

Bob's Corner

It always seems interesting to look at old newspapers, especially the ads listing prices. This came to mind because Ron Fratzke brought us a yellowed, tattered copy of "Illinois Valley News" dated April 4, 1968. We have bound volumes of the "Noose" from its beginning in 1937, through 2002 before we switched to electronic storage.

But we don't often look through the volumes, although it could be fascinating. Maybe in my old age I'll find the time. Anyway, Fratzke said that he found the 38-year-old newspaper wrapped around some records he purchased during a sale at the former James Boys Home on Holland Loop.

The most obvious difference in the "News" of yesteryear with now is the size. The pages then were 15 inches wide; they're at 12 1/2 currently, a continuing trend in the newspaper industry. Also, the type size that Bob & Jan Grant used for stories looks like 9 point. We use 11 point. (Yes, Bob & Jan Grant sold to Bob & Jan Rodriguez in February 1986 in one of those odd name coincidences).

Another also: the makeup is, well, it's like a patchwork quilt. We try to be more rectangular. And on page 1, Bob Grant used a floating, flexible-size flag (the name of the publication) whereas we keep it at the top of the page and the same size.

The '68 black-and-white issue has an ad from the former Forest Lodge Café that was across from what was known as Woodland Deer Park. The ad offers Sunday dinner of roast pork or roast beef for \$1.70. The minimum wage then was \$1.15. There's also an ad for the former Ghost Town at the north end of Sauer's Flat, offering steak and chicken dinners, with the notation that customers could broil the meat themselves. And there's an ad for Country Kitchen "8 miles out Caves Hiway."

It's an eight-page issue, although the pages aren't numbered. And, of course, right there on the left side of page 1 is Bob Grant's trademark column, "Cabbages and Kings." That has evolved into our page 3 "Here, There & Everywhere."

The back page contains a large ad from the former Gibbons Market, which became Fire Mt. Gems, and until recently was used by I.V. Fire District as its HQ. Among the grocery offerings: 4 dozen small eggs for 95-cents; bananas, 2 pounds for 25-cents; 13 oz. cans of B&M baked beans, 5/\$1.00; and 16 oz. bottles of R.C. Cola, 6 for 49-cents plus deposit. Folger's ground coffee was selling for 79-cents for a 1 lb. can. Wow.

The real estate ads include 20.5 acres with a small fish pond and a fenced pasture for \$10,500 with terms. There's also a three-bedroom home on 6.6 acres, available for \$10,400.

And, oh man, someone was selling a 1953 Ford pickup truck with chrome rims and a "hot" V-8 engine for \$250! Dang. Where was I? Let' see, I think that was the last year I worked for the San Diego "Evening Tribune" before moving to NCR Corp. in Rancho Bernardo.

That's the only problem with looking at old newspapers. Too many "If only" comments.

Spring Bazaar
I.V. Senior Center
520 E. River St. 592-6888
Friday & Saturday, April 7 & 8
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Candy, Dolls, Minerals, Candles, Beadwork, Indian Crafts, Woodwork, Baby Clothes
Homemade Bake Sale
Snack Bar 11 to 2
Come join the fun!

The valley's finest news source ...

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
Email: newsroom1@frontiernet.net or newsdesk@illinois-valley-news.com
Volume 69, No. 3
Staff: Michelle Binker, Becky Loudon, Bryan Harley, Tabitha Jackson, Zina Booth.
Member: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association
DEADLINES:
News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters
5 P.M. THURSDAY
(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Friday with an additional charge.)
POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' welcomes letters to the editor provided they are of general interest, in good taste, legible and not libelous. All letters must be signed, using complete name, and contain the writer's address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Generally, one letter per person per month at publishers' discretion. Letters are used at the discretion of the publishers. Unpublished letters are neither acknowledged nor returned. A prepaid charge may be levied if a letter is inordinately long in the publishers' opinion.
POLICY ON "HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE," DISPLAY & CLASSIFIED ADS & NOTICES: All submissions must be hand delivered, faxed or e-mailed to us for publication. Submissions must be resubmitted weekly if the item is to run more than one week.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
One year in Josephine County - \$20.80
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$24.40
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction, OR 97523

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.
'Thank you' submissions are not accepted as letters.

