

The liars will fabricate and distribute their lies because that is their comfort zone, in several cases their only zone. Rather than backing out and filling in their liar's holes, they always, always, always dig them ever deeper.

As for me, alas, all I have is factual evidence, the unblemished, unadulterated evidence of cold, hard fact exposing the chasm between 'should have been' and 'was'. The lies will constantly flow and alter, with new ones needed as the old ones crumble. The facts will remain unblushingly, unflinchingly, the same.

## **A History – Part I**

I have worked in the Lake County Assessor Office on three occasions. The first two times I saw it functioning more or less as statute and professional ethics directed and require. The last time I saw that it had become thoroughly corrupted. And from where or whom had this change occurred? It occurred from the gross mistake of bringing into that department the cancer on the Lake County body politic that is Miguel Martinez, the corrupting cancer on Lake County Government that is Miguel Martinez, the con artist corrupting cancer on the Lake County Assessor Office that is Miguel Martinez. While those last six months were a misfortune for me they were a blessing for Lake County, as otherwise the corruption now reigning in Lake County government would never have seen the light of day. Now that its stinking, cancerous mass has been brought to the surface, the question becomes this: Will Lake County voters gaff it from its fetid pool and slay the ugly, horrid beast, tentacles and all, or will they let it calmly slip back below the surface to continue doing what corruption does?

While there were a few employees there that were not, let us say, balls of fire in their work productivity, until the cancer that is Miguel Martinez was so mistakenly brought upon the scene, no one, to my knowledge, had set out to deliberately game the system. And by to game I mean to thoroughly corrupt, and by the system I am not referring to some peripheral aspect of the department functions but to their very core, to the very reasons for having an Assessor Office. (See Technical & Timeline.)

This was no isolated discovery of mine. From all I have been told I was at least the fourth responsible employee in that office who had reported to Assessor Tritz that he was harboring not only a corrupt, con artist cancer but the laziest person I have ever had the misfortune to work around. I did more work in an average day than I saw him do in the entire six months of my first-hand observation. And what I further observed was that under that thinnest veneer of sincerity and honesty and injured innocence ("the charm of wickedness") lives a liar, a cheat, a fraud and a thief. Oh, and don't forget thug; that's in there too. I saw it all, in spades, right in front of me.

One co-worker of Martinez said that he would get so exasperated because he could never get Martinez to do anything. Another said that complaints to Tritz regarding Martinez were nearly a daily part of the job. Another said that when he went to work on a revaluation he found he had nothing to work with because nothing was all that Martinez had done for the past two years. During those two years he collected around \$75,000 to \$80,000, plus the value of benefits, for doing that nothing (and those weren't the only two years.). I said to Tritz several times that the office records clearly showed Martinez had not been doing his job, and I pointed out to him (which should not have been necessary) what the implications of that were. He thought it was funny, something to joke about. I didn't, and don't, see it as in the least a joking matter. Maybe you can tell.

So not only was he entirely untroubled by conclusive evidence of one of his employees making a complete mockery of his office and its primary function, he further thought it quite amusing to tacitly admit to being a complete stooge and patsy. And to this day that remains his preferred admission.

I did not go back into that job with any preconceived notions about Martinez beyond a suspicion from my own observations and some comments from his former co-workers that he didn't care much more about his job than collecting his paycheck. One of them told me that he only decided to run for Assessor when he figured out that he would then hardly ever have to show up to

work to collect that full paycheck. (And all reports say he has steadily followed that course.) Well, I found my suspicion and those comments confirmed over and over, but then to discover that he cared so little that he had essentially not been doing his job at all was a surprise, until I learned what a low-life character he really is. While my association with former Assessor Tritz went back thirty-five or so years, and so I knew he was an amiable but two-faced deceiver (In 2014 he suggested, at the last minute, that I run against Martinez for Assessor. When I said he would have to publicly endorse me I heard no more.), I had no idea how he had entirely abandoned any notion of running a major department of county government with probity, professionalism or concern for the public whose interests he was elected to represent. That abandonment was something of a shock.

