

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, May 19, 1966
Illinois Valley News

From Davises' on Little Chetco to Cave Junction

For the first time in more than six months the little cabin, snuggled peacefully among therugged mountains and deep canyons of the Little Chetco country, stands empty and alone except for the presence of faithful little Sing, the Davises' Siamese cat, who remains guarding the premises, in her daintily cautious feline way, while watching, wondering, and waiting for Ruth and Perry's return. Sing, with probably a few curious deer and an assortment of other shy jungle beauties, with whom she may possibly share her large supply of delicious kitty pellets, will (we hope) present the only animated life on the otherwise deserted Davises' claim during the owners absence.

After a long session of being

comfortably isolated from outside civilization by an exceptionally heavy snow barrier, Perry and Ruth have finally emerged from their wintry cocoon and are again among their friends in Illinois Valley, where after securing a few loose ends, getting a minor operation out of the way, and enjoying a few knickknacks that have been in short supply on Little Chetco, they will return to their far-out hideaway after probably a week away from their impatiently waiting Sing, their wee stonewalled cabin and their little river of hidden gold.

After one more abortive attempt (on Friday) to find my way to the saddle landmark on the divide between Illinois Valley and the Chetco drainage by way of a long abandoned and partly overgrown trail, during which I got caught in a rainstorm and almost drowned in the wet brush, I finally made my way by another longer route in to the Little Chetco last Monday. The snow is melting fast and largely gone on the south slopes, but in deep,

dark Babyfoot Canyon, on some of the north slopes and along the crest of the main divide that I followed in a long swinging arc till I reached the saddle beside Canyon Peak, there is still much snow. I walked over snow on the high Starvation Ridge for at least a mile and a half. It was 8 to 10 ft. deep in places.

I didn't take my snowshoes along and suspected I'd have to wallow through soft snow at the higher elevations, but luckily found the snow firm enough to support my weight. After wasting an hour or two fighting dense brush and rocky bluffs on the side of the main ridge trying to find the old trail, I finally climbed to the rim and made such good time on the snow, and going down the 5-mile stretch of snow-free road on the Chetco side, I reached Davises' at 2 p.m., having left my jeep on Canyon Creek at 7 a.m. For once I surprised my friends by arriving at a decent hour instead of before breakfast, after a night spent on the trail.

After a feast of delicious food and hot drink and a long pleasant gabfest we turned in early in preparation for the trip out next day. We drove nearly to the top of the divide in the Davis jeep. We started our hike down the Illinois side on the old West Fork trail I'd been trying to find, which was clearly visible at this upper end and which Ruth and Perry had brushed out for half a mile last fall. We supposed we'd be able to follow it through but finally it disappeared completely, hopelessly lost beneath thirty years growth of brush and small trees. We finally gave up and "boomed" our way down into the canyon, two boomers and one boomerette, fighting our way through almost impenetrable brush, dodging bluffs and drop-offs for what seemed like endless miles.

At last, after several hours of hot, weary struggle, near the bottom of West Fork canyon we hit a game trail that providentially led us smack into the well-worn lower end of our lost

trail. A short distance below we came out onto the narrow, rocky Canyon Creek mining road. A couple of miles down Canyon Creek we crossed a barred private bridge and there on the high bank stood Little Toot, our little gold-plated savior, who proudly bore us the remaining 7 miles to the highway at Kerby, thence on to our Cave Junction objective

So now at last, while Sing sings herself to sleep on lonesome Little Chetco, Perry is getting some long-deferred business taken care of, and Ruth (if she is honoring the vow she made on the long, tough trail out) is putting away gallons and gallons of ice cream.

In another month the snow should be gone and the road opened. The yearly season of free travel will have arrived, and Perry and Ruth will be dashing back and forth again between Little Chetco and town - at least once every three or four months.

ROGUE VALLEY



Food & Friends Menu

FRIDAY - MAY 20

BEEF CABBAGE BAKE

MONDAY - MAY 23

EARLY AMERICAN

GOULASH

WEDNESDAY - MAY 25

TUNA LOAF

If you need meals delivered please call 541-955-8839.

SENIOR CORNER

Sponsored by Rogue Valley Council of Governments

NEW Illinois Valley Grief Support Group

Lovejoy Hospice will be holding a non-therapy support group for adults surviving the death of a loved one. Learn to normalize you loss and build meaning with others in a healthy group process. This support group is provided free

to the community. An orientation appointment with the group facilitator is required prior to attending; no walk-ins. Appointments can be arranged in Grants Pass as well as in Cave Junction. Those interested in more information or an appointment please contact Lovejoy Hospice at 541-474-1193. The

first session will begin on Thursday, May 26, 2016 and meets the last Thursday of each month from 12 - 1:30 p.m. at the Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., Cave Junction, OR 97523.

The contact information for Lovejoy Hospice: 939 SE 8th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.

You can call 541-474-1193 or visit their website at www.lovejoyhospice.org.

Remember to call the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Connection) to find other support groups at 1-855-673-2372 or get connected at www.adrcforegon.org.

Sponsored by I.V. Wellness Resources

In the next few articles, I.V. Wellness Resources will present information as to the importance of eating organic, non-GMO foods and the real dangers from pesticides present in our foods, air, water and soil.

"Altered Genes, Twisted Truth: How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived the Public" has it received the following comments:

1.- "It should be required reading in every university biology

course." - Joseph Cummins, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Genetics, Western University, London.

2.- "This book is truly outstanding. It is well-reasoned and scientifically solid. Through its masterful marshaling of facts, it dispels the cloud of disinformation that has misled people into believing that GE foods have been adequately tested and don't entail abnormal risk." -David Schubert, Ph.D. molecular biologist and Head of Cellular Neurobiology, Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

The famed anthropologist

Jane Goodall said that Monsanto 'portrayed the various anti-GMO concerns as merely the ignorant opinions of misinformed individuals - and derided them as not only unscientific, but anti-science. They then set to work to convince the public and government officials, through the dissemination of FALSE information, that there was an overwhelming expert consensus, based on solid evidence, that GMOs were safe.'

In the meantime, you might enjoy visiting your local organic farms and markets.



Illinois Valley Wellness Resources

Senior Bulletin

Helping free roaming cats is a community responsibility. Find out how you can make a difference in the lives of these unfortunate cats. Call 541-956-7587. Sponsored by The Josephine County Spay & Neuter Fund.

Check the Classifieds on A-13 for a new caregiver ad.

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