

Editor's Note: Community Voices is a monthly feature in the *Siuslaw News*. It consists of viewpoints from people in the Siuslaw region. *Siuslaw News* welcomes these opinions as part of its goal to encourage community discussion and exchange of perspectives, but they should not be interpreted as the views of the *News* or its staff.

Community Voices

CONSERVATIVE CORNER — THE SUPREME COURT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE SUPREME

By JOEL MARKS
Conservative Historian
Special to Siuslaw News

Justice John Marshall Harlan, in my opinion, was one of the greatest Supreme Court justices in American history, serving 34 years from 1877-1911. He was noted as the great dissenter. He dissented in such racially charged cases as Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896), and the Civil Rights cases of 1883.

In a much overlooked case called Jacobson vs. Massachusetts (1905), which granted the states plenary authority over vaccinations for smallpox, Justice Harlan was the voice for 7-2 the majority holding.

His conclusion was that liberty and freedom are not absolutes and the state has an interest in “such reasonable regulations” in public health

and other 10th Amendment responsibilities.

Therefore, vaccinations in that setting with a smallpox epidemic was a state, not a federal responsibility, to carry forth. This case has been cited numerous times in defense of public health. Hence, when we were children, our schools and other healthcare professionals administered vaccines for polio and rubella administering our health and general welfare without a whimper from the public.

The Jacobson case was the precedent and certainly the freedoms we possess are not absolute, as Harlan voiced.

Absolute freedom generally can lead ultimately to anarchy in society and moral degradation. There are limits.

He was involved in the two aforementioned cases

on race relations in America called Plessy vs. Ferguson, where the Court handed down the “separate but equal” nonsense between African Americans and whites in education and facilities on an 8-1 vote.

Plessy was reversed in 1954 with Brown vs. Board of Education, exonerating Justice Harlan’s lone dissent in Plessy.

He quoted the Constitution, saying it was color-blind thanks to the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. The same held true on an 8-1 vote on the 1883 Civil Rights cases strenuously objected to by President Chester A. Arthur. This decision completely eliminated the 1875 Civil Rights Act passed by Congress that President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law. It was very similar to the 1964 Civil Rights Act

signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson, which achieved equal use of facilities, transportation and accommodations.

Obviously, the court at the turn of the 19th century was not only incorrect, but gave us a half century of Ku Klux Klan, Black Codes and racism!

Later in the Supreme Court’s history, we have the Korematsu vs. US case in 1944, which imprisoned in the western states Japanese-Americans in camps during WWII, completely demolishing their rights as citizens in the Bill of Rights under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s edict.

In 1947, we had the misguided Court decision in Everson v. Board of Education, wherein the majority of the Court constructed “an impregnable wall between

church and state,” never before mentioned in our Constitution.

Therefore, religious freedom in classes — such as prayer and Biblical content — were greatly curtailed, opening schools for destructive strange amoral philosophies antithetical to God’s pronouncements.

This is not what our Founders had in mind.

Later rights were created out of thin air to end reproduction, grant unlimited privacy, and total marriage freedoms outside the cultural norms of millennia. These aberrations have all been granted by the illogical decisions of an all-powerful Supreme Court.

Where did this power originate? To find the answer to that question, one must read the 1803 foundational court decision

called Marbury vs. Madison, which, unlike the original Constitutional intent of the Judiciary, expanded their role to decide, not just give opinions.

Mr. Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln objected. However, in modernity we have lost our judicial way. Others have not objected and the power vacuum has been filled by runaway courts, particularly the Warren Court of 1953-69.

Unless and until we fix our courts not to decide, but to advise, with the executives enforcing, we will be in constitutional chaos.

To restore what has been lost, we must look to mend our culture and pray for wisdom on how not to end our society with the Supreme Court leading the way.

God bless our promised land of America.

MILITARY HERITAGE CHRONICLES — PATTON JEEP ROLLS BACK INTO MILITARY MUSEUM

By CAL APPLEBEE
Military and Vehicle Historian
Special to Siuslaw News

A very unique and iconic military vehicle recently returned to the Oregon Coast Military Museum, a “Very Early Production” World War II jeep — the Ford GPW. This vehicle is on loan from supporter Eugene Small of Albany, Ore., and was manufactured in early 1942 and delivered to the government on March 16, 1942. It displayed in the museum originally in 2016. Some of the unique features that make this jeep one of the rarest of the variants of the 646,964 jeeps produced during WWII

include the fact that it is a 12-volt vehicle from the factory, where the bulk of jeeps produced at that time were only 6-volt. It is also a “script” jeep with the “Ford” named embossed on the rear panel.

