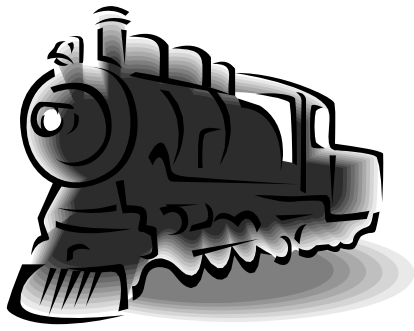


Bob's Corner

Last week's Bobspel hinted about railroads and trains, which simply means that I have a one-track mind. It's true. Many people, especially those closest to me, notice that once my mind is made up, it matters not what else is said, I forge forward full steam ahead. Even if it's wrong.

Perhaps this is due to the fact -- and lots of you have heard this before -- that Little Robert took his first train ride at the most-tender age of 9 months. Unfortunately I do not consciously recall the trip, but I have a small wooden plaque depicting St. Joseph holding the infant Jesus. On the back is written, "Robert's first train ride. September 1944."



And no, I do not think of myself as The Infant, although some have hinted that I have delusions. But that's another topic; one that likely will never be addressed here. With a psychologist maybe, but not here.

Anyway, trains are in my blood, I think. In fact, many have commented on the fact that when I'm upset I huff and puff just like an iron horse.

I really like trains, especially when pulled by steam engines. Especially the gentle swaying of the Pullman cars in motion. Especially eating in the dining car with the world at my window. Especially going between cars with the rattling and clanking. Especially relaxing and watching a never-ending diorama. I guess that everything about trains, even if they're pulled by diesel locomotives, is special to me.

I also like the clickety-clack of the railroad track, although with longer rails and better joints now, train rides are not as they used to be.

My mom and I used to take a train from the somewhat famous Santa Fe Depot near the foot of Broadway in Downtown San Diego. The train would head southeast and slowly pass over Carrizo Gorge, and through its tunnels. It was a great trip to El Paso, Texas (the hometown of my parents) each summer to visit relatives. Each trip was an adventure.

When we quit taking trains and switched to Greyhound buses, it wasn't quite the same. Sometimes the food was the same though. Expensive and not real good. The same holds true on the trips by car with my Dad hell bent for leather, not stopping for any of the sights. Ye olde editor has lots of traveling memories. Maybe I'll even share some more sometime. Or I could bore you with details of my model railroading days.

Meanwhile, I'm heading for a spur line to observe the Fourth of July, so flip that switch.

(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.

Bush 'Ugly American' due to 'lies, deception' From Wally Hardie Selma

The word "evolution" brings to mind the concept how life has modified during the past several hundred million years, through natural selection. However, another view of evolution is what I had in mind.

How my country, America, has evolved in lying during the past 6 1/2 years under this Bush administration. In a newspaper on 6/8/07 it was reported that two secret prisons were revealed in Europe, one in Poland. My president said they did not exist.

My president has stated as well that we do not torture those we capture. The article revealed that we do. Not only do, but also how it is done. Shades of the prison in Baghdad. The reasons we went to war.

The proclamation of victory on the aircraft carrier, "Mission accomplished." Oil will pay for the war. The Iraqis will greet us with open arms. The check is in the mail. The list goes on and on and on.

My president's constant lies and deceptions have created a total lack of validity on his part, with a dislike and distrust of America and Americans, from the rest of the world. I resent the hell out of that. We have a reputation of being the "Ugly American" throughout the entire world.

My president is now that poster boy, and I deeply resent the hell out of that. We are in a race to reach the bottom in prestige and morality. And yeah, I resent the hell out of that.

About county finances; leaders' pay, benefits From Jennifer Berubee Grants Pass

Josephine County Commissioner Dwight Ellis has said that he is "tired" of being criticized for poor planning these past few years. All I can say to that is: The truth hurts, doesn't it?

The three county commissioners brag endlessly about how much "fat" they have trimmed from the budget. While there may be some truth that some costs were cut, these were random

cuts that bled certain departments (like our library system), while leaving many management positions and departments uncut.

Has the county financial crisis really affected the lives of the commissioners? Do they not still enjoy a high salary, health benefits, and paid time off? Any concerned and fair leadership would take the first cut, plain and simple.

As for the talk of a September levy, it sure seems to me as though our "leadership" is out-of-touch and does not listen to its voters. No levy will pass in this county until the citizens can actually see some real changes in how the little money there is, is managed.

I'm one of the biggest library supporters you will find around here. But the measure defeated May 15 was a public safety levy. I was appalled that it was being sold to the public as a Band-Aid, that the levy would generate this pot of money that they could grab \$400,000 from and "save" the library.

And who wants to pay \$400,000 for a library that was only going to be open one day a week? When voters approve funding, they expect it to go for what is voted on, not to see funds shifted here and there, as has been the county practice for far too long.

Voters are fully willing to pay for services. I think that the commissioners need to see the last election as a wake-up call that they are not trusted to handle our tax dollars.

If the commissioners are really concerned with cost-cutting, they need to spend some long hours looking at what is known as Internal Service Charges. The reason \$400,000 can only fund one day a week, one branch of our libraries open, is not because county employees are unionized -- do not be fooled with statements such as these that you will hear during meetings.

The reason our \$400,000 would have bought so little library is because departments do not simply pay for what services are used within. Each department is expected to "pay into" a fund to pay for supplies, custodians, etc. So the library in Cave Junction, for example, would have to pay for two or three days of custodial services when in reality it will only get one.

How is that efficient? How is that wise management of tax dollars?

