kind of wonders if when they found out salmon were absolutely NOT going extinct, the “salmon extinction” people came up with “Global Warming,” opps, he means the “Climate Change” idea for their next crisis?



However, just a quick tidbit of REAL information, the last “warming” trend of earth’s climate was around 1000 years ago. Due to that trend the world’s oceans were many feet higher than they are today. Again, a logical person would say since there was virtually no industrialization in the entire world at that time, then as now the “climate change” was a natural thing and not “man caused.” Jack brought up that one huge problem that these fear mongering “climate change” people have is they keep trying to compare geological events which occur over thousands and millions of years with human life spans. Let us not forget that our entire time on this earth only comprises but a few milliseconds of geologic time. Whatever! Rest assured, at least the salmon are not going extinct! Next crisis please! Oh and.Bon Appetite!!!

The Misty Mists of Time: The View



North Dakota is waking up from her long winter slumber. I am perched on this ancient hill, above a meandering creek that is happily chuckling and gurgling with the ice cold snow melt runoff. I am surrounded by the beauty and wonder of one more spring rebirth of our garden state. My reason for sitting up here looking over the valley is that I don't want to forget to take the time to watch the transformation of our state from winter's icebox to summer's garden.

It is a warm day with puffy white clouds coasting across an azure sky. The fragrant-fresh warm breezes are booming over the prairie, driving out the frost and bringing forth the vibrant summer colors to wash away the drab browns of winter's cold. You can literally smell the earth warming up and coming alive. As a farmer works a nearby field the unmistakable smell of the newly opened earth is blended with the sweet smell on the purple blossoms of the lilac bushes.

I hope to internalize and remember forever the bright new-green of the emerging leaves bursting forth from their swollen buds and the yet-timid pale green of the emerging prairie grasses. The soft-fuzzy-cuddly-blue Crocus blossoms, contrasting with the bright white of the Choke Cherry and June Berry bushes, are wrapped around me. In the valley below me, three shy Whitetail deer; one heavy with her soon to be born fawn, peek from behind tender new willow shoots. Wheeling, their signature white tails flashing they disappear over the ridge. Across the creek on the hillside a skinny lone female coyote slinks quietly through the brush. She is seeking something she can convert to milk for her newly whelped pups in their snug den.

The only sounds in the absolute silence on this hill are from today's North Dakota Spring Symphony Quintet. Mother Nature is the conductor and she opens her concert with a melody from her quietly, burbling creek, blended with a far away turkey's gobble, complimented by the steady swish-swish of the breeze. Volume builds with a scree from the circling Red Tailed hawk, punctuated by the raucous caw, caw, of some nearby busy crows. The volume rises and falls, with always the brook and the breeze to carry the melody and continue the song.

The rolling landscape that seems to go on forever, this view, these sounds and the utter honesty and peace of this scene, must be burned indelibly into my brain. To be lucky enough to be here for these sights and sounds and smells is indeed a privilege. To be able to remember it: Priceless. In the years ahead this memory will nourish me as age and time eventually take my literal senses away. I must be ready so when that time comes I will remember, and smile, and be at peace.

Chuck 5/18/18, 4:45PM. At the Shaw Coulee

Thoughts on Gun Control:

Anti Gun: Some people who historically wanted to take guns out of the hands of civilians: King George III, Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot, Kim Jong II, and Barack Obama.

Pro Gun: Some people who historically WANT the civilian populace to have guns: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Abraham Lincoln, Martin L. King, and Mahatma Gandhi.

Switzerland: Switzerland, gives every deserving and qualified citizen a gun. They train every citizen how to use that gun. Switzerland has the lowest gun violence country in the world, period.

Do a Little Math: Since 2000, 47% of all mass killings have been by 1st or 2nd generation immigrants. NO WAY do immigrants make up over 40% of our population. None of us are against immigration; we are against Illegal immigration. Maybe if law enforcement wasn't so busy keeping track of un-vetted or completely illegal immigrants out there, they could better be watching and keeping track of the psychotic Nicholas Cruz's in our society.

Suicide Watch: It has been reported the newest coward who shot and killed innocent students in Texas has been put on suicide watch. I am wondering, why? For heaven's sake give the poor baby some help. Possibly he could even use the same gun on himself that he used to murder those helpless innocents.



Why Is It: It is virtually impossible to watch TV these days without being assailed by yet another graphic murder mystery CSI type of murder show. In addition, virtually dozens of video games portray and encourage graphic killing scenes. I understand most of these “action” games give extra credit for killing the “enemy.” In other words simply “wounding the enemy” is not worth as many points. My question is, when you have a mentally challenged type of individual spending literally hundreds of hours playing such a “game,” isn’t it logical to infer these people might have little trouble making the trip from a “game” to an actual gun, and going to “get” those people who they feel have wronged them? I am wondering when the entertainment industry, and the gaming industry as well, will be called to account for desensitizing our youth to the horror and consequences of the indiscriminate murder of innocents.

Gun Ownership: The vast majority of guns in America are owned by LEGAL GUN OWNERS. The vast majority of crime committed in America is NOT committed by these people but by CRIMINALS against unarmed people.

Final Thought: The 2nd amendment to our constitution was NOT about hunting licenses!!!!

Shorts



Job Shortage? Not: Many communities around the country are offering incentives for people to locate and work there. Example: Hamilton, Ohio - \$5000 towards paying off student loans for agreeing to live there two years. Jobs are for engineering, technology, science or the arts. Grant County, Indiana - \$5000 towards buying a new home. North Platte, Nebraska - Up

to \$10,000 for moving there to work and up to \$25,000 for diesel electricians and \$20,000 for train crew employees. Marne, Iowa - Free parcels of land to those who will relocate. Interestingly, none of the communities listed job openings for drug dealers, con artists, or professional “protesters.” All jobs listed involve good meaningful working careers.

