**Thayer Podcast Monday, January 13, 2025**

**SoCal Break**

<http://www.tedthayer.com/01-13-2025%20Podcast.mp4>

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I wanted to throw in a note here about the power of grassroots conservatism. Despite the combined influence of former presidents, celebrities, and media figures, the voice of traditional America prevailed in November. As stated in an article I read the other day, “The new year promises a return to the principles that made America great: strong families secure borders, fiscal responsibility, and individual liberty. While some former leaders may view these changes with ‘anxiety and uncertainty,’ millions of Americans are celebrating a future built on time-tested conservative values.”

For over four years now, I’ve been traveling to California every three or four months to visit with some of my old Monterey High School Classmates. Yes, old! Now, we’re all in our eighties and we’re traditional Americans! It must have been the Monterey water, because none of us look our age. Good grief! I know people in their mid-sixties who look way older than we do … like they been rode hard an’ put away wet far too many times! Be that as it may … our hometown junket to the Monterey Peninsula was marred somewhat by illness on the one hand and recovery from the death of a loved one on the other.

One friend had just recently been down with an unidentified bug that precipitated pneumonia, which for many elderly folks spells their imminent demise. Our friend had been knocking at death’s door for over a month before a proper prognosis was presented that had begun to get her back on her feet. We and a fellow Monterey High Classmate gathered at our sick friend’s home to visit and share stories for a while. Then we prayed with and for our pal, holding hands and seeking Jesus’ blessings, calling on His power to join our own to heal her both physically and spiritually.

Our other friend and fellow Classmate had recently lost her beloved partner of over twenty years to a combination of old age and infirmity. It had hit her pretty hard, even though she had been prepared for his passing for some time. My buddy and I took our dear lady-friend under our wings for a day, starting with breakfast at the Old Monterey Café, a fixture since 1985 on Alvarado street, the city’s main drag from time immemorial. My lady and I both had the Café’s yummy Biscuits and Gravy and our friend consumed two huge servings of Texas Toast.

#### After that, we made a wine run to the Kirigin Cellars Winery, up the 101 on the outskirts of Gilroy. It was a wonderful ride with lotsa chit-chat and gawking at the delightful Central California scenery on the way. The weather was nice and sunny that day, but there was no doubt that Winter had arrived: It was cold! We tasted several different wines at Kirigin Cellars and bought two bottles of their sweet Estate White and two bottles of their famous coffee- and chocolate-infused Vino de Mocca. Oh, boy! Very special!

Our return to the Peninsula took us over Hecker Pass, a picturesque big tree-filled drive over the Coastal Mountain Range through Watsonville to Moss Landing, where we stopped at a roadside fruit-stand and bought fresh-picked strawberries as big as golf-balls, and tasty, too! Before retiring that evening, we had tremendous Asian food at the Juicy Crab Cajun Seafood and Chinese Restaurant in Seaside. So good!

On the way back to Southern California, as I wrote last week, we encountered ferocious Santa Ana winds from the Five at Lost Hills, over the Grapevine, onto the 210 and crossing the Inland Empire on the 15. We never saw smoke from the devastating fires that ravaged the LA basin that day because we traversed the area to the east just as they were getting started. All-in-all, my friend and I had a fun time together.

****Improvise – Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi

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