

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

June 8-14, 2018

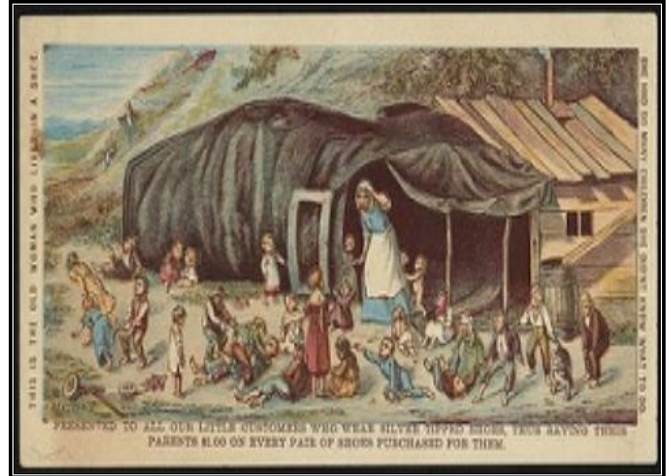
HUMPTY DUMPTY HOUSING - Part 16



Architectural rendering:

Artist's rendering of future mixed-use area of Sand City features one or more hotels, retail shops, and several hundred residential units. Expected to triple or quadruple Sand City's current population, DBO's redevelopment project, approved with modifications on June 5 by the city council, raises questions like: How will traffic be impacted? Where will work-force families live if housing costs skyrocket beyond minimum-wage means? What will happen to the homeless after the anticipated completion date of around 2025?

Photo courtesy of Sand City; sponsored content KION546.com.



She Sells Shoes

An unidentified advertiser used Mother Goose to sell expensive shoes to Depression-era poor children. "This is the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe," the ad says. "Presented to all our little customers who wear silver tipped shoes, thus saving their parents \$1 on every pair of shoes purchased for them." The scene looks like the shack in which a poor family lived behind the Seaside News Sentinel once at Fremont and Broadway before urban renewal kicked off Seaside's redevelopment in 1964. Will the Salvation Army's Sabu Shake Sr. Good Samaritan Center survive Sand City's redevelopment? (Photo courtesy of Clip Art)

WOULD YOU OFFER YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME TO BE A FOSTER PARENT?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

WRITING this column is easy. If it isn't interesting, however, no one reads it.

So? How have I made homelessness intriguing enough to keep the column going for 191 uninterrupted weeks? Simple. I use techniques Donald Trump touts: hype and hyperbole.

Huh?

Yep. Big words work. They're attention-getters! They're not lies but can be innuendo.

Using metaphor helps. For instance, "Homelessness is a peninsula-wide disease."

And simile. "Homelessness is like a malignant tumor growing across our county."

How about this simile? "As a cancer, untreated homelessness will kill our Peninsula Paradise."

This has been a huge week because of the election on June 5 and various local and county decisions that affect funding—and the future--of homeless issues.

I'll report next week on questions like: Will the Safe Parking Program that allows overnight parking on the county lot of Supervisor Jane Parker be snipped like a half-opened rose?

What changes were made to the redevelopment plan voted on by the Sand City city council on June 5?

Did the Gathering for Women's new day center make its \$2.7 million goal in order to open its doors this month?

And, since the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula became a Sanctuary Congregation in May, what will it do to help COPA deal with the low-income housing crisis since the Monterey County Supervisors voted to slash funding for homeless services?

As a public servant, I provide hyperbolized headlines designed to hook readers.

Last week's headline was "Where will all the children live after they're found?"

Artwork citing Mother Goose's "There was an old woman who lived in a shoe/who had so many children she didn't know what to do/so she fed them all broth without any bread/then she whipped them all soundly and sent them to bed" tied rumored missing children with true-but-unexploited news about child trafficking.

My 750 words fire up imaginations; one of our readers researched these facts.

Facts And The Missing Children Issue

By Rick Hadlock, Homeowner, Pacific Grove

Parrott made a number of disturbing allusions: these children being used as sex slaves, trafficked to pimps, sold to childless adults, rooting through the garbage, sleeping in lettuce fields, sleeping in shoebox-size places with no personal space.

These scary and unfounded allusions misrepresent the facts, and by innuendo condemn a well intended DHS plan to cope with minor children who are illegal aliens.

Clearly, there is a problem with minors who have entered the US illegally. How do you care for them? From October to December 2017, the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement attempted to reach, by a phone call, 7,635 unaccompanied minors and/or their sponsors.

Of the 7,635 children: 6,075 remained with their sponsors; 28 had run away; 5 had been deported; 52 relocated to live with a non-sponsor; 1,475 could not be reached.

These children are not lost. Their sponsors, who are usually parents or family members who have been vetted for criminality and ability to provide for them, simply did not respond or could not be reached when a telephone call was made to them.

Some sponsors are themselves here illegally and don't want to be contacted by authorities. Why are these minors placed with sponsors instead of kept with their parents? In many cases it is because their parents are in jail for violating US immigration law, or for other reasons.

Is the government forcibly separating children from their families at the border? Perhaps.

Clearly over 80 percent of the children are being cared for; we don't know about the 19.3 percent whose sponsors have not been contacted. Most people would come up with a similar program to cope with a very difficult problem.

Parrott did not offer alternative solutions, but I'd be most interested to hear her ideas.

And to our community, how many of you would offer yourself and your home to be foster parents?

I think this column answers Rick's questions about my ideas; share yours by contacting Rick Hadlock at myster_h@yahoo.com.

Dialogue keeps the American press free.

This isn't political hype or hyperbole. It's plain old red-white-and-blue truth!

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Photos (2)—Cutlines with photos

Rendering of future Sand City development; Shoe with advertisement for silver tips.

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