

FROM ONE HILL TO ANOTHER

Corvallis, Montana

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Wisdom from the Past!

By Gary and Joan Carlson



The great essential to our happiness and prosperity is that we adhere to the

principles upon which the government was established and insist upon that faithful observance. Equality of rights must prevail, and our laws must always be and everywhere respected and obeyed.

William McKinley Inaugural Address - March 4, 1897
25th President of the United States: 1897-1901

The year was 1913. Immigrants had been coming to the United States from all over Europe. Among them was a young boy from Sweden accompanied by his mother and three sisters. They were to

join his father and older

brother who had come eight years earlier. Coming legally to America meant that enough money had to be saved before the rest of the family would be eligible to join them. The boy was 13 years old Carl Rudolf Carlson, and he was my dad.

Steam ship travel from Sweden to America at that time usually took between six and fourteen weeks depending on the weather. Their final destination was Boston where they were reunited with the father and older brother. After eight long years of separation, young Carl could hardly recognize his father at first. But, finally together as a family, they were ready to start a new life in America.

As a stone cutter, young Carl's father was seeking work that wasn't under the domineering thumb of the Swedish unions. Finally together in America, the Carlson family was determined to make their dream a reality by becoming American citizens in accordance to the laws of their new home.

Carl Rudolf Carlson grew and prospered in his adopted country. He married, raised a family, and contributed to the fabric of America, living to the wonderful age of 93 1/2. He had strong feelings

about voting in America. He once said, "When you vote in America, you vote in English." As far as he was concerned, once you became a citizen, you were plain and simply "American" ...no hyphens necessary.

America has been built upon the dreams of hard working folks who left their homelands looking for a better life for themselves and their families. But, historically, they have also been willing to contribute to their new homeland not just come as takers looking for handouts. They came legally with a desire to learn a new culture, a new language, and become Americans.

The Legislative branch (US Congress) has the responsibility to address the issue of Naturalization. Article One, Section 8 reads "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization....." It ends section 8 with these words "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof." In other words, members of Congress, it is your responsibility to

make the laws in accordance with the US Constitution. In fact, each one of you took an oath to uphold and defend the US Constitution.

There, you have it. Congress has the job of fixing our Immigration and Naturalization problems. Would you believe that there is currently no Congressional Standing Committee on Immigration and Naturalization? There are over 100 members of Congress who represent the Border States between the US and Mexico. However, there is only a small subcommittee in both the US Senate and US House under their Judiciary Committees. Under the new Homeland Security Department there are three agencies that deal with immigration.....but that is it. Considering the strife that illegal immigration has caused this country in recent years, it is imperative that Congress give serious consideration to upgrade the status of Immigration and Naturalization to a full standing committee. Have they so easily forgotten 9/11 and the ease in which the terrorists crossed our borders and were allowed to disregard the laws concerning student and tourist visas? When we face a deficit in the



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trillions, shouldn't we have a better handle on how much money is spent on illegal aliens each month for welfare, food stamps and various medical needs throughout the country? Don't we, as taxpayers, have a right to know where are hard earned money is being spent? Every government agency should be required to calculate the amount of money that goes out each month for those who came to America illegally. Also, no one who came to this country illegally should be allowed to obtain a driver's license. In many states a driver's license is all that is required to register to vote. The conclusions one can draw from that fact are obvious. Illegal aliens may have already or will be voting in our elections...and to think that the Democrats are so concerned about the Russians influence on our elections! In addition, anyone who is stopped by authorities for any reason and found to be here illegally should be arrested and subsequently deported without delay (This calls for a revision to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA program.)

Moreover, revision of the Voting Rights Act of 1975 should be addressed by Congress. Currently, states with high numbers of immigrants are required to print voting materials in foreign languages, as well as English. This is a waste of taxpayers' money. How many dollars would be saved if only one ballot had to be printed? Carl Rudolf Carlson came to this country not knowing a word of English, but he learned the language. He came to America to be an American. Therefore, he

expected to use English in the workplace, in his community.....and when he voted!

Dealing with the subject of immigration in America is nothing new. The difference today is the manner in which the illegal aspect of the subject is being addressed. Prior to the current influx of immigrants, the majority of those who relocated to the United States occurred at the end of the 19th Century and beginning of the 20th Century. During those years, strict regulations were in place to ensure that those who came to America abided by the immigration laws if they wished to stay in this country. Those who came were quarantined until their physical and mental wellbeing could be addressed. Without the proper documentation and verification that they were sponsored by someone already in this country, they were turned away and forced to leave the country. The following words are an excerpt from President William McKinley's inaugural address of 1897. It made clear the sentiment of the country at that time. We would be well served to heed his words today.

Our naturalization and immigration laws should be further improved to the constant promotion of a safer, a better, and a higher citizenship. A grave peril to the Republic would be a citizenship too ignorant to understand or too vicious to appreciate the great value and beneficence of our institutions and laws, and against all who come here to make war upon them our

gates must be promptly and tightly closed. Nor must we be unmindful of the need of improvement among our own citizens, but with the zeal of our forefathers encourage the spread of knowledge and free education. Illiteracy must be banished from the land if we shall attain that high destiny as the foremost of the enlightened nations of the world which, under Providence, we ought to achieve.

President William McKinley

It is no less dangerous today, and our borders no less at risk of peril than what faced President McKinley over a hundred years ago. We are presently at war, and we must win the War on Terrorism. It is estimated that millions of illegals already live in this country and thousands continue to sneak across our borders. Shouldn't we, at least, take this issue as seriously as did President McKinley?

Let's have Congress devise a policy that protects our citizens, our country and is fair and just to all. Let's embrace the fact that we are a nation of immigrants, but, as Carl Rudolf Carlson would concur. "Let's keep them legal...We are Americans!"

We are Gary and Joan Carlson, asking you to join us next time aboard the **White Hat Express.** 🇺🇸



FYI:

Gary Carlson, Publisher of the **White Hat Express***, is a former Reagan Administration Political Appointee, a retired US Marine Corps Officer, and a former candidate for both the US Senate and the House of Representatives. He also teaches Political Science and the US Constitution at the Community College level.

Joan Carlson, **White Hat Express** Editor, has worked on Capitol Hill in three offices, testified before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, is a freelance writer, and currently owns **Outreach Enterprises**, a desktop publishing and promotional services business in Montana.

Both Carlson's have held GOP positions and have been involved in Republican Party activities in four states; California, Minnesota, Montana and Virginia.

The term "**White Hat**" originates from Vietnam where Gary was a member of the 26th Marines, and the good guys were referred to as "**White Hats**".

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