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Character Analysis

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It has been thought that people downloading information from <http://mhkeehn.tripod.com/> may wish to know the character of the individual who is the *webmaster* or *overseer* of this web-page. It is further supposed that visitors who read some, or all the material on the web-page may wish to know who selects the information presented, and the character of that individual, as well as a little of his background. Thus, the purpose of this short document.

It was in the early 1990's that someone suggested to me that there were two legal status' of citizenship in the United States, and that these two citizens were subject to different obligations and different laws. I had always been taught that, in the United States, we are ALL equal in the eyes of the law, making it a little difficult to believe in two classes of citizenship.

But, be that as it may, back in the early 1990's, I believed this to be true, thus, I couldn't quite get on board with this concept of two citizens. In a discussion on this topic, an acquaintance provided a *legal cite* for me to look at, and although I no longer remember this *legal cite*, it did suggest that he was correct – there are two classes of citizen and they are subject to different law.

Wanting to know the source of this dual citizenship issue, I spent the next two and a half years researching U.S. citizenship in my spare time. Ultimately, I had to conclude that he was right, there are, at least two *legal* classes of citizenship, and they are subject to different law. Strangely, it had always been right in front of me, though it went un-noticed. The two classes are in the Fourteenth Amendment which provided the Freed-Slave with citizenship, making him both a citizen of the State where he resides and of the United States.

By the time I figured this out, the people of the United States had recently been exposed to the actions of Government Leadership on Ruby Ridge (Bonners Ferry Idaho – Randy Weaver), and Waco, Texas (**Branch Dividians**), where 80 plus Americans were murdered by elements of the United States Government, 22 of which were children.

These two events, as well as the many other things I had learned while researching citizenship were matters that I believed were not generally known by the public in general. And so I took the time to write a book that I titled *Perceptions*. When finished, I was unwilling to even attempt to have the book published. I have never been a ***patriot for profit!***

Originally, I gave away copies of the book on floppy disk. Realizing this was not the best way to reach the people who would have interest in such matters, I learned the means to set up a web-page to make the book available on the web. [Perceptions](#) is still available on the web-page and may be viewed by clicking the blue link. Written by me, this book is very revealing of my character, but there are other aspects to my character that are not revealed in *Perceptions*, simply because certain character altering elements had not yet occurred in my life.

And this brings up my employment at the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority and the unexpected and character altering events which occurred there. Before working for the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority in Willows, California, I had worked for Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, Power Division, in Oroville, California – Power Division Head Quarters was in Forbestown, Calif. “*Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District*” is now known as [South Feather Water & Power](#), which is a subtle reference to their water rights being located on the *South Fork of the Feather River*. I took employment with O.W.I.D. as an Electrical / Electronic Technician, and worked for them from 1973 to 1989. I had been in Electrical Power Generation in the Air Force for four years, so, by 1989 I had twenty years experience under my belt when I went to work for the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (T.C.C.A.).

I began working for the Canal Authority in 1989, the same year I left employment at O.W.I.D. By 1992, I had been in negotiations with General Manager Jack Campbell, about the possibility of developing an in-house *Supervisory control system* for the aging and outdated existing system on the Tehama-Colusa Canal. The Tehama-Colusa Canal begins at Red Bluff, California and runs south along Interstate 5 to Dunnigan, California. It is 110-miles long, concrete lined and at full capacity, it can move 2,000 cubic feet of water per second.

Manager Jack Campbell seemed interested in the possibility of an *in-house* control system development and asked if I thought I had the necessary skills and abilities to complete such a project. At this point, I really didn't know. In order to find out, I bought an additional computer, data acquisition boards to plug into the computer, 2-UDS 202T modems, 2-Kenwood TK805D two-way radios, and all the associated hardware necessary — an expenditure of over \$4,000, all paid for with funds **from my pocket!**

After a few weeks of testing my skills and programming abilities, I found that I was able to control the *data acquisition boards* and get the computers to communicate over the two-way radios via the 202T modems. After reporting my research and testing activities to Manager Campbell, an *in-house* project to develop Supervisory Control of the Tehama-Colusa Canal was authorized. Work began in 1992, and the entire canal would be on the new control system by 1996. Manager Campbell retired in 1995, and Manager Arthur Bullock was now on board.

