



Betty Kaiser: Chatterbox

Communication, dialogue make the difference

situations.

If only we would stop and act like I believed this elephant and lion did.

This summer, as the onslaught of the deadly coronavirus pandemic continued, I thought that nothing else could be worse. I certainly didn't anticipate the brutal, unnecessary killing of a Black man, George Floyd, in Minneapolis.

Or that it would trigger a nationwide outrage not seen since the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

My husband and I grew up in Los Angeles in the 1950s, unaware of how privileged we were and of the racial boycotts, movements and marches that were brewing.

In Sunday School, we had learned a song written during the Civil War:

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the children of the world."

We took it to heart. We believed we were all loved and we practiced manners and respect as much as kids do.

How? Well, my schools had students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of my friends were from Watts.

We all got along. My husband lived in the

center of town and experienced something different. He was in the ROTC in high school. Once a week, he and his buddies wore their uniforms to school. After school, they were chased home by gangs with Zip Guns made from broken car antennas. It was a terrifying time both in and out of classes and he transferred schools.

I became acutely aware of racial discrimination about the time that Martin Luther King, Jr. burst onto the national scene in 1955. He was a Black man, a Baptist minister, a student of Ghandi and well-versed in non-violent persuasion.

His dream was that his country's vision of liberty and justice for all would become color-blind.

He was a man on a mission who led eight peaceful protests that bolstered Civil Rights and would win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. In my lifetime, he was one of the most inspiring, articulate, learned and charismatic Civil Rights leaders this country has known. His assassination was tragic.

In 2006, I attended a Cottage Grove Rotary meeting to hear a speaker who knew King. His name was Doug Still. He had lived in Oregon for 31 years and focused his interests here on local energy and social issues.

He had, however, another life as an ordained Presbyterian minister.

In 1962, the Reverend Still was serving in Chicago as the executive director of the department of social welfare of the Church Fed-

eration for four counties and 2,200 churches.

He shared this story at the meeting:

"A wire came to the Chicago clergy from Martin Luther King saying that the people of Albany, Georgia needed help. They were in trouble and needed us to come and stand with them in their efforts to desegregate the city's libraries, parks, schools, churches and hotels. (City officials were closing them rather than integrate them).

"We formed a committee representing the three major faiths and boarded a bus. About 50 of us — Catholic, Protestant, clergy and lay people — rode about 800 miles to Albany to show our concern for our brothers and sisters.

"We arrived at night and the next morning we worshipped together (Blacks and whites). Martin Luther King spoke. Our strategy was to gather in front of city hall and offer a very brief prayer. The sheriff immediately arrested us and locked us up in jail. Even then we were segregated with the Black people being put in the stables at the fairgrounds. We returned to Chicago."

He shared other similar experiences as did others in the audience. Many of them showed seemingly little progress in race relations.

Still then asked rhetorically: "So, what do we learn from all of this?"

"Violence doesn't work," he answered. "Communication and dialogue do."

Can I get an Amen?

(Contact Betty Kaiser at bchatty@bettykaiser.com.)



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

Welcome Home, Mr. Clif Ford



4-year-old HaDassah loves Mr. Clif Ford.

A year ago, Pam and her family moved to Cottage Grove, Oregon to start a family farm. Besides the beautiful scenery they quickly realized the town is full of beautiful people. Once their garden and baby chicks were growing, they recognized an important farm ingredient was missing, a dog.

They found a handsome two-year-old Bernese Mountain dog, Clif Ford, who was gentle with children, other dogs and small animals. A few days into his arrival, he broke his leash and ran off.

"I have had dogs for 70 years; this was my first experience of losing one," said Pam. "He shot out of the yard like an arrow, across a busy road and vanished into the woods. My vantage point didn't allow me to see which way he went. I was scared because he wasn't here long enough to know this was his home."

Pam took off in one direction and her friend in another along the trails. Pam met a neighbor, Anna, on her bike.

"Luckily, she is a bona fide dog-lover and posted Clif Ford's flight alert on the 'What's Going On in Cottage Grove, Oregon' Facebook page. Within minutes, even during this world-wide pandemic, people responded that they were helping to look for Clif Ford."

