

Bob's Corner

As this is read, the "Noose" Big Boss (boss spelled backwards is double s/o-b) and Jan are somewhere on Hwy. 101 driving the scenic route southward with the city of Carlsbad in San Diego County as their goal. We hope to come out at least somewhere near our planned destination. We've driven the Interstate 5 route several times, and are looking for some better scenery this time.

Yes, we're taking off a few days to visit my mother, and our newest granddaughter, Natalie, who is slightly more than 5-months-old; and her parents, who are considerably older than 5 months. We have some other plans in mind too, but I don't want to bore you into a state of spontaneous combustion.

With all that in mind, it means that we will not be present in person come Thursday, Jan. 30, 2003, as a friend and co-worker, Virginia Gilliam, retires from working at the valley newspaper. She has worked for Jan and me since February 1986, and she's put in a total of 43 non-consecutive years overall. That's a long time to work in one place. Heck, some of us (not including me) haven't even lived that long. Yep, Virginia is a veteran of the newspaper wars.

She's been through equipment some might say ranges from the ridiculous to the sublime. When she began working at "The News," while she was attending the former Kerby Union High School, a flat-bed press capable of printing two pages at a time was in use. She's actually operated Linotype equipment, which some say was invented by a man who went insane after finishing the design. Linotypes used melted lead in preparing type for printing.

Later she graduated into Compugraphic equipment, which used light-sensitive film to come up with the copy for stories and ads. When Jan and I took over, we brought in Apple computers, and Virginia learned to use them. Subsequently we have switched to PCs and a linked in-house system, and Virginia has gotten along with that too. However, like all of us in the biz, we find ourselves talking to ourselves and the word processors. It's a technique to avoid going insane (see inventor of the Linotype above).

We will miss Virginia, but we are hoping and praying that she will find retirement to her liking. She said that she's going to put tape over her alarm clock button, as she's in such a habit of setting it that she's liable to continue the custom. She also has said, tongue-in-cheek, that she and her husband, Bob, plan to drive each other nuts. But none of us really believe that will happen.

"The Noose" will lumber on through the ages without Virginia, and without as much of me (El Jefe) in the process. Virginia and I have said all through our working relationship, purely out of experience, that it doesn't matter who leaves a newspaper: The darn thing will continue to be published, no matter what. It's the nature of the beast.

We are going to give Virginia a lifetime subscription to the valley newspaper (Whoopie!), as well as some other stuff that we're not going to tell you about. The staff got together last Saturday night for a dinner in her honor, and we all had a good time. It's never easy to say good-bye to anyone, and so we're not going to do that.

We're going to say something like, "Hey, see you around." Or, "So long for now." Something like that. And especially, "Thanks." We have extended her an "invite" to stop by anytime just to check up on us. We are all grateful to her for her dedication through the years.

And though we will not be here on the day she retires, we definitely will be with her in spirit. And we look forward to seeing her enjoy a well-deserved retirement.

God bless you, Virginia -- we'll think of you often.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary expressed in letters to the editor are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

Typed, double-spaced letters are acceptable for consideration. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and highly legible also can be considered for publication. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.)

'I remember' From Dorothy Wiltfong Kerby

The reference in "Bob's Corner" last week regarding too many rules reminded me of a funny story of my naivete when I arrived in this country in 1947.

Posted on several telephone or power poles in the Southern California town of San Pedro were notices to the effect that "Bill stickers will be prosecuted." I went around and asked several people, who was "Bill Stickers" and why were they prosecuting him? I had no idea that the notices were referring to advertisements that we now call flyers.

Referring to the "world's easiest," King George VI's first name was not George. It was Albert; and his wife, the late Queen Elizabeth or "Queen Mom," as the Brits refer to her, always called him "Bertie."

It was the edict of Queen Victoria that no future king could be called King Albert because the parliament of her reign would not recognize her husband, Albert, as a king. He was her consort.

Also, in referring to "Chinese gooseberries because of the Aussies' close ties to New Zealand, where the natives are known as "Kiwis," botanically named Actinidia Deliciosa.

Ore. 'Green Light' wins AASHT kudo

Oregon's Green Light weigh station pre-clearance system has won top honors in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation officials (AASHT) Team Excellence Program.

"The Green Light Program electronically screens truck traffic using high speed weigh-in-motion scales in the roadway and small pager-like devices called transponders in truck cabs," said Green Light Program Manager Randal Thomas.

"The system can identify and weigh trucks as they go by Oregon's busiest weigh stations at highway speeds," said Thomas. "This makes highways safer by reducing the number of trucks getting on and off the highway."

"The program also serves the trucking industry by saving drivers precious operating time. And it helps our weigh stations manage a growing stream of truck traffic by increasing the station's capacity and efficiency," said Thomas.

"From January 2000 through December '01, Green Light screened and cleared trucks more than 1.5 million times," Thomas said.

"Operating a heavy truck costs an average of \$1.92 per mile or \$1.24 per minute. If a truck saves five minutes by-passing a weigh station, Green Light saved trucking companies \$9.5 million in operating costs and more than 127,000 hours of travel time during that period," said Thomas.



