



Hank asks, "Is this two or four asses?"  
From left: Number Seven, Hank Vogler,  
Number Eleven and Trent Loos.

# Geezers

*The border fence needs to be built around Washington, D.C.*

*By Hank Vogler*

**G**ood judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from poor judgment. When you reach geezerdom, you realize how little you know. You remember your number on the old crank telephone being two longs and a short, yet you can't absorb the new world of factless science. You watched in horror as the mythical spotted owl helped destroy the middle class in the Pacific Northwest. In total shock, you watched nuclear winter turn into global warming, then spin into climate change by none other than Spotted Al Gore, who couldn't even control a masseuse in Portland, Ore., in the middle of the night, let alone the weather.

Now, here in Nevada you see history repeating itself with the sage grouse. The sinking feeling comes from the fact that to save rangeland ranching, it is out of your hands. No matter how much factual science and history you have, the only salvation to prevent the sage hen from being listed as an endangered species is to make alliances with mining and oil exploration as the listing could wipe out those industries in the West along with hunting and recreation.

Also, the lesser prairie chicken and the Clean Water Act have woken up a lot more folks about government's inability to solve problems, which expands and nurtures problems for the survival of the species of regulators. Now your only salvation is an alliance with other resource developers, which are now being thrown under the bus

with you in the name of the "environment."

For the last 11 years, every Monday morning at 4:30, Trent Loos and I record a radio program for the Midwest called "Rural Routes." For quite some time, there were several listeners who had a running bet of how many minutes into the program before I

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would mention the sage hen. If you guessed close to the minute when I would first say sage hen, you won a few beers. Lo and behold, the lesser prairie chicken came along, the Keystone pipeline popped up, and the EPA started telling people who actually was in charge of private farm ponds.

Government overreach and interference in private property rights were the new topics of programming. No one is laughing now. This gives me solace in the fact that fed-

eral western states have been trying for years to catch the attention of the rest of the nation of what an overbearing government is capable of. When the expression "it's your ox that's being gored" comes into play, it sheds a whole new light on the subject.

History should teach the government that when you finally push the masses down long enough, there will be consequences. The Roman citizens were entitled to "free bread and circuses" until the marginalized barbarians had had enough and destroyed the empire. The British Empire began to crumble when the colonies were overburdened with rules, regulations and taxes from the ruling class. The French used pitchforks and axes along with the guillotine to make their point.

Hopefully, America will remember its history and go back to its roots and reinstate "limited government." It is the United States of America, not Washington, D.C., and its local affiliates. Thomas Jefferson was given credit for saying "Government closest to the people governs best" and "We will need a revolution about every 200 years to set the ship of state back on course."

In my short life, I have observed many a run at a "Utopian" society. On paper the Communist Manifesto sounds great. Everybody is equal and all things are fair. Maybe ask the Russian folks or the Chinese or the North Koreans or the Cubans about perfect societies. The first time it failed was when the pilgrims tried it and nearly starved. The first Thanksgiving was the celebration of the failure of collectivism and the success of free enterprise.

We old geezers remember Lyndon Johnson telling us that poverty would be eliminated in our lifetime. I'm getting a little long in the tooth waiting for the fat lady to sing. Ninety-two million people are now on government assistance. The dummies are the ones who are working. Jimmy Carter started the Department of Education. Test scores for our children and grandchildren have fallen ever since but the cost per student and the department's budget have gone through the roof.

The Department of Energy has never created a gallon of gas, a kilowatt of electricity or cubic foot of natural gas, yet this agency has 15,000 employees and tens of thousands

of private contractors doing God only knows what. Talk to someone in the business of energy development and they will tell you that DOE is an impediment to resource development and no help.

Here in Nevada, if you hit the mother lode of minerals, it will take 10 years to develop the mine before you extract an ounce of anything. I bet there will be a few haul pack trucks full of paper created. What happened to Desert Pete? We were told that there was a watershed election in 2014. If you listen real close to the doublespeak of the politicians, the Republicans are merely planning to be Democrat Lite! Out here on the high wide and lonesome, it appears that Democrats and Republicans fight all day long and sleep together at night. They are like two drunks in a bar on the Titanic arguing who is responsible for creating the biggest share of the bar bill.

We don't need a fence on our borders. We won't be able to build it without people willing to work. No American will want the job. Work has become a four-letter word in

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this country. If citizens had to take the unskilled jobs that are now being taken by illegal aliens, the illegals would go back home. Amnesty has just guaranteed a cheap supply of labor as far as the eye can see, and this from the party that claims to represent the little guy.

If you want to see economic incentive, look at the drug cartels. Supply and demand has made some rich folks all over the world. We are all guilty of thinking that the government can solve our problems. Remember, in government, job one is the government job.

It is only by accident if anyone actually receives a benefit from the program. If you want to build a fence, build it around Washington, D.C. Let no one in or out unless they can prove that our nation is better off for their actions.

The federal government's original charter was to raise a militia, mint coin, settle disputes between the states, conduct foreign policy, deliver the mail, and guarantee "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." No mention of an interference with the masses except to maintain the Constitution. We are now rated as the second largest economy in the world behind China and we are 20th when it comes to personal freedom.

God help us all! ■

*Hank says: "My original plan was to be Howard Hughes' only heir. My second choice was to be a freelance gynecologist. My third choice was to hand out towels in the whorehouse, but I couldn't pass the physical, so I became a sheepherder!" He ranches in eastern Nevada.*