



The Wonder Springs Chronicle

6 August 2008 ; Volume 10, Number 31

The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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The Voodoo weed patch

It's ramifications on the continued development of human civilization

It is a well established truth that domestic, or domesticated, agriculture allowed for the development of human civilization.

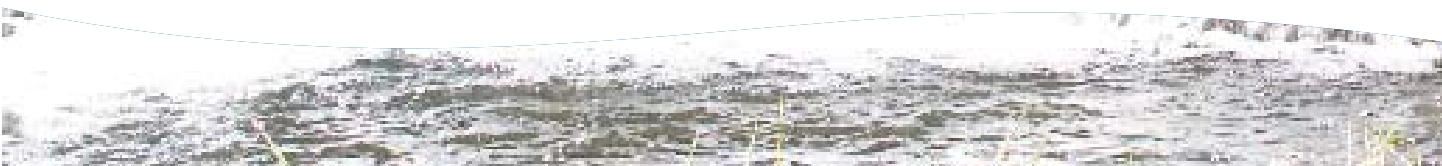
It logically, and empirically follows that the fruits of that civilization are based upon the principles, not of hunting and gathering, but on planting and harvest. I would also assert that it's continued success will again follow similar fields. As a consequence, basic agricultural principles, or science, will not only allow for humanity to maintain our culture, but it is a necessity for any successful human development.

We could consider the harvested fruits of these growing times as the infrastructure upon which the human community flourishes or flounders. It is important what we do, not only with natural soil, but also with the soil of our civilization. Our continued future depends upon

the stewardship we practice in the various niches of our natural diversity, in creation and in culture. That diversity requires the synergistic application of energy, liquidity, and informational design.

Mass urbanization began in earnest during the 20th century. As we have traveled down that path into the future, not only have those agrarian roots been ignored, they are found down right repulsive to most urbanites. It is one thing to have a few pots in the living quarters, if you have a house maybe a few roses in the garden. But the sign of wealth, affluence, and just being cool, is to hire a gardener to do the dirty work.

Urbanites are quite happy to get their nature, from books, flat screen television, and perhaps a yearly drive through some place picturesque. As a consequence, the thought of getting dirty, and especially sweaty, is very



demeaning and also makes them quite insecure by not knowing what to do with the hoe end of a hoe. Therefore, being terrified of all aspects of true natural law, they just try to ignore it and maybe it will leave them alone. That is just not going to happen and these fearful symptoms show up in many individuals as a form of mental illness.

From an environmental aspect the less there is to do with nature the better. If we just leave it alone, it will become a park, just like Central Park. We will just not let the Federal Government agencies manage the wild and it will become a park, if everyone just thinks good thoughts, and we don't let those greedy developers do anything except build condos and golf courses.

On my way home Monday I took an hour or so to drive back on a forest service road under the guise of looking for huckleberries. The travesty of what has happened to our public lands through pure neglect in the last few decades should be considered, in a civilized society, a crime against nature. Gardens need to be managed and so do forests, grasslands, and deserts.

Weeds? I don't believe in weeds, they are just plants without a place, just like I don't believe in evil, the devil, or hell. I just believe in heaven, in my eternal future and here on earth, after all that is the essence of good karma. Weeds are just living things without a karma we can understand. Give a weed a hug and it will lighten your burden.

Well, plants that are not conducive to agriculture or gardening are known as weeds. Weeds need to be gotten rid of if you are going to have a bountiful crop, or a lovely garden. That is probably one of the main jobs of farmers and gardeners, and it is brutal on the weeds.

Now the best way to raise a good crop of weeds is to significantly disturb the ground by plowing, tilling, burning, or some other stupendous change event and then do nothing. The weeds will appear, rapidly almost like magic, or maybe voodoo. Instantly you have a voodoo weed patch. In fact it is really voodoo to think that humans can rapidly change culture without

a viable infrastructure design and expect to have anything positive come out of the event.

That however is the best analogy of what is now taking place in western culture generally and in the United States specifically. We plowed up the land, walked away and left it, without planting viable or desirable seeds, and now we all wonder what happened to the harvest we expected? Welcome to the Voodoo weed patch of 2008, forward and downward, or just MOS more of the same ! Real estate is getting quite cheap in Sodom and Gomorrah, let's slouch on down and look for a deal.

In this weedy discussion we will concern ourselves mostly with economic weeds, but we can see and study our weed culture in all aspects of society, including morality, religion, materialism, and even our dealing with wildness.

Briefly, let's put this Voodoo weed patch in the context of American history for about the last century. Since numerous volumes have been dedicated to these ten events and more are sure to be written in the future, we will confine our comments on each. There we will try to focus on weed types, how they were or were not controlled, and what watering policy was generally followed during the time.