In 1996, the Canal Authority acquired responsibility for the Corning Pumping Plant, consisting of three 450-HP (Horse Power) pumps and three 900-HP pumps, all running at 2,400 volts and lifting water about 50-feet into the Corning Canal, a second canal under the Operation and Maintenance responsibility of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority. The Corning Canal is a fifteen mile canal running from Red Bluff, to Corning, California.

I would spend the next three winters in this unheated facility that felt like a refrigerator, while it was off-line and not pumping, hand tracing the wiring of this facility and making accurate electrical schematics in CAD (**C**omputer **A**ided **D**rafting) and, when finished, completely re-engineering the electrical control system of the Pumping Plant, placing two Programmable Logic Controllers into service to control the plant, provide appropriate responses to protective devices and give annunciation identifying the protective device which operated to shut down the pumping station. A big step up at this station.

As this project was winding down, and the year 2000 was approaching, Manager Bullock began querying me about the possibility of developing full automated control for the Tehama-Colusa Canal. Under Supervisory Control,

canal operators would, one time a day, take readings from the master terminal, enter current *pool-elevations* and *water-orders* into a spread-sheet, and then set the gates as calculated by the spread-sheet. Thus, what Manager Bullock was asking about, was the development of a control system that would keep the pools of water between gates at Target Elevation full time, without operator intervention.

I did some checking and could not find one large canal that had been fully automated, only small ones. Thus, there was no available experience to draw on in this undertaking. I told Manager Bullock that if he wanted me to try to develop full automation, I would do so – realizing that this has not yet been a reality anywhere in the world that I could find. Thus, we reached an accord in which I agreed to attempt development of full automated control of the Tehama-Colusa Canal, but if I was not successful, there would be no reprimands or discipline of any type since sophisticated control system development is not in my job description.

It is to be noted, that the Corning Canal was in the process of having a new control system installed when I came on-board with the Canal Authority. In this case, the United State Bureau of Reclamation was providing this system. Their involvement was similar to a partnership since they owned both the Corning and Tehama-Colusa Canals.

After hardware installation, it fell to me to bring the system on-line, therefore, I was the one putting the system into service. However, the program provided for control of the Corning Canal did not work. In short, it was unstable and would go into a hunting condition. Some pools were flooding and some pools were going dry. Twice the control system put water out the end of the canal in a drought year.

Thus, I undertook to learn SDL (**S**utron **D**ata **L**anguage) and re-wrote the control section of the program. I was able to learn SDL in about a month, studying mostly at home. From that time forward, the control system was stable and operated very well, keeping the pools at, or very near *Target Elevation*. Thus, by the time that the project for developing Supervisory Control for the Tehama-Colusa Canal, I had this success behind me.

Three years later, the fully automated canal control system was on-line and controlling the Tehama-Colusa Canal. The *Alarm System* I had developed would place a phone call to a cell phone carried by the *on-call Operator*, and inform him if there was a problem. He could then, with a laptop computer carried by the *on-call Operator*, connect to the Master Computer remotely and look at the system, make changes if necessary, and do it all from the comfort of his home.

After the experience with ***instability*** on the Corning Canal, I engineered *configuration controls* into the computer program which provided for easy adjustments to attain stability, that is, no hunting condition going on with the gates up and down the canal. And although this control system would be put into service on the Tehama-Colusa Canal, which had 26 station, all with two gates and some with three gates, the system was actually designed to accommodate up to fifty stations, with one, two or three gates. This would be the first ***fully automated*** LARGE CANAL control system in the world.

