

My Side of the Cave
A Look at Our World
With a Little Common Sense Thrown In
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Introduction

Patriotic, Red White and Blue

These thoughts are not for the middle ground, not for the weak kneed and not for those who belittle our country and search for change.

These words are directed to those who are strongly nationalistic and believe that we are blessed for our beliefs and our actions.

Our world as we know it, starting somewhere in the caveman age and to the very present, has involved mankind's search for our being, the how, the why and the where to.

Before I continue, let's get rid of some politically correct nonsense. The term "mankind" includes both the male and female species. That said, let me continue. The human species has from the beginning, asked questions and looked for answers. Beginning with hunting and gathering, discovering fire and making tools, we have been on a non-ending search.

Our America and it's people have excelled in invention, science and innovation. We are thinkers, learners and teachers. Our founders gave us a solid foundation with laws that were well thought out with a common sense approach of what is right. Though there are differences between us, we remain one people joined at the hip and bound together to make us a great nation.

This soap box rhetoric is but one small flicker of a much bigger flame, sometimes called the silent majority, all together saying that America is the greatest country in the world and the American people hold dearly to that belief.

We offer up ourselves to the world everyday to all who will listen. We do so with happiness and joy in our hearts and our hope would be that all the peoples of the world could enjoy the same freedom.

It is the people and not the government who share the goodness, wisdom, caring, and teaching that matters most. Without fanfare, time and time again Americans have been the shining light for all to see. Throughout the generations it has been our citizens who are asked first, to help whenever and wherever help is needed. History has taught those who are victimized, that Americans will positively respond to their needs. They know that we will be there for them! We are the Citizen responders and the angels of mercy for the world.

The United States is, and always will be, open to those who would search out for a fresh start. We are a country of immigrants! New citizens have and will continue to refill our vessel. They offer fresh energy, strength and enthusiasm to their newly founded home. They bring with them the passion for freedom!

America is a statement, not a question. We are proud, strong and committed. Our citizens speak of our country like they would proudly speak of their children and of their family. Always with a smile and a rise in their voices, they acknowledge with pride and for all to hear, I am an American!

Yes, we sometimes go over the top with our enthusiasm, but please excuse our sometimes high and mighty attitude. There are those who may come off that way, but deep down they are usually very genuine and perhaps need just a bit of "humble pie." Please accept our apologies as we offer the world our hand. We hope you will join us in our joy.

American citizens are not greater or lesser individually than those from outside our borders. However, we are uniquely different because of a government designed to be "of the people and for the people."

Our forefathers, from their experience and foresight, committed their reputations and their lives for the values framed in the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

This powerful commitment given to and for the American people, has allowed us to expand and grow and yet remain loyal to the bond for over 200 years. This difference in governance allows common ordinary men and women to achieve extraordinary feats. Our history books are full of great and notable men and women who have excelled. They are the heroes who gave of themselves for others.

The results of this experiment (the American dream) are of the greatness to which we are. Generations of dreamers, scientists, teachers, craftsman, doctors, historians, philosophers, artists, builders, thinkers and achievers and last but not least, the great American family, the moms and dads and their children, who love God and country and bind us together with a rock-like steadfastness.

Time in a Box.

My story.

Time and my being. It binds me not by choice, but by nature.

I am bound to the time and to the space that is allotted to me. This miniscule place in infinity where I can only be now and the whole of it, is somewhere within me.

To succeed or fail, to learn or not, this remains always unknown. Only my experiences coupled with those who have shared my ride will know. This experiment, this adventure is given to me by God. My imperfect nature and my ignorance so tightly grips me that I let opportunities pass by. I allow the golden moments of my time to so easily slip away, never to be seen again.

These forever lost moments I let slip by so nonchalantly, wrongly thinking they would last forever. The fact is, that they are a sliver of time, with my borrowed friends, that have deeply etched marks in my soul.

Much of one's life seems mundane and with wasted time. We seem to neither regret nor rejoice. It just passes.

I would prefer the more memorable things to fill the spaces of my box. The total good of my being and those whom I have loved, along with the place and the time will be a painted reflection in my memory box.

An early life's memory for me involved a Christmas morning when all the goodness of the season and the comfort of my mother and father, presented to me the true meaning of love. All of the goodness surrounded me on that special morning, yet it passed so quickly and so easily.

I now know how fleeting that time was. I keep that moment wrapped tightly in my box. It is mine and it is forever and nothing can take it away.

I am left with these overwhelming memories, and not knowing exactly what to do with them, I have stored them in my minds box.

Perhaps that is what heaven is all about. This may be the final place where we can open that box and relive forever those golden moments in time.