DISTRICT BOOK BATTLE - Three Rivers School District held its annual 'Battle of the Books' competition on Saturday, Jan. 25 at Rogue Community College. Evergreen Elementary School had two teams that took top honors at the district competition. First-place honors went to the team headed by spokesperson (top from left) Desiree Miatke, fourth grade, Brendan Davis, Callie Harland, and Rachel Paul, all fifth grade. Evergreen Elementary students beat out teams of fourth and fifth graders from other district elementary schools to take home individual trophies. The team received an award for good sportsmanship from the judges. At the level one competition for third and fourth graders, Evergreen Elementary sent the following team: Spokesperson (bottom from left) Celilo Nordal, fourth grade, Tori Fox, Thea Barker and Greg Crombie, all third grade. This team competed well and received individual ribbons. Competing students were required to read a list of 10 books and answer questions about each book. The program is sponsored by the district Talented and Gifted Program to promote interest in good literature. (Photo by Sam Newton)

Trivia Time by Walter Branch

1. What fellow Beach Boy gave a hamburger to Brain Wilson for every song he wrote?
 2. What company's sunglasses got a boost when Tom Cruise wore them in "Top Gun"?
 3. What cigarette brand hoped to boost sales with a "Who's that guy in the pajama bottoms at brunch?" contest?
 4. What affliction led Ted Kennedy, Jr., to form the Facing the Challenge program?
 5. What 1980 movie about a sunken luxury liner became Britain's biggest box office bomb?
 6. What closed three months after the Indian Point 2 nuclear plant had been shut down in 1981?
 7. What was used for the letter "O" on the cover of "The Real Coke, The Real Story"?
 8. What car did Steve Jobs sell to raise the capital to make him "the Henry Ford of the computer age"?
 9. Who played Morris Buttermaker in the sitcom, "The Bad News Bears"?
 10. What country had its first Nobel Prize winner for literature when Naquib Mahfouz won?
- Trivia Time Answers
 1. Dennis Wilson; 2. Ray-Ban's; 3. Benson & Hedges; 4. Cancer; 5. "Raise the Titanic"; 6. The Indian Point 3 nuclear plant; 7. Bottle caps; 8. A Volkswagen; 9. Jack Warden; 10. Egypt
 (c) 2003 DBR Media, Inc.

Locally owned and operated in the Valley for over 25 years.

Water Wells Pump Sales Installation Service
592-6777
 1470 Caves Highway
 Licensed • Bonded • Insured
 WWC #1504 • CCB #152266 • CR #7-113
 Member Oregon Ground Water Assoc.

The Shining Stars Presents

CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER & DANCE

Saturday, February 1ST

Authentic Chinese Dinner Available 6:30 - 8:30pm
 ~ Reservations appreciated 592-5460 ~

Dance 8:30 pm Gourmet Desserts
TAKILMA COMMUNITY BUILDING TAKILMA, OR

和氣生財

Opener... **BROTHERS OF MAX CATHARSIS**
 "...a sheer delight" - Relix magazine

LIVE MUSIC WITH:

JUPITER HOLLOW

Dance Admission Sliding scale \$8 - \$15
 Dinner is additional cost.

BEER GARDEN available - Adults 21 & over w/ ID

All proceeds from dinner, dance, bar and desserts will go towards *Shining Stars Festival 2003*.
 Thank You!

The Shining Stars is a not-for-profit organization benefiting children of the Illinois Valley. (541) 592-5460

MASSAGE THERAPY

Pain - Stress - Injuries

Deep Massage - CranioSacral Therapy

Tues. - Sat. by appointment

Senior Discounts - Gift Certificates

Foot Massage Class coming Saturday, Feb. 22

Phone for Information

Rachel Goodman, LMT 202 W. Lister - 592-6947

Illinois Valley News

An Independent Weekly Newspaper Co-owned and published by Robert R. (Bob) and Jan Rodriguez
 Bob Rodriguez, Editor El Jefe

Entered as second class matter June 11, 1937 at Post Office as Official Newspaper for Josephine County and Josephine County Three Rivers School District, published at 321 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523
 Periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction, OR 97523
 Post Office Box 1370 USPS 258-820
 Telephone (541) 592-2541, FAX (541) 592-4330
 Volume 65, No. 45

Staff: Virginia Gilliam, Cindy Newton, Britt Fairchild, Chris Robertson, Sharon Silva & Becky Loudon
 Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

DEADLINES:
 News, Display Ads, Announcements & Letters
3 P.M. FRIDAY

(Ads will be accepted until Noon, Monday with an additional charge.)
POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. One letter per person per month. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the editor's opinion.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One year in Josephine County - \$20.80
 One year in Jackson and Douglas Counties - \$24.40
 One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$28

POSTMASTER:
 Please send address changes to
 P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR. 97523

202 S. Redwood Hwy.
 592-5358

COUNTRY STORE

SPECIAL - Taylor's Smoked Jerky Hot, Regular & Black Pepper... \$12.50 lb.

Friday, Jan. 31 - 6 to 9 p.m.
Mike Selfridge
 Slide guitarist, Ukulele master, singer, songwriter from Northern California
Dinner Special
Fish & Chips... \$6.95

February Events
 Friday, Feb. 7 - Dale & Siskiyou Mountain Boys
 Friday, Feb. 14 - (Valentine's Day) Deni O'Donnell
 Friday, Feb. 21 - Libby Goines

Open for breakfast 6 a.m.

ESPRESSO

NOW SERVING BEER AND WINE