

## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

March 9-15, 2018

### HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING – Part 3



Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,  
Jack jump over the candlestick  
~ Old Nursery Rhyme  
(Illustration courtesy of Clip Art)

### WILL DREAMING, DARING, DODGING OR DANCING SOLVE THE CRISIS?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**BEATING** the impending housing crisis after World War Two required implementing a theretofore- untested dream: coupling government with private industry to set the nation on peacetime feet.

If the plan succeeded, government-issued low-interest loans to GIs, along with privately built affordable housing, would create a win/win situation.

It worked!

Sacrificed to save society were, in lieu of people, vast agricultural acreage and groves that sliced up America's purple-mountains majesty by tractizing the fruited plains at their feet.

Homeless people weren't strewn like old corn cobs across the landscape as is the case along rural trails, riverbanks and highways today.

In cities like postwar Los Angeles, where I grew up, flop houses, fleabag hotels and soup kitchens served broken-down people—mostly men—sequestered on Skid Row, as opposed to the Main Streets and Lapis Roads across the US today.

Monterey's warming/homeless shelter issue has been kicked like a can and played like dodge ball since 2012.

So?

## Two Postwar Revolutions

As America's "Greatest Generation" settled into peacetime prosperity, mass home ownership gave rise through the Baby Boom to density, and density brought forth diversity. Then, two revolutions arose.

First, civil revolution, evolved in the 1960s, with everything from equal rights to racial equality as issues, when the Children of the Greatest Generation took the helm of the Ship of State.

In the essay "Children of the Greatest Generation," Anonymous memorialized the offspring of the adults of World War Two:

*"The G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent-up demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work.*

*"New highways would bring jobs and mobility."*

Today's New Bedou, living in vehicles along highways like Lapis Road, reflect both the end of a dream that reversed and authority figures who are stymied.

What's next?

## Daring Versus Derring-Do?

County of Monterey's District 4 Supervisor, Jane Parker, used the "daring" approach to tackle safe parking along county roads.

Jane bravely persisted, despite initial resistance from the community and elected officials, in establishing a site where those who live in vehicles can safely, legally park overnight.

The pilot safe parking project, which kicked off last Dec.22 and will last throughout 2018, allows 15 duly qualified vehicles to park from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. in the lot of the County Coastal Offices at 2616 First Ave., Marina.

Conversely, "derring-do" (meaning brave action executed in a seemingly reckless manner) is how I interpret the bungled handling of campers' vehicles as described in this excerpt from last week's *Monterey County Weekly* in which Squid reveals Salinas Mayor Joe Gunter's recent address to a regional conference of mayors:

"What Gunter is most fired up about is old RVs—which cost about \$7,000 apiece to destroy, and of which city officials have recently destroyed 13.

"'You ran them off, and they came to our city,' Gunter told the Peninsula mayors. 'They're not registered, they're not safe—how anyone could allow those to (be driven) down the highway should be ashamed of themselves.'

"(Worth noting: The 'you' is not in fact any city mayor, but county officials who have cracked down on RVs illegally parked on county roads.)

What happened to those whose four-wheeled homes were destroyed? It isn't hard to guess!

Second revolution was full-blown entry into the cyber revolution in which, by the mid-1980s, robots and artificial intelligence began replacing the human work force.

As members of the unemployed work force, with cost of housing sky high, these elder kids and grandchildren of the Greatest Generation face homelessness because not only is affordable housing needed, between 1000 and 5000 units of low-income housing with monthly rents from \$300-\$500 are immediate requisites that should, but don't, exist.

## **It's Time To Dance**

As illustrated in the nursery rhyme metaphor “Jack be nimble, Jack be quick/Jack jump over the candlestick,” potential disaster can be averted through timely right action.

Dodging won't work. It's time to dance!

Dancing is a metaphor for setting public and private action into motion to attain a goal.

Public: Pacific Grove city council members Rudy Fischer and Bill Peake started a new Affordable Housing dance at this week's city council meeting. See page one.

Private: The 12<sup>th</sup> annual All Women's Ball will be Friday, March 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Dr., Monterey. Proceeds from the event sponsored by Community Housing Solutions will benefit runaway and homeless youth, the great grandchildren of the Greatest Generation, through their Safe Place program in Monterey.

Suggested donation is \$30. Contact Lenina Sanchez at 831-658-3811, [lsanchez@chservices.org](mailto:lsanchez@chservices.org).

###

Copyright 2018 by Wanda Sue Parrott

Illustration courtesy of Clip Art

Contact [amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com](mailto:amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com) or call 831-899-5887