

Yankee Steve's Almanac

for the Week of December 30, 2008

Prognostications, Predictions, and Prophecies

In two days it will be the first day of the first month of a brand new year. Not everyone knows that this is the real Halloween, the time when Jean Dixon [1918-94] clones ply their trade.

They tell us that they can foretell history before it happens. Unlike the Hebrew prophets who predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem even before it had a zip code, modern day soothsayers and star gazers are no better than their ancient counterparts. They are as skilled at making predictions as a blind man is at playing darts.

I would never want anyone to think that I know the future. That would only mean that I didn't know the future. The last prophet who could speak with authority about the future was John the apostle who died about 95 A.D. which means that prophesying the future died with him. Nevertheless the desire to know the future is alive in many including Hal Lindsey in *The Late Great Planet Earth* [1970], a pretentious book which even failed to record beforehand the collapse of the U.S.S.R., an event which many in the U.S. State Department could see coming.

Prophets in or out of the church have always been with us. Each is as hapless as the other. The Camisard prophets [late 17th to early 18th century France] claimed to know the future. However, predictions made by their prophets were like our Social Security system which is being continually revised (and perhaps raided) to suit the economic times.

There are and have been any number of individuals and movements that have acted as if they could presume the future because they owned a copy of the Bible. More often than not they are preoccupied with events taking place in the Middle East.

Most of what we hear coming from them came about as the result of the appearance of Edward Irving [1792-1834] a Scottish clergyman accused a heresy, but not before he lit the fires of Enthusiasm which still burn brightly in America.

Irving's preoccupation with future events led to what was called Millerism. In the mid 19th century a Baptist minister, the Rev. William Miller, [1782-1849] stated that he had determined the date of Christ's return because of what he had found in the Bible, a theory that resulted in only two years of study. Lest we think that this was due to his being self-taught, we should remember that Cambridge-educated John Cotton [1648-1713] also fell prey to the notion that important events could be pre-dated.

In Retrospect

I am more concerned with the past than I am with the future because history is the most important subject in the curriculum. No, it is not math and science; it is history, the thing that

explains why Americans are a free people and the one subject that more than any other can explain why what we do now will lead to the forfeiture of freedom.

If we understand the past, we will have a handle on the future.

Taking a Chance

In spite of the above, and for the amusement of those who read the almanac, I would like to chance a few predictions. Please notice that I said "chance."

One: Now that Obama has been elected, liberals on the Supreme Court will begin to resign or be pushed out by Obama. They will go because they have been waiting for a bona fide liberal to take over the government, one who will replace them with liberals. George W. Bush was a liberal in some ways, but when enough pressure exerted on him he nominated to the court two justices (Samuel Alito and John Roberts) who made him look as if he was keeping faith with his conservative base. With Obama there are no pretenses.

Two: We will have another Kennedy in the Senate. Just when we thought we were free of that self-serving and audacious family of self-righteous authorities.

Three: Israel will bomb Iran. It is inevitable. However, this will not lead to all out war in the Middle East. The Arabs are too prosperous to go to war over a small piece of real estate.

Four: The Honda Corporation will aggressively market its natural gas car (8 cents a gallon)

Five: The scientific fallacies preached by Al Gore will be increasingly exposed as conducive to soft Marxism.

Six: Gasoline will in some places in America fall below a dollar for a short time.

Seven: The media will have to at some point confront the skeletons in Obama's closet.