

Bob's Corner

A fellow newspaperman wrote recently about his nostalgia revolving around cars of yesteryear. Actually, as far as I'm concerned, the motor vehicles after 1961 (the year I escaped ... er, graduated from high school) are all from yesteryear.

That's because it no longer mattered those 49 years ago that I know all years, makes and models. You know, it was important until then, what with hanging around guys who were almost obsessed with knowing everything about cars. And where to buy cheap hamburgers.

Anyway, the fellow news guy mentioned items including fender skirts, sun screens, steering wheel knobs, and curb feelers. Actually, those are in my memory. That could be one reason why I can't remember what my wife told me to do 20 minutes ago. My brain is too cluttered. It's a guy thing.

But I can recite near-useless information about various cars from the '50s and '60s, especially '52 Fords, '55 Buicks, '66 AMC Ramblers, and '56 Mercurys, to name a few. That's because a Ford was my first car; a Buick my second; an AMC 440 my third; and the Mercury was owned by the parents of one of my best friends in San Diego. Strange though, that when I see such vehicles now, among many that I recall, they do not seem as attractive as when I was a young, smart Alec cruiser.

Yeah, I ran around wearing a white T-shirt and Levi's with small cuffs, and either desert boots or black-and-white high-top tennis shoes. Way cool. Or for going to high school and college classes I'd wear white low-cut tennis shoes, white bucks or penny loafers, plus Ivy League shirts, and trousers with modestly pegged cuffs and a nonfunctional belt in the back. Sometimes I'd add a car coat. Yeah, way cool.

OK, I was talking about cars and wandered. Running out of room, so just let me describe my first vehicle, that '52 Ford I mentioned. It was kind of a wreck. I talked my Dad into buying it for me. It was dented here and there, smoked and used oil. But the thing had a '54 Olds V-8 engine from a Super 88 and a Hydra-Matic transmission. So the beast could move, because the mill was made for a heavier car. Plus it had an AM radio!

Unfortunately, whoever handled the mechanical modification did a sloppy job. Also, they left in the Ford axle, so I broke several because of the torque. Took my entire \$60 paycheck every time that happened.

Ah, memories. Especially the blowback that filled the car interior. But only when the engine was running.



Open meeting, public record laws ...

(Continued from page 1) entire testimonies were eliminated from the final minutes of a governing body.

"How can ... members of the media see what is going on if those minutes are incomplete?" Duggan asked.

"There may be occasions where a public body intentionally has bad minutes because they don't want to put some information out there," Kroger replied. "But I think it's much more common that we have volunteer minute takers at a lot of these public bodies and they really don't

have the training to know what should be included in minutes."

He said that one idea is to provide education for such volunteers on public boards.

"It takes a while to get minutes drafted and posted and approved," Kroger said. "But in the digital age ... it's not that difficult to record a meeting and post it on the Website of the public body."

Allen Baker, from Ashland, related his experience in seeking information about employee salaries and benefits for city workers. After much effort and "back and

forth" with city hall, Baker was required to pay almost \$300 for information that he felt should be much more accessible.

"City records of something as important as salaries should be kept in such a way that they are readily available to citizens to look at," Baker said. He credits his eventual success to his experience in journalism, work on open government in Alaska, and access to the public records law manual.

"I think the ordinary citizen would have been frustrated by the whole process," observed Baker.

He noted that the city of Ashland spent \$51,000 on a comparative study of salaries in other municipalities. If that information was available online, he said, municipalities and other agencies could save a lot of money.

With respect to training public employees on changes in the law, Barbara Christiansen, city recorder for Ashland, noted that cities and other agencies haven't the funding to send workers to

trainings to keep current.

"We need you to come to us," Christiansen told the attorney general.

Steve Rich, legal counsel for Josephine County, noted that with respect to public meeting law, executive sessions (meetings closed to the public) and media, the current state of the law required entities to make "ad hoc" decisions about who fits the definition of media.

"The reality has outgrown that word in the statute," Kroger responded.

"We may have to recalibrate, not standards for media," he said, "but definition of who gets to enter a meeting." As with the issue of complete minute-taking, Kroger opined that a certification course could be required for those who want to attend certain meetings.

"We have cities all over the state trying to scramble around and figure out what the responsible way to handle this is," he said. "I think for better or for worse we will have to tackle this and give better guidance."

Letter 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 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.

'Chain of proofs'
From John Bazen
Cave Junction

By now most readers of this section know where this man is coming from. I, as does our Father, want all to come to repentance and fully accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Call this selfish on my part, but eternity is forever.

Revelations 22:14: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." What city, you ask? Read Rev.21:1.

Who, or better yet, what about all who shall not enter, how did they conduct themselves during their lives? Rev.22:15 will answer in part, but Isaiah 5 gives more detail.

Isaiah 5:20: "Woe (we should pay attention when we read "woe") unto them that

call evil good, that put darkness for light, and light (God's truth) for darkness (Satan & Co.); that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter."

Neighbor, can you say, "Another prophesy has come to pass?"

How many times have you heard this liberal admonition: "There are no absolutes, in right, in wrong, in truth?" This is the "why" for people who chose the so-called "alternative" life-styles, for which they have even created their so-called "hate crime law." Who has experienced a crime done in and with love?

Isaiah 5:21: "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight." This verse explains the why, of the hundreds of Christian religions, each putting on their "personal stamp" upon God's Word by asking the wrong questions.

We must not ask, "What does this passage mean?" Rather we must ask, "What does the Bible tell us here, and follow the "chain of proofs," that have the same words/ideas/thoughts elsewhere within, with prayer, to receive the understanding Our Father wants each of us to have." Each of us needs a study Bible, and prayers for wisdom and understanding.



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