

Bob's Corner

Near the end of 1985 I stood on a sidewalk at the Washington Hilton where an assassination attempt was made on President Reagan on March 30, 1981. Being there and recalling the incident gave me an eerie feeling.

But my emotions were even more affected during a recent trip to my native San Diego, when I stood at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Old Town San Diego, where my late parents were married on Sept. 9, 1942. To stand where they stood to recite their vows, be showered with rice, and pose for photos gave me a profound feeling of family history.



Also during that recent, way-too-short vacation, I visited the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. Displays include drive-in restaurant memorabilia, a 1948 Tucker Torpedo (one of only 51 ever built), and a famous 1947 Cadillac. It made a literal nonstop trip in 1952 from the West to East coasts, and in '54 from Anchorage to Mexico City. A special device allowed tires to be changed on the move, and fueling was done on the move. The Caddy and its small trailer also had extremely limited living accommodations. Not my idea of a fun trip.

One display that especially caught my eye was a 1953 Chevy sedan delivery vehicle. It's been "fixed up," including wild paint and addition of a 350 cui engine, as "The Intimidator." The vehicle cost \$2,300 new; now its value is listed at \$225,000.



Besides Immaculate Conception Church, I toured La Casa de Estudillo, part of Old Town State Historic Park. The large residence was completed in 1830 by Capt. Jose Maria de Estudillo, commander of the presidio. With its adobe bricks, heavy wood beams and clay-tile floors, plus a central garden, it's quite a sight. It is known as "Ramona's Marriage Place," but that's no longer the central focus.

These are the last of the photos that I want to share from the recent outing Jan and I took. Bet you're glad.

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Letters

(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.

Unhappy in valley? Road goes in -- and out From Ellis Couron Cave Junction

I came here in 1970 looking for a quiet place to get back to my country roots when I retired.

I didn't come here with the idea of changing anything to suit my way of thinking. As a result, the wife and I bought 25 acres of land that at one time had a forest, but due to a serious fire that went through here in 1964 there were only a half-dozen trees left, and the rest was in what is called buck brush.

During the years I have had the land cleared twice, and have planted more than 7,000 trees in an effort to improve the land and maybe give back to the valley part of the forest that was once here. In any case, every tree growing now is one that wasn't here before. My message is that I have tried to fit in and improve the valley without trying to change the people who lived here and or their lifestyles.

For those who have come here from wherever and done nothing for this valley but whine and snivel over what they see going on here and spending their time getting in the way and causing trouble, I say this:

I don't like them bringing their prejudices and big-city principles into this country community and trying to change the people and their way of doing things. In case these whiners didn't notice or their memory is faulty, the road they came in here on is not a one-way street, and I have not heard of any of them being permanently anchored here.

So if they are all that unhappy with conditions in our valley that they have to complain weekly in the local paper with their long-winded diatribes, it's probably time for them to motor their anchor on down the road and give some other poor country folks the benefit of their extensive knowledge of trees, logging, clear-cuts, water sheds, bridges and the like.

From Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance (IVSHA), Chris Mallette, executive director and Josephine County Domestic Violence Council co-chairman; Mae Beth Williams, IVSHA board chairman; Olivia Taylor-Young, IVSHA board member Cave Junction

To characterize the sexual assaults and murders of young women and little girls in Colorado and Pennsylvania as school violence is to misunderstand and mischaracterize what actually occurred.

Neither of the assailants, Duane Morrison and Charles Roberts, were students: disgruntled, disturbed or otherwise. They were not driven by revenge or retaliation over real or imagined slights. They were not angry at anyone in the schools they chose to attack.

Morrison and Roberts were predators who targeted schools because they believed they'd supply easy prey for their planned sexual assaults.

The president has decided to organize a summit on school violence in response to these latest attacks. Illinois Valley Safe House Alliance

agrees that school violence is a horrendous problem that must be confronted, and that this particular type of summit is long overdue.

At the same time, it is equally important not to pigeonhole these latest tragedies as acts of school violence while overlooking the larger picture. What are being labeled "the latest school shootings" were, in truth, deliberate, targeted attacks against young females that coincidentally took place on school grounds. Any summit on school violence is meaningless unless it also examines the overall issue of violence against women and girls.

Among women who have been raped, nearly 60 percent were first raped in childhood and nearly 30 percent experienced their first or only sexual assault when they were younger than 11. According to the May 2003 report, "Rape in Oregon: A Report To The State," by Kilpatrick, D.G. & K.J. Ruggiero: Approximately 13.4 percent across the country and 17.5 percent of women currently living in Oregon have been the victim of forcible sexual assaults ... and this estimate does not include attempted, alcohol- or drug-facilitated, incapacitation or statutory rapes.

