

# **HERMIT HERALD**

## **VOL.1 ISSUE 36**

**JUNE 5, 2020**

### **QUOTE FOR THE DAY:**

**“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.” Helen Keller**

### **ANNUS MIRABILIS:**

**I remember writing a paper in college about the poem in the above name, written by John Dryden**

**in 1667, commemorating the plague and fire that consumed London in 1665- 1666. People have questioned why it was entitled, Annus Mirabilis, when, in reality, it was Annus Horribilis. It is conjectured that Dryden’s thought was that it was a year of miracles due to the fire having contributed greatly to the end of the plague.**

**In the aftermath, London did survive – overcame the devastation. Today we have a similar plague, and our fire, while still**

**smoldering, has the potential to explode. It can't be said, at this time, if anyone can see a light at the end of the tunnel, but Ms. Keller's prognostication is reassuring.**

### **INSURRECTION ACT OF 1807:**

**I think most agree that it was a good thing that the President, prompted by some good counseling, decided against moving forward with implementation.**

**Interestingly, to move forward, the President would have to issue a proclamation ordering all protestors and insurgents to disperse. I uncovered this in doing some research, and I'm puzzled that it appears the President has the authority to order the protesters to disperse when the Constitution provides the right to peacefully gather. Perhaps this is incorrect information. If not, it appears the President's invoking of the Insurrection Act takes precedence over the Constitution. Please, one of my lawyer readers - a clarification.**

**We don't know what tomorrow holds, things could get worse. It's already being reported that the demonstrations in D.C. are going to be even bigger this weekend. In reading the papers the past couple of days, senior active and retired military leaders, including the Secretary of Defense, would have the public believe that invoking the Insurrection Act would be anathema, something never to be done. Those sentiments, however, don't square with history. The act has been invoked numerous times, including, but not limited to: Ulysses Grant, to suppress the Ku Klux Klan; Eisenhower, to protect the "Little Rock Nine"; Kennedy, to enforce desegregation at the University of Mississippi; Lyndon Johnson, to break up Detroit riots and George H.W. Bush, to break up the riots after the Rodney King verdict.**

**In short, the Insurrection Act should only be invoked when local Law Enforcement and the National Guard encounter a situation they can't handle, but, if that condition comes to exist, then there is every reason to implement it.**

## **PROSECUTORS, BEWARE:**

**The country seems to be pleased that, not only is the officer who killed George Floyd being charged, but so are the three officers who were with him. In what I believe is just irresponsible journalism, I have read articles implying that all four, after trial, will be headed for jail for at least forty years.**

**One of the worst things a prosecutor can do in a high profile trial is to over charge the defendants. If that happens, the jury may find the defendants not guilty of the level of crime for which they are being prosecuted.**

**Sometimes the prosecution can say to the jury, "If you can't convict on that charge, then how about one step down in severity?"**

**The problem is the country is hungering for a guilty verdict at the highest level charged and if they don't see a conviction at that level, Katie bar the door - the protesters are back in the streets**

**This morning we get the first detailed information on the three other policemen who were at the scene of Floyd's killing, Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and Alexander Kueng.**

**The lawyer for Mr. Thao stated that his client had been cooperating with the police before the killer, Mr. Chauvin, had been arrested.**

**Thomas Lane and Alexander Kueng are both rookies and Chauvin, with 20 years on the force, was assigned as their trainer on the day of the killing. It was Mr. Lane's fourth day on the force. Mr. Keung, while having joined the force in December, was only on his third shift as a full fledged officer..**

**Earl Gray, a defense lawyer said, " What is my client expected to do but to follow what the training officer (Chauvin) said? Is that aiding and abetting a crime?"**

**Mr. Lane had handcuffed Mr. Floyd and sat him on the ground. Mr. Floyd said, "Thank you man." This was all in response to a 911 call saying that Mr. Floyd had attempted to pass a counterfeit \$20 bill to pay for cigarettes.**

**Mr. Lane and Mr. Kueng then tried to walk Mr. Floyd to the squad car, but he collapsed on the ground telling the officers he was not resisting arrest, but was claustrophobic about being placed in a police car**

**Mr. Chauvin soon showed up along with Mr. Thao and took charge of the scene placing his left knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for more than eight minutes, killing him. Mr. Lane called on Mr. Chauvin to roll Mr. Floyd over warning that Mr. Floyd might be having a medical problem. During this time Mr. Thao was standing between the restraint scene and gathering onlookers.**

**The question becomes, just how culpable are the other three officers for not doing more to stop the actions of a 20 year veteran who they were relying on to do the appropriate thing?**

**Who were they to contradict their superior officer?**

**It can be argued that the three could have done more, but if what I am reading is correct, any charges against them would have to be demonstrably less than those faced by Mr. Chauvin, and the prosecutors better get it right along with their rationale, in order to manage the community's, no, the country's expectations.**

**COVID 19, (CV):**

**Very encouraging news in that the search for a vaccine has been greatly narrowed, with the greatest focus and money going to five candidates. Moderna, in Massachusetts and AstraZeneca in partnership with Oxford University, previously discussed in earlier issues. The other candidates are vaccines developed by Johnson & Johnson, Merck and Pfizer. All of these vaccines are in various stages of advanced trials.**

**Most importantly, Dr Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and infectious**

**diseases, who has been consistently conservative in his statements, believes we will have a vaccine by early 2021 with a couple of hundred million doses ready to go. If so, then everyone's question, "When do I get mine?"**

**Fascinating answer to a question many of us have had. I always thought if you were exposed to the virus you got sick, or not, dependent on you predispositions such as age, weight, blood pressure, etc. Those are certainly factors, but here's the news (at least to me). "It's not whether you're exposed, it's how much, proving an old adage, 'The dose makes the poison'." In other words, "Try to minimize the amount of virus you encounter." a person who is coughed on by a CV carrier is going to get sicker than someone picking up the virus from a door knob.**

**SAY IT ISN'T SO:**

**It's like Kellogg without corn flakes. GE, co founded by Thomas Edison 140 years ago is selling its lighting business. History moves on. Your faithful scribe, PB**



**THE ULTIMATE PEACEFUL PROTEST:**