

Bob's Corner

Finally, the final comments on my now not-so-recent trip to coastal San Diego County. First, 5-year-old granddaughter Natalie's joke: "Why did Tigger look in the toilet? He was trying to find Pooh."

Oh, and as for reaching the new home that daughter Vicki and Matt are buying in Carlsbad. She knows about my male sense of finding places and so provided directions. Seems to me that all the street names to reach the place belong to authors of one sort or other: Cannon, Faraday, Whitman, Tolkien, Dickenson, Delaney.

And about those beeping-bleeping carts at the Seattle airport (SEA or Sea-Tac if you prefer) on our return trip. The darn carts were darting about like minnows in a small pond while we waited for our flight to Medford. It appeared that elderly persons and those with various physical handicaps were being transported hither and yon as a service. But wow, it became annoying with nearly nonstop high-pitched back-up warnings even though the carts were moving forward.

If memory serves, we bought some fancy to-go Wolfgang Puck salads at John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana (SNA) prior to boarding the flight to Seattle. As we had been up since 5 a.m., we wanted to eat, and the in-flight snacks provided wouldn't be enough. My salad was good, and the dressing made an attractive complement to the front of my shirt. Not the fault of turbulence; just my sloppiness.

And here's an admission: I didn't have to rouse Jan and Kim so early to drive to SNA. It was a Saturday morning; traffic was light; and the trip I thought would take at least 90 minutes only took 45 minutes. Additionally, I thought it would take more than a little time to surrender the car we rented: It took approximately 10 seconds. So we had lots of time to kill. I think that Kim and Jan have forgiven me by now for unnecessarily getting them up too early.

While we awaited our flight from SNA to SEA I purchased a copy of the *Oregon County Register* newspaper. And while in Carlsbad I regularly purchased copies of two daily newspapers, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and *North County Times*. Humm, actually I worked for both (the former *Evening Tribune* before the staffs of it and the *Union* were combined; and the *NC Times* when it was the *Escondido Times-Advocate*.) Anyway, my point is that crime is rampant in the Big Cities, based on what I read. We in Illinois Valley think we have problems? Not compared to other locales.

I mean, there was even a story about perceived gang problems in Avalon on Catalina Island. Some claim that gangs have moved in, but others state that people are over-reacting to some graffiti and guys with shaved heads.

One more anecdote. We thought it would be fun to take Amtrak from Santa Ana to Oceanside, as it's next to Carlsbad, and daughter Vicki could pick us up. But we wanted to check on the distance and the cost of the fare from SNA to the railroad station. Could not find out. Tried Amtrak. Tried the Santa Ana Fire Dept. Tried the Santa Ana Visitor Center. Tried the Santa Ana city clerk's office. Even tried two cab companies. No one could provide the information. Strange and unhelpful.

Next week's *Corner*. Who knows? You just never

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. Handwritten letters that are double-spaced and legible also can be considered. "Thank you" submissions are not accepted as letters.

Incredible I.V. firefighters From David & Martha Hodges Cave Junction

Three weeks ago our house in the 7000 block of Caves Hwy. burned to the ground; complete destruction. But I want to tell the community what an incredible job our volunteer firefighters did.

When they arrived, the house was fully engulfed. The efforts were put to saving my husband's truck and a shed. Neither was damaged at all. A massive amount of water was pumped to keep the fire back. My car was parked in front of the house and the raging inferno. They put the water between the two.

Although the side of the car literally melted in places, the damage was cosmetic and is repairable. These people were awesome. Through the heat and the exhaustion, they kept on.

I know that my neighbors all realize that their homes remained safe only because of the efforts of our fire district. Without its firefighters, this huge fire could have become the epicenter of another Biscuit Fire -- in a populated area. Chief Rich reminded me that these men and women are all volunteers.

Perhaps if there were a regular crew, the 17-minute response time could have been shaved to eight to 10 minutes. Perhaps something else could have been saved. When our community is asked to vote for the opportunity to have a regular staff, I'd like for everyone to remember our fire.

I also want to extend our gratefulness to this community. We have been blessed beyond belief. We appreciate all for their prayers, time, hard physical work, stuff and donations, all expressing love. To be so saddened and overwhelmed by this loss, and then to be so overwhelmed by such kindness has been very healing. Our God has a plan.

(Editor's Note: A volunteer firefighter notes that response times result because volunteers must first leave their homes and drive to stations to pick up apparatus, rather than already being in a station.)

Brown Barn Laundry From Scott Hicks Cave Junction

This is in reference to the recent Judy's Brown Barn Laundry caper when the equipment was removed from Cave Junction's only coin-operated laundry. Walls and plumbing were destroyed in the process.

My family and I met Judy Thomas, lessee of the Brown Barn laundry, last summer when we moved here. If not for help from Judy and her entire family,

Clarification

In a page one story in the July 30 issue, the word 'junket' was used in the headline to characterize Commissioner Jim Raffenburg's convention trip earlier this year without any explanation within the story that the opinion expressed was that of fellow Commissioner Dave Toler, not the headline writer.

becoming established in Cave Junction might not have been possible for us.

She has helped many other people too. She ran her business as a community-minded business should be run. She always went out of her way to make everyone feel welcome, and provided many public services to the community, including donating free showers, etc. to the homeless and others, instead of just complaining that "someone" should do something.

I personally tried to speak to the mayor and he didn't care. Wow. He has such a vendetta against the local street people, and has put a lot of effort into trying to rid Cave Junction of them. He apparently doesn't realize that most of them have been here for a large part of their lives and won't be leaving any time soon.

Losing the town's only laundry doesn't seem to be a problem to him. I thought he arranged for more law enforcement to protect the citizens. Apparently being drunk in public is more serious here than what happened at the laundry. It took almost three days for a deputy to even take a report.

The closest laundry is in Grants Pass. Not sure what people in Cave Junction will do when they need clean clothes, especially those without transportation. Bottom line: What's wrong with this picture?

DeFazio on roadways From Jay M. Clemens President & CEO Associated Oregon Industries Salem

On behalf of a great number in Oregon's business community, we want to note Rep. Peter DeFazio's impor-

tant vote on July 23, when he joined his other Oregon colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to dedicate \$8 billion to the Highway Trust Fund to ensure that our highways and public transportation systems are maintained and improved during the coming year.

Many in our community may not know that the federal government provides, on average, approximately 40 percent of the funding for our highway and public transportation, construction and maintenance efforts -- efforts that are vital to keeping our families safe, our businesses thriving and Oregonians

working.

Increased investment in transportation stimulates the economy and reduces congestion, pollution and fatalities. Unfortunately, the main source of this funding is expected to have a significant shortfall over the coming year and that could result in a 34 percent cut in federal funds for our state highway program. The passage of this bill is an important step in preventing such drastic cuts.

In a day when partisanship seems to get all the attention, it is good to see Oregon's delegation setting an example of which we can be proud.



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FREE!

Family Events
at the
Blackberry Festival

Jubilee Park - Cave Junction
Saturday, August 9 - 10 to 4

Animals
Puppets
Face painting
Bubble booth
Many various children's arts, crafts, & games
Child IDs
Snow cones & cotton candy
Art exhibits

Sunday, August 10 - 11 to 2

Assorted Living History Players
Rogue Valley Flyers - radio controlled airplanes
Illinois Valley Little League - concessions stand

Sponsored by Illinois Valley Family Coalition

