

Bob's Corner

This was the week I was going to choose a topic from my list of possible subjects (as well as predicates and verbs and stuff). But instead, I've decided to reveal how we ended up in Cave Junction, because we came close to moving to Roseburg years ago.

People periodically ask me how and why we came to Illinois Valley, usually by saying something like, "Hey! Why don't you #@xx% go back where you came from!" I usually ignore such ignorant outbursts, although it's always good to know kung fu and karate (and other Japanese words).

Anyway, Jan and I took a 10th anniversary trip in 1974, leaving our three children, then 9, 7 and 6, with her parents at our house. We were driving a '66 faded, underpowered red-and-white GMC window van towing a 14-foot Western camping trailer. We left Poway in San Diego County and headed north, not really aware of where we were going, but knowing that we probably were looking for a new place to live.

It was late November, so there was lots of rain. I confess that by the time we got to Lake Shasta City we were a wee bit tired of staying in the trailer, which did not have heat. So we stayed a night in what was then a brand-new motel.

Finally made it to Roseburg, which we thought was not a bad place. Of course, during the 33 intervening years, that area has grown considerably, and what was then undeveloped land now contains homes and stores. At any rate, we found a hillside piece of land, and I was all set to buy a used mobile home and move to the Pacific Northwest with visions of "Mother Earth" living dancing in my head.

However, in what some would call a fortunate circumstance, and what could cause others to say, "Dang!" I became impatient and upset because the salesman was nowhere to be found on the mobilehome lot. So in a fine fit of temper (mine), we left Roseburg and headed south.

My navigator directed me to Hwy. 199, as we wanted to go through San Francisco on the way home. So we, as so many others, "discovered" Illinois Valley. The late Marshall Hughes at the former Elmore & Spieth Real Estate office (now Oregon Mt. Real Estate) showed us 5 acres in O'Brien, and we bought it via the mail after we returned to Poway.

However, the late Bob Grant, most-recent owner of the "Noose" before Jan and I bought it (Grant's widow also is named Jan), wouldn't hire me. So we bided our time; subscribed to the valley paper; and hoped. As luck would have it, we decided to leave San Diego County because it was getting too crowded for us, and we didn't want our children to grow up amid the turmoil and trouble.

"Luck" continued, as the *Curry Coastal Pilot* in Brookings was looking for a news editor, and I just happened to be ready. We flew United (so to speak) to San Francisco, then Hughes Air West to Crescent City, where we rented a car from an auto dealer. Well, to make quite a long story shorter, I was hired and went to work on Labor Day '79.

Although, I should note that I was trying to avoid the corporate structures I had come to abhor. After leaving two major organizations in San Diego because of that, I was working for what was then the Escondido *Times-Advocate*. It was family owned, so I was happy. A year after joining the "T-A" as a reporter and advancing to assistant city editor and then news editor, the paper was sold to the Chicago Tribune Co. So I was right back in the corporate jungle.

I was glad to leave for the *Pilot*, as it was owned by Dick & Polly Keusink. It was a nice weekly newspaper run like a family paper should be. A year after being hired there, the paper was sold to Western Communications in Bend. And back I went to being a corporate critter, serving as editor and publisher for eight years.

We had become friends with the Grants, as I convinced Bob to come to Brookings to be printed. And, still trying to make a long story shorter, he became ill and could no longer handle the "Noose." We again were in the right place at the right time, and took over the valley trumpeter in February '86.

Oh, that land in O'Brien? Not knowing that we'd be coming to the valley in an extremely short time, we sold it approximately a month before we moved from Brookings.

And that's how we came to Cave Junction.
(Bob's Full Disclosure: A version of the preceding first appeared in the "Noose" in November 2005).

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.

* * *

Standing for the Pledge From Gary B. Luerding O'Brien

Catherine Austin's points (*Illinois Valley News* letter to the editor, March 12) are valid and well made save one, and that is where she writes, "The U.S. Constitution is a far more precious thing than the Pledge of Allegiance or the flag."

She also writes that, "our freedom, liberty, and security are in the Constitution." I submit that the American flag is a symbol that stands for those very same ideals and all our freedoms and thus is representative of the Constitution that Austin holds so dear.

