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IN YOUR WORDS

Putting a price tag on carbon

It seems obvious that attaching a price tag to permission to pollute is a fatally flawed idea. Money is the most fungible commodity and is too readily available to polluters. Even if there is a mere 10 percent chance that manmade climate change is a reality, and if there is a desire to maintain earth as a viable place for life as we know it, much more drastic measures must be considered. We are still treating this planet as if we had another one to go to.

AXEL SCHONFELD, POINT ROBERTS, WASH.

Now tell me how the U.S. converting itself into one of the largest producers of gas and unconventional oil on the planet via exploitation of shale deposits is going to help save the planet. The best way not to change the climate is to leave the hydrocarbons in the ground and look to other energy sources.

VICTOR, ARGENTINA

Note the farmer's enduring skepticism about climate change — but he'll change his system if he is paid to do so. In other words, we can't change minds, but we can change behavior. This is the model that could turn things around.

J.F., WISCONSIN

All this is a backdoor way of taxing that will raise the cost of living for us all.

WALYERT, LANCASTER, N.H.

The right to be forgotten online

Sometimes making things a tiny bit harder for a megawealthy corporation actually makes things a lot easier for an individual, and there's nothing wrong with that trade-off. Progressive societies expand rights for individuals, they don't restrict — or reduce — them, as is the case in the contemporary United States. Looks like the 21st century will be the European century.

ANTHONY, LONDON

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IN OUR PAGES

International Herald Tribune

1914 French Cabinet to Resign

There were scenes of great animation at the Palais-Bourbon yesterday morning, when the newly elected Chamber of Deputies held its first sitting. The proceedings were opened by a brief speech from Baron de Mackau, the doyen of the Chamber. A meeting of the Cabinet was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at half past ten o'clock in the morning, and M. Doumergue, the Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated the reasons which had led him to the decision to resign office. The Cabinet will meet again to-day in order to remit the resignations of Ministers to President Poincaré.

1939 87 Men Trapped in Submarine

BIRKENHEAD, ENGLAND Nine days after 26 U.S. sailors lost their lives across the Atlantic in the sinking of the submarine Squalus, rescue ships of the British Navy were converging in the mouth of the Mersey River to attempt to save the lives of an estimated 87 persons trapped 130 feet beneath the surface in a British submarine. In the stricken vessel, the 1,090-ton Thetis, were five officers and forty-eight men of its crew, four other naval officers, and approximately thirty technicians from the Birkenhead shipyards where the Thetis was built. Early this morning there had been no word from the Thetis.

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The life of the 'Bail Boss'



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLARA VANNUCCI

THE BONDSMEN Clara Vannucci, an Italian photographer, became interested in the work of bail bondsmen while she was in New York City in 2011. A bail bondsman she met took her to housing projects in Jamaica, Queens, to track

down a client whose bond he had posted and who had since missed a required appearance. She later got to know more — and many of her pictures are of George Zouvelos, above, who is based in the borough of Brooklyn. Below, Mr. Zouvelos, who

is known as the Bail Boss, explaining to a newly arrested defendant the reasons he was being sent to jail. Bail bondsmen do not carry guns. "I'm armed with my wits, God at my back and a contract that says I can do it," Mr. Zouvelos, 46, said last month.



ON THE HUNT When a defendant signs a contract with a bondsman, he legally allows bounty hunters to enter his home, as shown above. Holding drug paraphernalia, left, is a violation of the contract. lens.blogs.nytimes.com

Robert W. Sallee, 82, who survived infamous fire, dies at 82

BY BRUCE WEBER

Late in the afternoon of Aug. 5, 1949, 15 young men working for the United States Forest Service parachuted into a remote area near the Missouri River north of Helena, Mont., on the eastern side of the Rockies, prepared to battle

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what they thought to be an easily manageable forest fire. They were tragically wrong.

The site, known as Mann Gulch, became infamous in the history of the Forest Service after the fire, which had been ignited by lightning, suddenly expanded, fanned by high winds. The men, who had been heading down the gulch toward the river, were cut off and chased by the flames, forced to scramble desperately up a steep, craggy slope.

Barely ahead of the conflagration, the leader of the group, R. Wagner Dodge, purposely lighted a new fire, a flash of emergency creativity that saved his life. The idea was to provide an escape hatch — to clear a patch of ground where the onrushing flames would no longer find

fuel — and it worked.

Mr. Dodge lay down in the smoking embers of the cleared patch, and the inferno burned around him. He shouted at his men to join him, but whether they didn't hear the order, didn't understand it, didn't believe it would save them or simply panicked, none of them did. Twelve of the 15 parachutists, known as smoke jumpers, along with a 13th man, an official from a nearby campground, were killed. (Two of them survived until the next day and died in a hospital.)

Two others, Walter B. Rumsey and Robert W. Sallee, crawled to safety through a crevice in the rock wall at the top of the canyon.

Mr. Dodge died in 1955, Mr. Rumsey in 1980. The last survivor of the Mann Gulch fire, Mr. Sallee, who at 17 was the youngest of the smoke jumpers, lived to be 82. He died on Monday in Spokane, Wash. The cause was complications after heart surgery, his son, Eric, said.

The Mann Gulch fire stirred a flurry of research into fire behavior and pushed the Forest Service to develop new training techniques and better safety measures for its firefighters.

But in the fire's aftermath, the service faced a public outcry. It was accused of

insufficiently preparing the smoke jumpers and sending them into Mann Gulch recklessly.

Families of the dead filed lawsuits charging negligence. Among their claims was that Mr. Dodge's "escape fire" strategy had further endangered his men.

