

HAIR ON FIRE

BY JILL DENNING GACKLE

Flag of true colors



Me thinks too much. Or I did the recent night at a Mesa, Arizona supper show.

While Elvis was gyrating and Neil Diamond was crooning, I was noticing the American flag on the left hand side of the stage and the Canadian flag on the right hand side of the stage.

Where is the Mexican flag, I thought? Now don't think I'm just being funny.

I just ate a meal that was served by a mostly servers and chefs of Mexican ancestry, I noted. The vegetables and fruits were most likely picked from the fields here and elsewhere by laborers there – legally or illegally – from Mexican or Central American soil.

Here in North Dakota and Minnesota we depend on laborers from Mexico and other countries to harvest our crops. An estimated more than 2.4 million migratory farm workers are here seasonally to help put food on the table for the rest of us, despite a mobile lifestyle, language barriers, fear of citizenship status and poor treatment. They face poor health, exposure to chemicals, heat and cold extremes and sun exposure.

But we clamor for them gone. Or at least the "bad" ones and in the meantime we neglect to recognize all that they and others have done for our country.

This week will be an interesting one. The new president is expected to have raids in major Sanctuary cities to root out undocumented immigrants, possibly those with criminal records. We'll see how it goes. I hope it's just the ones eating cats and dogs.

I find it interesting that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed 367,000 people in the first Trump administration while President Obama deported more than 400,000 in one year.

In our white bread communities we don't know too many people who might be worried in January about deportation, nor does Martin Luther King Day or Juneteenth resonate much in North Dakota.

Martin Luther King Day was established to encourage reflection on racism and civil rights. He was a voice of conscience.

Today we need that voice of conscience. We need to be reminded to be kind. Yes, we are struggling to accept all the people who want to make America their home, but we need honest, hard working people of all colors.

Call me crazy – again, you probably say – but I think we need to fly the Mexican flag to say "thanks." We see you and we aren't all trying to kick you to the curb or over the border.

Peace be with you.

THE OPEN LETTER

BY DICK MESSERLY



Surviving or Thriving-Thriving or Surviving

How do you describe your feeling/thinking about our North Dakota winters?

Do you find the winter season as something to be a miserable toleration, and you can't wait for spring and summer?

Or do you find our North Dakota winters to be a time of celebration and joy?

There are many people among us who really look forward to the winter months. Some of those are snowmobilers, cross-country and downhill skiers, snowshoers, those who ice fish, and kids who can ice skate and build snowmen and snow forts even getting a day off school because of a blizzard.

Others enjoy the time to assemble

jigsaw puzzles, enjoy a warm drink with friends, admire the extra vibrancy of our sunsets, feed wild birds and read a good book.

Remember that when you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change. To enjoy the winter outdoors, the Scandinavians say, "There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing."

So rather than dwelling on the negative aspects of North Dakota winters, let's change our thinking and find the positives winter brings.

I hope you can find winter a time to thrive and not just survive.

Have some winter fun!
"In the Arena"



WE THE PEOPLE

BY DAVID ADLER, *The Alturas Institute*

A Governmental Duty to Protect the Pursuit of Happiness

Election victories team with opportunities for a new administration to renew and reform governmental institutions, revise vital areas of law and policy and, perhaps, reconceptualize the meaning of our national security, redirect the course of foreign affairs and reconsider the nation's role in the world. They also invite philosophical exploration of fundamental aims and purposes of government, a grand theme which hearkens back to America's founding document, the Declaration of Independence, in which Thomas Jefferson spoke of "the pursuit of happiness."

Jefferson's memorable use in 1776 of that magisterial phrase, "the pursuit of happiness," what the Pennsylvanian, James Wilson, second in importance to James Madison as an architect of the Constitution, had earlier described in 1774, in his extraordinary

pamphlet, "Considerations on the Nature and Extent of the Legislative Authority of the British Parliament," as "the happiness of the society," which "is the first law of every government," deeply influenced Jefferson, and opened the eyes of American colonists about the foundations of democracy and the ends of government. Wilson, one of the brightest stars in the firmament of Scottish Enlightenment writers, explained, in terms familiar to students of the Social Contract, and made famous by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence, what citizens could expect in a newly minted republic.

Wilson wrote, "All men are, by nature, equal and free: no one has a right to any authority over another without his consent: all lawful govern-



Dakota Attitude

Gene and Jean (Mathre) Rosholt

Interview: April 19, 2016 County: Traill City: Buxton

They Met at Bible School

Gene Rosholt was born in 1948 and grew up in Buxton. He was in the first class to graduate from Central Valley, a consolidated school. Jean Mathre, his bride, grew up west of Chicago. The couple met at the California Lutheran Bible School in Los Angeles. Jean says, "We met the first year and got married the summer between and went back as married students the second year. And then when we came home [to Buxton], he was drafted. I felt very much at home here [in North Dakota]. When I first got here, his parents were having their 25th anniversary, and of course, everybody knew who I was. I mean, because I was the only one who wasn't from around here, I got to meet a lot of people. They had a church directory, and so I would use that. If I didn't know who somebody was, I'd ask his mom, and pretty soon it got to where I knew more who was related to who than probably he did."

When Gene's tour of duty in Vietnam ended, he returned to Buxton and went to work with his father's construction and excavating business. Gene took that over when his dad retired. In time, Gene also took over the mayor's gavel from his father, providing a 60-year continuity in

city hall.

In 2011, Gene was a victim of transverse myelitis. Jean explains: "One afternoon, he went from being able to do everything. He was running the loader, pushing snow. By seven that night he had lost all use of all four limbs. Gene was in rehab, or the hospital, like 55 days, and while it was something that we've lived through, he was also strengthened by our faith. Yeah. We felt very loved by our community. They had a fundraiser for us, and we felt their support all the way through it. And we felt the support of the Lord, you know. And now he uses that to tell people about the Lord and what that means to him, because he'll say, 'I was paralyzed, and the Lord brought me back this far.' So, you know, we're very happy with what he has gotten back."

(Editor's Note: The following profiles of North Dakota residents were collected by author James Puppe between 2004-2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota Newspapers at no charge. To find out how you can read the entire collection of Dakota Attitude profiles go to dakotaattitude.com.)

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