The freedoms fought for under the banner of the original American flag were the same ones embodied in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. If you read your history, the American flag predates our Constitution by 10 years. The first flag was flown at Fort Stanwix on Aug. 3, 1777 and came under fire for three days in the Battle of Oriskany on Aug. 6 of that year.

Our Constitution was ratified in 1787. My point is that our flag is due the same reverence as the Constitution and the ideals it represents because they both are so inextricably intertwined. It has

absolutely nothing to do with a corrupt government.

I have no problem with refusing to recite the Pledge. No one is more critical of our present government than I. However, I do take offense in a lack of respect for the flag by not standing during the pledge. I believe our flag is a symbol of our country, not our government and I dearly love this country no matter how corrupt its government. Too many men and women, some close friends and family, have died for that flag and for the privilege that grants the right for Austin to state her views.

By dishonoring or disrespecting our flag a person dishonors our Constitution. And, in case people don't know, our first president, George Washington suggested our flag represent the following: "The red is for valor, zeal and fervency; the white for hope, purity, cleanliness of life, and rectitude of conduct; the blue, the color of heaven, for reverence to God, loyalty, sincerity, justice and truth. The stars symbolize dominion and sovereignty, as well as lofty aspirations. The constellation of the stars within the union, one star for each state, is emblematic of our Federal Constitution, which reserves to the States their individual sovereignty as to rights delegated by them to the Federal Government."

I have two daughters and a son. Two of them (and myself) have retired from the military. And while I respect Austin's right to her opinion and even her right to disrespect our flag, I also have the right to state, unequivocally, that seeing an American citizen not showing respect for

our flag, makes me sick.

So I would stand with Illinois Valley High School Assistant Principal Patty Dickens-Turk for her request that everyone stand during the Pledge. She is definitely correct in pointing out the fact that this student, by failure to show respect to our flag, also disrespected her fellow students who honored it.

Lack of respect to our flag also dishonors those men and women (including past I.V. students) who have fought and are fighting and dying for this country under our banner.

I also respect Ed Faircloth (Senior Chief Master Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, retired), for correcting a misguided member of the student body.

On burning yard debris From Elisabeth Goines Cave Junction

Concerning the burning of yard debris by many Illinois Valley residents on the very most beautiful first days of spring.

Common sense tells me that this is not a wise way to get rid of debris. It fouls the air in our valley with a lot of unnecessary smoke full of particulate matter. And it can carry many hazards, including smoke-laden poison oak oil, which can cause outbreak in those who stand in the way of the smoke.

Wouldn't it make more sense to compost that valuable organic matter back into the soil to feed our trees and other plants, to feed our lawns and flowers?

A good model of an alternative to burning yard waste is at the recycling center in Merlin. You can bring yard waste, lawn clippings

and other clean organic materials to the facility, where it is composted in large mounds and then it is made available to the public for a reasonable fee to be used directly in gardens and for potting plants, etc.

When I visited Austin, Texas I was impressed by a city-sponsored program that manufactured "Dillo Dirt." It is a combination of organic waste from the neighborhoods of Austin dumped into large trenches where it is turned slowly and continuously by a mechanical method for rapid breakdown in the southern heat. When fully broken down it is clean and ready for reuse in parks, golf courses and other public and private places to give rich nutrients back to the plants.

With this knowledge I am prompted to start visualizing all kinds of innovative and alternative methods of dealing with yard waste and slash without burning. Why not use chippers to break down the wood and create compost piles that could be used to give the nutrients back to the Earth? Why not create community funds to buy cooperatively owned chippers that could be invested in by many neighbors thereby sharing the burden of cost so that all could recycle their yard waste

Smart self-propelled people could even create jobs for themselves and their families based on recycling all manner of waste. People could create flourishing businesses based on the service of collecting yard waste and other trash and recycling it.

This kind of occupation nurtures our environment rather than destroys it. It re-

(Continued on page 3)



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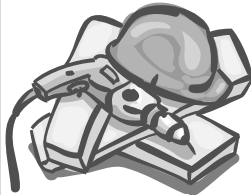
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