

Bob's Corner

CARLSBAD – Although the Interstate 5 speed limits in California are posted as 65 (70 mph for those longer valley desert stretches) most everyone keeps their right foot depressed so as to maintain 75 or even 85 mph.

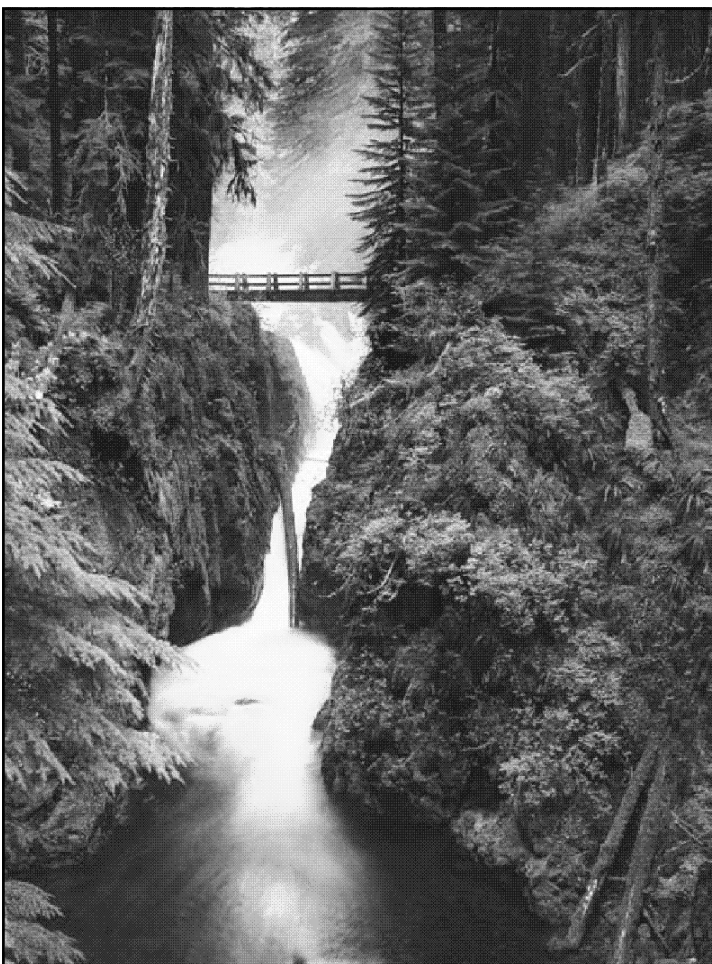
You can cover a lot of distance in a short time at those speeds. El Jefe's time-tuner (the one in his brain) is about out of whack. I flew to San Diego last week, and boy are my arms tired. But seriously, I flew down to this part of Southern California because my mother was ill, having suffered a kidney infection followed by a massive heart attack. I wanted to be with her.

During the two days I got to spend with her, along with my brother, Steve and his wife, Lisa, we reminisced about many happy happenings in our lives. We shared the events of a lifetime. We laughed and joked. We expressed our mutual love and blessings.

Her spirit left this world on Thursday morning, Aug. 14. I was in the shower at our daughter's house, preparing to go see her again, when the call came. I finished getting ready and drove to the assisted-living facility where she's been living for the past couple of years. She looked peaceful, freed from the cares of this Earth. I was thankful that she had passed on in her sleep; that her pain and anxiety were gone.

Flew back to Oregon on Thursday afternoon and had a "lovely" time at PDX, as there was a four-hour layover. By the time I reached Cave Junction, it was close to midnight. We left for San Diego by car on Friday afternoon; thus my timeclock is running overtime. I think I know what day it is though.

Meanwhile, our flock and stock are being cared for by a friend. Would write more this week, but there are a lot of arrangements to make.



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.)

'Freedom in truth' From George Long Grants Pass

After reading Josephine County Library Director Sue Luce's letter and interview about the library in the July 23 issue of the 'I.V. News,' I stand by my previous statements.

The meetings I referred to in my previous letter were broadcast on television and are available on videotape. The public does not have to take my word for what I said they could review the video. If they do so they will also see and hear Luce make the ludicrous statement that she will need more managers not less since scheduling part-time workers will be more difficult.

