

Winding Trails: by Al Hobart

Thursday, October 27, 1966
Illinois Valley News
Wildlife Watching

Most everyone, when he finds time to think about it, or is for some reason brought into contact with it, is interested in nature and the myriad mystifying and intriguing phenomena she holds ready for our approval in her unparalleled art gallery and unlimited array of amazing natural surprises.

In general, the art gallery is enjoyed by all. The wonder-inspiring surprises, produced mostly by the living wild things that populate the still unmolested portions of the earth, are appreciated mostly by those of us who spend most of our days on the outskirts of bustling civilization, where nature is still able to operate more or less unhampered by the activities of man.

Relatively few of us get to observe or are aware of the fascinating little dramas being constantly enacted on the great secluded stage of nature by the almost limitless forms of wild life, some of them seemingly cruel life and death struggles, others merely amusing or startlingly surprising, and intensely

interesting because of their strange and pleasing impact on our unsuspecting consciousness.

Anyone who has spent much of his time in the forest, on the desert or prairies has experienced the thrill and wonder of occasionally seeing the unfamiliar performances of the improbable wild puppet-actors doing their often incredible ballet-of-life, with Nature pulling the strings from the sidelines. Many of these enthralling exhibitions I have seen; others have been described to me by reliable observers.

Once, my stepfather, as a young cowboy, while riding on a South Dakota prairie observed a large hawk mounting into the sky in a surprisingly tight spiral. Suddenly it seemed to let go all holds and came plummeting earthward, striking the ground with a thud not far from where Clyde sat fascinated on his reined-in cow pony. Then from the wreckage of the fallen hawk he saw a weasel, apparently unharmed scuttle away into the sagebrush. Examination of the carcass revealed the strange, sad truth. The over-zealous feathered predator had in his blind greed made a fatal mistake in his choice of lunch. Too late he must have realized he'd pounced on one of

earth's most savage animals. As in the case of a stick of dynamite, the explosive power wrapped up in the small package constituting a weasel is beyond belief. This one, clutched in the talons of the hawk, had maneuvered its long sinuous body into a position where its deadly fangs could reach the bird's side. Like a lamprey rasping its way through the side of a salmon, the weasel had torn its way into the vitals of its enemy and brought it to earth.

A happier, more entertaining, observation was made by a BLM official I met last summer at Black Bar Lodge on the Rogue, who spends much of his time in our wild back country. One time he secretly watched a bevy of young skunks at play. In the stiff wind that was blowing, the skunklets would stand on their front feet, with their rear ends elevated skyward and, using their bushy tails as sails, go racing down the wind on their 'hands'.

They repeated this maneuver a number of times. I have seen skunks walk on their front feet many times, but the 'sail' act is really one for the books. What a priceless movie that little backwoods scene would have made.

The Hards, who, because of the

nature of Hard's work, spend their summers in the mountains living in their trailer house, have witnessed a number of interesting and unusual presentations of nature's select shows. This summer, camped up on Green Creek, a little wild bird (a young pipit, we think) mistook Slim for its mother and spent much of its time following him around. The bird, walking bravely along like a little crow (most small birds hop), trying to keep up with Slims long stride would soon tire and fall behind. He soon learned, however, that the easiest way to keep up with Slim was to ride on his shoulder. To have a wild creature become your trusting, intimate friend is a rare and thrilling experience.

For a time a pair of fawns came daily to the Hards' trailer door for handouts, daintily accepting the proffered tidbits, delighting their new-found acquaintances with their complete trust and friendliness.

Once a mother weasel crossed the road ahead of Slim's grader, her babies strung out behind her--an almost unheard of performance, considering the timidity of this animal and its scarcity in this area.

Another very rare observation

made by the Hards and another witness would almost have to have been seen to be believed: a bear that was part black and part brown. This mixing of the two color phases of the common bear isn't supposed to happen, but obviously rarely does.

The capers and caprices of wild animals never cease to fascinate me. Being charged by a mother bear isn't surprising, and not a bit funny. But being charged by a mama jack rabbit is, on both counts. Both of these questionable delights it has been my privilege to experience. In the case of the bear, her pretended protective zeal must have been due to faulty judgment, or just plain cussedness. The rabbit was more justified in running her little bluff--I held one of her tiny squealing babies in my hand and I guess she thought I was squeezing it too hard.

Without doubt such unusual and interesting little incidents and observations in nature constitute a diversion that is sure to be appreciated by anyone who is lucky enough to be granted the privilege of enjoying them.

