

Bob's Corner

This was the week that you could have heard about my recent adventures in gardening, which resulted in one mighty blister on the palm of my right hand, and uncounted sore muscles. Or you might have been regaled with The Tale of my corralling four errant cats (who all have their own tails) for grooming, which included having to move furniture because they were hiding, resulting in three scratches (on me). And uncounted sore muscles. Also on me.

But no: Instead, here is a topic that’s been buzzing in my brain and being batted about in my cabeza so long that it’s beginning to bug me. Ready? OK, the subject is my maternal grandmother’s living room and some young boy memories. Still ready? Here goes.

My Granny Vicky’s living room was the first room you entered from a concrete porch with red brick pillars on N. El Paso Street in El Paso (think Marty Robbins), Texas. The red brick house sat high above the street and sidewalk with high curb, which still had metal rings for tying horses. To reach the house you climbed two sets of concrete stairs with sparkly things in them; there was a rock wall along the sidewalk. At the top stair you opened the filigreed dark-wood door that had those old-fashioned dead bolts and an ornate door handle. The door had a window covered by a frilly curtain, like a doily.

Once in the living room, because of the heavy, over-stuffed furniture, well-worn rug, and little-used fireplace that had tile around it, you could feel as though you had been transported to the past. One eye-catcher (some said eye-sore) was a large metal sculpture of Cleopatra. It’s still a bit of a family mystery as to where the miniver-sion of Cleo came from, but I think that one of my cousins “inherited” it, and it’s in her house.

That living room provided some early education for me. I was like the mouse in the corner, not especially noticeable, but listening with both ears wide open. So I heard a lot of adult language (not swearing), just adults conversing about many topics offering many perspectives. Who were some of the talkers?

There was a large, elderly Catholic Irish priest; a small, energetic woman with two young daughters; a nurse and a paraplegic World War II military pilot; the extremely tall juvenile delinquent with two-tone hair from across the street; and various Catholic nuns. In those days, all you saw of a nun was her face and hands. There was an ex-husband of one of my aunties; the current beau of the same auntie; numerous cousins and friends from Texas and New Mexico; and several elderly women who all dressed exactly like my Granny Vicky with black or dark blue dresses and sturdy black shoes, plus hats with veils. Sometimes they wore gloves.

Besides the conversations to which I was privy, it was interesting to see the amount of Pearl beer that was consumed on hot Texas nights. Those in the dark dresses and sturdy shoes drank tea. At least, I think it was tea. And Aunt Carrie, who died last year at 99, always made sure that I was well supplied with crème soda ice cream floats while I enjoyed hearing all the conversations, jokes and off-hand comments.

And you wonder how I turned out this way? Hey, it was my introduction to what I call a living language. Talk might be cheap, but mix it with ice cream sodas in my granny’s living room, and it’s darn near priceless.



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When humor goes, there goes civilization.
- Erma Bombeck -

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

‘I.V. Moose’ gains a good ‘atta-boy’
From V.A. Cordova
Rancho del Cielo, Calif.

Just wanted to say that your newspaper is pretty darn good.
I’ve seen many publications through the years and can say that you and your co-workers are doing an exceptional job for a weekly newspaper with a small staff.
Keep up the good work.

She studies budget; says pool should open
From Bea Thompson
Selma

Tuesday night, May 16, I attended a city of Cave Junction budget meeting.
My concern was the closing of the swimming pool. Previous to the meeting I had obtained some financial records from the city since it took over the pool in 2003. I spent several days going over the records and went into the meeting with a pretty good idea of what it cost to run the pool last year.
It is pretty confusing because the pool season is spread over two fiscal years. The city’s fiscal year runs

from July 1 through June 30.
Had the pool season all been in one fiscal year, the pool would have taken in more revenue than it spent with a combination of donations and user fees. The donations were more than \$23,000; and the user fees were more than \$15,000.
The expenses, including pool staff, but excluding maintenance work and payroll office work by city workers, would have come in around \$21,000.
Unfortunately, the city was in a deep hole from the previous pool season when it gave the Grants Pass YMCA \$28,000 plus all user fees to run the pool.
This year the city has budgeted \$6,400 to maintain the pool when it doesn’t open. I learned in the meeting that Josephine County had offered to contribute a quarter of the pool budget up to \$10,000 if the city would match funds, and a quarter was earned by user fees and a quarter was provided by donations.

I understand that the city is strapped for cash, but it is going to spend \$6,400 when the pool is closed. The rest of the city’s quarter could be provided by city staff that has to be paid any way.
The pool was run frugally and well last year by Cynthia Hobbins. The pool was heated solely by the solar panels. There is a full tank of propane ready for this year. Cynthia would be willing to run the pool again.
My question is, why close the pool this year?

Library district workers noted for ballot measure
From Whitney Lard
Volunteer coordinator,
The Real Library
Committee

I appreciate the fabulous volunteers who canvassed the neighborhoods, stood on sidewalks in rain, snow and hail to gather signatures to put the formation of a library district on the Nov. 7 ballot.
Their hard work and dedication to our libraries says much about them; their belief in our community, and the value of libraries.
I also appreciate the businesses from throughout the county for being drop-off and collection points, for having signature sheets in their businesses, and for allowing our signature gatherers on their properties. They stand as bright points in the democratic process.
Hundreds of volunteers turned in more than 1,000 signature sheets containing almost 10,000 signatures.

In All Fairness

A page 1 caption in the May 17 issue was in error. It mistakenly stated that the former Deer Creek Ranch was purchased by Siskiyou Project, when actually it should have stated that the purchase was by Siskiyou Field Institute.

Additionally, Greg Walters wants to clarify and correct statements attributed to him in a page 14 article in the May 17 issue, “Ecotourism possible option to logging: panel.”
Walters said that the statement about a railroad not being finished should have read that the land was ceded back to the public domain, aka federal, and not “the state” as reported.
Regarding the attribution to him of a resounding “Yes” about collusion between mining and timber companies, Walters clarified that he was referring to historical situations, and not any current ones.



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