

Bob's Corner

Our smallest kitty, Charlie Kaplan, killed a pig the other day. I know that he didn't mean to, but I was a tad chapped about it. After all, Eugene the pig had been with us somewhere near a quarter-century.

We got Eugene, who stood nearly a foot tall, in Eugene on an outing when we lived in Brookings. Eugene was a lovely pitcher, somewhat exquisite. OK-OK, maybe not exquisite, but nicely done; a pitcher with style. He had a pleasant face too. And cute toes.

But he met his end when Charlie leaped onto a cabinet in our dining room, where Eugene was minding his own business. Charlie, apparently excited by some jays he saw on our back deck through the dining room glass doors, leaned against Eugene with his full weight, which is not much. But it was enough to send Eugene plummeting to the floor, where he became a pile of shattered pottery pieces. No chance for a repair job. I sorrowfully swept him up and gently placed his remains in a trash can.

Charlie exemplifies the expression about cats being so doggone curious. We cannot do anything, especially in the kitchen, without black-and-white Charlie literally pushing his nose into what we're about. He's also quite good at snagging stuff with his lightning-quick claws and paws. I mean, just the other day, my toast popped up, and before I could get to it, Charlie had yanked out a slice and was trying to abscond with it. Dang. I got it back, and he had only taken a small bite, so I was OK.

Charlie also hunts pretty constantly, especially in our kitchen and bathroom sinks. He's positive that tiny creatures that are good to eat are living down those holes. We've learned to run the garbage disposal immediately after placing stuff in it. Otherwise, Charlie will stick one front leg or the other down there and yard out various odds and ends, which he drags around the house. Sometimes he even eats the stuff. A vegetarian cat?

As for Maui, she keeps a low profile, although when we're watching videos she likes to curl up on the back of the couch to be close to us. Sometimes she allows us to pet her, but she's still skittish, even after living with us nearly four years. Jan rescued her during the Biscuit Fire, and she was pregnant (the cat, not Jan), and she's still a little wild I think (the cat). Jan and I are mostly domesticated.

Flint Eastwood, the all-black cat, is getting larger, and seems to enjoy living with us. He loves liver treats almost as much as Charlie enjoy laps of soy milk. Bubba the Sumo Cat still wakes us up several times a night with his Nancy boy voice, demanding to be scratched behind his ears. There's no point in ignoring him: If he isn't attended to, he uses his six-toed catcher mitt paws to somewhat gently pat us on the face.

Some days, life is the cat's meow.

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.

Hazardous debris noted in river at R&R bridge From Glenda Graham Cave Junction

Have you taken a good look at Rough and Ready Creek beneath the "third bridge" being repaired?

Although not proven, it appears to me that the creek is being polluted by irresponsible, thoughtless bridge repair employees and the company they work for.

The creek's water, that eventually flows into and on down the Illinois River, is being poisoned, I feel, by all the rust and corrosion coming off the metal waste that, although not yet proven, apparently is being tossed into the water below the bridge being constructed on Hwy. 199.

I was shocked and sick at heart when I saw how much terrible junk had been dropped, it seems, from the bridge by whom I assume are so-called professional builders. But, I was mad as heck when I realized that a lot of discarded metal and cable chunks are positioned right beneath the water to literally impale innocent swimmers unfortunate enough to rush into the water too fast.

I cannot understand how



GLENDIA GRAHAM and assorted debris

anyone could so blatantly pollute such an important source of water for the valley. Is there no conscience? Is there someone with so little humanity that they don't care about the fish and animals being affected through negligence?

Where are the state inspectors who should be keeping watch? Where are the normally outspoken environmentalists who usually watch and prevent these kinds of situations? There must be laws and procedures in place to restrict destruction of our environment.

What about liability? There are no caution or warning signs anywhere in sight that would inform oth-

ers of the possibility of such dangerous garbage out of sight underneath the water. There are so many rusty nails covering the bottom of Rough and Ready Creek under the bridge construction that any placing of a foot causes it to step on at least two to three nails.

This is not just one or two nails accidentally dropped -- this is hundreds of long rusty nails. Who is doing it?

I'm talking about dozens of pieces of rusting metal chunks and cable parts. I also retrieved from the water a hammer, a tape measure, a men's watch and a Swanson speed square. Luckily, the reflecting yellow of the tape

measure caught my eye under the water in the shade of the new bridge before we were hurt.

If they are responsible, this is not acceptable behavior from bridge workers and the company they represent. If it's not them, we need to find out who it is.

As a mother, I have always stressed to my son the importance of being responsible and how his behavior can have a big effect on the land and its wildlife.

He understands why we don't toss a piece of garbage on the ground. So when our children see anyone acting so badly, what do you suppose they will be thinking the next time we try to teach a valuable lesson?

Valley needs cleaning, recent visitor claims From James T. Reeves Westminster, Calif.

We were in your town and valley a few weeks ago, and would like to say that it has some lovely spots. But it also has some unattractive locations too.

I'm talking about weeds and trash in your downtown, plus some unsightly businesses whose owners ought to step back and take a look at what customers see. Or should I say, potential customers.

As for the weeds and such, isn't there a civic club or group of volunteers -- such as high school students, Boy Scouts or retired people -- that could devote some time to chopping weeds and picking up trash?

It wouldn't take much to improve appearances.

MANSFIELD R. CLEARY



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(Classified ads & uncomplicated display ads can be accepted until Noon, Friday with an additional charge.)

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