Travels With Charley II: In Search of America's Future



By Frosty Wooldridge

August 14, 2023

Part 1: A drastically and quickly changing America. Not so good on many levels. Confusion of our youth. Loss of pride in our country.

In a picture over the Internet, it showed a person dripping Tabasco Sauce into his/her eye saying, "I'd rather drop this stuff into my eyes than watch the Barbie Movie."

Ironically, the Barbie Movie proves conclusively that Americans must tolerate more gender insanities, more "wokeness", more "transgender" senselessness, more racial conflict, more political absurdities and more of the people who are driving this country into the toilet.

Whether it's Joy Reid, host of an MSNBC talk show, whining about systemic racism and white privilege in America while she commands a \$1.5 million annual salary, or African-American Patrick Mahomes' \$300 million contract to toss a football or the U.S. Women's Soccer World Cup ladies who refused to honor our National Anthem by at least standing with their hands over their hearts to honor their own country—-you can't help wonder where all this craziness ends or does it?

Note: millions of patriotic Americans couldn't help but silently cheer when Megan Rapinoe, who hates America with all her heart, missed a goal that lost the game with Sweden in the World Cup competition. She will end her career as a loser. But worse than that, she lost the affection of Americans for her ugly treatment of her own country.

This year, starting in late April, my wife Sandi and I took a 10,000-mile road trip covering 21 states in the Mid-West and West. Last year, we took a 10,000-mile journey of southern and eastern states...numbering 21 more states.

What we saw wasn't pretty. If you remember, back in the 1950's, Pulitzer Prize winner John Steinbeck wrote, Grapes of Wrath, Tortilla Flats, Cannery Row and other observations of America. One of his most famous quotes came from his book where he traveled around America with his dog to write a memoir, Travels With Charley. His most memorable quote about The sound of a jet, an engine warming up, even the travel: clopping of shod hooves on pavement brings on the ancient shudder, the dry mouth and vacant eye, the hot palms and the churn of stomach high up under the rib cage. When I was very young and the urge to be someplace else was on me, I was assured by mature people that maturity would cure this itch. When years described me as mature, the remedy prescribed was middle age. In middle age I was assured that greater age would calm my fever and now that I am fifty-eight perhaps senility will do the job. Nothing has worked. I fear the disease is incurable.

Anyone who knows me understands that I suffer from the same travel "disease" as Steinbeck. Give me a road, give me a bicycle…and I will discover the world. Latest book: The Kickstand Chronicles: The Miraculous, Funny, Sublime and Downright Terrifying…Inevitable Moments of the Journey, Bicycling Across Six Continents, 45 years, 150,000 Miles by Frosty Wooldridge.

From my car travels the past two summers, I am writing a new book, Travels With Charley II by Frosty Wooldridge. I am taking his observations of America in the 1950's and writing about what's happened to America in the 2020's. We have created a drastically different, angrier, un-American America and fractured if not fragmented country. We have become more racially separated, and more culturally "multiculturalized" to the point that being an "American" no longer holds any sense of patriotic meaning to millions of our youth or our immigrants.

When Johnny Cash sang, "A Boy Named Sue" back in 1969, we now see boys transgendering into "Susan" to the point that Title IX program for women have been obliterated. "Wokeness" is destroying any sense of "common sense" at the highest levels. It's almost as if the politically correct "nuts" are running the insane asylum. The fact remains that you can never, ever change your sex of XY or XX chromosomes. You can pretend, you can carry an illusion, you can dress any way you want, but you will always remain your sex at birth no matter how many drugs you take, no matter how many operations, no matter what your emotional makeup at whatever age. All transgenderism is "pretending" and not reality. By advocating for it before the age of 21, it's destroying millions of young children's lives.

During our travels, we saw disturbing aspects of what's happening to America as to the "content" of our non-citizens who invaded our shores either legally or illegally. We witnessed entire cities being changed to replicate third world countries. We watched in disbelief homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness into the tens of thousands of lost souls in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, NYC, Baltimore, Miami and New Orleans.

We saw enormous dichotomies brought about by mayors, governors and city councils that defy understanding. We saw firsthand the lawlessness that's undermining our very existence as a society.

You cannot solve problems when you promote them. You cannot solve drug addiction by serving more drugs. You cannot solve homelessness by encouraging it. You cannot save women's sports by adhering to the insanity of "transgender" male athletes whipping women into submission. You cannot encourage patriotism and pride in one's community when you allow talking heads to trash the foundation of our society.

We cannot save our country by trying to save everyone else's country. As you watch over 100 hotels in New York City being destroyed by illegal migrants, you begin to understand that your tax dollars cannot save the world…and there's no way that Washington DC or the governors or mayors in this country can keep doing what they are doing to destroy the foundation of our way of life.

From Sandi's and my travels around this grand country, we witnessed that we cannot keep traveling down this national "tragic highway" if we hope that our civilization will survive another 20 years. We must change course…and very, very soon.

I will cover our national tragedy in this series. Buckle up...you're in for a rough ride.

Coming in Part 2: You cannot believe what you see. You cannot understand the thinking behind some of the stuff going on. You cannot comprehend the stupidities allowing what's happening.

© 2023 Frosty Wooldridge – All Rights Reserved

E-Mail Frosty: <u>frostyw@juno.com</u>