



BOB FRAKES

Observations

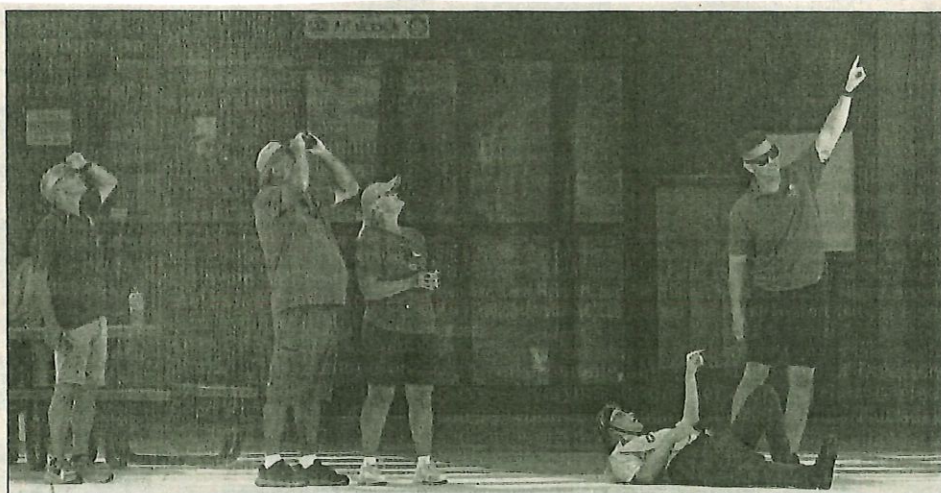
I often include some commentary in my piece but also focus on local events, people, items, etc. But let me offer my view on several items right out of the chute.

IT CAUGHT MY EYE

PROBLEM SOLVING — What is the biggest issue out there with solving many problems? Answer — you can't talk about the real problem. Or I might say, you can't discuss the cause/effect involved. You have to pitter patter around the cause, never lay that card on the table and get — nowhere. To find a solution almost always requires looking at the real cause. But, isn't it interesting how often that is not the case. If you take the Challenger Shuttle disaster, the immediate cause was the O-ring issue BUT, as Neil Armstrong noted, the real problem was the decision making process that was flawed in this case. How about we stop the grandstanding, put the cards on the table, do what we can thus and then move on to the next pothole? This involves not just the immediate cause but all of the subplots also.

EMAILS — I received several in regard to the Miners Monument. These were curious as to why we failed with a local grant, and what grant was that? I first pointed out I had never mentioned that grant by name and that was on purpose. They have done so much good over the years that although many feel they dropped the ball on this one that was just an apparition. The decision to not join in with a project to honor the 46 who lost their lives in the four featured mines (Nason, Freeman #3 & #6 and Inland / Consol) involved, as above with Challenger, a flawed decision making process in my opinion, BUT even Babe Ruth struck out many times and perfection, outside a hole in one or 300 game, seldom comes around. This was a onetime shot, so this chance for them is "Gone with the Wind." No, we won't be reapplying next year :)

On the state level, both my Senator and Representative were looking for a "traveling grant." These are designed to encourage people to drive a few miles to see something and maybe have a meal at the Waltonville Café or gas up at the station. But, a good fit never surfaced. Timing is a big item here, as \$ is there some years and others not. It is my understanding (correct me if I am wrong) Sesser received a nice grant for their Miners Memorial. That was, by the way, \$ well spent. They did a great job and I encourage you to check it out sometime and maybe have



a "Dream Cone" at the Custard Stand. I might add along those lines a big "THANK YOU" for the help the Mayor there gave me and also several members of their committee. I NEVER called w/o getting an answer and some help!

PROPERTY TAXES — We got the bill(s) the other day. I never complain too much, but did a few years ago when I was able to show that the "moving in" of a "gaming" (gambling) thing next to our rental property in MV had devalued the property. When I look at all we get for those taxes, I just pay up and enjoy the services, etc. Taxes by the way here, much to the contrary, are low when compared to other developed countries when compared to the GNP. Even when I just made \$6,900 a

year (my first teaching salary) I had money for the property taxes. How? It is called a budget. It is called a separation of "wants" from "needs." My TV at that time was B&W and now and then you had to slap it on the top to stop the rolling. But that was all I could afford. I did not want to just buy a new one and kick the can. I most certainly, UNLIKE SOME TODAY, did not vape, get tattoos, body piercings, live at the "gaming places," so forth and so on. Yes, I see WHY you don't have any \$. When Howard Petty asked the Board if I could help him strip and wax the floors before school began I made just enough to pony up the property taxes. You might try a simple budget of wants and needs and cash flow and be amazed at the results.

LOOK UP — Finally, the Army Golden Knights returned to the airport again for practice. We were there for a great breakfast and to enjoy the show. This, I might add, is just one of the many items and programs that the airport has to offer nowadays. If you think it is just there today for pilots, keep an eye out for what is going on and make your way out for some great fun. I have to also say "thanks" to my friend Don Lewis. I love the parachute showing, but it did make my neck sore. Don showed me the light. He suggested his viewing style. I tried it and by golly he is right again. THANKS! Wish I had known about this during the eclipses :)

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