

LETTERS

Alpine View Lodge Appreciated

Taking care of aging parents is one of the most difficult tasks we will face. Many of us have done it and many have it to look forward to. I was blessed with wonderful parents who lived to be 93 and 94. Both had their share of health problems, including dementia. The last year of my dad's life was spent at Alpine View Lodge.

or three times as much. Not only did Alpine View Lodge staff take perfect care of my dad, they took care of Dan and me, our grown children and our grandchildren. We never had a worry and always had an experienced care giver to listen and offer advice. Our children and grandchildren felt welcome and at home whenever they stopped by.

through his final days.

When you become the person caring for parents, please stop by Alpine View Lodge and visit, you will always feel welcome in this wonderful home for Seniors. I am so happy to see their advertisement in the Back Country Messenger. I highly recommend Alpine View Lodge and their great staff!

Just a little side note: I had to buy my dad a size larger in his pants because of the delicious meals!

Patty Lawrence
Campo

I can tell you, if not for Linda, Alicia, Angela and the rest of the FABULOUS staff, I would have not made it through that last year. There is not one place I looked at, that measured up to Alpine View Lodge, not even places that cost two

In the last days of my dad's life, Alpine View staff insisted my dad "come home" from the hospital to be with his family and that was such a blessing for my dad and for us. Alpine View Lodge and Odyssey Hospice together, helped us

Response El Rancho Grande Letter to the Editor Published in the August 2009 Edition

Letter of Warm Regards and Many Thanks,

We would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to many supporters and our regular customers. We have been pleasantly surprised by the many calls and visits from

Pine Valley, Campo, and Mt. Empire Community supporters after the August "Letter to Editor" in the Back Country Messenger. We have been reminded of how thankful we should be for our blessings! We certainly count our loyal customers as our

"blessings." Your kind words and show of support have really given us hope for the future.

Thank you one and all,

Benny & Marsha Wright
El Rancho Grande

To Mr. and Mrs. Wright,

My name is Doyle Marceau and I've lived in Campo for almost thirty years. I can't speak for the Community, but I can tell you why I or my son won't go to your Restaurant.

I stared back at him and this went on for awhile until he walked towards me. We kept staring at each other until he walked by me and went to where patrons smoke at.

Then this older gentlemen with a cowboy hat comes from the kitchen and stands behind the bar and the young man is with him again with the stares. This made me and my son very uncomfortable. My son asked why are they staring at us so much? I don't know, I guess they don't want our business. I was thinking,

"Great! I hope I don't have to get into a bar fight with these guys I didn't want my son seeing me in one.

We got our food and went home. The people who were staring at us said good night to us like they were happy to see us go. I told my son, "Well, I guess we won't be going to that place again," and my son agreed. Which is sad because the food was good. That was the first and last time we will go to your place of business.

Sincerely,
Doyle Marceau

It was a Friday night when we walked in to order food to go. The waitress was nice that took our order, but while we were waiting for our food their was a bald gentlemen standing at the end of the bar just staring at me. Why, I don't know. We weren't looking for trouble.

El Rancho Restaurant Owner,

You are correct in your thought that in the current economy, this truly was not the best time to open a restaurant. The odds of having a successful restaurant are against you from the very start, even in a good economy. My husband and I used to eat out once or twice each week, but have now cut back to once or twice per month. The luxury of dining out is one of the first areas families will cut back. Again, you are correct that the restaurant, the menu, and the people that work at the restaurant are what make a customer choose that location. You find it disturbing that the locals do not come to your restaurant. What is disturbing is the impudence that you believe your neighbors should automatically patronize your business. As all

restaurants reserve the right to refuse service to anyone, everyone reserves the right to choose which restaurant by which to be served. Just because you are in the community does not insinuate that the populace should be obligated to spend their hard earned income at El Rancho. Why should local inhabitants pay your bills when they have difficulty paying their own?

My husband and I tried your restaurant several times when located in Pine Valley. The poor service, mediocre food, and high prices are just some of the reasons we have not tried the Campo location. When a business is of the entertainment/dining industry, customer service is the most important asset of that business. If a guest has a bad experience, he or she will tell five friends and they in turn will tell five of their friends. Bad news

always travels faster than good. Then that business must find new clientele to replace the ones lost. There are only so many individuals in the area, so where do you think these new customers are going to come from? The management of El Rancho has upset so many people; most recently, the letter published in the Back Country Messenger, August 2009. Look at the tone and message sent to the community. Did El Rancho management actually think it was going to gain customers by offending them? Maybe El Rancho should look at how it treats people. Although never personally being requested to boycott your business, I have absolutely no intentions of passing my money in the direction of El Rancho now.

