

Nifty Tidbits

By CHUCK RIGBY

There are many people who have moved to Southern Oregon because of the small-town atmosphere. Small towns frequently have people who have to work closely together to solve the problems which occur.

Selma is one of the smallest of the small towns, but is growing because of the flavor found there. Selma originally was known as Anderson, and in 1897 the name was changed to Selma. This was to remember Selma, Iowa, the hometown of Miriam Churchill. She and her husband, Robert, established a post office, rest stop for the California stage, and a supply location for miners.

In 1947 a young family moved into Selma to establish their home and raise their children in this small-town atmosphere. When George and Ida Blue started converting a barn into a temporary home, the roads were somewhat different than they are today. Hogue Drive was the main highway, and it was with difficulty that two trucks could be on the small Deer Creek Bridge at the same time. In the early 1960s the state bypassed what is now Hogue Drive, and a wider bridge was built over Deer Creek. This also gave easier access to Lake Selmac, dedicated in 1961.

In 1947 Norman Road crossed Clear Creek and continued south into the Deer Creek Valley. This is the first road which turns right from Hogue Drive south of Selma. That bridge was destroyed in the floods of 1964, which wiped out other bridges in the valley and forced new roads to be built. The Blue's house was right next to that bridge on Norman Road, where the storage units are now located, and in 1964 the floods came right up to their back door.

In 1947 George Blue first worked as a clerk in the Selma Store, which was located where the Selma Union 76 station is now. Later a new store was built across the street where the post office is now. And still later a new store was built across the highway where it is today.

He worked at many other jobs, including driving trucks carrying chrome ore from the area near the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, across the Illinois River near the Swinging Bridge and into Grants Pass over Hay's Hill. At one time ore trucks could unload at the railroad, which stopped at Waters Creek on the north side of Hay's Hill, but the railroad was discontinued in 1924. George also drove log trucks and worked 20 years for the Josephine County Public Works Dept.

George and Ida Blue raised nine children in their small, temporary home in Selma. Eight of them attended Selma Elementary School and all nine graduated from Illinois Valley High School. It was almost required that George be a leader in the Selma PTA organization. He also served as a leader in the Masonic Lodge and the Grange.

After moving to Cave Junction he served as mayor for two years from January 1985 to December 1986. He also operated a sno cone- hot dog stand on the parking lot of Select Market. George always liked to be a leader, and he did this also as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"Brudder Boo" will be especially missed by the children, who received candy from him every Sunday. George Blue died on March 6, 2003 and has left a rich legacy and a large vacant spot in the valley. His example of work, love, leadership and friendship will be continued by his additional legacy of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who will carry his work forward.

IVCRT Insights

By JOYCE HEFFINGTON

Preparations for IVCRT's second year of operating the concession at the Oregon Caves are moving into high gear as the opening of the Chateau, scheduled to begin on May 2, swiftly approaches. Initially, CRT will open the Chateau with limited hours in the gift gallery and the new espresso/deli/bar, followed by opening the coffee shop, fine dining, and lodging in mid-May.

We hope all of you are as excited as we are to have this second opportunity to keep the operation of the concession here.

Call To Artists

This year, we will be selecting consignment items for the gift gallery by jury. With limited space, we want to make certain that our visitors see the full spectrum of unique, high-quality arts and crafts that are produced by valley artisans.

The jury process will take place on Sunday, March 30 at the Josephine County Bldg., 102 S. Redwood Hwy. All types of handcrafted products made in the valley will be considered, including quality packaged food items prepared in certified kitchens. All items must be original and produced by the person submitting them. Selections will be made on quality of craftsmanship, innovation, and suitability for sale at the Caves. Jury forms are available at the IVCRT office, 200-C Lister St. across from the Cave Junction Post Office. Specific questions may be addressed to Rebecca Pearson at 592-2838.

Logo Design Contest

There will also be a contest to choose Cave-related logo designs to be used on products such as T-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, and key chains. Designs should be original and relate specifically to the Caves, including the Chateau. The deadline for submitting a camera-ready design is on or before, Thursday, May 1, at 5 p.m. Maximum image size should not exceed 8 1/2-by-11 inches.

Contest winner(s) will receive a cash prize of \$100 and a Chateau Getaway Package valued at \$130. The contest is open to all Southern Oregon artists. Submissions will be accepted at the IVCRT office. Phone 592-4440 for more information.

