

## Life is a Journey

I rode my bike to Riverbend Park, and I'm sitting on a park bench. I've left my Ford 250 carbon bigfoot at home. Today, I've gone carbon neutral. Life is a journey on a quiet Sunday afternoon. I reflected on what the past week has been like, and I think of the week ahead and how full it will be with important projects for the District. Quite often I have people ask me, "Bob, are you every going to take a vacation?" I ponder and lament about how I used to have so much time. As I sit on the bench, I think of my carefree days when I was younger. I would go down to University Avenue in Berkeley and put up a sign of wherever it was I wanted to go, and stick out my thumb. I would wind up in places like Portland, Oregon; Madison, Wisconsin; Waterloo, Iowa; and Yosemite National Park. Life was a journey, an adventure to discover the world outside of where I lived in the East Bay Area.

I find myself sitting, thinking that I still search for the essence of discovery without being Charles Kuralt on the road. Daily I meet people who inspire me with their simplicity and I discover the natural world around us without having to go far away.

It's the times we unplug and absorb the peacefulness, the ebb and flow of the day, the quest to live a simple life, the basic knowledge, life is a journey when you're growing up and when you're growing older. What you discover each day is an adventure manifested by how we embrace it. It doesn't matter where we go, whether it be traveling to other destinations or just sitting on a park bench. Today I feel the sun and the breeze, I see the river on its journey as it will continue naturally forever. It seems to stand still in time, enriching my life as I sit here. The Feather River, to me, is a deep well of rediscovery for myself and for Oroville. It is the lifeblood of Oroville's history and its future. Sitting on the park bench on the river's banks, is a renewal of memories and quiet contemplation, and it's why I live here.

It's funny to me that so many people travel to Oroville to discover themselves and our vast natural resources and yet people who I talk to feel that I need to leave this area to enjoy what I enjoy here. Does that mean I won't go on a vacation this year? No, but I do realize that we live in one of the best places in the world. I don't have to pay \$4 for a gallon of gas to get to Riverbend Park. I can walk, or ride my bike on my life's journey every day.

### **Quote**

“To discover joy is to return to the state of oneness with the universe.” Peggy Jenkins (educator)

“It takes a little bit of being crazy to make a difference in the world.” Erin Brockovich (environmental consultant)

“LISTEN contains the same letters as the word SILENT.” Alfred Brendel (pianist)

### **Fun Facts**

There are over 375 National Parks in the United States covering 77,900,807 acres. Our first National Park was Yellowstone National Park which was created on March 1, 1872 by an act of Congress.

Employed adults in France receive an average of 37 days of vacation each year, compared to 14 days for U.S. employed adults and 26 days for employed adults in Great Britain.

Despite earning the least amount of annual vacation days, Americans will leave an average of 3 days unused—totaling more than 460 million in 2008.

### **FRRPD Upcoming Events**

FRRPD’s Summer Concerts in the Park begin May 8 at Riverbend Park with a free show by Feedbac. The fun starts at 6:30 and won’t end until 8 p.m.

Sign up now for CPR, which will be held Mon., May 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium.

Come enjoy a day of video games at the Video Game Olympics Sat., May 17 from 10 a.m. to p.m. at the Municipal Auditorium.

See you in the parks!