Teddy Roosevelt, Republican President 1901 - 1909 : Roosevelt was known as a progressive trustbuster. As such he focused upon large corporations, which we call in ecology pioneer species that attempt to take over the whole landscape. His main thrust was to break up trusts, which allegedly were fixing prices to enhance their market positions and profits. He focused extensively on the rapidly expanding railroads. Roosevelt was the first President to speak in favor of universal health insurance, but did not succeed in planting any of those seeds. In our context Roosevelt was a farmer of the corporation Voodoo weed patch, but did nothing to limit their opportunities as far as a successfully closing and developing the American frontier.

Before we leave Teddy, for those who like to discuss topics just to get people involved in issues, in 2007 health care costs in the United States were 16 % of GDP and rising at about 7 % per year. Contrary to what you will hear everywhere the discussion should not be about public or private,

the discussion should be about a responsive and managed infrastructure. That doesn't exist in the USA, in a similar fashion to how we are being manipulated by oil prices. The general consensus is that socialized medicine does not work in Canada 9.5% of GDP, but does work fairly well in France 9.7% of GDP. When something is broken, wisdom says it should be fixed, but health care in this country has become a self-sustaining Voodoo weed patch.

The Federal Reserve, The Fed established 1913: At this momentous time, US Federal currency went from being asset based on the sovereignty of the United States to a debt based system of Bonds and Notes. There is nothing inherently wrong with this system for the antithesis of debt should be savings. The market interest rate for these bonds depends on supply and demand. As such they are a quick way to provide liquidity to help things grow, however too much liquidity and things can go drastically wrong, hence money may be spent on some Voodoo weed patch at the expense of good dirt and growing true asset based wealth.

The Roaring 20s, After WWI, the war to end all wars, was a prosperous time of economic growth and easy money. Everyone likes to believe they are rich, too few really are. When you take away the access to money, most people are truly destitute. So here we seed a great a Roaring Voodoo weed patch that came to an abrupt end.

The Great Depression and drought, approximately 1929-1939 brought on by climatic drought in the nation accompanied by tight money supplies. You bring together a fiscal drought and a climate change dust bowl and everything dies, weeds, and many good crops, infrastructure ceases to operate. There are no happy campers, most are just destitute survivors.

The New Deal, 1933-1981 began the significant role of government in the United States economy. President Franklin Roosevelt began these reforms after being elected in 1932, by greatly increasing the role of government to provide both jobs and infrastructure. Liquidity was made available to see both of these needed fruits of civilization. Over time government controls of more and more of the economy took

place, but this was a slow process while the rest of society grew also.

Wars and rumors of wars, 1941-1975 started with WWII, Korea, finally Viet Nam. After WWII all were generally known as the Cold War period. They say that one good way to stimulate an economy is to fight a war. This is especially true if someone else starts it, as in the case of WWII and Korea. In Viet Nam the war had been going on for a long time and we just decided to help out to save the world from Communism. The cool thing about wars is that they take a lot of the focus off what is happening at home. But it is true while everyone is busy winning, noxious weeds have a tendency to become well rooted and there is little liquidity left over for sound plant husbandry in the general economy.

The Reagan plow, 1981-1989 began the current context of lower taxes and deficit spending to encourage economic growth. Reaganomics was branded Voodoo Economics by George H. W. Bush 41, President 1989-2003. The theory is that tax cuts provide a stimulus for economic growth. The intervening period is funded by high levels of deficit spending, and in the Reagan era, the plowing under of much of the New Deal big government infrastructure, to be replaced only by the hope of privatization. A similar inverse big government relationship is currently being discussed by one of the Tweedles below. Bush 41 made a pledge of no new taxes, when he changed his mind his Presidential second term was plowed under also.

Sold as the right to keep the money you earn, Reaganomics, furthered by low marginal tax rates, dried up all small scale enterprise equity except for what would shortly become the high tech bubble. In that barren field, mergers and acquisitions were redefined as growth and economies of scale then and still is part of the bigger is better gospel. That is just plain spiritual voodoo, when downsizing is called growth, especially because various forms of cheap money liquidity funded these adventures.

On the government side, good people were either let go in economy moves or left public service on their own because they really had nothing worthwhile they could do. On the other side, true bureaucrats, unable to compete in the private sector hung around and continued to spew

forth regulations to maintain their fiefdoms and to keep from getting sued, waiting to retire and double or triple dip in some other government agency or as a consultant. That is probably the biggest unintended consequence of the Reagan legacy and only now is beginning to become self evident.