ROGUE VALLEY



COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Food & Friends Menu

FRIDAY – OCT. 28

BBQ CHICKEN SANDWICH

MONDAY – OCT. 31

LEMON HERB CHICKEN

WEDNESDAY - NOV. 2

SCALLOPED POTATOES AND HAM

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

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Sponsored by the Rogue Valley Council of Governments

To find local resources or services you can contact the Oregon ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Connection) at 1-855-673-2372 or visit www.ADRCoOregon.org. Services they can connect you to include: In-home services and support: -bathing, dressing, housekeeping; -Choosing a care facility: adult foster care, residential care, assisted living and nursing homes; -Family and caregiver support; -Peer counseling; -Transportation; -Home-delivered meals; -Personal medication alerts; - Medicare counseling; - Medical equipment; -Programs and resources for healthy living; -Legal services; and other services.

Sponsored by I.V. Wellness Resources

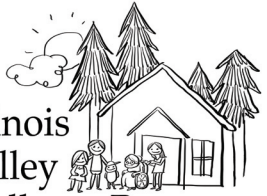
Hearing Loss

If you're like many of us, distinguished by the title Senior, you or your associates are noticing awkward changes in your hearing as time goes on. Hearing loss can affect any age, but it is most common in seniors and is of great concern to our friends and families. It can be embarrassing, along with frustrating. Hearing loss is any degree of loss for hearing loudness or pitch that is beyond the range for normal. It is possible for you to have a slight loss, but not experience any difficulty because it doesn't interfere with your everyday living. On the other hand, you may have trouble hearing in some situations even if you have no hearing loss. An example of this is finding it hard to understand what is going on when there are many people in the same room all talking at the same time. The term "deaf" refers only to those hearing losses of a profound degree. Just as hearing impairments vary, so will people's coping abilities. Older adults frequently experience a reduction in speech comprehension and may begin to feel isolated if communication deteriorates. The medical term for a loss that accompanies aging is "pres-

bycusis," literally meaning "elder" (presby), "hearing" (akousis). 60 percent of us over 55 years have a hearing loss, but only 2 percent are classified as legally deaf. Other factors than aging can affect our loss of hearing including; noise exposure, injury, medication (causing ototoxicity) such as large doses of aspirin, diuretics and some antibiotics. Disease and heredity are other factors affecting hearing. Heart or kidney disease, diabetes, emphysema or stroke may disrupt blood flow to the inner ear, causing permanent hearing loss. Otosclerosis is an hereditary condition that causes an overgrowth of bone around the small bones in the middle ear causing those bones to become fixed and prevents them from vibrating. Don't be misled by those who tell you that a hearing loss is normal for your age. Hearing loss may be more common as we get older, but it is not normal.

Over the next few weeks, we will further discuss hearing loss; how to know if you have a loss, who to see about that loss and what questions to ask.

You can contact I.V. Wellness Resources at www.iwellnessresources@gmail.com.



Illinois Valley Wellness Resources

Senior Bulletin

HOME SAFETY EVALUATIONS

Call Pat Jenkins, RN, MSN with I.V. Wellness Resources for a low cost evaluation at 541-415-0465.

SENIOR COMPANION

If you need physical or social support to stay in your home please call the UCAN Senior Companion Program at 541-492-3520 or 541-672-3421.

FREE for Seniors

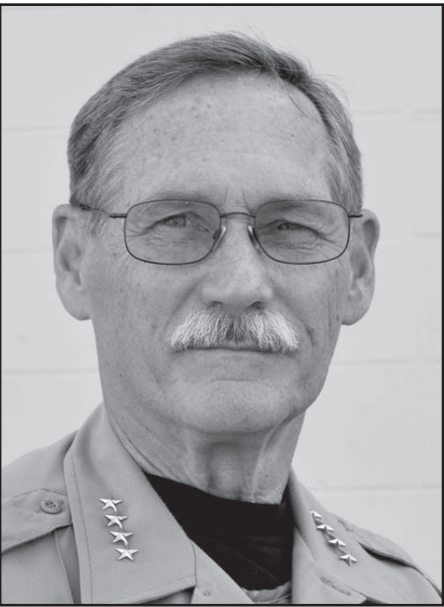
If you are a senior and want to place a **FREE AD** for a living or health care need call Laura at 541-592-2541 or email laura@illinois-valley-news.com.

Endorsements for Don Moore

As many of you may recall, Don Moore served as Mayor of Cave Junction, in past years. He is currently running as a candidate for that Office. Prior to and during my tenure as Sheriff we shared many hours discussing and developing strategic plans to deal with public safety issues. One of which, successfully included our former Undersheriff Don Fasching and myself walking nightly beats within the City. It is no secret; today you lack adequate public safety in Cave

Junction. Don is a forward thinking individual. I found Don's integrity, honesty, and open mindfulness refreshing. I feel honored to have the opportunity of recommending; and, proudly endorse Donald Moore for the Office of Mayor in Cave Junction. I sincerely hope all the good people turn out to support him. He truly cares about you!

