

## Observation & Survey

*by Mike Harris*

Since this is not meant to be a scientific explanation of the mechanics of sight, the title tends to suggest that the interpretation of what we see is connected to the mind. Each individual has an interpretation depending on their personal experiences to see things differently.

Let us start with something all of us do, cross an intersection. We were taught to “look both ways.” What we do now is the difference; judgment, physical ability, and interpretation of the situation decides our action.

The above is one instance of observation and survey.

Then there is another way to look at the title. Recently while sitting in front of my computer a financial guru made a statement, “All exceptional millionaires had a head start. They came from well to do or rich families.” Starting with Rockefeller, Sorros, Gates, etc., he detailed the early education of each millionaire, billionaire. They all went to special schools, they all started with help from their families. It is true that they then proceeded to make fortunes, but it was not from scratch. My observation is that it takes two generations just to get into a position from which it could be possible to make the step from upper middle class to wealthy.

In this country making it to middle or upper middle class is achievable by almost everyone. The step to wealth needs desire, ability, and a supportive family. Then some luck that the new wealth will not be squandered, and so wealthy dynasties get established. Some come to mind, the Biddle’s of Pennsylvania, the Rothschild’s, of international fame, the Carnegie’s, the Mellon’s – all these families set up rules and mechanics that perpetuate the wealth of their family fortunes and dynasties. I know a little about the Biddle’s. In Philadelphia a visiting nurse came to our senior center, her badge proclaimed that her last name was BIDDLE. Curious I asked, “the famous Biddle’s?” She said, “Yes.”

Further conversation revealed the following information. All Biddle’s of the extended family, everyone who is related, gets an education commensurate with their abilities, they are pretty much on their own, they are monitored loosely so that they never fall below middle class. Jobs, work ethic and education are monitored. Each individual is allowed the freedom to develop to their maximum potential, the nucleus is controlled by a panel of successful family members.

The Rothschild’s have a similar structure but their wealth is international and is not as transparent. As I observe the very wealthy of America the tendency toward philanthropy seems more transparent.

Another observation that is hard to miss, the people we elect with our democratic type of government to protect us and see to our needs and rights are not doing their job! Self aggrandizement seems to be their priority. At the municipal level cities are a shambles. Education, which is a core need in order for the population to prosper, is failing our children, mainly because parents are not doing their parental jobs, and there is no support for teachers and teachers are not reimbursed on merit. At state and federal levels reelection is more important than doing the right thing. Redistributing the wealth is not the job of government! It only leads to failure. Civilizations have disappeared when they took this road, because getting something for nothing just does not work. Give a man a fish and he has a meal, teach him to fish and he need

never be hungry. So I do not know if I have addressed the subject of this weeks title but I feel I should get at least a B for effort.