To my loving mom and dad.

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Preface

From the cave to the present

In recent years some Americans, especially young college students, seem to be renouncing our history and our ideals. What in the world is happening? Why do they these people seem to be embracing socialism over freedom?

Are teaching institutions the problem? Are they using their pulpits to belittle America or are they simply not impassioned to the teaching of American history?

In the spring and summer of 1776, representatives from the 13 colonies gathered together in Philadelphia to discuss if our land was to be under the rule of another, or if we were to be free. These founding fathers met together, knowing that the mere discussion of

forming a new land could be considered treasonous and was an endangerment to both them and their families.

Generations of Americans have given of their lives to hold on to this freedom and our way of life. We are here by the grace of God. Our task is to see to it that our heritage remains strong and free to all. We can never let down our guard. We must always remain vigilant. This heavy task is ours to bear!

Philosophy, invention, education, government, religion and common sense all play a part in this human experience. How do they all fit together? What part do we play?

The common thread simply might be that we are here and we respond. The word “respond” indicates that mankind is blessed with the ability to think and do! This blessing from our Creator leaves with us a role to play, a role that we must take very seriously! God did not give us these gifts to be wasted. The natural yearning within us is to learn and explore and push forward. It is ever exciting for us, and all we have to do is keep on, keeping on!

The following chapters will hopefully illustrate our accomplishments, our history, our thinking, our government, our education, where we have been and where we are to go.

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Chapter 1

Invention. The search

A place to start

Our world and our universe is such a beautiful and organized body making it quite obvious that man had nothing to do with its making.

Men and women throughout history have accomplished wondrous things. These common sense dreamers through hard work and diligence, through failure and success, have greatly enriched our world.

For me, my first enlightenment might have been when President John F. Kennedy spoke of Americans going to the moon..... Wow! That was big stuff. He was telling this nation that we could build space ships, leave our planet earth and travel to the moon!

For crying out loud, we are still using outhouses and he is telling us we can go to the moon. Are you crazy? But there were people who could dream and people who could make dreams come true and, from that, the space program was born. These first steps allowed mankind to acknowledge the unlimited possibilities in front of us and the promise that we could achieve beyond our imagination.

The human element is so full of promise, yet we sometimes fall short. Why is this so? Good proven standards have been set in stone, yet we sometimes look elsewhere for answers.

On one hand, we are wise and intelligent enough to make so much positive history, to write about it and to record it. But there is another side, our darker side, that can make grave mistakes that we tend to cover up, forget, and worst of all, not learn by those

mistakes. George Wilhelm Hegel wrote, “Those who can not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” George Bernard Shaw said, “ We learn from history, that we learn nothing from history.”

Now, if we just made these mistakes one time, maybe that could be overlooked, but over and over again is wrong. Reading the past is to judge the future. I would hope and pray that man could learn to learn. It is the common sense, good and thoughtful decisions that will guide and determine our future. The way we govern, our educational system, the religion we choose and how we live our lives may be the mirrored reflection of our future. We will be what we allow us to be.

All things possible.

Thinkers and innovation.

The stepchild of common sense is thought, ideas, innovation and invention. All thought process begins when we ask questions and look for answers. Invention is not possible without using common sense.

We are inherently gifted to always be searching for what others can not see. Free flowing ideas, innovations and inventions have been an American phenomenon.

We have had our Edisons and Franklins and Gates, just to name a few. The history books are filled with people who have brought wondrous changes to our world. We are in debt to them.

There are also multitudes of achievers who have made and continue to make less notable advances, usually not as newsworthy, but most important, nonetheless. Albert Einstein said, “The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking.” It is this everyday thinking that I draw your attention to. Thinkers gave us the common door hinge, screw caps, sun glasses, swings, string, wire, games, finger nail clippers, door mats, boots, pencils and about a zillion other things that we take for granted. Many of these great ideas came from ordinary working craftsmen and thinkers who would ask themselves, how can we do this better or faster or cheaper? These ordinary people had at least one thing in common, and that would be vision! Such a simple thing, doesn't everyone have vision? Well, “duh,” I guess not.

The disturbing thing is that there seems to be a greater number of people who do not think outside the box. They are acceptant of written words and directions by others.

Big government perpetuates this thought. These vegetative and passive followers might well still be living in caves. Which side of the cave do you want?

Remember, as Americans, we have rights and privileges paid for in blood that allow us to express ourselves freely. Do not become complacent. Those of you with vision, get off the fence, step up to the plate, move your butts, step outside the box, for you are needed and we anxiously await you.

Inventions. old and new.

A chronicle of inventions throughout the ages.

8000 bc

Mesopotamia, (now Iraq), gave rise to early metal working.