Now Hiring

This year, applicants selected through the interview process will receive valuable workforce training in customer service and other related subjects such as inventory control and the art of selling, in addition to in-depth, hands-on training at the Chateau. The offsite training will be provided by RCC in partnership with the IVCRT.

Oregon Caves Outfitters' job applications are now available at the IVCRT office. Line and middle management positions are open in all departments, including the restaurant, front desk, housekeeping, and gift gallery. Part-time and full-time positions are available. Those interested in applying for a seasonal job at the Chateau, may come by the office and pick up an application. The deadline for applying is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7.

Volunteer Opportunity

It's not too soon to sign up to help us get the lodge ready for opening on May 2. Volunteer activities should begin around the middle of April and will include everything from housekeeping activities to setting up the kitchen and the Gift Gallery.

Aggressive gum trees get the ax

Because of their aggressive root systems, longstanding sweetgum trees that line the main street of Downtown Cave Junction will be removed.

The trees will be replaced with other, less-invasive trees, and not all the gum trees will be removed simultaneously, the Cave Junction City Council decided during its meeting in city hall on Monday night, March 24.

The city engaged the services of two certified arborists, who noted the extensive root systems, which buckle sidewalks, causing pedestrian hazards. In addition, they said that mature trees "become brittle and break easily, increasing the risk to objects or people below."

The city considered grinding the surface roots of the sweetgum trees, but it was determined that they likely would not survive. It is planned that the larger trees that have caused the most damage will be cut down and their stumps ground, causing the roots to die underground.

New trees, not yet selected, will replace them, adjacent to existing sites.

Mayor Ed Faircloth said that he wants the smaller trees left for now.

The city will repair the buckled sidewalks, install metal grates, and plant new trees inside the grates this fall.

I.V. equestrian students not horsin' around

The following are the results from the March 15-16 high school equestrian competition held at the Jackson County Expo. The next competition is on April 25, 26, 27. State finals are May 16, 17, 18. All will be held at the Jackson County Expo. Admission is free. For information regarding donations to the Oregon High School Equestrian Teams Scholarship Fund phone Linda Crawford at 597-2899.

I.V. High School Students Kaylah Arnett, 1st-Individual Flag Race, 11th-Keyhole, 7th-Barrels.

Brook Sullivan, 4th-Driving.

Echo Reagan, 12th-In Hand Trail.

Brent Rollins, 8th-Individual Flag Race.

Alice Weber, 4th-Over Fences.

Catherine Sullivan, 9th-Barrels.

Team Events, 4th-Bi-Rangle, 5th-Drill Team, 6th-Canadian Flags, 12th-In Hand Relay, 13th-Working Pairs, 17th-Team Penning.

Chelsea Calhoun (has already qualified for the State Finals in all 5 events) 1st-Reining, 1st-Driving, 2nd-Trail, 2nd-Woking Rancher, 3rd-Stock Seat.

TOP MOVIES

1. The Hunted starring Benicio Del Toro Rated: R
 2. Chicago Catherine Zeta-Jones PG-13
 3. The Pianist Adrien Brody R
 4. Tears From The Sun Bruce Willis R
 5. Agent Cody Banks Frankie Muniz PG
 6. The Hours Nicole Kidman PG-13
 7. Bringing Down The House Steve Martin PG-13
 8. How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days Kate Hudson PG-13
 9. The Life Of David Gale Kevin Spacey R
 10. Cradle 2 The Grave Jet Li R
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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - Illinois Valley volunteer firefighters from the Selma Station recently conducted practice on extricating victims of motor vehicle accidents. With donated cars, the firefighters used special tools and techniques to remove windshields and doors. After that the volunteers practiced what is called 'making convertibles' out of wrecked cars. The firefighters practice various skills each Tuesday at their respective stations. For information about becoming a volunteer firefighter phone 592-2225.

Outstanding IVHS students honored

Illinois Valley High School Winter Awards for 2003 Cheerleading:

Varsity: Christina Coronado, Christina Yanase, Jenny Bebb, Danielle Streeter, Ashley Larson. Most Valuable: Danielle Streeter, Most Improved: Jenny Bebb. Most inspirational: Christina Coronado, Christina Yanase. Head Cheerleader: Christina Coronado, Christina Yanase.

Coach: Heather Merrill and Mary Paul.

JV Cheerleading: Crystal Bertram, Dawna Crocker, Cassie Kolberg, Kelly King. JV Most Improved: Dawna Crocker, Cassie Kolberg. JV Most Valuable: Ashley Larson.

