

## Bob's Corner

Someone told me recently that too many of my efforts in this space are set in the past, and that perhaps I ought to deal more with the present. Which reminds me that I was going to procrastinate, but decided to put it off. Or as one person said, "In a few years these will be the good old days."

It seems that recalling the Thrills & Chills of Yesterday is much more fun than dealing with the harsh realities of Today. These days I deal not only with chills of the cold kind, but bills, hills, pills and wills, which takes some skills. OK, so I tend to enjoy living in the past; so sue me. Maybe some of us writin' folks simply like to recollect stuff from our past because in our jobs we are forced to constantly deal with what is happening now. Everything has to be immediate, even in a weekly newspaper, if you know what I mean. If you don't know what I mean, we'll talk later.

We must watch the clock and calendar constantly to ensure that we meet deadlines. It's a never-ending chore, and the newspaper each issue chews up our work, spits it out and demands more.

OK, enough of my problems, as I face a birthday this coming Friday. And I'll address that topic next issue, as our daughter, Vicki, has some special plans. (I think). So you'll be the first to hear about it.

And now, returning to the near-present --only last week or so to be "exact" -- I think that our cat Charlie Kaplan, the newest arrival at our casa, needs a psychologist. This little black-and-white character likes to mouth-kiss us. While we're sleeping or trying to eat. He is into everything, as he is the most curious cat, in more ways than one, that I have ever met.

He knocked a water glass off a table in our living room, and apparently hid some of the pieces. Just the other night, while getting into bed in the dark, my right big toe encountered a sharp object. By cleverly turning on a light, I discovered that it was a hunk of the broken glass. It appeared that Charlie had carried it from the living room and lovingly placed it on the carpet next to my side of the bed. Nice cat.

He will eat anything. Yesterday I caught him lying in the kitchen sink with one leg stuck into the garbage disposal, retrieving some noodles.

And he is a champion high-speed batter. He bats with the best, especially when our dogs, Bingo and Rocky II get close enough. Charlie is fearless. When I back our car out of the garage, he is always the last feline to make tracks back into the house through the cat door. The noise of the engine or the door opening don't seem to scare him much. Sometimes I have to honk the car horn to startle him into scurrying into the house.

Charlie and Flint Eastwood, the all-black guy with orange eyes who came before Charlie, have become best buddies. We originally got Flinty to be a companion for Bubba the Magnificent. But now Charlie and Flint enjoy fighting and galloping with gusto through the house, up and down the hallway, especially in the morning's wee hours. Nocturnal critters, aren't they? So Bubba the cat is caught between them, because he's like twice as big as 8-pound Flint, let alone little Charlie, and they pretty much leave him alone.

Although, because of Charlie's lack of fear, he periodically takes on Bubba, who simply tackles him, throws him to the ground, and walks away like the Grand Sumo. As for Maui, the fluffy and mostly matriarchal kitty, she's still learning to play, but wants nothing to do with her son, Bubba. Except to hiss at him like a punctured tire if he gets too close. Like in the same room.

That's enough of the present. Next issue I'm returning to the past. But it'll be the immediate past, and that's the only promise I'll make today.

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## Illinois Valley News

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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.

\*Thank you\* submissions are not accepted as letters.  
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### Injured bicyclist notes his Good Samaritans

From Mark Rehmar O'Brien

I want to express my appreciation to those individuals who stopped and helped my fellow riders assist me after I had a bicycle wreck in the Tartar Gulch area recently.

While I remember little of what happened, I am aware that their aid made a big difference.

### She'd like to start a girls dance team

From Tabitha Van Meter Cave Junction

I am a proud resident of Illinois Valley, and recently graduated from I.V. High.

One thing I noticed is that there aren't many sports that are appealing to girls. I did a survey on how many girls would sign up for a dance team, and I got 63 responses.

I took it to the school district as an idea: Let's start a dance team! They were thrilled about it, but the school wasn't. When I presented the idea they seemed more amused than thrilled.

I was and still am a professional dancer. I have danced at the half-time of

the Citrus Bowl; danced as a member of an elite pom team has taken eight national championships; danced on a high school dance team that has taken home three championships; and worked with various professional squads and trainers.

The school told me that the community wouldn't support a dance team, but I think otherwise.

I think that maybe if someone did a story on what the team would be about, and how fantastic and fun it would be, maybe some intrigued parents, and maybe even sponsors, would respond.

I have several reasons why I would love to do this, and why I know it would be successful:

\*I know what I am doing.

\*I am willing to volunteer my time and efforts for putting together a community competition dance team that I can guarantee will bring home winnings.

\*Summer is coming, and this would be a great thing for the kids to devote their time to.

\*I have seen the talent in this community.

### Biscuit salvage seen as shallow endeavor

From Roger Brandt Cave Junction

The economic debate over the Biscuit salvage project continues in utterly amazing shallowness.

It is shocking how timber continues to be used as the exclusive indicator to measure the economic success or failure of the Biscuit salvage

project while ignoring all the economic values that were sacrificed to make these timber dollars available.

For example, salvaging on the T.J. Howell Botanical Drive destroyed an extraordinary tourism attraction that could have contributed a million tourism dollars to our economy annually. The project took this tourism asset, worth millions of dollars annually, and permanently sacrificed it for a one-shot timber receipt.

We could have used a small part of the forest along this drive to establish a sustainable economic future for hundreds of people. But instead, the Biscuit salvage sacrificed the opportunity for a few seasonal jobs now long gone.

A multimillion dollar, sustainable economic future was sacrificed for the short-

term chicken feed that the timber industry got out of the salvage. It is unimaginable to me that anyone could point to this and declare that timber is the way to our economic future.

### Statements by two in public called drivel

From William Schneider Cave Junction

Pat Robertson, in my opinion, gives Christianity a bad name. With a lot of help, of course.

I compare the ignorance of statements suggesting that Ariel Sharon is being punished by God through his failing health to the same sort of drivel spewing from the mouth of Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in his denial of the Holocaust.

I say, "Gentlemen, please shut up."



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