

Bob's Corner

We decided to take a drive earlier this month. Turned out to total 1,668 miles portal to portal and back again, as we traveled the so-called I-5 corridor from Cave Junction to Carlsbad, Calif. in San Diego County. It was quite a drive.

Those long I-5 stretches, where one can maintain 75 to 85 mph with the rest of the pack racing south, go by easier when it's dark. During daylight the relative desolation seems worse than boring.

We hadn't seen our daughter, Vicki; and granddaughters Natalie, 6, and Ella, 3, since Dec. 30 when we watched them leave Jack McNamara Field (AKA Del Norte County Regional Airport) in Crescent City, Calif. They were with us through Christmas and Hanukkah.

We had not driven south (that far) for several years, preferring commercial aircraft, thanks to our stand-by flight status. But we wanted to take some time off. So we did, and besides, we (one of us especially) also wanted to take our youngest kitty cat, *Scrappy*, with us. He's a terrific feline, the only one we've ever seen who can wrinkle his nose, but he has attack tendencies. This got him in trouble with *Bubba Big Foot*, *Flint Eastwood* and *Jellirabbit*. Thus we felt somewhat obligated to take him along



Scrappy and Ella

so that when we returned he wouldn't look like Beetle Bailey when Sarge gets through with him.

Scrappy is a good passenger; no trouble. We stayed in Santa Nella on the way south in a pet-friendly Holiday Inn Express. Good, "free" breakfast too. However, on our return trip, we lost 10 pounds. Yes, *Scrappy* hit it off so well with a former cat of ours, *Charlie*, that we felt it best for both of them to stay together. It's kinda' sad though. We miss the little guy and his wrinkly nose. We also miss ol' *Charlie*, but



Best buddies, Scrappy and Charlie

he's doing great down south. He and *Charlie* became best buds, and they're both outdoor explorers.

Vicki treated me to a pre-birthday treat; a special breakfast at the Sheraton Carlsbad. Unusual menu of good stuff. She, Jan and I walked to the place, mostly uphill, I mean, uphill, from her home. Then she and I went for a brisk walk; leaving Jan (Nonna) at the hotel. She got loose in the gift shop, but the damage was minimal.

Also took a couple of other walks with Vicki and her friend, Heather, in the nearby foothills. On one we picked up rubbish left by slobs. Vicki and Heather set a rapid pace walking. Actually, they usually run, and I walk. We meet after about an hour. Here at home I plan to walk more, as the cardiovascular benefits are quite good.

The major reason for heading south, besides taking time from the office, leaving the place in the capable hands of editor-in-chief Michelle Binker, was to attend a Smothers Brothers concert in Escondido. Jan gave me the tickets for us and Vicki for Christmas. We've always enjoyed the music and humor of the pair, and we were not disappointed with their performance. Tommy even came out as *Yo Yo Man*, and did a wonderful job. It was great. For two guys in their 70s, they did a most credible job.

There's lost more, I mean, lots more, that I could relate, but I'm running out of room. Suffice it to say that I could get used to warmer weather than we've been having here at home. But an 834-mile one-way driving trip solely for hot temperatures somehow doesn't seem appropriate.

Shots fired in O'Brien arrest

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methamphetamine, being a felon in possession of a firearm, unlawful possession of a firearm, and furnishing false information to a police officer; and a warrant charging felony attempt to elude, misdemeanor attempt to elude, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, interfering with a police animal, and unlawful possession and distribution of a controlled substance.

Batty also was charged with attempted aggravated murder, unlawful use of a firearm, two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm; and unlawful possession, distribution and manufacturing a controlled substance/methamphetamine and marijuana.

Other additional charges were pending, Lux said.

The "shots fired" and arrest situation occurred in connection with an investigation initiated by the Rogue Area Drug Enforcement (RADE) team. The arrest

followed a brief standoff with the OSP SWAT team during which the man fired in the direction of SWAT members who responded with chemical munitions and subsequently deployed the use of a taser to arrest the armed man.

Also participating was the Josephine County Sheriff's Office K-9 team.

A second man at the house was cited and released on several charges, said Lux. He was identified as David L. Taylor, 43.

He was cited and released on a warrant charging failure to appear on a DUII charge, and local charges of unlawful possession of a short barrel shotgun, and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

Lux said that the OSP SWAT team was called to execute the search and arrest warrants due to the nature of the charges and potential for violence.

With the SWAT team in place, Batty was told to exit the residence. He did so briefly, armed with an assault rifle, and then immediately retreated and secured himself inside, Lux related. Batty was ordered to surrender and refused to comply, so SWAT officers sent chemical munitions into the residence.

Batty responded by shooting in the direction of SWAT officers, Lux reported.

SWAT officers main-

tained their positions and continued to attempt to negotiate with Batty. At approximately 5:30 a.m., he exited with a firearm visible in his pants back pocket. SWAT officers deployed a taser and were able to take Batty into custody without injury to anyone.

Because Batty was in possession of firearms and attempted to use a firearm toward OSP SWAT officers, an additional search warrant was obtained. An OSP Crime Lab team responded and assisted in processing the scene. The search warrant and crime scene processing yielded a large sum of cash, methamphetamine, marijuana, packaging and distributing materials, and two firearms including an assault rifle, Lux stated.

The investigation is continuing, and it's anticipated that additional information will be released after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend with the approval of the Josephine County District Attorney's Office.

RADE is an interagency narcotics team comprised of members from OSP, Grants Pass Dept. of Public Safety, Josephine County D.A.'s Office, and Josephine County Community Corrections Dept.

Anyone with information regarding suspicion of drug activity is encouraged to phone the RADE tip line at (541) 955-6970.

executive director, phoned Josephine County Sheriff's Office on Nov. 20 to report discovery of the theft. The extent of the loss was not fully known at that time.

The Oregon Dept. of Justice and JCSO are continuing the investigation.

Letter

Israeli 'restraint'
From Steve Lyons
Cave Junction

Israel embarked upon an air and ground war against Gaza militants on Dec. 27 to stop the rocket fire that has traumatized southern Israel for years.

The spiraling Palestinian death toll, which includes hundreds of civilians, is due mainly to the cowardly tactics of Hamas.

They launch from homes, schools and even mosques.

Imagine Mexico or Canada sending missiles at us. How long would my country stand for that? What restraint they have shown.

Charges filed in fraud case ...

(Continued from page 1)

said. "We almost lost the FAC completely..." It was stated that the IRS had agreed to freeze interest rates for a short time until a police report was filed.

Susan Chapp, FAC

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