

ASI
SEE IT

by Robert Koger

Bad Words

When you make a living as a writer, you depend on words. Selecting the correct word in the proper place can make the writing better. On the other hand, using a word that is not descriptive or doesn't convey what is needed ends up denigrating the whole process.

Every writer has to love words, and I do, but there are some words that just don't make the grade. If I had to pick a single word that I don't use and don't particularly like, it would have to be the word "surreal." Now this word can be used as a noun, adjective, or adverb and it means; strange, weird, odd, or bizarre. Frankly, all of the words I used to describe the meaning of surreal are better words.

The word surreal is most often used by the TV talking heads or Hollywood actors. It's used in most cases because the person using it lacks either the imagination or vocabulary to use more descriptive words. They use it as a catchall.

You will hear the reporters say, "The situation was surreal." And the actors when asked a question about their new movie say, "The experience was surreal." Now in both cases the person reading the article or listening to the newscast has to wonder what the person actually means, because they didn't really describe the experience or the situation.

My second least favorite word is "stellar." Stellar is an adjective that means; relating to or consisting of a star or stars,

and exceptionally good. The second definition is the one that is used the most often. You will hear people say, "It was a stellar performance." Again there are so many words that can be used that are more descriptive and clearer. People use this word because they mistakenly think that it makes them appear more intelligent. In fact it is an overused word that doesn't communicate anything well.

You will find that all writers have a tendency to use certain words much too often, although most writers know what they are and take extra care not to use them to excess. Sometimes you find writers that use a word in place of another but the words just don't fit. A typical example of this is to use the word "truck" to describe an "SUV."

If you look at the license plate of an SUV you will see that it says truck on it. Even though it is classified as a truck by size and weight, it is not a truck. A truck has a bed in the back to use for hauling items. To describe an SUV as a truck is akin to calling an albatross a duck because they both can float on water.

Although many words can be used to enhance writing, some words are better than others. That doesn't make the lesser words bad, it just makes them less appealing and as a result, makes them weak. Picking the proper words can make or break a story.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

by Don Newbury

Uncle Mort, my 97-year-old kin down in the thicket, sometimes goes a "fer piece" on trails where rabbits fear to tread. When his fascination and imagination are roused up, his mind whirls into nooks and crannies not found on maps.

"Last week, he was spinning enough cobwebs for a ten-year spider crop, leaving me to do all the chores without a lick of help," Aunt Maude fretted.

A tiny news item caught his eye; his mind shifted into "what if" gears....

The headline hooked him like a catfish after dough bait: "World's Oldest Leather Shoe Found in Armenian Cave."

"I thought I had old shoes," he laughed. "But compared to that one, mine are brand new."

He had a hard time visualizing a 5,500-year-old shoe that predated the pyramids by a thousand years. Mort's prattle about the discovery heightened. When he mentioned hitch-hiking to Armenia, Maude told him to "stuff it." He spoke of buying the shoe, then organizing a needle-in-a-haystack search to find its mate. "No telling what a pair of ancient shoes would be worth," he reasoned....

Had it stopped there, he might not have been banished to the barn for continuance of his pipe-dreaming.

"This could even make saddle soap a hot item," he added. "I've got a trailer load I bought for a song years ago. News of leather hanging around this long, coupled with budgets cramped by the recession, could have folks 'saddle-soapin' shoes they even forgot they own," he grinned.

Then he thought about how he might react the next time he's labeled "common as an old shoe." He wasn't sure if he'd smack 'em upside the head or extend thanks for recognizing his caveman lineage....

Mort's dreaming didn't end there. He imagined ad tins to Buster Brown shoes and stock purchases of Mother Goose rhymes. "Genealogists will come out of the woodwork to trace the oldest woman ever

to live in a shoe," he joked.

Maude, gathering eggs nearby, realized that Mort's babbling was unfair to the horses and cows. "They probably hate his prattle, too," she thought....

She decided to try to get his mind off the subject with an old hiccup remedy. Maude reminded him that the 6 o'clock news had begun on TV.

They watched President Obama signing a document; Maude wondered about the BIC letters on his pen.

"My guess is, the letters stand for 'Because I Can,'" Mort cackled....

At bedtime, Maude carefully hid the newspaper clipping about the old shoe. "Out of sight, out of mind," she figured.

The next morning, she got up first, like always, to prepare a wonderful breakfast—the kind Mort always claims to be "as good as he ever lapped a lip over." Featured are mouth-watering biscuits the size of lily pads, made from scratch, of course. He also loves the sausage patties, eggs and butter she churned a few days earlier—all of this topped off by a final biscuit oozing rivulets of butter and blackberry jam. "I eat it as fast as I can," he explains. "I think about it too much, my mouth starts watering, and I don't want to dilute it none. I don't want to dilute it none. I don't want to dilute it none."

After the repast, they retreat to cane-bottom chairs on the front porch, about the time the sun's shadow hits IX on the sun dial.

Maude, her mind in yesterday mode, starts talking about doctors' endorsement of running barefoot. Then she makes an unlikely proposition: "Want to race to the mailbox?" He does, and off they go, dust flying down the 100-yard path.