I left a part-time job I really liked to go back to the AO because it was close to home, was full-time, and came with benefits, and I needed the increased income to remodel my property to salability, the only way out of here for me. I wish now that I had never even considered it. I have found that my sense of civic duty, the only thing which has impelled me to this step, a sense of civic duty which would have been very common several decades ago, is extinct in Lake County government and not at all common in Lake County as a whole. The whole has been an eye-opening but saddening experience for me personally, and an extremely disheartening one as regards how Lake County society so closely mirrors the left wing part of the national one as it regresses, with a deliberate intent, into an amoral, bamboozled, rapidly-sickening depravity, all under the banner of "Progress".

Why did Tritz let this go on and on and on? I asked him once why he hadn't fired someone who obviously needed to be fired, for the good of the office and the good of Lake County Government. His response was that he liked to give people a second chance. Well, hardly anyone would have a quarrel with that, but it doesn't explain the fifth chance, the fifteenth chance, the fiftieth chance, the five hundredth chance. I believe it came down to nothing more complex than the spinelessness of Mr. Tritz.

On several occasions he claimed to fear a lawsuit if he fired Martinez. So what? It took me all of not even a half hour of browsing the computer system, at first looking merely for how Martinez had (not been) doing his job, which was now my job, for a feeling of deep unease to set in, and after a couple of hours of such perusal I knew that the aroma emanating from the department records was one of raw sewage, not jasmine and roses. It would have taken Tritz no more than that same brief time to have put together a rock-solid case for removing the stench from the department so a cleanup could begin. Heck, it wouldn't have taken that long, as everyone else in that office, but one person, going back several years, would have gladly lent a helping hand. Anything to get the useless driftwood out of there. He didn't have the guts to do it. Now his stench runs, along with its complicit, equally corrupt lackey, a major department of Lake County Government.

If Tritz had spent a tiny fraction of the effort in basic administrative oversight of his own department in conformity with his sworn oath of office that he spent in tomcatting about with extramarital dalliance, for many years, while in office, during the workday,\* after a few short months Martinez would have been given the option of quitting or being fired. In the time I was observing I saw someone who brought nothing to his job but laziness and shiftiness, and, from others whose observations went way further back, that had always been the case. Tritz knew all of that years before I did.

In conversations and contacts over the past several years I offered to help him fill his liar's hole back in to where he could have begun over with a clean slate, on level ground, but the glory of light distantly glimpsed so high above holds no allure for him, probably because he has so much company where he is. Even though by then I had lost most respect for him because of his lack of character, if you didn't expect anything more than two-faced, fence-sitting amiability he remained a bearable person to be around. But when he finally had to jump to one side of the fence or the other, and chose the dark and corrupt rather than the honest and the light-infused, that was the final straw. Now I can only view him with disdain. For many years all it would have taken on his part to avoid this whole situation was three minutes of courage. That is three such minutes he was never

able to find within himself. Even now, fifteen minutes of courage to write a letter admitting the truth would have a salubrious effect. That will not happen either because, while it would do something to create a modicum of self respect for himself, it would take down the whole house of cards, and with it the layers and overlays of deception which guard the reputations of the whole circus troupe. He is not in this conspiracy of silence by himself.

With Tritz his lack of integrity wasn't an issue so long as he hired people who brought some personal ethics with them to keep him somewhat on the tracks, but when he brought in, and refused to get rid of, someone too lazy to do the job he was hired and paid to do, and too dishonorable to leave it, the charlatanism and chicanery began. And continues.

While in office he was not man enough to remain faithful to his sworn oath of office, not man enough to remain faithful in his family, not man enough to clean the crap out of his own department, which he and he alone had introduced, and since leaving office he has likewise not been man enough to own up to his responsibilities in any of the above despite having been given several opportunities to do so.