China began producing art as did others.

5000 bc

Mesopotamia invented the wheel.

3000 bc

India began producing silk and growing rice.

Mesopotamia discovered bronze.

2000 bc

India may have been first to use plumbing.

Rome was the first to widely use plumbing.

Mesopotamia invented the chariot.

India used the arch for support in buildings.

China was the first to use ink.

1000 bc

Egypt invented glass.

MesoAmerica invented rubber.

India was credited with the water clock.

Asia first founded iron.

500 - 100 bc

China first used the cultivating plough.

India began to grow sugar cane.

Greece invented maps and the first encyclopedia.

Rome developed the aqueduct system to move water.

China invented the compass.

50-500 ad

China invented paper.

Omar first used the windmill.

500-1000 ad

India invented the spinning wheel.

Afghanistan used wind powered gristmill.

China discovered gun powder.

Egypt invented the writing pen.

1000 -1500 ad

Persia is credited with the first thermometer.

China invented the first rocket.

Egypt is responsible for the first hand gun.

Germany invented the pocket watch.

1500-1600 ad

England discovered the first use of the lead pencil.

The telescope was invented by Zacharis Jansson.

1600-1700 ad

The calculator was invented by Wilhelm Schickard.

An early steam car was invented by Ferdinand Verbiest.

The piano was from the mind of Bartolomeo Cristofori.

1700-1800 ad

The Franklin Stove inventor was Benjamin Franklin.

Franklin also invented the lightning rod.

The oil lamp was discovered by Aime Arga.

1800-1900 ad

The first gas stove. Zachaus Winzler.

Locomotive inventor. Richard Trevithick.

Bicycle inventor. Karl Drais.

The first electric motor was invented by Michael Faraday.

Combustion engine inventor. Samual Morey.

Early refrigerator. Jacob Perkins

First revolver was made by Samuel Colt.

Telephone was invented by Antonio Meucci.

Invention of the repeating rifle. Oliver Winchester.

Pasteurization discovery. Louis Pasteur.

Jeans and Levi Strauss.

Phonograph inventor. Thomas Edison.

Early automobile. Karl Benz.

1900-1950 ad

Disposable razor. King Gillette.

The first airplane was built and flown by the Wright Bros.

The first helicopter. Paul Cornu and Igor Sikorsky.

Television inventor. Francis Jenkins.

Penicillin discovery. Alexander Fleming.

Early computer inventor. Conrod Zuse.

The microwave discovery was by Robert Watson.

Military tank invented by Sir William Tritton.

The theory of relativity. Albert Einstein.

Contractors working for the United States military invented new ways of war including radar, liquid propellant rockets, jet engines and the a-bomb.

1950-2000 ad

Nuclear power discovery. Walter Zinn.

Artificial heart inventor. Robert Jarvik.

The United States military is credited with the first use of black box flight recorders, lasers, solar power use, fuel cells, micro chips and numerous weapons.

The Nasa program is credited with early use of micro chips, miniaturization, computers, mobile phones, robot technology, astronomical/geological photography, The internet and countless advances in rocketry and space. Though not intended, the space program has enriched the lives of all Americans!

Major advances in agriculture. The science of fertilizers and pesticides, along with improved irrigation techniques has allowed farm production to feed the world.

The medical field with the help of technology is constantly remaking itself. Life expectancy has increased by 20 years.

Enlightenment seems to come in phases throughout history. There are periods of time when man seeks new direction, answers to old and new questions and a general acceptance of any and all findings.

There are also dark eras that involve stagnation of thought and learning. The Dark Ages of Europe (the years 410 to 1095) were such a time. It took over 600 years to recover from the fall of Rome. Welcome the Renaissance period.

This is but one example of the cycle between sunshine and darkness. In the Bible it is written, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose." It is no accident that our enlightened America has been blessed because of our chosen path.

Oh! The things we need.

A light hearted view.

The person who said everything has been invented was dead wrong. There is no end to the possibilities, and discovery is open to all. With vision you could be that rich aunt or uncle that people talk about. There are millions of future inventions and innovations right out there in front of us. Discovery is alive and well.

Now, I realize that not everyone is a great visionary, but most people have asked, why can't we have this or that? That's when the visionary steps up with a solution to the question. Let's look at some everyday problems:

Light bulbs. The lightbulb comes in all sizes and shapes. Small screw ins and large screw ins get a "c" grade for the amount of light produced and a "d" grade for light produced where you need it. Removing an old bulb for replacement is difficult at best. For this, engineers get a "d" grade. Why do they have to screw at all and what kind of erosion producing metal do they use that practically seals the bulb threads to the fixture? In Europe, the bulb is pushed in and then, with a slight turn, they are secure. How about a bulb that simply pops in and pops out. Give me a break folks, there must be a better way!

