

Books

Thomas Schneeweis

Once a writer always a writer or even better put, once a dreamer always a dreamer. Books are merely putting ones dreams down on paper. Unfortunately, most of us are better dreamers than we are writers. That having been said, most dreams are forgotten or at least difficult to remember. The following are those 'mental adventures' that I remember fondly enough to try to get them down on paper. Other are just interesting ways of looking at stuff. If nothing else the following stories offer one the opportunity to join some of the trips I have taken, will take or simply find fun in taking.

Titles

- 1 **Once There Were Books***
- 2 **Summer in the Bayou***
- 3 **The Alternative History of Money***
- 4 **The Island**
- 5 **Leap of Faith**
- 6 **Halls of Ivy**
- 7 **False Impressions**
- 8 **Dickenson**
- 9 **Business Evangelist**
- 10 **Commencement**
- 11 **Art of Management**
- 12 **Hitler Lived**
- 13 **Reflection**
- 14 **Preppie Perspective**
- 15 **Sea changes**
- 16 **Mahtomedi: in Search of Excellence**
- 17 **Vasta**
- 18 **Forty Years in the Academic Trenches***
- 19 **The Postmodern 'Financial' Pyramid***

These books are at various levels of completion. A * at the end of a title indicates nearing completed.

1. Once There Were Books

Mystery: Two teenagers are sent by parents to grandfather's farm in South Dakota for the summer. The story involves their search for Indian artifacts as well as their own cultural history while being at the center of a battle over land, oil, and development.

Abstract

A young teenage girl, Kathryn, is sent by her parents to spend the summer with her grandfather at his ranch in South Dakota. Kathryn has to learn to come to terms with different local cultures, many of which have little interest in her 'big city' background and which, for many, the modern society's reliance on computers, cell phones and other modern means of personal interaction hold little interest. The story interweaves the life of Kathryn as well as her younger brother with the lives of other competing forces within the region. These conflicts form the basis for the action within the story. She discovers that her grandmother and her father's sister were killed in a mine explosion as ranchers, farmers, and developers battled for control of the valley. She also discovers that her mother was full blood Indian and that she has unique medicine women skills passed down through generations of the tribe. Moreover, she finds that the local Indian tribe is in fact the only 'full blooded' white Indian tribe in existence. The tribe are decedents from the early "White" European settlers who arrived after the last ice age as well as 'White Viking' settlers of the 10th century. The story also goes back in time to when the 'Indian tribe' was created and proof of their history as Kathryn's parents, both anthropologists, attempt to prove the existence of the tribe's heritage and the impact that this truth has on the battle for ownership of area resources.

2. Summer in the Bayou

Mystery: A young teenage girl visits her Aunt in Bayou. She learns she can speak to the local animals and joins their fight against those attempting to destroy the local environment.

Abstract

The title of the book relates to a young teenage girl, Kathryn, who spends the summer at her aunt house on the Bayou just outside of New Orleans.. The story centers on the attempt of corporate interests to take over the area for its oil and mining resources and how Kathy and her newly found animal and human friends (She discovers that she has the unique skills to talk to animals) attempt to keep the land and its heritages from external development. The story also goes back in time to when the 'Bayou was formed' and how this history of the Bayou impacts Kathryn, her family and those around her in the battle for ownership of 'Bayou' resources.

3. The 'Alternative' History of Money : From Barter to Bit Coin

History: "There Is More Truth In Fiction Than In Fact"

Here is the point of this book; money matters, it changes everything. However, if one only concentrates on getting it rather than understanding its past, present and future, you will remain at the fringes of money. You will always be reaching for it rather than being a part of it. At the end, think of all the people who really have money, the bankers, the lawyers, the business entrepreneurs. They really understand money. If you read this book, you might too.

Abstract

Other works on the History of Money simply failed to provide (from my view) a proper understanding of the real History of Money and its importance in the development of human civilization. Even more important, previous books on the History of Money offered little if any instruction on understanding how the History of Money might help others actually make some. If they had, why are so many monetary historians and those who have read their books (primarily college history majors) so poor? The Truth is They Were Never There. I mean they were never where or when money was actually made, found, discovered or whatever. So in short they wrote or taught about something they never saw or did. Or has been said many times, the proof is in the pudding or in this case, one's bank account. Hopefully this effort will not only enrich its readers but the author as well.

4. The Island

Mystery: An island that moves randomly around the globe and has been forgotten by the world. A young Girl is lost from island, awakes in a strange land and tries to get back home.

Abstract

An island exists that drifts across various oceans. More importantly, the island has unique resources that are in demand by the rest of the world. The problem is that those who want those resources cannot find the island. In this story a young girl is separated from the island and wakes up in a strange land. The only object she had on her was a stone hanging from her neck. As she gets closer to the island the rock begins to glow. As important she has the ability to 'mind link' with one of her friends who has left the island to find her. The story centers on the battle to find her and use her to locate the island.