Digging to darkness, digging to darkness, I don't know, I just don't see the attraction. It must be another of my shortcomings I guess, another sign of my essential health. As I mention in Background and Beliefs, "I believe in a nation where one is judged, to paraphrase a better wordsmith than I, by the content of their character, their individual merit if you will, rather than the color of their skin, or any other collectivist category." Sure, like everyone else who has acquired several decades of life, there are things in my past of which I am not particularly proud, but I have gone to some lengths to learn, and to have taken the beginnings my parents bestowed upon me to further grow and develop a personal character that I can look in a mirror and be satisfied. I cannot say that I have found the same among a too-large group of former and current individuals in Lake County government, and yes, that saddens me deeply. It saddens me deeply because it is a commentary on an electorate so dumbed down, so easily deceived, so willing to accept any lie as long as it is presented fluently and glibly, as to foretell no future for this nation except as the play toy of demagogues. Nationally we have at least a two year respite from that demagoguery except from the sidelines; locally we have none.

So we reach this point, only because individuals and their organizations have no respect for integrity in government. In my world contempt for sworn oaths of office invalidates any claim one might have to being a public servant. Contempt displayed, the choices become either to resign or to concoct a hoax. A number of elected officials, past and present, have made their choice, and though I may have missed it, I haven't heard of a single resignation. Underneath the hoax will almost always be found those humanity-old lusts for power and prestige, for money and sex. And how is honor to stand up to those?

Times up. "It can't" is not the correct answer, which is, as noted above, INTEGRITY. That would be the integrity born of character based upon a time-tested, solid moral heritage. That would be the integrity of character "Progress" is steadily, quite deliberately, erasing from your children and grandchildren, in many cases with your assistance. As I say, "These days, to be ahead of the times you have to go back about fifty years." Is that reaching for a Golden Age? Perhaps. But only because I am aware of how the present-day sickness that so ludicrously calls itself Progress, as though saying so makes it so, is tearing apart a far better real-world society than it has any replacement for except from the hallucinatory vapors of NeverNeverLand or the totalitarian instruction manuals of Marx, Lenin, Mao, Pol Pot, Alinsky and the like.

After all, remember the days when education and college were intended to equip everyone with the tools to live as a civilized and productive member of a producing and civilized society? Compared to today, when the aim of "education" is to create emotionally incontinent "intellectual" zombies trained to let others do their "thinking" for them, that was a Golden Age.

"The problem may be not so much a matter of educating officials for government as educating the electorate to recognize and reward integrity of character and to reject the ersatz." Barbara Tuchman – *The March of Folly*

[Mrs. Tuchman made a good point, but a completely unrealistic proposal without a complete overhaul of education. You can't train people to be simpletons and then expect them to be anything else without massive doses of self education to

escape the training. I took that route, but I had the time, or more precisely, I made the time because I had the desire to do so. Most people have not so much of the first and hardly any of the second.

In this Age of the Bamboozled Democrat, the plan is to create a nation of simpletons so that their "betters", the self-anointed, "intellectual elites", can say, "Look, they're just sheep! That's OK; we'll run their lives for them. After all, who's better qualified than us?" And if you prefer to be an American rather than a sheep? To the depraved that makes you "deplorable." Well, ice water on your face, Bamboozled Democrat, the sheep is you! And the "elites" running your lives, who then, pray tell, are they? Children playing God. So sadly, so ignorantly, so destructively, merely children playing at being God!]

\*I first heard tales of Tomcat Tritz during my second stint in the department, beginning around '05 or '06. At first I thought it just someone spreading stories for personal aggrandizement, as they came second hand from the floozy. Over many years however, long after I was no longer in the department, the tales continued, with details including things like where his truck could often be found parked from noon to one, (it could) and who lived there (she did). It was a very un-secret secret. In my last sojourn in the Office, the paramour would actually come in and closet with Tritz behind a closed door. (Don't get me wrong - moral obtuseness excepted, she's a nice enough lady.) Further, I was present on occasions when he was being razed by his female employees about his sordid behavior, giving him the opportunity to deny the whole thing, and he did not do so. Instead, he retreated into the sheepish silence of a little boy caught red-handed in misbehavior, unable to lie (an uncomfortable position for him) yet unable to admit the truth.