Manufactured by Ford as their model designation “GPW,” it also sits on a Willys frame, which was done, in part because during early production, Ford sometimes couldn’t build enough frames of their own. As one of 281,448 jeeps produced by Ford, it is considered a Very Early Production jeep because of its unique features.

Other provenance that makes this jeep unique is its connection to WWII.

Built at Ford’s Dallas, Texas, plant, it was delivered with three others to the new Desert Training Center at Camp Young in southern California, where just days apart, General George Patton arrived to become the Camp’s first commanding officer.

Upon its arrival, the jeep carried the markings of the 1st Armored Group, or 1 AG, but after Patton’s arrival, he changed the unit’s designation to 1st Armored Division, or 1 AD, after he reportedly stated upon his arrival, “We are not a Group, we’re a Division — change the markings!”

Markings for both unit designations were discovered on the jeep during the

restoration process.

While various original costs have been reported between \$915 and \$977 over the years, under the government contract for this and the other jeeps for that contract, the cost for production was set at \$1,036.76 each.

A certified appraiser valued this jeep at \$44,275 in 2013, and in today’s historical military vehicle hobby, its current value is \$51,600.

The primary restoration of this jeep was done by Small’s good friend, Dave Carter, also of Albany. They recently completed restoration of a companion vehicle, also on display, a 1940 Roadmaster bicycle manufactured by Cleveland

Welding Company, which was one of many bicycle companies to contribute to the war effort. It makes a perfect companion to the jeep.

Values for vintage and military bicycles are difficult to establish. This particular bike did not see actual military service that we could confirm, and was produced only in 1940 and 1941 as a Delivery Model, which would certainly fit military service. Even so, its value ranges from \$900 to \$3,500.

As with much of the military equipment following WWII, this jeep was surplus out of service in 1945 when it was purchased by a California family un-

der a “veteran’s preference” bid in Indio, Calif. Small purchased it from that family in Grass Valley, Calif., in 2000, and typical of vintage military vehicles, it came with 17 coats of paint!

So if you would like to view some outstanding examples of military heritage, I encourage you to stop by the museum and feast your eyes to a step back in time.

For more military heritage, visit the Oregon Coast Military Museum located on Kingwood Street adjacent to the Florence Municipal Airport, open from noon to 4 p.m. Thursday thru Sunday, or by visiting the Museum’s website at www.oregoncoastmilitarymuseum.com.

MORAL OF THE STORY — IN THE PINK

By KAREN D. NICHOLS
Author and Artist
Special to Siuslaw News

Sometimes people do things, act strange, wear weird outfits, or dye and arrange their hair in a manner that causes people to laugh or stare. Are they exhibitionists? Sometimes the outrageous display is subtle enough for the people to stifle their reactions, as in this case, they just smirked or scratched their heads or hurried on before they broke out in laughter.

It all started when we purchased our Florence property and planned to

build.

After tinting my hair for many years, first dark brown then mouse brown, the color God gave me before He sucked away the color to snowy white as He does for us in our winter years, I became tired of using that gunky color. It stained my hands and spattered me and my bathroom walls.

Ralph rejoiced.

I mentioned to a friend that I contemplated letting my brown hair grow out. She suggested that I do so before I moved. I would meet new friends as the real me. I began the unpleasant

task of letting my long locks grow out.

It would have been easy. Just cut my long hair into a pixie cut. I tried that once; being tall, having a rather small head, with the pixie, I resembled a pinhead.

As an ex-hairdresser, I knew how to accomplish this onerous task. Instead of permanent dye, I purchased Loving Care, touted as a rinse that lasts for several weeks. Though I would have to apply it every couple of weeks until my hair grew six or seven inches, there would be an end to this task.

That worked. My hair looked great.

After six months, I stopped coloring.

I expected the Loving Care would lighten up and finally disappear in a few weeks.

No such luck!

Since I washed my hair almost daily, the brown rinse started to disappear rapidly. It turned to a lovely shade of pink. My dazzling coif now resembled a cone of cotton candy sprouting a light brown ponytail.

