

## Bob's Corner

Life is tough (difficult to chew or comprehend) for people like me, who interpret (translate) written and spoken words literally (strictly).

In a store the other day I stood at a counter for quite a while staring intently. A clerk finally asked if I needed help, and I told her that I was simply following instructions on the sign. It read, "Watch Batteries." Although I watched them carefully, nothing happened.

In another location there was a sign that read, "Buffalo Snacks." As I have no buffalo, and didn't even know that they like snacks, I did not buy that product.

Later, I got into a bit of trouble because there were signs that read, "Throw Pillows" and "Throw Rugs." When I did what the sign stated, the clerks became rather upset, so I adjourned to another part of the store, where the sign read, "Restroom." After I rested for quite a while, some other clerks made me leave because, they said, my snoring was causing a disturbance.

Later, when I felt ill, my physician advised me to drink a warm glass of milk after a hot bath. I couldn't even finish drinking the bath, let alone the glass of milk. Also, his receptionist was not happy when I tried to remove an item from the waiting room. But when I came in she said, "Please take a chair."

Plus, she wasn't pleased when I asked where the area was for impatient people, based on the sign that read, "Patient Registration."

After that episode I got into trouble with a traffic cop for driving too fast. He didn't understand my reasoning that I was only following the indication on a road sign that read, "Speed Zone." He also could not answer my question about why other motorists were so angry, as noted on the sign, "Cross Traffic Ahead."

A few years ago there was an ad in a daily newspaper advertising a mobile home show, but the biggest part of the ad read, "No Admission." So I didn't go.

And then there's the Grass Pants car dealer who advertises "Free Hand Wash" with certain purchases. In the first place, why not offer to wash both hands; and secondly, what's the big deal about getting one hand clean?

For some reason this reminds me of being annoyed at restaurant signs that read, "Mexican Cuisine." Cuisine is a French word. Are there restaurants with signs that read, "French Comida"? This is all confusing to me. What about people who say, "We've got a real problem"? Are there unreal problems?

Plus those who say, "I had my car stolen," or "I had my leg broken." Why would anyone have that done? Sounds like something to avoid, not have done.

So excuse me literally while I peruse my dictionary, thesaurus, and modern dictionary of synonyms and antonyms. I feel an alphabet attack approaching.

## Changes

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## Letters to the Editor

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

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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.

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### Grimmett Schoolhouse needs restoration From Chris Duncan Leppert San Diego

I was pleased to read of the interest by Fred Krauss (Letter to the Editor/"I.V. News" Nov. 24) in valley history, including the historical value of the schoolhouse that my great-grandfather built, and that Fred is planning more research on the subject.

I also was born and raised in Illinois Valley, and Fred is not alone in his interest in its history.

My great-grandparents Grimmett, three of their children, both grandmothers and grandfathers; my mother, father and a passel of other relations of various stripes, including Fred's buddy, Charley Trefethen (who knew better because he was also a valley history buff) are buried in Laurel Cemetery in Cave Junction.

Unfortunately I no longer live in the beautiful Illinois Valley, but I do get to visit regularly. The only Grimmett descendant currently living there is Steve McMahan, a great-grandson of Robert, who moved to the valley only a few years ago, and until he receives a copy of this letter, probably didn't know the family history.

I've been doing Fred's research for him. Mike, Roland and Charley had it half right.

William Franklin Grimmett arrived on 160 acres on Sucker Creek, just below today's Grayback Campground, in the 1890s with his wife, Mary, and family. They began farming and cattle-raising.

There were six children ranging in age from about 6 to 16: William, Sterling, Anna, Robert, Leon and Grover; the latter being my grandfather.

Land was cleared, trees felled, logs honed, and the farmhouse, barn and outbuildings con-

structed. There being no school anywhere near, they built the schoolhouse.

And I want Fred Krauss to know that it does have windows. On pages 74 and 75 of "Golden Days and Pioneer Ways," by Ruth Pfefferle, (Bulletin Publishing Co., Grants Pass, 1977) there is a picture of the school showing it with windows.

Ruthie's reference includes, "The furnishings at that time were as primitive as the log building. The desks were hewed flat on either side, with ordinary benches to sit on. The children sat in rows. Miss Annie Hatcher was the teacher."

In a quick search, I find no further published reference to the schoolhouse and will continue searching. But in talking to the last surviving Grimmett, (Evelyn Grimmett Emmert, 92) daughter of Robert, she remembers spending time at the farm in the late 1920s and early '30s. By that time it had become quite a successful boarding house operated by Aunt Anna and Uncle Ed Lind, providing meals for the road-building crews and the first "tourists" traveling to the Caves needing a place to stop overnight before tackling the arduous climb farther up the mountain.

The teen-agers, Evelyn; her sister, Mabel; and their cousin, my mother Elenora, all spent time during summers helping with the cooking, cleaning and waiting tables.

I recall that my mother often fondly remarked of the fun times of her youth with Aunt Anna and Uncle Ed at the family home on Sucker Creek. It was during that period that the schoolhouse was indeed used for storage, and some of the windows perhaps had been removed.

It was 1963, while Doris Boyd was curator at Kerbyville Museum under auspices of the Josephine County Historical Society, that the I.V. Women's Club sponsored the project to move the old schoolhouse to the museum to preserve it.

The work was done voluntarily by club mem-

bers and their husbands, who carefully took it apart, numbered the logs, and reassembled it on the museum grounds, where it now needs tender, loving care.

Kerbyville Museum is operating on a shoestring, barely able to keep on the electricity and heat. There is a great deal of water damage to the west side of the school, where at least half the logs need replacing. The structure is unsafe and needs to be taken apart to successfully restore it.

The upper roof constructed to protect it needs stabilizing, and the support poles and cross-joints need replacing. It is my understanding that Jack Heald has donated some logs and that Del Kauffman has agreed to help, but much more is needed.

We all are aware of the many years of generous giving by Fred Krauss and the Krauss Family to noteworthy valley causes, much of it anonymously. Given Fred's love of collecting valley history, now would be a good time for him to help preserve some

of it.

If he initiates a fundraiser from up there, I suspect that some of us few Grimmett descendants still alive, and perhaps other valley history benefactors, might be willing to contribute funds or material to help the museum with this cause. It's a project that Fred could be proud of and would no doubt enjoy accomplishing.

I've discussed the problem with Dennis Strayer, museum board president, and he estimates roughly that with the rather modest sum of \$4,000 -- and volunteers to help get the work done -- the restoration could be completed in a couple of days.

Strayer would be happy to discuss the project with Fred. Strayer can be reached at 592-4076 or 592-4078.

And, of course, I'd also like to hear from Fred. I'm glad that he brought this to my attention. Now, let's save this dear, old piece of valley history.

(Continued on page 3)

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Merry Christmas from  
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## Illinois Valley News

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