They arrive at exactly the same time, laughing heartily. They wiggle their toes in a bed of mint; he tears off a sprig for afternoon tea. Mort and Maude, hand in hand, walk slowly back to the house, humming "I got shoes, you got shoes, all of God's children got shoes...."

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LETTERS

ONCOR PUBLIC MEETING REPORT
By Jeffrey M. Lichtman

This past week, my wife and I attended the first of four public meetings (Gainesville), hosted by Oncor. After registering, we were handed a packet of material describing the Oncor Proposed Krum West-Anna 345kV Transmission Line Project (referred to hereinafter as "Oncor Project"). In this packet was a questionnaire put together by Half Associates. This multi page questionnaire asked the participant to assign priority (1 thru 5) on issues such as maximizing distance from the transmission line to participant's land (of course, a 1), livestock, hospitals, nursing homes etc. Some questions made little sense at all!

Before attending, I put together a packet describing my objections as a business owner (Radio Astronomy Supplies, provider of low noise receivers for science and Radio Astronomy) and stressing the fact that close proximity to transmission lines such as those proposed would create an environment that would cause my veteran owned business and source of income to cease to exist!

The school cafeteria was set up with easels and charts, all manned with Oncor and Half Associates employees describing the Oncor Project and showing maps of the areas involved. This reminded me of those sales presentations for timeshares. There were even free refreshments (probably to help cool you off when you finally realized what was happening). The first station was a bar chart to convince the visitor that the health risks were minimal and EMF emissions were nothing to fear. I felt like a bull in the pen, ready to charge! There are valid studies that do show EMF emissions have harmful effects (for further information see, <http://www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm>). In defense of these employees, they are possibly being told to try and persuade people without knowing all the facts.

The next station had easels set up showing monstrous towers, with footprints of 160 feet and heights of 400 feet and metal arms reaching out up in the sky. It reminded me of that old science fiction movie "War of the Worlds". Need I say more?

Progressing along the exhibits, the visitors were confronted by large aerial photos showing the areas

affected by the proposed transmission lines. This is where my real nightmare began! The line on the map where our 10 acres sit was running smack down the middle of our property! This is the A2 referenced proposed path, if approved (see map). Sinking feeling? You bet! I am sure a lot of people had their eyes opened after seeing what and where this proposed project may involve.

One gentleman, also an Oncor employee, was very pleasant and helpfully explained the whole process of the proposal. I will describe to you here that process in brief. On September 6th or thereabout, Oncor will have finished their environmental assessments and submit their final report with preferred and alternate routes to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) with their Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CNN) Application. At this time, those property owners that are still in the path of the lines will start receiving

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See letter policy on the bottom of page 2:

small private airfields between Gainesville and Sanger. History shows many a mishap caused by the 400 foot transmission lines.

Real Estate - Lets also talk about real estate values. I received a phone call from a gentleman from Krum who has a large ranch worth in the upper 7 figures. Of course, he is not happy about what this will do to his net worth. Not many people want to buy homes and land in the shadow of these 345kV transmission lines. Yes, land and home sales are bad now, but wait until these towers go up across the land! Already, we have heard about one substantial contract were the buyer caught wind of this project and backed out.

Health Problems - Refer to this website, <http://www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm>. There are many noted cases documented in prestigious medical journals about the ill effects of living in close proximity to high power lines such as the 345kV Transmission lines. Health

problems found by these research cases include Childhood Leukemia, Brain Cancer, Pacemaker problems, and more.

Livestock - Anyone raising cattle or other livestock should think this subject is of great importance! Livestock is affected, as well as humans. Reproductive rates are only one example.

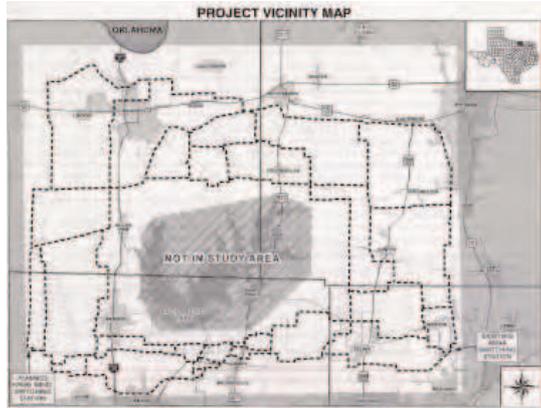
I would like to urge you to become involved and informed about the proposed Oncor Electric 345kV Transmission Line Project and how it will affect your property, home and land values, health and families.

One last note, there were still no answers as to why there are no meetings scheduled for Krum or Sanger.

For more information, see the following: www.powerlinefacts.com/FAQ.htm

Travis Besier at (214) 486-7343 or (214) 486-2317.

If you are interested in joining other concerned residents of Sanger and Krum, call Jeff Lichtman at (940) 458-7447.



packets describing what happens next. This begins an intervention period of 30 to 45 days. You will be able to approach the PUC with objections and appeals to contest the CNN. Appeals will be heard in Austin before a judge. This gentlemen did say that a lawyer representing you could be a plus.

Aviation - For my aviation friends here in Sanger and Krum, please pay attention! The proposed lines (A1 and A2) going south across FM455 will come very close to my Braniff colleagues. In addition, there are many

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