Now pink is not an uncommon hair shade in Southern California. The youth there have found a rainbow of dyes for whatever color might shock or de-

light fellow residents. When a 60-something woman exercised that option, that’s different.

“Act your age, old lady!” or other such comments flowed my way.

Fortunately, being in the pink of things only lasted about a month. Boy, what a surprise! I thought it would be peppered with gray. However, I had a thatch of pure white hair crowning my cranium. A hairdresser bleached white streaks in the rest of my leftover brown hair. Then I looked sort of normal.

Would I do it again? You bet your sweet boopie.

Being in the pink of things, as I look back, I enjoyed acting like a rebellious youth. When I saw how white hair looked so lovely on my dear mother-in-law, I realized God blessed me with the hair color I wished to have when I grew old.

It’s way better than mouse brown.

(This story came to mind after recently seeing a woman who had tinted her hair the same color pink as mine— an option open to anyone, nowadays.)

Moral of the Story: Don’t be afraid to get old. It’s not half bad.

THREADS OF ACTIVISM — CONSISTENCY

By MICHAEL ALLEN
Activist
Special to Siuslaw News

In my last “Threads of Activism” column on Sept. 18, I presented the value of persistence when pursuing a goal. In this column, I will discuss the value of consistency when presenting your message.

At a recent Friday Climate Strike, one of our strikers related an experience they had in the community. She was asked by a person she met, who had driven by our strikes in front of Florence City Hall, “Just what is it you want the mayor to do?”

After an explanation of the purpose of the strike, she still asked, “But what can the mayor do?”

This goes to show that one must present to the public a simple message of what it is you want to accomplish and be consistent with that mes-

sage.

Those that have added their name to our climate petition were given in very specific terms just what we wish the mayor and Florence City Council to do in taking action to address the climate crisis.

But what of others that are aware of the climate crisis, but have not been afforded the opportunity to read our petition?

We regularly post reports, updates and calls to action on many Facebook pages. We write letters to the editor and get coverage of our campaign in the Siuslaw News. Our message is always the same: City Council, Respond to our Climate Petition.

But what is it we are asking for in the petition? Here is what our striker told the person she met.

We want the mayor and city council to 1) pledge to

address the climate crisis and 2) create a community commission to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for Florence.

Still the person did not understand, like many others who want specific actions, that it would be the role of a dedicated commission to develop those specific actions.

In reading a recently published book by Michael E. Mann titled, “The New Climate Wars,” I learned that there are two ways one can approach the climate crisis. One is by individual actions and the other is to advocate for systemic policy changes with governments and corporations.

Our campaign chose the latter approach because the power of governments and corporations to affect the needed change is much greater than what we as individuals can do.

Both approaches are important.

My insight into which approach to pursue actually started much earlier. In 2019, I read an article regarding an assessment made by the Rocky Mountain Institute, a Colorado-based organization dedicated to transforming our global energy system to a clean, zero-carbon future for all.

Their study showed that pledges from cities, businesses and individuals throughout the world would enable us to reach two thirds of the Paris Climate Agreement goals. I chose the City of Florence because, as the young climate activist Greta Thunberg famously said: “You are never too small to make a difference.”

Historically, many activist-oriented campaigns brought their messages down to simple terms that were repeated consistently.

In my introductory column, I gave the example of using the message, “Consumers on the Board” as a rallying cry for equal rights for people with intellectual disabilities. Some slogans used for other campaigns include: Save our Democracy, Black Lives Matter, End the Second Amendment and Abolish the Death Penalty.

In our case, we want the community to rally around our climate petition and its call for climate action by the mayor and city council.

Mayor Joe Henry is often the target of such a message since he was the most outspoken in his climate denialism and his resulting inaction. But it is also the rest of the city council that needs to hear our message repeated over and over from many diverse citizens. That includes both residents of Florence and others that use

and visit our city.

The message will be redirected to future candidates who will take their place if the mayor and city council remain nonresponsive. Florence citizens will be urged to elect climate champions who will respond to our message.

Our message was first presented to Mayor Joe Henry and the then Florence City Council on July 19, 2019, in the form of a petition over two years ago. The petition now has 560 signatories.

The message was, and will continue to be: “Respond to our Climate Petition.”

Contact Michael Allen if you wish to add your name to the petition at mikepattallen@earthlink.net. The petition is also available at our Friday Climate Strikes at City Hall.