

HERMIT HERALD

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As issue 3 gets cobbled together, I'm somewhat amazed that it is now available to more than 60 people from 5 different groupings. Of course, my readers are too polite to tell me if they simply hit the delete button without ever reading.

For those of you who do find the content of interest, I'd like to make this more of an interactive process. Tell me your thoughts-agreements- disagreements with mine, as well as news squibs you believe might be of interest to others. Obviously, I will see who is responding and will pass on your name as commentator only with your permission. Otherwise, content will appear as having been sent by a reader (unidentified). So, on to the current issue, #3.

**COVID 19: INFORMATION ONLY LIGHTLY
CIRCULATED:**

As reported here previously, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin are showing promise, but only based on anecdotal reporting and not fully completed clinical trials. BTW, I get a headache spelling these names every time. So, from now on it will just be H&A.

Anyway, the interesting thing is that, anecdotal or not, NY State is buying up huge quantities of both.

Masks- yes or no? Thus far it has been suggested that only medical personnel and people with the disease or other flu wear the masks. The masks, except for the 95 masks are not considered effective for people who are not sick, but important for people who are sick as the masks dramatically cut down on the expelling of disease particles.

The approach in Asian countries is different and more about crowd psychology. To quote, "All experts agree that the sick must wear masks to keep in their coughs. But if a mask indicates the wearer is sick, many people will be reluctant to wear one. If everyone is

**required to wear a mask, the sick already have one on and there is no stigma attached”
Interesting thought.**

ANNIE, GET YOUR GUN:

All over the country gun sales are booming, mostly first time buyers. In Florida sales are up 235% and hey, hey, hey- gotta have that 9mm, with sales up 315%. Attitude seems to be, “ Someone’s coming to take my stuff and I’m gonna be waiting for em”. Enough of the wise guy chatter. This is very serious stuff.

It had been decades since I had left the FBI and, until late last year I had never owned a gun. I purchased one because several of my friends enjoy them at the shooting ranges. Home security was really not on my mind as I feel secure in our different residential locations.

Here’s what makes this increase in sales, numbering in the many thousands so scary. I can’t give you an exact percentage, but from what I hear from two different gun shops is that these first time buyers are generally

buying the less expensive guns (\$300-\$400) and don't have the financial appetite to spend the additional \$200 to \$300 necessary to properly train with their new weapons and, most importantly, take the firearms safety course.

As long as your record is clear you can buy a gun after a one week waiting period. Other than that, it's your gun- no proficiency required. This is crazy. Most handguns are pretty intuitive when it comes to loading and shooting. Safety is not intuitive, nor is knowledge of the law.

Example: man buys gun, hears noise in hall, goes out and shoots intruder who turns out to be his granddaughter who got up to get a glass of water- true.

Example: man buys gun, either doesn't know concealed carry requires a special license, or doesn't care. In any event has weapon on him as he goes out bar hopping. You know the rest of the story- happens all the time, and now we've just put thousands of more weapons into the mix.-true.

Example: Florida is perhaps the most liberal state in terms of gun ownership. We have, “Hold your ground” legislation which seemingly gives a home owner greater latitude in protecting his home and family. Oh, but Mr. new gun owner doesn’t know the law. Noise downstairs, gun owner grabs weapon and proceeds downstairs. Burglar hears him coming, turns and flees. Owner shoots fleeing bandit. Owner is now in a world of hurts because as soon as the burglar tries to get away and then gets shot, the burglar’s status changes from aggressor to victim and the gun owners status changes from victim to aggressor. That’s the law.

But, the underlying reason why all these people are buying guns is because they have fear over the country’s economic demise because of the virus. Yes, some will be helped by unemployment insurance. Some will be helped by the new government program, hopefully to be signed soon, but these will be temporary band aids. If the lock downs last 10-12 and more weeks as predicted, I’m certain we will see a spike in crime- everything from

pilfering to armed robbery and the physical injury that comes with it.

INTERNATIONAL: LIBYA

Hard to find international news with 24/7 coverage of virus. Libya is a conflict that fascinates me and I'm hoping one of our readers can enlighten me.

We've all heard that famous quote, primarily used in the mid east, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." So how does it go in Libya, "The friend of my friend is my enemy?" - I'm so confused. Here we have the recognized Libyan government supported by the UN (friend- F) and Turkey (F). But the General who wants to take over the country is supported by Saudi Arabia (F), UAE (F), Jordan(F) and Russia- not so friend. Just one more excuse to start Armageddon and one great conflict for us to stay away from. Someone please explain.

RELIGION AND COVID-19

Most organized religions are doing a wonderful job in these troubled time,

decreasing gatherings, canceling services and cranking up charitable activities. As informed by today's press, there are also many church related activities that are questionable, if not down right dangerous:

South Korean non main line sect- believes togetherness in large groups a good thing- becomes epicenter for much of S Korea's major virus problem.

In Myanmar a buddist monk declares immunity achieved by a dose of one lime and three palm seeds.

In Iran, a few pilgrims filmed licking muslim shrines to ward off infection.

An Orthodox Church procession in Moscow accompanied by ample sprinkling of Holy water- Well, can't hurt.

And, not to forget televangelist, Kenneth Copeland in Texas curing believers by touching screen with him.

The Hasidic Jewish community in NYC which refuses to curtail the size of certain gatherings and which has experienced a spike in COVID cases. These are the same folks who don't believe in vaccinations. This is not an anti semitic statement, it's an anti stupidity statement.

And in India (The envelope please) the winner is a film of Hindu activists drinking cow urine to stave off the virus. I like mine well chilled.

As the article states,"What is good for the soul may not always be good for the body."

OLYMPICS ,JAPAN JULY 2020:

Well, no pride of authorship here, but the Olympics are toast with more than 70% of athletes insisting that they be postponed. If they do proceed and with virtually no one attending, I should get my speedo out of the closet as I would have a good chance of medaling in the 200 meter individual medley.

THIS JUST IN:

**Florida Governor, De Santis has just decreed,
“Anyone arriving in Florida from the NY, NJ
area must submit to self quarantine for two
weeks. ... such travelers will not be allowed to
stay with friends or family. It is a criminal
offense to violate this order” YIKES!!!**

A LAST NOTE:

Email blast from house keeper to customers:

**“I’m working from home- will send
instructions.”**

Smile

Your faithful scribe,

PB