5. Leap of Faith

Mystery: An academic was Anthropologist who visited the Philippines during pre WWI and claims saw primates who had become almost human. Upon his death, two of his fellow academics find his original material and go back to prove or disprove his theory.

Abstract

Two young anthropologists are asked to clean out the offices of a newly deceased fellow academic. They are aware of the 'Holen Hoax' given to the story that the academic during his life that there exists a group of Chimpanzees who had evolved to become 'almost' human'. The two young academics find his original material and set out to locate the primates. The story involves not only this search but a 'story within a story' in which the development of the primate group is explored and how they interact both with their original primate group as well as humans themselves.

6. The Halls of "Ivy"

Cultural/Psychological: Series of Short Stories on truths relating to education in America.

Abstract

Set of Stories of the battles in 'Academic land' about patents, grants, acceptance, students ... It's a dirty world despite everyone's attempt to wash their linen.

7. False Impressions

Religious Mystery: New Pope is at conflict with rest of Church. A young priest discovers an ancient church in Rome in which the paintings come to life and offer trail to church treasures of the period (1500 AD) to fund New Popes hopes.

Abstract

In a world of limited recourses, the Catholic Church is in the center of a battle of how to use its position and resources to meet the needs of the poor. The story centers on battles within the church to meet these needs and who is to drive this mission. A young priest, while giving personal guides to rich Catholics to special sites finds a small church dedicated to an unknown pope who centuries ago had tried to change the church. The church contains unique artworks which may provide an answer to the new popes hopes and dreams.

8. Emily Dickenson Rediscovered

History: Emily comes back (Picture on Wall) to tell Young Women who gives tours at house in Amherst the Truth of her life.

Abstract

In recent years a number of books have been published dealing with the life of Emily Dickenson. She is now portrayed as. In this story Emily comes back (From Picture on Wall) to tell Young Women who gives tours at house in Amherst the Truth of her life. In truth her life is much different than commonly told. The Truth contains a possible more bizzare and sinister account of the "True Emily Dickenson".

9. Business Evangelists

History Non-Fiction: Review of some of the past writers who praised business (e.g., Norman Vincent Peale)

Abstract

Religious and practical business concerns have been dual parts of the American character. Benjamin Franklin and Jonathan Edwards lived side by side. Horatio Alger myths drew their inspiration from mythical views of the Protestant ethic. It should not supprise us that at various times the two strains should merge into one. Today is seemingly one such time, as numerous business evangelists have appeared spreading the gospel of the "American Business". In their own epistles, they set forth their own expositions of the American Business Gospel. Unfortunately, each religious writes from his/her knowledge of an American Business Gospel that exists primarily as an oracular tradition. No one has received or been blessed with a 'one' true copy of the American Business Bible or its 'ten commandments'. It is the purpose of this paper to research past apostles of business religion and to determine such a the contents of the American Business Bible.

10. Commencement

History Non-Fiction: In terms of historical terms within the U.S., Commencement speeches at educational institutions are relatively recent (within the past 200 years). They represent how certain individuals offer to current graduates an individuals view on a current aspect of life. For the graduates it provides one individuals view on how The End Marks the True Beginning

Abstract

Many Americans use the past as a way to understand the present and the future. Moreover, many Americans look to others as a means to find that knowledge. The question is who to trust. The book reviews some of the most important 'Commencemnt' speecchs over the past century, not only a a means to understand how individuals viewed their own world but as means to find potential answers to our own.

11. The 'Art' of Management

Management: Management of the modern corporation has been called more of an art than science. Given the lack of a strict set of rules for establishing a successful firm, numerous management 'help' books exist which attempt to explain the subtleties of firm management. In the attempt to offer clues as to proper management style, numerous analogies have been offered to permit managers to focus on means to establish corporate strategies. Sports (the firm as a team of players with common goals), War Games, (The "Art of War"), Oriental philosophy [], European Existentialism and Deconstructionism [] have all been used to offer management a set of guidelines for explaining the modern business environment and the place of the firm within that market.

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to briefly review previous attempts at using the paradigms of other areas at explaining the art of management. More importantly, this paper proposes an alternative approach to describing a corporation' strategic and cultural perspective. In brief we concentrate on truly describing the 'Art' of Management; that is, how can one use artistic expression to better describe alternative firm structures and culture. In fact, firms may be best described by alternative 'esthetics'. IBM has often been spoken of as the "Big Blue" (Very Margrite). German Expressionism and modern revival of that art form (Linder) have used art to present the 'Utilitarian' manager. (Every person for themselves). Perhaps, firms, however, may be best described as a 'DADA', that is, a mix of forms, pieces, seeming incoherent but held together but the artificial confines of the canvas (corporate structure).

