

Bob's Corner

Because of our five cats, and most particularly Bubba, we now have more broken ornaments and ornaments off the Christmas tree than we have on the tree.

The kitties -- bless their little clawed feet -- especially enjoy the little bells we so painstakingly hung on our yule tree. Because after they dislodge them from the branches, they can bat them around and make noise. Tinkle-tinkle.

We have swept up piles of broken bulbs knocked without ceremony right off our tree. Jan thinks it's amusing. Bob has trouble controlling his temper. I enjoy the frantic felines, but I wish they'd quit attacking our tree. Oh well, there's no controlling cats.

As a young boy at home back in the Olden Days, we never had a cat, but we did have a couple of dogs on occasion. Wait, I just remembered that we did have a cat once. It was run over by a bakery truck, and I had to go outside with a shovel and a box and pick up the poor thing and it's crushed head. Then I went back inside and had a couple of jelly doughnuts.

Our Christmas times at home were fun and loving. My mom always made cookies shaped like Christmas trees and bells. I got to sprinkle the red and green stuff on them. Then my younger brother, Steve, and I, would eat them, while our mom urged us to leave some for the company. We also had ribbon candy around, which I am sure made our dentist quite happy.

Steve and I always arose about 4 a.m. on Christmas Morn, eager to rip open the gifts (the ones for us.) But our parents were not as enthusiastic as we, preferring to stay abed until the late hour of maybe 7:30 a.m. Meanwhile, Steve and I were sweating bullets because the gifts were just sitting there without us opening them. It was real tough.

Finally our parents would arise. But before we could dig in under the tree, we had to wait while they made coffee, stretched, scratched, went to the bathroom, polished their shoelaces and performed other essential tasks.

And at last it was time, after admiring the Nativity scene, to open the presents. Some of them had holes punched in the bottoms, courtesy of our dad, who never could wait to see what he was going to get. Mom tried to keep track of which relatives gave us what. Steve and I just wanted the goodies.

If we hadn't gone to Midnight Mass, we would then dress for church. It was always a special day, not only because of the gifts under the tree, but because of the feeling of goodness and light that came. We all treated each other better. We were more thankful and considerate.

I'm going to try to remember that feeling this week.



JEANETTE BOSCH

Liquor store to be headed by J. Bosch

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has appointed new agents to run liquor stores in Cave Junction, Corvallis and Rogue River and approved the relocation of a store in Springfield.

Jeanette Bosch will be the new agent for the Cave Junction liquor store in January, replacing agent John O'Brocto who is retiring.

Bosch lives in Cave Junction and has worked in her family's business, House of Pendleton Fabric, Crafts and Gifts, and also was a private in-home care-giver. The Cave Junction store is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays with annual sales of \$491,117.

Letter to the Editor

Angelic message From Lynn Boucher Cave Junction

I feel that I must share this with all those who lost loved ones this year. It helped me, and I hope that it helps others.

It is "from an angel" -- "I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights, like Heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular -- please wipe away that tear -- for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

"I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, but the sounds of music can't compare to the Christmas Choir up here.

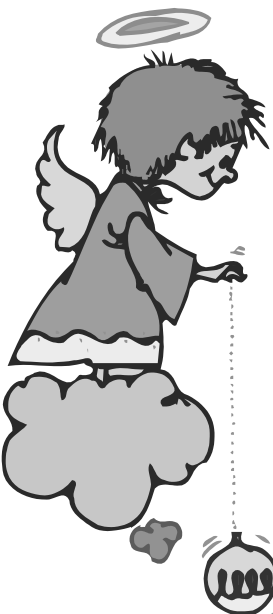
"I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing. I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart, but I am not so far away. We really aren't apart.

"So be happy for me dear, and be glad that I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

"I send you a special gift from my heavenly home above. I send you a memory of my undying love. After all, 'Love' is the gift, more precious than gold. It was always most important in the stories that Jesus told.

"Please love one another, as our Father said to do, for we can't count the blessings or love he has for you.

"So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear. Remember: I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year."



Members of the I.V. Airport Support Group recently installed additional tie-downs.

Airport 'angels' work to tie down aircraft

By LEE ESCHEN

The Illinois Valley Airport received an early Christmas present recently when several members of the Airport Support Group (IVASG) turned out to install tie-downs into the south ramp of the parking apron closest to the former Pepper's Restaurant and one most frequently used by visiting aircraft.

Tie-downs are eyebolts, embedded in concrete and set level with the ramp surface. Parked aircraft are tied to these rings to prevent a gust of wind from lifting the plane off the ramp, thereby avoiding the potential for damage.

Illinois Valley is noted for its capricious winds. A recurring rumor has it that the

Takilma Indians living here before the coming of the settlers called this "The Valley of the Seven Sacred Winds." It could well be true.

The project was originally set for completion last summer, but the firefighters and managers assigned to the Biscuit Fire were making use of the south ramp right on through the rehabilitation efforts. With the final shutdown of the rehab work in mid-November, the project was able to move forward.

In the intervening period, the Illinois Valley Community Response team (IVCRT) developed an interest in the project and made some funding available for the tie-downs and other projects at the airport. The include a Nature

path from the former restaurant area to the Botanical Wayside, located by Rough & Ready Creek at the southern end of the airport.

The volunteer work party consisted of LeRoy Clouser, Dale Thorak, Ed Russel, Don McLennan, Dave Levison, Sharon Westcott, Bill Bowling, Alan Jensen, Jerry Luke (the airport's new resident care-taker), and Paul X.

Lee Eschen was involved in arranging for donations from Illinois Valley Building Supply, Pacific Power, and Riverside Concrete to help with the project.

More projects are planned. IVASG meets in the rear of Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co. every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. Anyone can attend.

Valley Obituary

Ruth V. Westfield

Ruth Victoria Westfield, 92, of Cave Junction, died on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2002 in a Grants Pass health center.

A private service was arranged through Illinois Valley Funeral Home.

Mrs. Westfield was born on Aug. 24, 1910 in Maynard, Maine. She was a retired legal stenographer for court records.

She moved from Santa Rosa, Calif. to Illinois Valley 35 years ago.

Survivors include a nephew.

If con is the opposite of pro, is Congress the opposite of progress?

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