Motor home at IVFD questioned by resident
From Bill Baker
Cave Junction

Sometimes when we voters approved a bond for a special project, I believe that those monies should be used for that specific project.

During the past year or so, three buildings have been built for Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD), which were voted-approved, and the taxes were added to our existing list. That is fine, and the new buildings look quite nice.

What I don't understand is why there was a private motor home parked in the new Selma Station for some time, and now I see the same motor home parked in the O'Brien Station.

I can't remember any motor home responding to any fire I've seen in the past 30 years I've lived in the valley. Could this nice motor home belong to a special person with IVFD, or is it used in the line of duty?

If these places are for private storage, then I have a motorcycle I would like to keep dry and warm during our damp months. I know that the buildings are big enough for that.

Maybe lots of other taxpayers also could put their nice possessions in some of these places. Wouldn't that be sweet? In the meantime, why can't the tax-dollar buildings be used only for tax-dollar equipment for which they were built?

Sometimes the people in charge forget just who they work for.

(Editor's Note: IVFD Chief Harry Rich responds that the motor home is his, and that he has made it available for the exclusive use of the district as a command post during major incidents. It was used as such during the Deer Creek Conflagration, and is constantly available for command communications, as it is equipped with a full line of satellite/Internet apparatus.

The chief added that anyone who will donate their possessions for exclusive use by IVFD could store them at a station.)

They support Toler for his solutions
From Harry & Joyce Abrams
Cave Junction

Josephine County government hasn't worked for many years, no matter whom we've elected to the county commission.

And now, despite years of knowing a fiscal crisis is looming -- which should have been time to prepare -- we are being threatened with the reduction, even elimination, of services that are crucial to our ability to maintain a safe, healthy and well-informed citizenry and to attract the talent that will help our economy grow.

When something's broken, it needs fixing, but the repairs have to be done by people who understand what's wrong. We voters finally have a chance to elect as a new commissioner Dave Toler, who understands why Josephine County government is not working -- and why we won't trust county government with our money.

Key to Toler's successful track record are his abilities to work with people of all political persuasions, his commitment to determine what his constituents' real needs are, and his skill in identifying the methods and resources needed to get specific work done.

Perhaps just as important is his recognition of what elected political leaders are not. Elected politicians are not managers. Yet three elected politicians (a committee) manage Josephine County government. Our county has three full-time paid "managers" minding the store; three commissioners who are not trained career managers.

Toler's solution? Change the commissioners' positions to half time, and with the savings hire a full-time career person to manage the county budget and its agencies. The commissioners could then spend their time in the field, learning their constituents' needs and locating the resources to help fulfill them.

This change can be made by the commissioners themselves by a majority vote. A landslide victory for Toler would send a clear

message that we want this change. We plan to vote for Dave Toler for county commissioner.

Re: Sheriff -- 'Show me the money'
From Mark Dickson
Cave Junction

I retired after 25 years with the Josephine County Sheriff's Office, and during that time sheriffs came and sheriffs went, usually every four years.

Each candidate said that he or she could do more with less, promising to cure all that ails the office. Once elected, reality set in; then in four years it all started over again.

Do not be misled by a candidate who promises to answer all calls for service, keep 24-hour patrols, fill the jail, or implement proactive programs. All these require many more deputies than the county's current financial situation will allow.

The funding problem is not, on its own, going to get any better, and probably much worse. This sheriff's race should be about one issue: Show me the money.

How will the candidate secure stable funding to hire and retain a sufficient number of deputies to do the job the community expects? Grants and volunteers are worthwhile, but will not come anywhere close to making up for the loss of O&C funds.

While voters are at it, they should keep in mind the rest of the criminal justice system. A well-staffed sheriff's office isn't very

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