Sincerely rubbed the wrong way, Anonymous in the Back Country

One Person's Opinion

REPRESENTATION - We have a dozen or so people in our various backcountry communities who have some strong opinions and are very willing to share them anywhere, anytime. Good, so far. But a problem occurs when these well meaning folks represent their opinions as the will of the entire population. To regress; we live in a democracy. Most people in this country have gotten kind of used to that and when it's violated in any way, they have a tendency to get upset. So far no one in this community has any right to say they represent anything but a MINORITY.

Very few tax paying residents attend the various group meetings for reasons of their own, but they REALLY ARE the community and unless they are contacted and presented the facts of a situation and allowed time to consider and respond in a convenient manner, the democratic rights of the community are not being served. Do we want to regress to a Monarchy? MERIT, whom I often disagree with, has been the first to employ a DEMOCRATIC act. Their July newsletter had a post card (pre-stamped) enclosed requesting responses to a few questions regarding growth: Great; idea, but hot enough choices for response. Until someone comes up with a way to get input from this huge silent MAJORITY no one should have the audacity

to proclaim "This is what the community wants." Also knocking on doors doesn't cut it, you need documentation of these opinions.

COMMUNITY CHARACTER - The question that comes to mind is What character? We have no town. Our businesses are spread all over. 'We have no main street. There is nowhere passing tourists or motor homes can stop to rest and find a bathroom or picnic table. 'The closest park is in Lake Morena. Some homes are falling apart and others are beautiful. Some yards are well manicured and clean then a ways down the road will be a place that looks more like a land-fill than a residence. How can you categorize a place like this? A starry night sky?

GROWTH OR NO GROWTH? That is the question. Whether 'tis nobler to prohibit thy neighbor or allow urban sprawl? For myself, I believe there's a broader, more specific issue. When someone buys a piece of property that consumes most or all of his assets, he should have some assurance from a just and fair governmental regulating agency, (Department of Building and Land Use) that while he owns that property no zoning laws are going to be changed to devalue his investment.

In just a few years I've seen increased septic

requirements change a buildable lot into a worthless piece of dirt. That retired couples home will never be built and their savings are lost. A man buys 33 acres of flat land so that he can lot-split and his kids can have a home of their own. It was perfectly legal when he bought the land but now the rules have changed. Specifically, when the man bought the land it took about \$15,000 and about 6 months to split this parcel into 4 legal lots. A few years later and without a public vote, it costs more than \$68,000, takes about 2 years and then he found out at the last bunch of qualifications that he couldn't split it at all. To add insult to injury, the \$68,000 isn't even refundable. Some protected toads have a home but this mans kids don't. No government agency should be allowed to change the rules in the middle of the game. That's like the home team changing the rules in the middle of the game so the visitors are all disqualified. Granted, changes are required from time to time, but wouldn't it be fairer to change these rules at the change of ownership so that the new buyer knew what to expect? All the talk about a 20/20 plan seems to ignore people's property rights, which are guaranteed by our Constitution. Do you still want to prohibit thy neighbor?

A. H. Stahlheber

Mountain Empire Alum Revisits the Old Days Through the Messenger

A fellow Alum from Mt. Empire just sent this link to me and what a pleasant surprise ... swelling 'n welling up memories from the past and not so recent visits to the back country. Having been raised on both, the old Oliver Ranch in Descanso and Rancho Samatagama, just down from Guatay, everything presented sounded familiar (though its been a while).

places reminded me of 'the back country' in its hay day (as I saw it then and now) and how, having bikes and horses as our main transportation, from time to time we managed to *borrow* a jeep off someone's ranch and go for a spin ... usually to one of the many lakes (full 'n over-flowing at the time) for a dip.

best with your continued work and my dear friends, who still reside ... at least in heart ... in and around the Mt. Empire Unified School District.

Alum of Descanso Elementary & Mt. Empire (located in Campo) Currently residing in Louisville, Kentucky. Thanks a bunch.

Regardless, many of the references, names 'n

I could ramble but won't ... thanks for your contributions and all the

Sincerely yours,
Billy McRobb

Editorial Rules: We do not allow personal insults, derogatory or racist remarks, or abusive, vulgar or obscene language. Please keep this in mind when writing letters to the editor. Thank you for your cooperation.

To send editorial comment & letters to the editor:

E-mail to:

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Mail to: Back Country Messenger

**PO Box 71,
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Visit the Back Country Online Discussion Board Logon to www.backcountrymessenger.com and click on "Discussion Board."