

2020 Oct 11 A Belated Discovery - Joe Bageant

Some of you will already be aware of Joe Bageant's work which I've only just heard of. I'm about halfway through his *Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War* (2007) which is an inside view of working class America and its contents (which you can read with the accent on either syllable) and discontents.

Bageant, who died of cancer in 2011, grew up in the working class. To my mind, as someone who also was born and raised in a factory-worker family, whose first real job was night shift in an auto-industry plant, Bageant reports (with a journalistic style somewhere between I.F. Stone and Hunter Thompson) working class perspectives, prejudices, attitudes, predicaments and perplexities with authority and clarity largely absent the liberal overtones we get in more middle- or educated-class authors.

Very helpful as we try to understand the Trump core that seems impervious to reason and determined to vote against its own interests.

Fortunately, there are in some quarters people interested in keeping Bageant's work in circulation. Among them is Tony Sutton's *Cold Type*, which you can subscribe to for free at www.coldtype.net.

And check out this 2007 piece by Bageant, "Skinny Dipping in Reality: A coot's account of the great hippie LSD enlightenment search party"

<http://theragblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/bageant-goes-trippin.html>