



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Bob and Jan's 40 year marriage has had more laughs and adventures than most loving couples. They were avid motorhome campers touring the USA and Canada with their dog, Tina. Today, the couple have separated, since Alzheimer's has darkened and descended over Jan's mind, so she has entered a care home.

Their most harrowing experience was years ago when Bob and Tina left Jan at the camper, and went for a short stroll around the lake. He passed a couple, who said that he could circle the lake back to the campsite. Bob took them seriously and off he and Tina innocently went into a night of terror.

Apparently, the couple neglected to give him the directions, "Turn left at a small path to circle around."

It was September, 6 p.m., and in the mountains, so Bob was aware he had only so long before night and freezing temperatures fell.

Bob and Tina walked and walked. He saw the little cut off path, but did not think anything of it as he followed the couple's advice. He kept walking straight. Dusk began falling. After they had walked 6 miles, he knew they were in trouble.

"The path did not circle back to the lake," said Bob. "Then I saw a sign with arrows to other lakes and realized what danger we were in. When it gets dark in tall trees, the night falls as fast, and as thorough, as shutting off a light switch in the back of a long cave. Nothing was visible. It was

im-paws-ible to see your hand in front of you." To make matters worse, "I could not see the path," said Bob, "It was frightening, so I put a short leash on Tina and said, "Go find Mommy. Let's go home."

Little Tina began leading Bob through the blacker than black night. He felt for the motion of her leash to know which way to step. Then suddenly, he fell down a cliff and landed spread eagle. He slowly felt his way up the embankment, crawling up on his belly, having lost Tina's leash in the tumble.

Panicking and feeling hopeless Bob was about to give up when Tina came over to him and touched her nose to his. He felt for her leash and repeated, "Let's go home. Go find Mommy."

Stumbling in the thick black, he hollered across the lake, "Help! Help!" He was met with only an echo.

Step by step, hours passed as he followed Tina's lead. At last their feet connected with a gravel road. When he looked down it, he saw "his" search party with their vehicle lights urgently flashing.

A forest ranger approached, asked if his name was Bob, and added, "Your wife is in a panic! She told us that she 'lost you'. It is good to see you, it is dangerous out here."

Bob told them about his fall and proudly described how Tina had saved them by leading him "back to Mommy". Everyone felt that what the little dog did was a miracle. The forest ranger told Bob, that the marker he saw was

seven miles along the trail. The minute that an exhausted Tina walked into the camper, she dramatically flopped on the floor now that her job was done!

"I was scared to death!" said Bob, "And so glad for the dog's company. Without Tina's help, I had no idea which way to turn. It was amazing how smart she was nosing my nose so that I could find and take her leash."

In Jan's present day absence, Bob admits, "Our current dogs, Keria the mother, 13-years-old, and her pup Ryley, 10-years-old, are wonderful companions and my family. We are so bonded. They tell me when they are hungry, when it is time for a walk, and bed to the exact minute each day. One would think they could read the clock with their accuracy!"

Apparently, dogs still lead Bob's life!
Tip
Trust your dog's intuition and wisdom.
Mary Ellen has yet another article about her



cats in the recently published book, "Chicken Soup for the Soul: The Cat Really Did That?"
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Gold Rush 5k returns to BMD

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Now in its third year at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets in downtown Cottage Grove, the Gold Rush 5K Run/Walk will draw a crowd for a race that benefits youth running activities in southern Lane County.

On Friday, July 14 beginning at 9 p.m., runners and walkers will take off for a flat, fast loop around downtown, passing historic neighborhoods and even some of the Cottage Grove area's fabled covered bridges on their way back to the Brewstation at the corner of Sixth and Washington streets, a sponsor of the race. Local businesses sponsoring the event also in-

clude Jim's Point S Tires, The Axe & Fiddle Pub and Dirt Cheap Copies.

The Gold Rush is one of four major and several smaller events organized annually by Run CG, a group of running enthusiasts dedicated to staging quality runs and walks that showcase the beauty and charm of the Cottage Grove area. Other races on the Run CG calendar include the Fools Rush, held each April Fool's Day.

On Saturday, July 15, area youth are invited to participate in the Gold Dash, a 500-meter run beginning at 10 a.m. at the corner of Main and 14th Streets in Cottage Grove. A sizable crowd gathered there for the Grand Miners Parade, a staple event of the community's annual Bohemia Mining Days festival, will cheer the runners on during this fun event that features chocolate coins as its reward.

More information about Run CG or the Gold Rush 5K can be obtained by visiting www.runcgrun.com or calling 541-731-9284.

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