Personal health care. In this technological age, it seems to me that something could be attached to each of us that would signal and prevent airborne infections. How about a personal diagnostic gismo that would allow us to analyze our own condition, not unlike home blood pressure cuffs? It seems to me, since it is our body, we should be in more control. We should be more informed. There is entirely too much secrecy concerning our personal health. Our health records from birth could be recorded on a disk so as to allow a doctor to give you a better diagnosis of a particular health issue. This disk would be yours to be used as you see fit.

Prescriptions. There are too many state and federal regulations. It should be much easier and less expensive to buy prescriptions across the counter. All information could be contained on your personal disk as discussed above. The present procedure from the doctor's signature to the druggist to the patient, needs to be improved. Consider pill and container size, shape and color. For example, all pain pills could be red or all antibiotics could be blue. Goodbye to mistakes and lawsuits.

Bath tubs. About a zillion years ago someone invented a container that would hold water and the local neighborhoods could wash their bodies in this vessel. That was great because the annual bath could then be used over and over and over. Isn't that a pleasant thought? Now, fast forward to modern present day and we find many folks bathing in a vessel, perhaps more often and with fewer persons using the same water. However, this contraption is still most unsanitary!

The sky. Before we started seeking shelter in and under something, we slept beneath the beautiful stars. People used the stars for direction and navigation and could count on their accuracy in the sciences. Then modern man built a roof to protect us from the elements. A cover, yes, but at what cost? How about inventing a roof that could be clear to give us light in the day and the sky at night? Sounds simple enough!

Rain. Like the sky, we have separated ourselves from this wonderful source of water. Generations past used the rain for their cleansing showers. We captured rain water for personal or agricultural use. It was also used to moderate temperature in buildings. It is time we look again at the possibilities. It is time for a fresh vision.

Car comfort. Creature comforts leave a lot to be desired in our travel modes including trains, planes, buses and automobiles. The seats are generally fitted for children and other very small people. However, those of us who are of average or above average size are going to be less than comfortable. Surely there is a market for human comfort!

Storage space. We are missing the boat here (no pun intended) for not thinking outside the box when it comes to storage space. Every nook and cranny in your car or home is screaming for attention. Every engineer and architect should try one up-man-ship in creating hiding places that stimulate our fun buttons.

Travel space. Develop places for all kinds of neat things such as microwaves, coolers, special lighting, internet and other tech devices. While on this subject, why do they call that storage space in the dashboard a glove box? Why in England do they call the rear storage the boot?

Politically correct communication device. We all get into trouble saying things we mean and having these spoken thoughts perceived in a totally different way.

This is especially prevalent when husbands try to explain, well..... almost anything, and then, to make things worse, we continue digging a deeper hole. So someone needs to invent a device that makes the necessary correctionsbefore they are spoken. The sooner someone invents this device, the more marriages that will be saved!

Language decipherer. A machine that deciphers language both outgoing and incoming. This seems so simple that it must already exist. Can you imagine traveling in a foreign country and being able to order from the menu or asking for directions that would be understandable to both parties? On the world stage fewer gaffs would lead to a more peaceful world.

New food sources. Same old! Same old! Why can't someone come up with something new and fresh to eat. They did it in that latest science fiction movie. All you need is the sun, water and a medium. Right? How difficult could that be?

One piece houses. With everything included, delivered and installed at an affordable price that would allow worldwide ownership. The person who can come up with this would solidify their names in the history books.

Fire prevention. Fire is a chemical reaction fueled by oxygen. So if we eliminate oxygen, wouldn't we stop the fire? Seems easy enough. Using water seems so 18th century.

Warm water therapy. What a healing benefit as it counteracts gravity and allows the body to work less. The water produces hydrostatic pressure that benefits the heart and lungs and reduces pressure on the spine. Could this therapy be artificially duplicated?

People mover. Using magnetics, a hover craft floating just above the surface, or perhaps a unit powered by liquid hydrogen or condensed combustion tablets or something yet unknown could be the future. Please, let's make the greenies happy.

Artificial body parts. Spare parts to replace defective ones. Actually this science is evolving today. Bless the folks who are improving the lives of many.

Injected knowledge. Save on books and time. The sleep we get every day, about 8 hours, could be used as a time of learning. Suppose tonight in your sleep you experienced the thrill of reading Moby Dick, and the following day you could recite it.

Electricity. A wonderful invention but moving it from one place to another is a problem. Think of our planet without those ugly poles and wires. Is there a different way of

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