Clinton's lame legacy, 1993 2001 achieved briefly the first balanced Federal Budget since 1923, brought about by the Republican Contract with America and fiscal restraint. The way things have been going recently it might be a lame legacy, but at least it is a legacy.

Bush's global fight for unrestrained liquidity irrigation, George W. Bush, Bush 43, 2001 2009 shows the world that we can have it all with no sacrifice, for a time and seven times. Out of the Texas National Guard, Harvard Business School, and The Texas Rangers baseball team, came Bush 43. So far it seems that we have seen the renewal of Wars and rumors of wars, and the Reagan deficit Voodoo plow. With a Republican President, the Republican controlled Congress lost all sense of fiscal restraint, opened the money tap and were swept away by abuses that would put their more liberal Democrat brethren to shame. Needless to say recently the Democrat control seems to have put the concept of a do nothing Congress on steroids.

There is no concept of true wealth anymore in America; in the Voodoo weed patch your credit score is the only criteria by which you are judged worthy. Being a worthy consumer, becoming the prime criteria for economic and social sainthood. As I have discussed previously in depth of other articles, we are now awash in an ocean of debt money with absolutely no energetic value to produce true wealth.

So subprime mortgage pirates swashbuckled themselves a mighty ship, but with a wee solvency wave, they found themselves cut loose and adrift with no prevailing winds. We could make up similar metaphors for oil speculators and others riding the oil surf, but you can clearly understand the drifting ocean currents.

Tweddledum and Tweedledee, 2009 + you choose one of our current Presidential candidates, signified by currently the well known nothing

and the unknown well everything. The factoid that needs to be known more commonly is that the well everything also comes in tow with a couple of minor, but highly dangerous tweddledites.

So where is the leadership? Especially in regard to infrastructure and a sound monetary system, it hasn't been there for at least a half a century. The same can be said for an energy policy. It just isn't there, and the current horizon looks more like a desert that we haven't seen since the Great Depression. The problem is that New Deal fix will not work the same way this time, for we have depreciated the true wealth of the United States with the laissez faire art of cultivating a Voodoo weed patch.

So who is to blame? We all are. We bought into the Voodoo weed patch, because we could. We bought into it with our equity and our debt, our assets and our liabilities. We really didn't need that gas guzzling SUV, but it made us feel cool or important. The same can be said for that bigger house, the bigger television, more is better, because they just raised the limit on my plastic and they are doing the same thing in government by funding earmark projects that also have little cultural significance.

In another century we called this sort of self indulgence sin and you needed to rededicate your life to Jesus. Now the preacher says that's OK, you can have more, it is your right as a child of God. Ultimately the responsibility for this Voodoo weed patch is going to fall heavily on Christian leadership that told you what you wanted to hear, rather than need to hear. That need being salvation is an external work of Jesus Christ and thankfully He paid the price for you and you must accept that gift, saved by the grace of God alone. That is true, because ultimately you are not cool at all but a scum bucket without hope.

However, if it just stops there we miss the total context of the gospel, in that God's grace must be given away in the common sector, which is the culture. Only God can show us a climax forest, a sustainable grassland. Our job is to take that wisdom, energy and knowledge and use it as a gardener rather than a great ape. As a gardener we can condense several hundred years of natural time into a few seasons. In that way, by wise management,

the Voodoo weed patch can disappear in short order.

Similar to the civil rights movement, legal restraints need to be removed that force egalitarian uniformity of results on us all, and good seeds of equal opportunity be husbanded back to their rightful place as the fruits of true freedom and the seeds of total prosperity.

The first step is a slow return to fiscal responsibility both personal and in government. Fiscal irresponsibility is truly what was behind the subprime mortgage fiasco and the current energy situation. If we don't mind our liquidity, the natural consequences of a rising ocean of financial debt will bring chaos beyond what all the global warming hype can foresee. The choice is ours.

That begins with the individual, but a total community infrastructure will bring about change. That community must have leadership, trained leadership. The founders of America created a republic, because they knew a true democracy quickly descends into a Voodoo weed patch. We have elected into leadership only those who follow the trends not to give us the civil infrastructure we need, but instead promote themselves, their insecurities as standards of excellence ? , and their own financial well being at the expense of true service.

The solutions are not going to be cheap, they will require sacrifice. In previous generations America was up to that task, the real question definitely not answered yet in the affirmative:

“Will the spoiled, rich Baby Boomers, and their descendents be up to the task at hand?”

So far the answer is absolutely not. That can change, that must change, there really is no civilized alternative. We currently live in a Voodoo weed patch and its ramifications are definitely impacting our world today, and replacing the weeds with viable crops is our only promise for a secure future.