The point is that considerable thought had went into the development of this system, and there were also many subtle protections to protect the canal, too many to list all of them, but here is an example:

If the control system has energized a gate for movement, and the control system does not see movement within ten-seconds, the presumption is that the *gate position circuitry* has failed, and the control system shuts down the gate to prevent damage. In a second example of protection, the gates are only allowed to move 2-feet per cycle, if a request for movement of more than 2-feet is made, the station receiving the request will ignore it. In a third example: if the gate is energized for more than one-minute and has not reached the *desired position*, the system will shutdown the gate and provide an alarm. There are many subtle protections such as these, in the program of the control system.

In undertaking this project, there had, from the beginning, been some study and learning that had to take place. Actually, a lot of ***study and learning*** since I was a Technician and not an Electrical Engineer. The reality of this undertaking was that I had to learn Electrical Engineering, develop a secure and reliable communications protocol, apply digital communications to a two-way radio system with radio-repeater, learn to design and construct electronic circuit boards, and learn to program computers (in more than one language).

In short, it was a Herculean undertaking for one individual. I had researched hardware and made the hardware selections. Did the Electrical Engineering in CAD. Ordered all the parts. Did the layout engineering and built all 27 stations (26 on the canal and one master). Wrote the programs for the Master and Field computers, over ten-thousand lines of code. I had worked to acquire licensing for a radio system with two control and one voice channels, all repeated – six frequencies in all.

Just as this system was coming on line and operational in 2003, the Board of Directors fired my best ally, General Manager Bullock. They then directed remaining staff to secure a proposal from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for a *fully automated control system for the Tehama-Colusa Canal*. This was an indication to me that I need not put any more design and improvement effort into the Control System. Thus, I worked to maintain the system, removing an occasional bug in the program from time to time.

Before the year was out the Board of Directors hired a new General Manager, one Rick Haffen (hope I spelled that correctly). I never got to know the man. He came on-board in October of 2003, and left in December of 2003. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that he wasn't impressed with either the policies or the practices of the Board. We went through the entire year of 2004 without a General Manager. The next General Manager, David Bird, arrived around August of 2005, at about the same time as the Cal Poly proposal for automated control of the Tehama-Colusa Canal. The proposal was a million-bucks, actually, \$979,000 — \$21,000 short of a million.

Suddenly, the Board has much more interested in the Control System I had designed... it had been on-line and working well since the beginning of the *water delivery season* in 2003.

The following year, 2006, Manager Bird would ask if I had one more Canal Control System development in me. The control system on the Corning Canal was aged and in need of replacement. I was getting up in years and I wasn't certain that I had one more development in me, but after some discussion, I agreed to do one more development, loosely base on the original design. It wasn't that the original system wasn't a great design, it was that the 16-bit ISA

buss in the computers had given way to the 32-bit PCI buss.

While the original system began in 1993 when DOS was king and the programs were written in DOS, that was no longer possible in 2003. It would now be necessary to move to 32-bit data acquisition boards, and that would mean moving into a 32-bit language. While DOS permitted me to talk directly to the registers on the data acquisition boards to control them, WINDOWS would not allow this. Access to the Data Acquisition boards would now be through a DRIVER. And, of course, one would have to learn the usage of the Driver, much like learning a mini-language. So, it would be necessary to learn a new 32-bit programming language, VISUAL BASIC FOR WINDOWS in this case, and then learn the language of the driver.

To complicate matters further, radio channel standards had changed and channel width had been reduced 50%. This meant that radios with which I was familiar could not be used and new radios would have to be purchased. This, in turn, meant that a new interface between the 202T modem and radio would have to be designed. In short, migrating the Canal Control System into a 32-bit operating system was **not** going to be a walk in the park.

And so I began another development, ordering the hardware, studying the data acquisition board(s) I had selected. Studying the language of the Driver. Learning VISUAL BASIC FOR WINDOWS. As one can see in the photo, taken at home, there are five manuals associated with learning Visual Basic for Windows, each manual is two-inches-thick. Like I said, this development would not be a Sunday picnic.



