

Bob's Corner

This was the week I was going to choose a topic from my list of possible subjects (as well as predicates and verbs and stuff), but instead, I've decided to talk about how we ended up in Cave Junction, because we came close to moving to Roseburg years ago.

People periodically ask me how and why we came to Illinois Valley, usually by saying something like, "Hey! Why don't you #@xx% go back where you came from!" I usually ignore such ignorant outbursts, although it's al-ways good to know karate (and other Japanese words.)

Anyway, Jan and I took a 10th anniversary trip in 1974, leaving our three children, then 9, 7 and 6, with her parents at our house. We were driving a '66 faded, underpowered red-and-white GMC window van towing a 14-foot Western camping trailer. We left Poway in San Diego County and headed north, not really aware of where we were going, but knowing that we probably were looking for a new place to live.

It was late November, so we got lots of rain. I have to confess that by the time we got to Lake Shasta City we were just a wee bit tired of staying in the trailer, which did not have heat. So we stayed one night in what was then a brand-new motel.

Finally made it to Roseburg, which we thought was not a bad place. Of course, during the 31 intervening years, that area has grown considerably, and what was then undeveloped land contains homes and stores. At any rate, we found a hillside piece of land, and I was all set to buy a used mobile home and move to the Pacific Northwest with visions of "Mother Earth" living dancing in my head.

However, in what some would call a fortunate circum-stance, and what could cause others to say, "Dang!" I became impatient and upset because the salesman was nowhere to be found on the mobilehome lot. So in a fine fit of temper, we left Roseburg and headed south.

My navigator directed me to Hwy. 199, as we wanted to go through San Francisco on the way home. So we, as so many others, "discovered" Illinois Valley. The late Mar-shall Hughes at the former Elmore & Spieth Real Estate office (now Oregon Mt. Real Estate) showed us 5 acres in O'Brien, and we bought it via the mail after we returned to Poway.

However, the late Bob Grant, most-recent owner of the "Noose" before Jan and I bought it (Grant's widow also is named Jan), wouldn't hire me. So we bided our time; subscribed to the valley paper; and hoped. As luck would have it, we decided to leave San Diego County because it was getting too crowded for us, and we didn't want our children to grow up amid the turmoil and trouble.

"Luck" continued, as the "Curry Coastal Pilot" in Brookings was looking for a news editor, and I just hap-pened to be ready. We flew United (so to speak) to San Francisco, then Hughes Air West to Crescent City, where we rented a car from an auto dealer. Well, to make quite a long story shorter, I was hired and went to work on La-bor Day '79.

Although, I should note that I was trying to avoid the corporate structures I had come to abhor. After leaving two major organizations in San Diego because of that, I was working for what was then the Escondido "Times-Advocate." It was family owned, so I was happy. A year after joining the "T-A" as a reporter and advancing to as-sistant city editor and then news editor, the paper was sold to the Chicago Tribune Co. So I was right back in the corporate jungle.

I was glad to leave for the "Pilot," as it was owned by Dick & Polly Keusink. It was a nice weekly newspaper run like a family paper should be. A year after being hired there, the paper was sold to Western Communications in Bend. And back I went to being a corporate critter, serv-ing as editor and publisher for eight years.

We had become friends with the Grants, as I con-vinced Bob to come to Brookings to be printed. And, still trying to make a long story shorter, he became ill and could no longer handle the "Noose." We again were in the right place at the right time, and took over the valley trumpeter in February '86.

So we're coming up early next year on a full two dec-ades of being Illinois Valleyites; nearly 27 as Oregonians.

Oh, that land in O'Brien? Not knowing that we'd be taking over the "Noose" in an extremely short time, we sold it about a month before we made the move from Brookings. Funny how circumstances occur, eh?

And that's how we came to Cave Junction.

Letters to the Editor

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

Typed, double-spaced let-ters written solely to this news-paper are considered for publi-cation. Hand-written letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered.
Cards of thanks are not accepted as letters.

Firefighter outlines
her service to I.V.
From De Spellman, '8970'
Selma

I have served the people of the valley for the last five-and-a-half years as a Volunteer Firefighter. I have served with integrity, com-mitment and compassion.

It has always been my wish to make a difference. I have run kids classes, adult education, and programs like free smoke detectors for low-income residents.

I tried to pull the valley together with the Fire Safe Council to improve commu-nication and information on living in the woods with fire, and making people's spaces in the woods surviv-able. What the fire district knows is not top secret, and it is the responsibility of residents to gain the knowl-edge to survive a fire.

It has been my great honor and privilege to be there when people call for help. I know that when folks call 911 it's usually not to say that everything's going really well. In my opinion it is important for people to know that the people com-ing to help care about them.

The valley always has known its volunteer fire/rescue people as their neighbors and friends, someone to make things a little better for them.

During my service I have responded to a great number of calls for help. I have been a part of saving

some lives; been to some calls where the family was the one that needed help; and then there are the ones that all you can do is be there so they don't pass over alone and in fear.

On every call we give a little of ourselves, and everything anyone gives they get in return. I have met a lot of really wonderful people and know that if I touched someone's life they also touched mine.

On Sept. 1, the head of the fire district called me to his office to charge me with the most ridiculous charges that speak to my integrity. On the basis of these charges, he terminated me as a volunteer fire/rescue person.

I put in writing a request for a hearing of these charges; however, I was told by the president of the dis-trict board that I did not have the right to dispute the charges nor have copies of the charges.

I do not want to be in the fire district as long as it is headed in the present di-rection. I have a fundamen-tal difference of opinion about the role of the district. I believe it is about caring, not a business. It is very personal to me when people call for help.

At this time what I want are the many false charges against me dropped, and I will take a leave of absence based on my differences of

opinion on the role of the fire district.

I hope to serve this community again.

The valley's fire/rescue volunteers are neighbors and friends. They are there to help, not to judge or hassle residents. Volunteer fire-fighters are still unarmed, and all you have to say is, "Get off my land," and they

will leave.

Let's not let an aggres-sive city cowboy mentality start something that will get friends or volunteers hurt or killed.

People should think about what they read, be-cause they know their valley and listen to their scanners. This community has always supported its volunteers

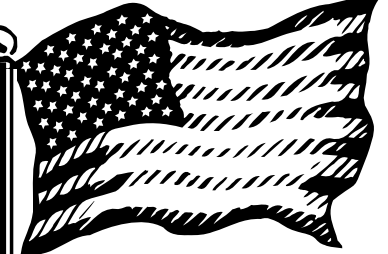


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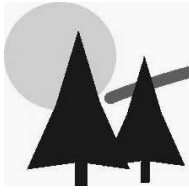
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