Illinois Valley High School Wrestling 2003: Varsity: Michael Pagnotta, Oley Crocker, Wescott Lynch, Alton Steinhoff, Paulo Rocha, Zach Pagnotta, Scott Ellis, Matt Britt, Natty Krauss, Brandon Lynch, Sam Green, Matt Miller, Josh Pope, Jeremy Marhenke.

Coach: Jay Miller, Ted Hall.

Most Valuable Player: Michael Pagnotta, Most Inspirational Player: Matt Britt, Most Improved Player: Sam Green, Outstanding Freshman: Zach Pagnotta, Most Improved Freshman: Lefi Tausaga, Most Improved JV Wrestler: Gabe Lander, Outstanding JV Wrestling: Wescott Lynch.

Second at State: Michael Pagnotta, Fourth at State: Zach Pagnotta, Fifth at State: Matt Britt.

Skyline Conference First Team: Matt Britt, Mike Pagnotta, Zach Pagnotta, Sam Green, Matt Miller.

Skyline Conference Honorable mention: Natty Krauss, Paulo Rocha, Wescott Lynch, Josh Pope.

Participation: Anthony Bell, Lex Johnson, Lefi Tausage, Josh Aria, Gabe Lander, Nic Heller.

Stats: Brandi Miller, Jessica Mason, Holly Podoll, Tiffanee Griffin, Mary Carlile.

Illinois Valley High School Girls Basketball 2003: Varsity: Meghan Jackson, Lacey Madden, Kim Hamilton, Ivy Fink, Serena Barry, Kelsi Snook, Erika Riley, Emily Dudley.

Most Valuable Player: Kim Hamilton, Most Improved Player: Lacy Madden, Most Inspirational Player: Kelsi Snook, Cougar Pride: Emily Dudley, Outstanding Defense: Kim Hamilton.

Skyline Conference First Team - Kim Hamilton, Sky-

line Conference Honorable Mention: Emily Dudley and Ivy Fink.

Stats: Sara Adams and Jessica Ragsdale.

Coach: Steven Morton.

JV Basketball: Erika Riley, Nicole Hendrickson, Ashley Ellis, Kirsten Wood, Sarah Houston, Meghan Jackson, Jessica Ragsdale, Jamie Wylie, Serena Barry.

Coach: Emily Hoskins.

Most Improved: Serena Barry, Most Valuable: Kirsten Wood and Meghan Jackson.

Illinois Valley High School Boys Basketball 2003. Varsity: Tyler Mikels, Chris Loock, Andi Eichmann, Armen Chaghatzbanian, Jon Paul, Brian Paul, Chancey Woods, Steffen Alm, Jon riley, Alex Gardner.

Coach: Derek Brimhall.

Stats: Ashley Varien and Jessica McIntosh.

Most Outstanding Offense: Brian Paul, Most Outstanding Defense: Andi Eichmann, Most Improved: Armen Chaghatzbanian, Most Inspirational: Chris Loock.

Skyline Conference First Team: Tyler Mikels, Skyline Conference Third Team: Brian Paul, Skyline Conference Honorable Mention: Chris Loock.

JV Basketball: Jon Paul, James Gerhardt, Jacob Loock, Ryan Warner, Mike Bertsch, Damon Hubbs, Logan Jackson, Andy Brooks, Ben Latva, Cody Brock, Liang Chien Lee.

Coach: Jesse Tree.

Freshmen Basketball: Kalen Snook, Jon LeClair, Kyler Kerchner, Dylan Halvorsen, Chris Evans, Jessea Mucha, Garrett Crowl, Joel Dierkes, Colby Nichols, Austin Shepherd.

Coach: Jeff Winters.

Illinois Valley High School Flagteam 2003: Varsity Letter: Edina Carlile, Jenna Lorensen, Kira McBride, Ginni Lyles, Joy Messerli, Jessica McIntosh, Brandi Miller, Ashley Varien.

Coach: Dianna Kihs, Cari Arenzulia.

Illinois Valley High School Scholar Athletes 2003.

Cheerleading: Christina Yanase, Danielle Streeter, Jenny Bebb, Christina Coronado.

Girls Basketball: Lacy Madden, Kim Hamilton, Ivy Fink, Emily Dudley, Kelsi Snook, Serena Barry.

Wrestling: Matt Britt, Michael Pagnotta, Oley Crocker.

Boys Basketball: Brian Paul, Steffen Alm.



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