Language Reference – Visual Basic for Windows

Then we move on to doing the Electrical Engineering. But in the midst of this a new twist appeared — beginning the first work day of 2006, I, at the behest of Manager Bird, became the Superintendent for the Canal Authority.

I was, of course, doing considerable work at home on the new control system, as I had done for both phases in the development of the Tehama-Colusa Canal control system. By this time, I literally had thousands of private and personal hour vested for which I had not received any compensation, and now I was adding to them. I needed time in the Electric-Shop, but that was not possible Monday through Friday. So, I was coming in on week-ends and doing work in the development process – and NO, I was not compensated. Proving that not every public employee is there only for *quitting time* and *payday*.

Along about October, 2006, I learned that Manager Bird would be retiring at the end of the Year. So, beginning in 2007, I was working for a new General Manager, Attorney Jeffery Park Sutton. I remember well the first two things that Manager Sutton chose to share with me. He began by sharing that his Grandfather was a former California State Senator. Presumably this is a reference to Louis G. Sutton, who served from 1945 to 1958. And the second thing Manager Sutton chose to share is that he passed the BAR examine the first time he took it, but his wife did not. I leave it to the reader to draw their own conclusions on the character of this individual, I did.

Work continued, and it became clear that Manager Sutton and I were not a good match as a *management-team*, thus I requested that I be reassigned to the Electric Shop and returned to my former position of Electrical/Electronic Technician. This was granted, and so April of 2007, I returned to the Electric Shop.

On August 15, 2007, Manager Sutton fired me for insubordination. In short, he wanted me to be responsible for the Administrative Server Computer with open access to office staff who could, and had in the past, tampered with this computer. Unfortunately, I'm not a network administrator nor anything close to it. My expertise is stand-alone computers and control systems.

I would have liked to learn about networks but here was my road block. As Technician, I was responsible for the maintenance and repair of the following:

1. Approximately 70 two-way radios
2. Three radio repeaters

3. Corning Pumping Plant electrical control systems and protective devices
4. 12-Automation Stations on the Corning Canal
5. Corning Canal Master Controller and Alarm System
6. 26-Automation Stations on the Tehama-Colusa Canal
7. 72-Canal Gate Control Systems (60 on the T-C and 12 on the Corning)
8. PBX Telephone system and all local phone service
9. 33-Stand-Alone computers
10. 13-Sutron Remote Terminal Units used for programmed control of the Corning Canal
11. Various welders, engine driven stand-by and portable power Generators, and electrical power tools
12. Facility Lighting and wiring... everything electrical!
13. Two office facilities (Red Bluff and Willows)

This equipment covers 110-miles, so there was considerable travel involved in maintenance and repair of these facilities. Couple this work load with the development of yet another Canal Automation system, and there was not any time available to learn Networks and be responsible for an *Administrative Server Computer* with open access. Maybe when the Corning Canal development was finished and on-line — maybe then I could take on the *Administrative Server*. Simply put, I could not take on any more load. But, Manager/Attorney Sutton could not, and would not accept this. Thus, he fired me for **insubordination**.

Sometime later, after firing me, the MASTER control system computer evidently failed on the Tehama-Colusa Canal. I would later be told that the hard drive had become corrupted and lost some files. Well, this is not an abnormal occurrence and has happened from zero up to four times a year since the system was put into service. And the interesting thing about this anomaly is that I was always able to restore the corrupted drive back to service, and not have repeat failures. Whatever caused this periodic type of failure was beyond the resources of the Electric Shop to analyze. But, this has been a problem since computers have had hard drives, that's why we backup the data that's important to us.

In reality, there was no collected data in the computer that was critical, so it was just a matter of formatting the hard drive, and restoring the files which, with DOS, took about 15 minutes. The computer was then put back into service and did its job without any additional failures.

But, General Manager Sutton, rather than direct staff to repair the failed computer, a task the operations foreman could easily do and had done in the past, he called the FBI and blamed me for the failure. Remembering that the Tehama-Colusa and Corning Canals are owned by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, one might see that the FBI took this allegation real seriously.

