

Justice. For one.

Awhile back, it was disclosed on these pages that a local monument (headstone, marker, etc.) business owner had taken deposits for grieving residents, then did not deliver the products to them. I described his behavior as despicable, beneath contempt. And I still hold that opinion of the guy and his behavior.

The number of Cheyenne residents who were scammed by Tri State Memorials (Cameron Moore) is unknown. The Cheyenne Herald was contacted by between 10 and 12. A couple of them eventually called to say the marker or monument they had ordered had been placed, albeit well after the promised date.

The first person who called me wanted nothing in return. She did not ask me if there was anything I could do for her. She said she had called me so that I could alert other potential victims in Cheyenne about what Moore was doing - taking deposits and not delivering the goods.

When I wrote the first story, I did not identify her by name. I seldom do. My position is that the *story* is the story, not the people involved. The headline used for that first story in the May 17, 2011 issue was: *"You can't cheat a grieving widow out of a headstone she paid for. Maybe after November 2012. But not now."*

I also did not identify Cameron Moore by his full name in the initial article. I had hoped he would make things right for this widow and further embarrassing him would be unnecessary. I had no idea of the depth of his deceit at that time.

I don't "not like" those from Colorado

I would hope regular readers have picked up on my propensity to "needle" those of Nebraska and, sometimes, Colorado.

I have written here often that I don't "hate" any group. Rather, I dislike people one at a time and it has never reached the level of hatred.

So, when I received a Nastygram recently that took offense to my words about the Colorado clown who drove a Ford Explorer through a "dead red" light on E. Lincolnway, an androgynous named Coloradoan took exception and accused me of "not liking" those from south of our border, even going so far as to charge that our using Colorado medical facilities was somehow a tacit admission that Colorado drivers were sane.

Now, I'm not saying all Colorado drivers should be grounded. Just the thousands that occupy the streets of Cheyenne. And I've never written that the "greenies" should be prohibited from clogging our few State parks in the summertime.

As readers will recall, a monument company owner from Sterling, Colorado called me soon after that first article appeared. He told me he wanted to "make it right" for the 77 year-old widow. And, he quickly did. He accomplished the seemingly impossible task of placing the identical headstone, including engraving and photo of the Korean War veteran by Memorial Day - less than 2 weeks.

This widow received a headstone identical to the one she ordered. Grant Hogarth of Sterling expected no payment for it. It was his donation. It had not been easy for the widow to afford the headstone she chose to remember her husband but she still wanted to pay for one, even if it meant effectively paying twice.

She later enlisted the services of Legal Aid of Wyoming and they got a judgment against Cameron Moore. The other day, Mrs. Cruz, the widow in this story, called to tell me that \$500.00 had been taken from Moore's bank account on the judgment execution and that amount was forwarded to her in partial payment of the judgment. She continued to express her gratitude for my exposing the guy who cheated her and others in Cheyenne.

Oh, and she got a money order for \$500.00 and sent it to the monument company in Sterling, Colorado.

My reference to the November 2012 date is to the end of publishing the Cheyenne Herald. I sincerely hope someone will see the need for a publication like this one and pick up the cudgel. Will they? I can only hope.

Now, it does seem the southerners have an advantage over the hardworking Wyoming residents who hold down jobs and can't get to Park reservations on Thursday as the unemployed Colorado campers do.

Honestly, I do like getting such e-mails or letters. It confirms my needle has pricked them. But, I would ask residents of our neighboring states not to take my slings too seriously. Of course, I'm right and can understand why the truth hurts them but they could lighten up a bit.

Overall, the e-mail was fine. One point made by the "greenie" was that we'd be sorry up here if they stopped spending their money in Wyoming. Let me offer this to my southern fan: If Wyoming and Colorado declared a "trade war" against each other, who do you think would win? Hands down, Wyoming. Residents along the common border and as far north as Casper spend significant money in Colorado. Colorado residents? Maybe they buy gas here because it's so much cheaper. More? Nah.

"The trees."

Any further questions about how screwed up things are?

You've heard the lines, "those guys couldn't organize a one car parade," or "they couldn't pour a liquid out of a boot without directions on the heel."

Welcome to Cheyenne civic pride.

The subject, of course, is related to the unnecessary removal of trees that were in an indirect line with the airport's "major" runway. None impeded a sight line or endangered planes taking off. Landing is done primarily from the east and if they miss the runway by that much, that pilot would have landed in Sloans Lake if trees were nowhere to be found in Lions Park.

Before writing about the major issue in this article, have you noticed now how they're saying the trees were removed for the safety of American Eagle planes? Had that been the argument at the time, the chain saws would never have been fired up. The mayor, airport manager and chamber of commerce doofus all said the danger was to our Wyoming Air Guard C-130s. An argument that I debunked here and an position that was articulated by an E-7 in the Air Guard, not a commander. That rank doesn't weigh in on such important issues in other branches of the military and his comments should not have been considered about the trees.

Nonetheless, the trees were removed and, Thank God, we have had no crashes since their removal. Of course, we had had no crashes before they were removed, either. But, that's splitting hairs.

In an insincere and phony display of interest in public opinion, meetings were held so residents could voice their suggestions for how to handle the void area the removal of four dozen mature trees had created. As though the mayor and parks department employees had any intention of being swayed by public opinion.

While Mayor Maybe struggled with making a decision about partial destruction of Lions Park, the "business community" came forward and offered to participate financially in the "re-beautification" of that area. When it came time to deliver on that promise, though, the head of the Downtown Chamber of Commerce planned to renege. Seems he wanted a "contract" with the mayor of the city. "No tickee, no laundry."

Cheyenne Light, Fuel and Power, as they often do, had already come through with their part of the financial commitment. This single company was donating 20% of the total and no other business in Cheyenne

committed one nickel, according to the portly Chamber CEO. Not a penny. Because they didn't have a contract, he said. With the City. Like this was being done in secret and the Chamber dude needed protection for the few Chamber members that would pony up some money. For starters, he could have tapped the "business leaders," the "dignitaries" who could fund a trip to Hawaii to be wined and dined like they were important in Cheyenne. They must have some money. Maybe not.

I have written here before that Dale Steenbergen of the Downtown Chamber is a dangerous man. A rogue. He has been involved in some of the most nefarious actions this community has seen in recent years. He headed the secretive group that romanced a failing airline (its parent company is in bankruptcy as this is written and American Eagle is for sale to anyone with two nickels to rub together) and did not share any details about the agreement (such as American Eagle being allowed to cut their service in half in just a few months in spite of public promises to the contrary and state subsidies based on two roundtrip flights a day between Cheyenne and Dallas/Fort Worth). He also led the fight to remove trees from a city park he could barely find [he's only been in Cheyenne a couple years] by enlisting the aid of an unsuspecting E-7 through intimidation - as though he had any real stroke here.

He finagled his way onto the Laramie County Fair Board and uprooted the one positive influence involved with the Fair so he could get an unemployed (but lucratively retired pensioner) former county commissioner (who was defeated in the 2010 election) "hired" for the job.

Appearing on Channel 5, this guy said the business community (which he does not truly represent - there are only a limited number of members of the local business community that are dues-paying members of the Chamber) would not contribute any of the money expected by the mayor for the re-beautification project because, (a) the money was to have been for trees only, and (b) the "business community" (meaning him) did not have a written contract to rely upon.

He may have missed the point that trees were removed from the "non-sight" path at the end of that runway. Why plant new trees that will have to be removed in 25-50 years? That may be common M.O. here but it would be stupid to present a real danger to takeoffs from that runway. There weren't any before, why create some in the future? Dumb.