It is true I did not attend all the budget meetings or phone or e-mail Luce about her budget. The budget is presented as a written document and I can read.

I would like to expound some on the case of Senior Library Specialist Jennifer Berubee, who is the senior staff member at the I.V. branch and oversees the day-to-day business.

Her immediate manager is Princessa Vichi. As of July 1, Berubee has had a 25 percent reduction in her hours, which means a 25 percent reduction in her pay.

She can no longer afford health insurance.

Vichi, on the other hand, has had only a 10 percent reduction in her pay, which means it is still more than \$48,500 per year in salary alone and her co-pay for her insurance remains the same as it was prior to July 1. I assume she also still gets her nine weeks paid leave that all county managers get. Luce, Vichi's department head and supervisor, still gets an annual salary of more than \$67,000, even with a 10 percent decrease.

In her interview, Luce stated, "I know some people are hurt (by the situation). It's a tough time but we're doing the best we can."

I think the comparison of Berubee and Vichi shows just who is being hurt. I know the recently impoverished staff members of the library are feeling the pain.

Clearly Luce and the library managers have no intention of sharing it. And Luce claims to be doing the best she can. Well quite frankly her "best" is not good enough. Not for what she and her managers are paid.

My first statement about the situation at the library was that I was not upset about the amount of money budgeted to the library, I was upset about the way it was being spent. And that remains my point.



DOWNTOWN ACCIDENT - David Carter of Cave Junction was injured on Monday, Aug. 18, after being rear ended in his Geo Storm by an RV on Redwood Hwy. in Downtown C.J. Carter stopped for a pedestrian at a crosswalk when the RV, driven by Melvin Lee Forester of Watsonville, Germany ran into him, JOCO sheriff's deputies said. The pedestrian was not injured. Carter was treated and released at Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. (Photo by Steve Fairchild)

Recently I had a private meeting with Commissioner Jim Riddle, something any citizen can do. Hopefully he will consider what we discussed and a more equitable solution will emerge. Riddle could not tell me if Luce had taken a pay cut. I bet he went to a lot of the budget meetings and I bet he event spoke directly with her.

I believe the managers at the library including Luce have taken a 10 percent pay cut. I know Berubee by her statement has taken a 25 percent cut. My wife's pay has decreased 38 percent and a fellow employee took a 41 percent cut. The library budget was balanced by impoverishing the staff and protecting the managers pure and simple. My fellow citizens know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

'Government plunder'

From George Lee
Cave Junction

When a portion of wealth is transferred from the person who owns it -- without his consent and without compensation, and whether by force or by fraud -- then I say that property is violated; that an act of plunder is committed.

When the law itself commits such an act that it is suppose to suppress, I say that plunder is still committed. The responsibility for this legal plunder rests with the law, the legislator, and society itself.

I do not mean to attack the intentions or the morality of anyone. Rather, I am attacking an idea which I believe to be false; a system which appears to me to be unjust; an injustice so independent of personal intentions what each of us

(Continued on page 3)

We want to thank
friends and neighbors for their
prayers, flowers and support during the
loss of our loved one. Special
thanks to Bob Clausen of Illinois Valley
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Community Bible Church for providing love,
support and a wonderful meal.
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- Aristotle -

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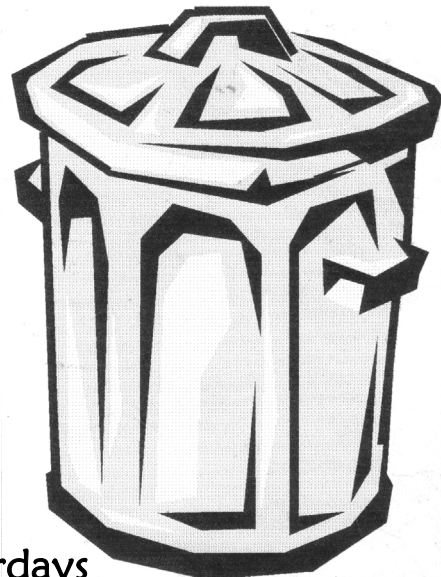
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