Eliminate Smart Phones to the Underage: Estimates now peg the number of underage deaths caused by texting and distracted driving at 11 per day. In other words more of our young people are being killed each year than died on 9/11. Many of these needless deaths involve multiple fatality accidents. I am surprised there is no national outcry to see to it that these phones and electronic devices are taken out of the hands of those under age 21? Possibly not let youngsters drive till age 21?? Nah...that would not be popular would it.



Insurance Information #1: Just take a moment and look over your insurance policy bill to see if in fact you are being charged for “Terrorism Coverage.” Similar to charges “added” to your bill by hotels, airlines, and some restaurants, terrorism coverage is now an added coverage to most of your insurance policies. I don’t know about you but I am totally not concerned about terrorism coverage here at the ranch. If you too are not worried about terrorism damage to your property in virtually all cases you can simply call your agent and have this needless charge removed. Possibly you can save enough money to have a night in a nice hotel. But watch out; there just may be a “destination charge” on your bill.

Insurance Information #2: Earthquake coverage is not automatic on your insurance policies. Since much of the Midwest is located in an earthquake zone, I add this coverage to my homeowner’s policy. However, now I see some companies will not just let you cover major building for earthquake but make you put the coverage on all of your buildings. The charge is quite small so I am proud to say in the event we ‘get the big one’ here in Dakota, the house and indeed all the farm buildings, including a couple pretty worthless loafing sheds, a hay barn and one old garden shed, are carrying ‘earthquake insurance’.



Insurance Information #3: Just a note concerning all the attorneys who are advertizing ‘they want to help you with your insurance claim.’ What they are really saying is ‘they want to help see to it your insurance PREMIUMS go up.’ There is no doubt that legal representation ‘help’ is sometimes needed to get an insurance loss settled. However, if you find a good solid, local agent for your insurance advocate the need for this advertized ‘help’ is very rare. Not always, but in the vast majority of cases using an attorney instead of a reputable local agent to help you with your loss, will raise the cost of the claim, and by the time you get done paying for the ‘help’ it will be debatable if you are dollars ahead. If you have a difficult loss and your agent

is no help, call the North Dakota or any states Insurance Commissioner's office. They will give you the needed 'help' and in most cases it is free. A final thought, when claim costs go up who do you think pays? Yes, Virginia, eventually, the customer always pays.

Happy Hour: Many years ago my daughter Coiya wrote an article for the North Dakota State University student newspaper, The Spectrum. In the article she listed the best bars in the Fargo, North Dakota area that provided good snacks, so a financially strapped student could go order a drink and get enough free food to save a bit of money needed for other 'more important' things. At the time the article didn't resonate so much with me but now since I am a senior citizen I can totally understand the need for a list of which establishments start 'happy hour' sooner, and how long each establishments 'happy hour' lasts. When one is on a fixed income as so many of us retirees are this is good information to know.



Stupid Green: Am I the only one who has noticed that virtually all new toilets use less water? Gee, that is a wonderful 'green' idea right? Wrong! And here's why. These new 'less water' toilets in many cases have to not only be flushed once but probably a couple more times after the bowl has been cleaned! The reason for the dirty bowl-double flush

is invariably there will be some residue that, due to the absence of adequate water, has not cleared itself from the bowl and will need to be cleaned up! Another point to be made is not only do these 'green' toilets waste water and work poorly but what about all of the perfectly good 'old style' toilets that have been discarded, thrown away and are clogging up our landfills.

Smart Green: Well, with every problem there is a solution. Luckily old style toilets that DO have an adequate amount of water in the bowl, and DO a remarkably good job of disposing of waste, can be rebuilt and reused to take care of the problem. I proudly advocate NOT installing the 'new style,' supposedly low water use toilets and instead see if your plumber can simply fix your old unit or find you an older rebuilt model that is probably 'greener' than the new one he is trying to get you to install.



Thanks for reading The Crapper Chronicles, and remember, we have our families, our friends, our health, and time.....the rest is smoke and mirrors!

Chuck

THE CRAPPER MUSE

Lazy Afternoon

Its afternoon, on the back porch,
In the summer, in the shade.
There's trees to trim,
And Hay to be made.

The tall grass is ripe,
I'll cut it tomorrow.
The farm's very busy,
But today's time I will borrow.

The sky between clouds,
Impossibly pure blue.
The ripening prairie grass,
A soft brownish hue.

The mourning dove's cooing,
The robins peep peep,
The finches quiet twitter,
The weeping willow's weep.

The greens are impossible,
Too many here to describe.
Fluffy clouds on the sweet breeze,
Quietly ride.

Russian Olive trees, soft, silky grey,
The Canadian choke cherries,
soft red.
My muscles are tired,
So many thoughts in my head.

The breeze soft and warm,
The wine full, mellow, and oakey.
Shade makes afternoon perfect,
Unplanned, restful, smoky.

A saucy red fox,
Bounces, darts; quickly, crossing the yard.
Not seeing the rabbit in my flowers,
Who bunches up; gets on guard.

Shadows stretch out,
The breeze is so clean,
A doe and her fawn,
Appear on the scene.

The flowers are blooming,
Juneberries purple ripe,
My God, it's so perfect,
When North Dakota is right.

If we merit Heavens' perfection,
It must be like this.
But North Dakota's soft summer afternoons...
Are a thing I will miss.