Our board of county commissioners has an attitude right now of, "How dare anyone criticize us?!" Well, I say, how dare they stand there and watch the county ship sink. Yes, we should have received money from the federal government that was promised. Why stand there and wring your hands and wait for funds that may or may not come?

That seems to me equivalent to waiting for a

child support check from a dead-beat dad. While waiting for that funding, our leadership should have been scrambling for alternatives.

Author seems 'paranoid,' 'babbling, out of touch' From Josiah Dean Cave Junction

I have to say something about this. As one of the more progressive members of the *I.V. News* staff, I understand that some issues receiving coverage may not be in agreement with my views.

However, the story about Holly Swanson's presentation in Grants Pass (*I.V. News*, June 27) cannot go without remark. Swanson strikes me as completely out of touch with the current state of the world. And while I am not a psychologist, she comes across as a bit paranoid.

I did enjoy the placement of ideas in the story as the author juxtaposed statements. Take these two sentences:

"The goal is still world communism," Swanson said. "Emotions, particularly fear, are being used and manipulated to slant the debate on issues such as global warming," Swanson said.

When you put it that way, I have to agree with Swanson. Proclaiming that folks are communists, at one time, evoked "emotion, particularly fear" for many. I am not sure if she realizes it, but we won the Cold War. Those nasty communists are no longer a threat: capitalism won. Swanson's fear tactic doesn't quite have the impact with me, although I get the impression that others are still afraid.

Swanson then expressed worry about our children being taught about sustainability, as if sustainability were tied to communism. If one looks at the radical organizations working in this state to promote sustainability, she will find folks like the Legislature who, according to the governor, had a "landmark session for sustainability in Oregon."

"It affects our future. It affects our kids," Swanson was quoted as saying. I agree with her once again; sustainability is about our future and our kids. That's why we teach our schoolchildren about it.

Swanson then was quoted comparing our teachers (those who teach sustainability) to the likes of Lenin and Hitler because they "deliberately indoctrinate" our children. When more kids recognize Mickey Mouse and Joe Camel than George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who do you think is indoctrinating our children?

Swanson then cited some "Green goals." I am not sure where she got them. The 10 key values of the Pacific Green Party of Oregon (pacificgreens.org) are: Grass-roots democracy, social

justice, ecological wisdom, nonviolence, decentralization, community-based economics, feminism, diversity, responsibility, future focus.

Even if the Green Party had somehow infiltrated our educational system, those values don't sound that menacing to me.

I find myself disagreeing with Swanson on the final point from the story. She is quoted as saying that ethics "has no business being in our schools." Now, I might not go to church every Sunday, but I believe in a "global ethic" that transcends all other beliefs and values. It's called the Golden Rule.

Since Swanson appears still to be living in the era of the Cold War, she may not have noticed that we now have a global economy. Add to that the numerous corporate scandals like Enron and WorldCom, and I think that our future leaders might do well with learning about global ethics.

With so much going on in our community, are the babblings of someone who, among other things, feels ethical business practices should not be pursued, really what our paper wants to fill its space with?

Pregnancy Center birthing day-care From Mary Lefner, executive director I.V. Pregnancy Center Cave Junction

Illinois Valley Pregnancy Center is expecting. We have prepared a birthing plan for a Christian day-care in Cave Junction.

This is something our board has been working on for approximately two years, and we are seeing God pave the way for an opening later this summer.

The center will be called Helping Hands, and is in the process of obtaining its state and federal nonprofit status. Within two months, we expect the child-care center to be financially independent, and within nine months, it will be a completely separate nonprofit organization from the pregnancy center.

In the meantime, we have secured a building (one block from the pregnancy center); a child-care provider (Cindy O'Hara who will direct the site); and equipment and some of the start-up funds necessary to open. The pregnancy center board has set a goal of an additional \$3,000 to open (which includes liability insurance, filing fees, rent and utilities). We would like to open the site in August.

There initially will be room for two infants, four toddlers, and up to four school-age children. Pre-school activities utilizing the A-Beka curriculum will be presented daily at age appropriate levels. (Continued on page 3)

I.V. Youth Soccer Club

Last Chance Fall Sign-ups



Monday, July 9

5-8 p.m. Evergreen soccer field After this it's wait list only!

Questions, call Tana at 592-6070

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News, Classified & Display Ads, Announcements & Letters

5 P.M. THURSDAYS

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

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One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$36

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Weather Watch

Cave Junction

Wednesday, July 4

Clearing, hot with breezes

High--96 Low--56.



Thursday, July 5

Especially hot and sunny

High--97, Low--56.



Friday, July 6

Excessive warmth and sun

High--95, Low--52.



Saturday, July 7

Sun and heat with breezes later

High--97, Low--47.



Sunday, July 8

Toasty and sunny

High--96, Low--48.



Monday, July 9

Clear skies with abundant thermal energy

High--97, Low--50.



Tuesday, July 10

Hot and sunny

High--98, Low--53.



Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in O'Brien by Cheryl & Harry Johnson.

*Fri.,	June 22:	77 - 45
*Sat.,	June 23:	75 - 41
*Sun.,	June 24:	76 - 40
*Mon.,	June 25:	91 - 41
*Tue.,	June 26:	87 - 47
*Wed.,	June 27:	85 - 46
*Thurs.,	June 28:	76 - 50 0.10

Following are the high-and-low temperatures, and rainfall, recorded in Cave Junction at Mountain Wind Farm.

*Fri.,	June 22:	73 - 42 0.07
*Sat.,	June 23:	73 - 42
*Sun.,	June 24:	74 - 36 0.03
*Mon.,	June 25:	83 - 40
*Tue.,	June 26:	88 - 42
*Wed.,	June 27:	84 - 42
*Thurs.,	June 28:	75 - 46 0.05