This missing dog's previous owner was notified and arrived with a dog that Clif Ford knew. The Facebook page attested that many others had joined in the dog-hunt as people, from 35 minutes away, arrived and began searching.

"A small army of people, many I have never met, spent three days searching for Clif Ford," said Pam. "Anna and her mom rode the bike trail; Jim and Michael kept a look out while jogging with their dogs. We notified our vet and groomer, and Steve our computer expert soon had 180 shares/likes/sad faces on his Lost Dog Facebook post. We contacted the *Cottage Grove Sentinel*, neighbors, strangers, police, county sheriff and put flyers up all over town. KNND radio station broadcasted announcements. So many people were looking for Clif Ford. Areas that had been searched were rechecked. Logical places and not so logical places were scoured."

Three days later, they double-checked their property again, venturing into nooks and crannies; anywhere an 80-pound dog could hide. Their lives were on hold.

Clif Ford must have heard his old dog friend. Pam couldn't believe her eyes when she saw him skipping with a bounce through the grass, broken leash in tow towards the other dog. He appeared none the worse for the ordeal, but Pam and her crew were worn out!

Facebook posts were updated, everyone celebrated Clif Ford's return.

"Clif Ford's story is about; the goodness of people, the love of strangers, and the value of community," said Pam. "We saw first-hand, the generosity and concern of so many people for a dog they didn't know. This has been an illustration of 'Little deeds of kindness, Little acts of love' touching lives making Cottage Grove home. In the end the terror of losing Clif Ford reaffirmed the goodness of humanity. We have met many new friends who helped in his search. The intrinsic value of a community and goodness of people have never touched us more closely. We love Cottage Grove, its people and our SoulShine Family Farm."

A poem taught to Pam by her grandmother by Julia Abigail Fletcher Carney is her life's mantra.

*Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the great big land.
Little deeds of kindness,*

*Little acts of love,
Make the world we live in,
Like the heaven above.*

"The concern and support shown by so many new friends have touched me deeply," Pam said. "It is good to be reminded of how things we do can mean so much to someone else. Thank you, Cottage Grove!"

What about Pam's four-year old granddaughter, HaDassah? The child is thrilled that Mr. Ford is home and spends hours brushing him. She wants him to know that she loves him as much as he loves her.

TIPS:

Dawn, a Pet Tips 'n' Tales reader in Montreal, Canada writes, "Mary Ellen, Thank you for these informative articles. Years ago, your column was helpful when I had my kitty Wisdom. Also, your pet food alerts helped save a friend's dog's life when I forwarded one of them."

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6-day weather forecast

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
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LORANE NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY
LIL THOMPSON
FOR THE SENTINEL

- We are in *high fire danger* in Lorane and all Western Lane Forestry. That means mowing of dried grass, chainsaw use and other spark emitting engines must be done before 10 a.m. and after 8 p.m.
- There is no burning at all. There have already been small brush and grass fires, so please *Do Not* ignore these restrictions.
- Here are a few tips to help prevent your vehicle from sparking a fire:
 - 1) Make sure no part of your vehicle is dragging including tow chains;
 - 2) Regular maintenance on your tires as a shredding tire can shower sparks;
 - 3) Maintain your exhaust system;
 - 4) Avoid parking or idling on dry grass;
 - 5) Stay on the road. Off-road is restricted during this time;
 - 6) Always be prepared. Be able to call for help, when in woodland areas you are required to have an axe, shovel and a 2.5-pound or larger fire extinguisher and/or a gallon of water. You can help prevent a forest fire by always being very careful and prepared.
- Crow-Applegate-Lorane School District is very pleased that 60 percent of families have added input on a survey for fall reopening and they "Thank You." The family input is vital in the planning. The survey closed in Aug. 5. If you wish to contact them, use <https://www.Cal.k12.or.us/>
- Lorane Grange meets today, Aug. 6, at 7 p.m. with potluck snacks. Distancing and masks will be used.

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