

Bob's Corner

At the risk of demonstrating that I grew up in the modern Dark Ages, I'm one of those still alive who remembers when drive-in movie theaters and drive-in restaurants were common.

I'm not talking about drive-through eateries, but those restaurants where you ordered your food from a person known as car hop after you parked. The car hop would either walk out, or in some cases, skate out, to your vehicle to take your order; then return (usually after a very long time) with the food and stuff on a tray. The tray was attached to the driver's side door. You always had to roll up your window a bit so the tray brackets had something to hang onto.

Yeah, I'm one of those who lived through the '60s (the 1960s) living on fries, onion rings, black coffee, huge containers of cola, and double-cheeseburgers, sometimes with deep dish hot apple pie with two scoops of ice cream. Hey, that doesn't sound too bad.

Anyway, after eating the food off the tray, so to speak, you had to blink your headlights to get the car hop to come back. Usually they were on a five-hour break, or skated into the next town -- I don't know where they were -- but it always took a long time to get them to retrieve the tray.

I remember when Jack in the Box first opened in Chula Vista in San Diego County. My Uncle Clarence hauled a bunch of us cousins in his new Ford station wagon to get something to eat. Being unfamiliar with this new-style eatery, Clarence roared past the speaker and drove right up to the window. The employee peered out and said tentatively, "Can I help you?" "Yeah," said my uncle, "we want some food." "Well, what do you want?" "Whattaya got?" "Uh, the menu is back by the speaker." "What speaker?"

We finally got it figured out. Of course, back then the hamburgers were 22-cents, fries 19-cents. The "good ol' days" when minimum wage was a buck an hour. Premium gasoline was 25-cents a gallon.

But I digress. Nearly all the drive-in movie theaters are gone; and I don't think there are any restaurants left with car hops. One thing about the drive-in theaters is that the snack bar prices were high. I don't recall how high, because I never had enough money for anything except popcorn. The pizza and burgers were out of my range; that's all I remember.

In my time I've seen drive-up or -in churches, dry cleaners, dairy product stores, and liquor stores. I've even seen a drive-up mortuary. No kidding. The dear departed was placed in a setting not unlike a large department store window, and the motorized mourners drove by slowly to pay their last respects.

The drive-in church was kind of cool because you could wear your pajamas under a sweater, as you stayed in your car. The pastor preached from a raised area via microphones, like drive-in movie theaters.

However, the collection was taken by people who came right up to the car.

Well, enough of this. I'm going in search of some hot apple pie with ice cream.

Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact, are strictly those of the letter-writers.)

 Typed, double-spaced letters written solely to this newspaper are considered for publication. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered. Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.

A proven record From Gregory Anderson Cave Junction

If we are to believe those who claim that Republicans will pollute the air, contaminate the water, destroy the environment, make the elderly suffer, and starve the children: then where are they going to breathe, drink and raise their families?

If it is a conflict between church and state to give families vouchers so they can send their kids to private church schools for a superior education, why do liberals find it acceptable for Democrats to campaign in Black churches?

Why is it that even though the 2000 vote count in Florida has been checked and rechecked by numerous agencies and found to be accurate, there are still some crying about Bush stealing the election?

What evidence does John Edwards have that if Kerry is elected, the paralyzed will be able to walk again?

While most of us pay 20 to 30 percent of our income for federal taxes, Kerry hires big guns to find all the loopholes in the laws, many of which he put there, so that he only paid 12.8 percent of his millions of dollars in 2002.

Is this the reason he is against a flat tax of 17 percent? How can we believe he is for the middle class when he isn't helping us pull the wagon?

When Kerry says he is for alternative forms of energy, why does he join lawsuits to prevent wind-mill farms within sight of one of his multimillion dollar mansions?

What makes anyone think that Kerry can run a country when he has no management experience running anything?

I believe that most voters prefer to stick with a guy with a proven record. Unemployment 5.4 percent, which is 2/10th of a percent better than when Clinton ran for re-election; taxes way down; security freedom being introduced to other countries. The economy is getting better every day.

Besides, "GW" paid

30 percent of his income in 2004, just like us regular folks.

Grimmett School? From Fred Krauss Selma

I want to comment on the historic school called the Grimmett Schoolhouse at Kerbyville Museum.

I love to collect history, and was born and raised in Illinois Valley.

Mike Wells, Charlie Trefethen and Rolland Tresham were all born in the Sucker Creek area in the Holland community of Illinois Valley. Before they died, they told me that this was not a schoolhouse, but rather a storage shed.

If it was a schoolhouse, it seems like it would have windows.

I think that Wells' wife still lives in Grants Pass, and she can confirm this. I'll do more research, but as far as I'm concerned, this was not a schoolhouse.

Planning complaint From Craig Heiller Director, Bruin Nature Conservancy Cave Junction

The "processing" of the Panters' application to build a residence off Pine Cone Drive is another prime example of how the planning system cheats owners of adjoining parcels of the most fundamental property rights as property owners.

Stated simply, our habitat property is negatively affected by flooding on a routine basis. Bootleg grading has raised the elevation of the road, removed our sloping driveway, and cut access to our pond; and reverse-drains the runoff from both sides of the road into our pond.

The streambed on the Panters' property is now higher than the culvert or our property. The resultant flooding, in combination with freezing, kills trees, even older saplings.

Rather than require the obvious necessity of a hydrology report, as voted for by Commissioner Jim Brock, the commission voted 2-1 to support the Panters without the report.

Since Commissioner Harold Haugen especially is directly responsible for the participation of county officials in these unlawful activities, he should have recused himself, and not been allowed to vote. Haugen also showed prejudice by attacking the only other opponent.

The Panters, especially, are cheated by this farce. Rather than deal

with relatively minor problems, they now must elevate their case, and to a state-level land-use board without an oar.

All the mistakes and shortcomings of a third-rate, dishonest planning department and a worse board of commissioners will fall on the Panters' hopes to build a new home. At the state level, the Panters are lost.

Remember, I got the first Land Use Board of Appeals reversal of a Josephine County land-use decision in JoCo history.

Rather than play this nasty and unproductive game, we propose an alternative which is far cheaper and more effective than the courts. And we would welcome the Panters as good neighbors.

If the streambed were cleaned and ditched out 2 feet below the bottom of the culvert, and about 4 feet wide, that half-plugged culvert could be cleaned out, and drainage flow would be unrestricted to carry the maximum runoff volume and perform the function of its design.

Covering the excavated materials with straw to reduce the immediate erosion, and planting alder or other seedlings would be cheap and effective. That's it -- all it takes.

Is this too much to ask, or do we have to be the "bad people" again, to protect our property and habi-

tat? Because the neighborhood and local politicians took away our subdivision hopes, the least we can ask is that our property be respected as habitat, instead of being repeatedly victimized by vandalism.

Emergency responders From Chuck DeBrett Cave Junction

When all is going well, we tend to take our firefighters and paramedics for granted.

But when an emergency strikes, they take on a totally different degree of importance. When they respond, our lives are in their hands as they make crucial life/death decisions related to our care.

Recently, such an emergency arose for me, and within minutes there were five dedicated individuals at my door should they be needed. The physician who treated me in an emergency room said that had I not received medical attention, my condition would not have been resolved on its own.

Even though my emergency may not have been critical, I respect the attention they gave it, and every person in Illinois Valley can take comfort in knowing that should they require emergency treatment, they will get it.

I don't have the names of all the responders, but I hope they know they are appreciated.

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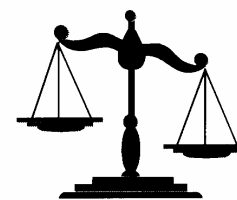
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