

Bob's Corner

For a guy who missed being a Baby Boomer by two years, I still get solicited by so many businesses to buy their shirts, pants, shoes, furniture, knick-knacks, camping equipment, greeting cards, magazines, fruit and jelly beans that I could burn the catalogs and generate enough power to light the valley for a day or two. At least, that's my story and I'm stickin' to it.

Actually, it's kind of entertaining to peruse the catalogs and laugh at the thought that I'd actually spend that much money on stuff I don't want, although getting so many mailings is rather annoying. And when you roll up catalogs to swat flies they're not nearly as effective as say, a rolled-up copy of this newspaper.

Somehow that brings me to the point of remembering items that many of the real Baby Boomers are not familiar with. For example: curb feelers for cars, not to mention chromed spotlights, fender-skirts and steering wheel knobs. Of course, I still remember premium gasoline for 25-cents a gallon, and Jack In the Box burgers for 22-cents. Man, that was a long time ago.

Oh, and coffee was 5-cents a cup, all you could drink. Went up to 10-cents; then a quarter, and now you have to plunk down plenty'o cash for coffee. But we do it.

And how about those first TV dinners? Yes, we still have them, but they are mostly edible. Those first efforts were nasty. I mean, you could eat the box and get as much flavor as from the food. And remember TV trays? Yeah, TV and eating: It was the end of real family togetherness; no more sitting together around a table and talking politely while we ate.

What about those wide white-wall tires? I thought they looked good, but cars were different then. And we don't even have some of the cars many of us knew growing up: DeSoto, Studebaker, Edsel, Packard, Hudson, Rambler -- to name a few.

I remember elevator operators. Always thought that was a job with lots of ups and downs. (Sorry). And there were many milkmen making home deliveries. Plus dry cleaners would come to your door, as well as some bakeries and produce stores. Long time ago.

In case you can't tell, I enjoy reminiscing. This is not seen as a good thing by some who love me because they feel it's much better to live in the present and let the past be passed. They're correct. But I still lapse into recalling The Olden Days. Maybe I'll get over it some day.

Hey, remember all those 45 rpm records, 10-cent comic books, and three-bedroom homes for \$12,500? Oops -- guess today is not the day.

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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.

About prayer in schools, & other public locations
From Dr. Carroll Bierbower, pastor Redwood Congregational Church, Cave Junction

We are all familiar with "the separation of church and state." We have been so bombarded with this statement by the media that it might come as a surprise to know that this is not in the Constitution, but was first mentioned by Thomas Jefferson in an 1802 letter he wrote to a group identifying itself as Danbury Baptists.

While Jefferson's letter is often cited to prove that the original intent of the 1st Amendment was complete separation of church and state, when actually it was to guarantee religion the freedom to exist without government influence, it makes no mention of the government being wholly separate from all religious activity.

Recent decisions by a liberal Supreme Court have wrongly interpreted the 1st Amendment to mean no religious activities, instead of freedom of religious activities. The amendment actually reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or pro-

hibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; - -." No mention is made of the separation of church and state.

A public prayer is not the establishment of religion but the free exercise thereof. The purpose of this constitutional amendment was to grant freedom from having a national established religion such as England, France and Germany had at that time.

However, our Supreme Court actually made the unconstitutional term, "The Separation of church and state" the law of the land. By this action the Supreme Court has given liberal judges a free hand in ruling against any and all appearances of Christianity in schools and in all places of government property.

In schools, prayer is no longer allowed; and students and teachers are even forbidden to wear any symbol that represents Christianity. Teachers are also forbidden to mention anything related to the Christian faith and have been fired because they had a cross on their necklace or lapel pin.

In contrast, our schools allow the Islam religion to be discussed, Mohammed can be mentioned, but it is a crime to mention Jesus.

In fact, one California school actually taught the students how to pray to Allah. This is only paving the ground for the expansion of the Islamic religion that is at present the fastest-growing religion in our country.

This persecution of Christianity has now entered the U.S. Navy. A Navy judge, Anita K. Blair, recently ruled that a Navy chaplain preaching a sermon with a Christian

content in the chapel on U.S. property is a "punishable offense." Chaplain Klingenschmidt is up for court-martial for concluding his sermon with a prayer in the name of Jesus. When I was in the Navy during World War II the chaplains all preached the Christian faith.

In contrast to all this court interference with our freedom of speech or our expression of the Christian faith, it is interesting to observe that our Congress daily opens every session with prayer. The minister who offers it is paid for this service by our government. Seeing that it hires one to offer prayer in Congress while assembled in a government-owned building, then why has it become unlawful for the

Christian to have prayer on public-owned property?

The practice of our Congress having daily prayer, and what most presidents what they call "breakfast prayer meetings" in the White House, thus shows that they ignore the lower liberal courts decision forbidding prayer in government buildings. Their activity leads one to believe they have a different understanding of the Constitution that the liberal judges.

When the courts legislate unconstitutional laws against our freedom of speech concerning the Christian faith, this becomes a very important issue. Unless the Christian community arises to the occasion, the courts will continue to rob us of our religious free-

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