The Forest Service defended itself aggressively, and some said corruptly by coaching or bullying witnesses and obscuring evidence.

Mr. Sallee, his son said, rarely spoke about the experience.

"I think there were two reasons for that," Eric Sallee said in an interview. "First, he was 17, and he'd had an absolutely traumatic experience. He helped haul those bodies off the mountain the next day."

Second, he said, the families of the dead were infuriated at the Forest Service and the government. "They thought the escape fire killed their kids, and my dad had to testify in court proceedings. The whole thing was a nasty experience."

After decades of relative silence, however, Mr. Sallee cooperated with the writer Norman Maclean, best known as the author of "A River Runs Through



MR. SALLEE IN 1991. HE WAS 17 WHEN HE PARACHUTED IN TO FIGHT THE MANN GULCH FIRE.

It," whose posthumously published 1992 book (he died in 1990) about the Mann Gulch fire and its legacy, "Young Men and Fire," won a National Book Critics Circle Award for general nonfiction.

In 1978, both Mr. Rumsey and Mr. Sallee went back to Mann Gulch with Mr. Maclean, whose detailed account of their recollections and their court testimony fails to unravel precisely what happened; rather, it succeeds in illustrating the terror of being caught in such a monstrous natural maelstrom.

Mr. Maclean wrote: "Sallee talks so often about everything happening in a matter of seconds after he and Rumsey left Dodge's fire that at first it seems just a manner of speaking. But if you combine the known facts with your imagination and are a mountain climber and try to accompany Rumsey and Sallee to the top, you will know that to have lived you had to be young and tough and lucky."

"And young and tough they were," he continued. "In all weather Sallee had walked four country miles each way to school, and a lot of those eight miles he ran. He and Rumsey had been on tough projects all summer. They gave it everything they had, and everything was more, they said, than ever before or after."

In August 1949, smoke jumping was still a relatively new method of battling fires, and Mr. Sallee had only just finished his training; his jump into Mann Gulch was his first. After surviving the fire, he jumped twice more that summer and continued as a smokejumper the next year.

Reflecting on his father's ordeal in Mann Gulch, Eric Sallee said, "If he was sitting here, he'd tell you, 'We were just goddamned lucky.'"

The appeal of politicians who aren't



Albert R. Hunt

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Dr. Benjamin Carson is following in the footsteps of Walter Cronkite and Lee Iacocca as a nonpolitician being publicly mentioned as a candidate for the most political of jobs, the United States presidency.

Dr. Carson, a retired physician at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, has become a favorite of the political right as he weighs a run for the Republican presidential nomination. He finished third in a straw poll at the Conservative Political Action Conference this year, ahead of Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey.

Last week, he had breakfast with Washington journalists, mainly conservatives, and spoke at the National Press Club.

He is dazzling conservative audiences across the country. They love his story — a poor black kid from Detroit's inner city who rose to be a pre-eminent pediatric neurosurgeon — and his strongly held traditional conservative values.

Dr. Carson calls for straight talk and an end to all political correctness.

The 62-year-old, who has written best-selling books about his story, medical career and, most recently, his vision for America, says his candidacy depends on what he hears from the public and God.

Like the boomlets for Mr. Cronkite, the celebrated television anchorman, and Mr. Iacocca, the high-powered automobile executive, neither of whom ran — or for nonpoliticians who did run, such as the publisher Steve Forbes, the pizza executive Herman Cain or Gen. Wesley Clark — the Carson candidacy likely will falter. The reason: Running for president isn't for political novices.

(A personal aside: Dr. Carson is a hero in our home. Sixteen years ago, he operated on our critically injured son and gave him a new lease on life. His extraordinary talents were matched by his kindness.)

He's already discovering that, even without a spotlight, politics isn't brain surgery, and that you can get in trouble with careless comments. For example, he linked same-sex marriage to bestiality and then apologized.

In his calm, appealing manner, he unleashed a harsh critique of the Affordable Care Act at the National Prayer Breakfast last year, in front of President Obama. He has gone on to call Obamacare "the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery," which, he said, resembles. He later explained he was talking about any attempt to take away an individual's control of his or her life. He hasn't included Medicare in that critique yet.

With no experience in the grass-roots vineyards, he will unwittingly rattle, or alienate, some on the right with assertions that don't hew to conservative orthodoxy. Some examples: the 2008 financial crash was caused by the financial deregulation of the 1990s; health insurance companies should be regulated like utilities; and all federal spending, including defense (and medical research), should be cut by 10 percent, no exceptions.

His foreign policy views, a work in progress, sometimes seem closer to those of Sen. Rand Paul than former Vice President Dick Cheney's. Dr. Carson thinks both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were a mistake; economic pressure and a crash energy independence project would have worked better. On Syria, he sounds like Mr. Obama.

Dr. Carson calls for straight talk and an end to all political correctness.

That sounds appealing, but it doesn't work in the real world of presidential politics.

With a huge, diverse electorate, there's a premium on stitching together coalitions and finding common ground to get more than 50 percent of the vote. That is why, over the past century, the United States only once elected someone with no electoral experience: Dwight D. Eisenhower, who as the supreme allied commander in World War II demonstrated exceptional political skills.

Corporations don't seek out nonbusiness types to be chief executives, football teams don't pick coaches who haven't been associated with the sport and symphonies don't select the tone deaf as conductors. Whatever the superficial appeal of the nonpolitician mantra, presidential politics is for politicians. (BLOOMBERG VIEW)

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