12. Hitler Lived

Mystery: To this day many stories exist as to if Hitler really killed himself at the end of WWII. This story provides a simple answer to those critiques, "Hitler lived". But more importantly, why did he live, who saved him and why.

Abstract

Sometimes truth is even stranger than fiction. Most stories of Hitler's death are simply that stories. This book tells the truth. A young academic whose thesis was on the Hitler's youth movement comes upon evidence that Hitler lived. More importantly, he was kept alive because he was regarded as having the answer to a new 'medical' problem; that is, AIDS. How is this possible? Hitler was 'Gay' and had an affair with the Hitler 'Youth Movement'. In his actual grave the cure is kept secret. The fight is among the Neo Nazi's to keep this silent, the Masadd to get the truth, and the global medical community to make the money. Our hero is in the mist of all of this as he has the facts and everyone wants him.

13. Reflection

Mystery: There is not one world, there are many worlds. The truth is that they just never intersect with one another. In this story they do.

Abstract

A young doctor comes upon evidence that Earth has been invaded by a group of individuals from another planet identical to earth who have identical 'twins' on earth. But to fit in first they believe they must take the place of that individual by any means. These individuals came here because their own earth had been made uninhabitable by their actions. They hope to use their knowledge etc. to make sure it does not happen here, but at what cost?

14. Preppie Perspective: The Life and Times of Upper Class White Males in a Politically Correct Society

History: Who Knows Preppies Better Than Preppies. More importantly, if you cannot beat them join them. This book is about the how.

Abstract

The term preppy derives from the private, university-preparatory or prep schools that some American upper class and upper-middle-class children attend. The term preppy is commonly associated with the Ivy League and oldest universities in the Northeast and the prep schools which fed students to them, since traditionally a primary goal in attending a prep school was admittance into one of these institutions. Preppy fashion derives from the fashions of these old Northeastern colleges in the early to mid-twentieth century. Lisa Birnbach's 1980 book Official Preppy Handbook, which was written to poke fun at the rich lives of privileged Ivy League and socially elite liberal arts college students but ended up glamorizing the culture, portrays the preppy social group as well-educated, well-connected, and although exclusive, courteous to other social groups without fostering serious relationships with them. Being well-educated and well-connected is associated with an upper-class socioeconomic status that emphasizes higher education and high-income professional success. Read on.

15. Sea Changes

Environmental Mystery: The seas are the organs the world. They store the wastes of the world while they eventually clean them. Most humans have only indirect interactions with the oceans, but the people of 'this island' have evolved to depend directly on the ocean and things are getting worse.

Abstract

A young author takes a summer trip to "Westchester Island" to get away from the city and find the time and space to finish his book on capitalism and the environment. Unexpectedly here he finds the truth.

16. Mahtomedi: In Search of Excellence: Where All the Kids Are Above Average

History: Garrison Keillor was right, there does exist a town in Minnesota where, where all the men are good looking, all the women are strong and all the kids are above Average. But for a town to have all the good parts of sort of 20th century Brigadoon it does not come without cost and who has to pay.

Abstract

If one 'googles' Mahtomedi on the internet one can find a video which provides a cookie cutter review of a type of "My Home Town". But a more deeper look provides a review of a small town which in many ways has isolated itself from the rest of the state, the rest of the country, and near we say the rest of the world. They town was created in the midst of the 'Chit aqua' revolution in the last 1800's. Today it has continued that history of education and responsibility. With that is a world where everyone is equal or as least has equal opportunity to reach the top. Beware those who enter ...

17.Vasta

Cultural Mystery: Almost 150 years ago, A family had moved from Sweden to the U.S.to avoid family legacy and infighting. For family business reasons, it moves back to Sweden to become more involved in getting the firm back on line. More than that the family's legacy goes back centuries – The family was originally from Sweden and are legacy of werewolves.

Abstract

How the past has to work with the future. There firm is successful but is in the medical devise and research area specializing in Blood work. Just the area for Vampires.

18. Forty Years in the Academic Trenches

History: World Wars are fought and won in the trenches so too is Academic success.

Abstract

Books are written for many reasons. It is the responsibility of any author to come up with his or her own before one is thrust on them by their editor or by their readers. The reason for this relatively short book is a simple one. I was at the end of my academic career and wanted to jot down some of my experiences before I and they faded into history. While not the only reason, I also hoped that this book may offer some insight as to the changing nature of the academic and finance profession over the past forty years as well as to offer for some, an insight into the random process by which one weaves one's career through the ebbs and flows of a lifetime

19. The “Postmodern” Investment Pyramid

History: Pyramids have been used for centuries as a means to describe the past, the present and the future. Here is my version

Abstract

I have been told that ‘never try to teach a pig how to sing, it is a waste of your time and it annoys the pig. But I have also been told that people have an innate interest in pyramids and one can use that desire to tell them a story that is not a waste of your time and does not annoy the reader. Read on.