

Bob's Corner

This week I was going to continue the cat and dog tales, but have decided to give the feline-canine connection a temporary rest. Instead, you will be regaled with a couple of journalistic incidents in which I was involved years behind. We'll get back to the animals another time.

Actually, speaking of animals, I also thought of reminiscing about driving in low gear for two years in the San Diego Zoo, where I learned to imitate a number of critters including peacocks, gibbons and gecko lizards. I also "learned" to drink coffee there, but that's yet another saga.

Back to those journalistic happenings. One of the most dramatic occurred in Downtown San Diego around 1964, I think. I was a copy boy at the former San Diego "Evening Tribune," itching to get on the reporter trainee program, but that came a bit later. Anyway, it was a rainy day, and upon returning to the third-floor newsroom from the fifth-floor employee lounge, I kept hearing loud popping noises.

They sounded like those .22-powered tools used by construction guys. I asked one of the suits what was going on, and he said that there was a gunfire situation a few blocks away. Being prone to thinking everyone needed my help, I asked somewhat facetiously if the breaking news was being covered. He assured me that it was.

However, my interest got me the assignment of running film from the scene to the darkroom. This really ticked off the rest of the copy boy crew because they all wanted to be involved. Using my magical press pass I went through the police lines, with the last officer telling me to keep a large Coke truck between me and the site of the offensive gunfire, which was a pawnshop.

At 19, I had never been under gunfire, so when the whizzing sounds puzzled me, as I huddled behind a car near the Coke truck with a reporter and two photographers, I got a most-sarcastic answer from the reporter, who happened to be a U.S. Marine combat veteran. I made several running in the rain round-trips hauling used film to the photo lab, and returning with fresh film.

San Diego Police were returning fire in great volume, as the man in the pawn shop had wounded or killed at least two of the owners. Plus he had access to numerous weapons and ammo.

It took a few hours, but eventually the man was arrested. However, it later was estimated that many thousands of rounds had been fired by police officers and other law enforcement troops who came to help, trying to halt the shooter.

Dramatic heroism was much in evidence, as at least one SDPD officer, using a mechanic's crawler, rescued one of the wounded men in the pawn shop while under fire. At one point, an armored car was driven onto the sidewalk, and automatic weapons fired directly into the front of the pawn shop. It turned out later that the shooter had gone upstairs, so he survived that effort.

Eventually, the U.S. Navy sent a Shore Patrol guy in with a concussion grenade. He got cover fire, and got as close as he could before lobbing the grenade. There was quite an explosion, and as I recall, some officers rushed in and wounded the shooter with a shotgun.

All through this it was raining -- some would say cats and dogs. But I hardly noticed. So that's my exciting story for this week, although the cats and dogs might return another week.

Oh, that second journalistic incident will have to wait. It too involved a man with a gun, but I think one story is plenty this time.

What would men be without women?
Scarce, sir, mighty scarce.

- Mark Twain -

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 68, No. 23

Staff: Kacy Clement, Michelle Binker,
Becky Loudon, Bryan Harley, Tabitha Jackson, Nina Holm Consulting.
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

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5 P.M. THURSDAY

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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.)

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.

Blackberry Festival From Bear Marston Cave Junction

As a participant of the Blackberry Festival I can say I guess not everyone gets better the more they do something.

A very good example is this year's festival.

Now, I'm not saying that vendors didn't make money. People did. A person can't control that.

Several people were moved. One man was informed after he paid for the spot that he had been at for eight years. When he was asked by the organization what he wanted to do, he suggested a refund. Organization said: I quote, "Yeah, that's not going to happen."

I was lied to, then threatened with no spot and no refund.

What's going on? Where's the money going? How much came in? What went out and where? An accounting must be made.

Change must be implemented, and I'm full of ideas. How about you? Let's get together, and save the festival.

Warning on wills From Ann Dodge Cincinnati, Ohio

My sister-in-law, Wynona "Nona" Dodge, died recently.

She and her deceased husband, Jim Dodge, were longtime residents in the

Cave Junction area. They had many area friends, but time took its toll, and Nona was very alone, ill and unable to get out on her own.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous people exerted undue influence on her, and just before her death she was persuaded to change to will to benefit them, and disinherit her immediate family.

I did not and do not stand to profit in any way from her death. But we have found that certificates of deposit are being held by Evergreen Federal Bank for my grandson and granddaughter. These certificates will be redeemed and are appreciated.

But because of confusion and devious notification, two certificates might not be claimed. Those named on these certificates are Judy Milam and Glenn Niekamp. Someone may know how to contact them or their heirs.

Knowledge of Nona's situation could be warning to others. Before making any drastic changes in wills, extravagant gifts or changes in deeds, people should consult with a trusted adviser. They could include a minister, priest, social worker or genuine friend, but not an employee. Lawyers are not advisers.

People who are alone and ill, and sometimes not mentally stable because of illness, can make some outrageous and wrong decisions, especially when wrongful influence is exerted.

POW/MIA Recognition Day From Tina Haemmerlein, Public Relations chairman, American Legion Auxiliary, Glenn Morrison Unit 70 Cave Junction

Each year our nation has one day set aside that not too many people know about to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by our nation's Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action, as well as their families.


POW/MIA Recognition Day is the third Friday in September. This year POW/MIA Day will be observed Sept. 16 to salute those men

and women unaccounted for, and missing from America's wars:

From Vietnam, from Korea, from World War II, from the Cold War, from Desert Storm, from Iraqi Freedom.

Families and friends of Americans missing suffer from "not knowing." It is emotionally difficult and painful, and many POW/MIA families, have had to endure such agonizing suffering for decades. Today, more than 88,000 Americans worldwide remain unaccounted for, due to hostile action, but are not forgotten.

We need to show support and acknowledge these American families. Let our community, the families and our nation know we care and have not forgotten. Fly a POW/MIA flag, fly the U.S. flag, or wear a poppy to show that we a nation will "Never Forget" ... "You Are Not Forgotten."



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Club News

American Legion Auxiliary, Glenn Morrison Unit 70

Assistance with bingo at the I.V. Lions Labor Day Festival is needed. Those who can help on Sept. 3, 4, or 5, should contact Laurel Warden at 597-2979.

Membership renewals are showing up in the mail. Questions on membership or renewal can be directed to Michele Colbert at 592-3704.

The Southern Oregon National Stand Down for homeless and disadvantaged veterans was held on Sept. 16, 17 and 18 at the White City V.A. Domiciliary. There will be V.A. benefits counseling, health screening, housing and employment information, legal services, substance abuse counseling, clothing, haircuts and showers.

There will be no cost, plus immediate assistance and referrals for families of active military personal.

Donations can be sent to: Southern Oregon Stand Down Inc., P.O. Box 8396, Medford OR 97501. Personal care items are also needed. For more information contact Ellie Buell at 592-6771.

POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held Friday, Sept. 16.

The next auxiliary meeting will be held Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m.; potluck starting at 6 at the American Legion Post 70 Hall on Caves Hwy.

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