Respectfully,
Gil Gilbertson



I endorse Don Moore for Mayor of Cave Junction because of all he accomplished during his last tenure as Mayor of Cave Junction. The City never ran better than during that time.

Dwight Ellis
Former Josephine County Commissioner



Setting the record straight

My opponent and his group had been orchestrating attacks on four corners to guarantee that I do not win this election. Unfounded allegations and fabricated stories are being circulated to besmirch my name. I would like to take the bull by the horn and deal with them head on.

I'd like to begin with the homes that were mentioned by Mr. Sitton. Those homes on Gamay Drive were built by Adair Homes and their construction created tax revenue for the city. Official records will show that Adair Homes built those houses and they are not cheap houses. Records will also show that those houses were appraised more than \$200K a unit when they were built. If the quality of those homes do not meet the standard of government agencies, then Adair Homes would have ceased operations. But for more than 45 years, Adair has been the largest custom home builder in the region with a highly regarded reputation. Take note that as custom home builder, it means that the people who buy these homes have a say to the construction. May I ask what's wrong with having one's property rented out? Owners of those homes

would rather have them rented instead of leaving them empty and be vandalized. Theft, stealing of copper materials and water meters happened during Tony Paulson's administration. Law and order suffered because the Mayor seemed to be preoccupied with something else.

I would advise the renters to discuss their complaints with property owners. Likewise, Mr. Sitton can file a complaint to government agencies if he thinks that Adair did not comply with standards in constructing those homes. If he does that he'd be more useful to those people instead of barking up the wrong tree! He has confused me for Carl Jacobson and his administration who are pushing for building tiny houses for transients. While it is noble to help people; we should also think of the resources for its infrastructure which our city doesn't have. Who will pay for the water, sewer, electricity, and most of all its maintenance? Our priority should be to have law and order and economic progress in our city.

In his letter he missed out the detail that he lives in Hanby Vista particularly in Gamay Drive.

He talks about the problem of his neighbors but he seems to detach himself from them. They are not only "renters" as he puts it, they are his neighbors with equal entitlement in the community. I seriously think that he looks down on those families who rent homes in his community and he sticks his nose in their affairs pretending to be concerned. He uses them like pawns to further the purpose to malign me.

I stand by my candidate statement because it is factual and the people who know my leadership can attest to it. During the time of Tony Paulson the position of public works director was already vacant so when I became the mayor the burden of the work was already there. I did not hire someone for the position but instead rolled up my sleeve to assume responsibility and my certified crew did the hands on job.

A desk employee said that the position for Public Works Director is a union job. Let me say this straight--as Mayor, I don't answer to Unions. I only answer to the citizens of this city who elected me for the job. If that position was so important, the State, the DEQ and the Union would have called the attention of the Mayor to fill up the position.

But they have not intervened since Paulson's time and until the current administration. What matters is that I did the work well without receiving compensation.

There is no stand-alone department in city hall. As Mayor, I had the quasi power to oversee, manage and inspect everything most especially the sewer and water plant. I have the knowledge and skills to know if my crew was doing the job correctly. Probably Tony Paulson did not understand that he had such responsibility so did Carl Jacobson who signed a falsified certification with DEQ and got caught.

During my term the Southern Oregon Department of Transportation Director came to my office and said that they will make Redwood Highway a 2-way lane and I took the opportunity to discuss the needed traffic light on 199 and River streets. It was not a priority at that time though it was in their 20-year plan. But because of my representation they installed the traffic lights -- isn't that leadership?

When I was mayor I corrected the culture of corruption at city hall but now they are maligning me. I was told that a desk employee was campaigning for my opponent inside

city hall which is a direct violation of state and federal laws because it is a polling place - a ballot drop area. I do not know why they are working so hard that I won't be elected. They are probably afraid that I will be able to uncover again a big mess.

I know that there are revenues coming in to the city from outside sources, that must be audited if they are properly disbursed and accounted. I also know that the city paid a fine when the city's crew cut a main fiber optic line that run computers in the city and its businesses. They swept it under the carpet without telling the public because it did a sizable damage to the business community.

Our city is in disarray and has deteriorated for almost six years due to poor leadership.

I promise you my fellow citizens of Cave Junction, that if I'm elected, I will do a forensic accounting of the city's finance, leaving no stone unturned; and report to you the results. Transparency of my office is what I will bring to my administration. If you want positive change, law and order, economic development, and service- oriented leadership-- I, DON MOORE will give those to you.

Paid for by the committee to elect Don Moore