

SIGN ON...

DICK JOHNSON

8/22/12

I READ AN INTERESTING "MY WORD COLUMN" IN FRIDAY'S TIMES-STANDARD, WRITTEN BY A PERSON FROM MCKINLEYVILLE. HE FIRST WONDERED WHY THEY NEEDED ANOTHER GAS STATION IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "AN ALREADY DANGEROUS INTERSECTION" IN MCKINLEYVILLE. I DON'T GET TO MCKINLEYVILLE VERY OFTEN, SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT TRAFFIC PATTERNS UP THERE. HIS NEXT TARGET WAS THE HIGH GAS PRICES ON THE NORTH COAST. NOW, EXCEPT FOR WORKING IN SERVICE STATIONS ABOUT SIXTY YEARS AGO, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE FUEL BUSINESS, SO I WILL NOT HIT ON SOMEONE IN THE BUSINESS. MIKE FRENNER HAS BEEN A FRIEND FOR MANY YEARS AND I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE HE WOULD BE, ALONG WITH HIS COMPETITORS, "RIPPING US OFF BY FRAUD AND DECEIT," AS THE WRITER ACCUSED. I WILL HAVE TO ADMIT, THOUGH, THAT I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHY SOME PLACES WHOSE FUEL HAS TO BE SHIPPED TO IN MORE COSTLY <sup>WAYS</sup> THAT IS BY TRUCK AS OPPOSED TO BARGE ~~WAYS~~ CAN SELL THE FUEL CHEAPER THAN THEY DO UP HERE. I KNOW THAT CALIFORNIA, AS OPPOSED TO OTHER STATES, LEVY'S MORE TAXES ON FUEL, WHICH, OF COURSE, BRINGS UP THE PRICES. THE COMPLICATIONS OF RUNNING A BUSINESS ARE NOT ALWAYS EASILY EXPLAINED OR EASILY SHOWN ON PAPER. I WILL AGREE WITH THE WRITER WHEN HE TALKS ON THE GOVERNMENT AND HOW COMPLICATED IT HAS BECOME AND IN MY OPINION, ~~HOW~~ HOW LARGE IT HAS BECOME. WE HAVE GENERALS WASTING MONEY ON PERSONAL TRIPS. OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DOING THE SAME. WE HAVE, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, GOVERNMENT WATCH DOG STYLE AGENCIES SUCH AS THE ONES OVERSEEING INVESTMENTS, ALLOWING PEOPLE TO STEAL BILLIONS ON THE NAME OF MONEY MANAGEMENT, WHEN, ACCORDING TO SOME INFORMANTS THE AGENCIES HAD BEEN ALERTED, BUT TOOK NO ACTION. MOST OF OUR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING OUR TWO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, ARE VERY WEALTHY

AND DON'T GIVE A RAT'S PATOOTIE ABOUT THOSE OF US DOWN  
HERE. THIS WRITER SUGGESTED WE DIDN'T VOTE, BUT I  
DON'T AGREE WITH THAT, BUT AS I SAID BEFORE. I DON'T CARE  
FOR EITHER ONE OF THE CHOICES WE HAVE NOW. MEDICARE,  
AMONG OTHER TOPICS, IS BIG IN THIS CAMPAIGN - I GET CALLS <sup>AND</sup> ~~AND~~  
WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRES ABOUT MEDICARE. HOW CAN ONE ANSWER  
THOSE THINGS IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SYSTEM? HOW CAN  
MEDICARE BE IMPROVED? THIS OR THAT QUESTION AS ASKED  
WITH GENERIC ANSWER CHOICES PROVIDED. I CERTAINLY DON'T  
KNOW HOW TO ANSWER THEM! WE READ EDITORIALS FOR AND  
AGAINST OBAMA AND ROMNEY AND HIS VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE,  
AND I JUST WANT TO THROW UP MY HANDS! OH WELL, ONLY  
~~TWO~~ TWO AND A HALF MONTHS TO GO! I WAS GOING TO SAY SOME-  
THING ABOUT JIMMY SMITH, BUT FRED NELSON DID SUCH A  
GOOD JOB, I'LL LET IT GO AT THAT! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO  
ABOUT A POLICE CHIEF? MURL IS A GREAT GUY AND I AGREE  
THAT OUR NEW CHIEF SHOULD BE A LOCAL PERSON - ONE WHO  
KNOWS THE AREA AND IT'S INHABITANTS INCLUDING THE FORCE  
AS IT STANDS NOW. I DON'T KNOW MR. ZANOTTI, BUT LEN JOHANSON  
HAS BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME AND I'VE HAD GOOD RESULTS  
~~WITH~~ IN DEALING WITH HIM. HOW ABOUT THE GREAT JOB OUR  
MC KINLEYVILLE NATIVE, JOHN JASO IS DOING UP IN SEATTLE  
WITH THE MARINERS? JOHN CAUGHT THE PERFECT GAME A WHILE  
OR SO AGO AND IS OFTEN HIGHLIGHTED IN THE SPORTS SEC-  
TION OF THE TIMES-STANDARD. SIGN OFF...