Sexual violence is a pervasive evil. As a nation, it is imperative we recognize that. Again, while these latest shootings and murders took place on school grounds, the targeted young women and girls were indeed victims of sexual violence. In order to appropriately address these tragedies, we believe the president must include an examination of violence -- specifically sexual violence -- against women and girls as a major component of the planned summit.

He calls it 'Bio Bull, or Bio my eye ...' From Paul Taylor Selma

While being billed by some as a panacea for forest management, "biomass" is in reality just another Big Timber "scorched forest" policy, and it is promoted in the name of environmental concern.

Don't be fooled by the term "biomass," as they are using it to fool us. It's not new, it's not environmentally sound, and it's not without serious problems.

The stark reality is that "biomass" is just another wood-fired boiler used to produce electricity for the timber industry; that is, until it is more profitable to just burn the trees, sell electricity and forget selling timber. I have heard that a mill up north has done just that.

There is more money in burning wood than selling it for lumber now that fuel prices have changed.

Perhaps we should put little steam engines in every home to generate our own electricity. Maybe we could get a grant. A valley full of steam engines would do wonders for our air quality during an inversion next winter.

Somehow, burning the forest to save the forest seems to fly in the face of

logic. The one and only thing that will help save the forests from fire is a more-than-adequate first-strike force. That is the only thing that will save us from fire.

Has anyone noticed that much of the area that was set as a backfire during the last big one was very, very sparse with vegetation? I guess we all have different ideas of what a forest is.

Will corporations be able to sell forest "biomass" and ship it to other areas? Are there "biomass" futures and "biomass" stocks? How much "biomass" equals a barrel of oil? Are we going to let "biomass" clean our forests down to dirt and rocks with a tree here and there?

Will we have giant vacuum trucks sucking up every last pine needle? It will take thousands of trucks on our already overcrowded Hwy. 199 to ship our forest debris. Maybe we will get a highway upgrade at last if we let them sell everything.

Can we really trust industry forces to manage our forests? Absolutely not. This is not about wise use of the forest or fire prevention: It is about corporate welfare and greed on the backs of the people. It is about clean water, clean air, clean rivers, and forests with trees in them.

It seems pretty obvious that this issue involves turning our forests into industrial fuel. Let's stop this nonsense and restore our forests and watershed, not destroy them. We can restore it by leaving it alone.

We used to have a very healthy tourist industry until fishing died. We should get a grant and restore our forests and rivers, not kill them.

Correction

It incorrectly was reported in a page 1 article on Oct. 11 that Dave Toler had filed an appeal for the third time regarding the Primrose Lane Senior Housing Project in Cave Junction.

In fact, his current appeal regarding zone with the state Land Use Board of Appeals is his second. "Illinois Valley News" regrets the error.

make it better.

He has lots of good ideas, energy and enthusiasm -- just what is needed.

Regarding his FEC fines, he was honest and forthright. They were levied during the 2004 campaign when the new McCain-Feingold law went into effect. He had never run a campaign, and his staff was new and inexperienced.

He failed to report a segment of a trip he had taken to see his daughter in Boston, drill for the Reserves in Washington, D.C. (all of which he paid for), and on the way back to Oregon, stopped in San Francisco for a campaign event.

That segment was not reported as a campaign expense. The other fine was a misunderstanding about the 48-hour notice filings (new law, new candidate). These complaints were filed by the Democratic Party.

It's a difficult law to read, an absolute nightmare for challengers, as all the benefits lie with the incumbent. When you think about it, maybe the Defazio camp is a little worried.

We are pleased to support Jim Feldkamp as our candidate from the Fourth District.

Measure 48 called 'Back to the Future' From Jason Williams, executive director Taxpayers Association of Oregon, Portland

It's little known, but it happens to be a fact, that Oregon already has a spending limit for state government. If that's the case, why all the fuss over this fall's Ballot Measure 48 to limit the growth of state government to inflation plus population?

In the 1970s, Oregon's Legislature went on a spending binge. During that decade, state spending jumped dramatically as our timber-based economy boomed. In response, voters overwhelmingly approved in 1980 our "2 Percent Kicker" program, and another provision tying state government spending increases to increases in personal income. The two were a perfect match: the Kicker would limit revenue and the spending limit would limit -- well, spending.

Unfortunately for the voters, these measures were only statutory -- that is, they

(Continued on page 3)

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