On August 31, 2007, 15-days after I was fired, my home was raided by an FBI SWAT TEAM, sporting bullet-proof-vests, combat helmets, and loaded assault rifles – pointed at me, just like you see on television! Thus, in trying to save the Farmers a few bucks on their water and my fellow man a few dollars on his vegetables, MY LIFE WAS PUT AT RISK! All to serve a *search warrant*. In November a Grand-Jury would indict a *ham-sandwich* (me).

I would be under indictment for over three years. **And documents that I had written for the education of my fellow man and posted on [my web-page](#) were entered into Discovery to be used against me in court.** Oh yeah, we have a first Amendment right to *Freedom of Speech* alright! I was under indictment for over three years. My trial was scheduled for January 11, 2011, and on this date I was in Federal Court for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento, for trial. And so, for having worked, **fairly hard**, to save the Farmers some bucks on water, and my fellow man a few dollars on his veggies, I was facing a potential ten-years of my life in Federal Prison.

The case was called and the prosecutor walked to her podium (a special prosecutor brought in from Washington, D.C. to prosecute me) while, at the same time, my Attorney and I walked to our podium. Both attorney's greeted the Judge and he responded. The exchange went something like this:

Judge: “I have, before me, a motion, filed by the Prosecution, to dismiss the charges in the interest of Justice and the Defense is objecting? Do I have that right?”

Defense: “Yes your honor, the Defense objects.”

Judge: “Why is the Defense objecting?”

Defense: “Yes, your honor the prosecution has indicated that they intend to move for dismissal of the felony charges against my client, however, the prosecution has also indicated that they intend to file misdemeanor charges right on the heels of this dismissal. And the truth is, getting the expert witnesses¹ lined up in this case is like herding worms. I have finally managed to do this, I’m prepared to go to trial and resolve this matter once and for all, and my client is on-board with this decision.”

Judge: I appreciate your position Mr. Wiseman, but I’m going to grant the motion. However [pointing a finger at the prosecutor], you people have cost the Government a mountain of money in this case. If you do file a misdemeanor against this defendant, and that misdemeanor finds its way to this court, I’m going to entertain a motion to dismiss in the interest of the ECONOMY! MOTION GRANTED” [gavel sounded]

Even though the charges were dismissed in the interest of justice, that’s not quite the end of the story. Coming under indictment plastered my name all over the internet. Here in Northern California, I was on the News on Television channel 3 in Sacramento, channel 12 in Chico, channel 24 in Chico, and channel 7 in Redding.

The internet notoriety destroyed my ability to work in my occupation, and so I never worked after the indictment. This came to fruition in 2013 when my financial resources dried up and I was not able to pay my property taxes. Knowing I would soon be homeless, I sold or gave away everything I had worked for all my life, sold my home for the small amount remaining to pay it off, and divested myself of all my belongings except for clothes and a few other personal things.

¹ The court had authorized three expert witnesses for the Defense.

Those wanting to live dangerously and have their lives turned into a shambles should apply for a job with the [Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority](#) at 5513 Hwy. 162, Willows, California (530.934.2125).

Fortunately for me, I have an excellent relationship with my daughter. Thus, she and her husband bought a home with a room in the back for me to park my butt and live out the rest of my life.

I knew, or strongly suspected, when I wrote [Perceptions](#) many years ago, that I might, someday, be making a TARGET out of myself. Well, I did.

While I was under indictment, I began writing a [column](#) for a news paper. If interested, you may read my collection of columns by clicking the blue link. This column writing continued from, I believe, 2009 until the end of 2014.

And so, there has been a price to pay for [this web-page](#). Therefore, let me say *thank you* all who take the time to visit and download information from this page, it makes the effort and sacrifice worth while. And this *Thank You* includes the people from other countries as well, there are so many of you. I have been very surprised at your number of downloads and the interest you have shown. Hang in there, those who want FREEDOM and DO NOT WANT NUCLEAR WAR may yet prevail. We'll keep trying!

And now you know the character of michael-herbert: keehn

Mike