



Back to School - NOT!

The Latest Dirt...

You won't have a pain from the neck up when you work with us from the ground down!

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Curtis, Marla, and Mary make up the team that records daily events, photographs C&E crews, shares history, and makes sure it's all error free.

We at C&E Trenching offers this monthly publication free of charge to our premier customers. We hope you enjoy reading about the real moments that molded the lives of our customers and crew. If you would rather not receive the exclusive offers we give to our premier customers, send an email to news@candetrenching.com and we will stop sending you our newsletter.

July 2016

From the past to the present Pioneers are a source of inspiration!

For a nine-year-old boy sitting in the passenger seat of the Ryder moving van and waving good bye to his grandparents, it was easy to imagine how Laura Ingalls felt in the back of the covered wagon as she also left Kansas and headed to a new frontier. That day, as we headed almost as far west as you could go, it really felt like we were pioneers.

Now some thirty odd years later, in looking back at that time in the Basin in the mid 80's, it was still the early days here. From a farming perspective, it is amazing how much has changed. Dust storms were a semi regular occurrence, hay was loaded exclusively by boom loaders, it was debatable if apples could be grown in the area around Tri-Cities and almost all of the vineyards, with just a couple exceptions, were Concord grapes. As far as Tri-Cities goes, Road 68 was farming ground with nothing else there, including gas stations. On the other side of town off of Highway 82, there was nothing until 27th where there was one gas station. Just a few years before our arrival, the concrete bridge and Hwy I-182 were built.

Of course, some of you have been farming in the Basin since the 1950's and I know you were the true pioneers. I enjoyed Ned Pasco's article from last month's newsletter. As an excavating guy, I can imagine the day after the storm with aching tired muscles and blistered hands, looking with extreme discouragement through scratchy, red rimmed eyes, at where the hole for the basement had been, which was now filled with sand. That courage to adapt and continue on, so necessary in a pioneer, is still needed yet today.

I find those stories from the past to be mightily encouraging to me here in the present. Another of my favorite authors, who wrote similarly to Laura about his growing up years, is Ralph Moody. His stories are a great way to sneak some history into your kid's entertainment without them even realizing it. Supposedly, he was given a diary at a young age and in his first entry he wrote that he planned to work really hard and save enough money so at the age of 50, he could start writing. Sure enough, at 50 he wrote his first book and went on to publish 16 more which have been in continuous publication ever since. I would love to



Summer is flying by at warp speed and winter is right around the corner. It's time to get your project on our schedule in order to have it completed this fall or by year end. If you're considering a pond build or redesign, installing pipe, or any other ag projects, now is the time to let us know. Our schedule quickly fills up so don't wait. Call us today at 509-545-6940.

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509-545-6940

Dwight Ropp's Low Fly-By

Some folks arrive in the Columbia Basin following a dream to farm, a better lifestyle, or hope of a new start. And some just follow their heart and a future father-in-law's job offer.

As Dwight recounts his time in the Columbia Basin, a smile just can't help but spread across his face. It all began when two people fell in love, so to speak. Dwight recalls, "In 1976, Vonda Stutzman and I were set to get married. I lived in Albany, Oregon and she lived north of Pasco, Washington. Her dad just mentioned that he thought it would be a good idea for me to



Vonda, Jason, & Dwight (L to R) all work together to make apple harvest operate smoothly.

move to Washington, work on his farm and just kind of take it easy during our first year of marriage." And so, Dwight did just that. He moved to Washington and enjoyed a year of stress-free work with the intention of returning to Albany with his new bride. However, that return move never materialized.

Dwight soon learned that the Columbia Basin would be a perfect place to do the thing he loved and make a living doing it...fly! Dwight began crop dusting with Tri-City Helicopter but soon started his own business which he operated for over 25 years. During his crop dusting

years, Dwight snagged a power line and a wheel line but was never seriously injured due to plane crashes. When Dwight bought his home place on Dogwood Road, he installed a runway for crop dusting and later planted sixteen acres of apples as a hobby. As his son Jason grew up, it became obvious that Jason preferred farming to flying. Now it was clear to Dwight that he would fly as a hobby and farm for a living. Today, Dwight and Jason farm apples together, transporting their apples to Selah for processing.

Between flying and farming, Dwight also pastors Country Christian Church on Sagemoor and enjoys his children and grandchildren who all live nearby. Dwight and Vonda have five grandchildren ranging in age from seven to two years old. Verle Stutzman, Dwight's father-in-law, has made a big impact in Dwight's life. He would always say, "When someone comes by, remember you're never too busy. Your job is secondary. We are here for ministry."

Dwight and Vonda have been married 34 years. "I'd be a fool to think that I did all this on my own," Dwight states. "I have had the blessing of a supportive, willing wife who works alongside me and helps in whatever I need. She is always there to uphold our family and our livelihood, whether that is flying, farming, or pastoring. (Originally printed in 2010)



We have lots of pictures of the PSD project this month. Here the D8 is ripping rock on a beautiful day in Eastern Oregon.



A couple contrasting machines hanging out and socializing. Way to show the team spirit, guys! No big I and little you going on around here!

Benton Franklin County Fair

Going to the fair this year? You won't be alone. Here are some stats from last year.

- Estimated about 117,000 visitors
- Showcased 1,592 exhibitors
- Displayed 9,598 exhibits
- Catered to 38 food vendors (YUMMY!)
- Hosted 475 rodeo contestants (I wonder if that includes the kids that do the mutton bustin'?)
- Was the first fair that Piggly's served food at over 50 years ago. Piggly's was first started in Franklin County in 1964 and has developed into a fixture at fairs and events on the West Coast.

Call us at 509-545-6940 to get a quote on a new stack yard.

Pioneer Inspiration....Continued from page 1

see my kids embrace the mentality of working hard, planning and saving that seems to be slipping from the culture around us. So much of the fiscal issues of our country could be solved with that simple strategy.

A few weeks ago, Home Depot delivery service came by to pick up the leftover parts from my fence building project. (We are no longer that house with the blown over fence!) I got to talking to an older gentleman that was the driver's helper. His son owned the trucking company that contracted with Home Depot, and he helped out when needed. As we talked, I could tell his accent wasn't a local one, so I finally asked where he was from. He had moved here from Bulgaria fourteen years ago along with his family. When I asked him how he liked it here, he threw his hands wide, looked out towards the western horizon and said, "I love it here! There is mountains, rivers to fish, and oceans not far away!" When I asked him if he would ever want to go back to Bulgaria, he replied, "Never!" What a great reminder, from a recent pioneer, that there are a lot worse places to be than America, despite what politicians would have us think.

"The person I talked to was happy to tell me that we would get a cinnamon roll delivered to the office. No catch, just as simple as that. He was happy to take our information and I was able to hear his smile over the phone. I love how the drivers are always happy to do what they are doing. Very friendly and even have a sense of humor. And I do want to add we highly appreciate the tea ring that was delivered that tells us you guys work for your customers and we really enjoyed it." -Cameron Nursery

In case you missed it, at the beginning of the year, we offered our family's favorite homemade cinnamon rolls shaped in a ring to anyone who placed orders with us during that time.



I assume Robert made it safely out of the way before being swept aside by this beast of a machine. Trust me, the picture doesn't do the size of this load justice!



This was a fun project! In preparation for a new home coming soon, we leveled a large lot in Franklin County overlooking the Columbia River.



Sometimes we get to work inside with equipment! To fit through the door, the top had to come off. Edgar is running the goofy looking wheel barrow. I'm pretty sure my Grandpa is going to think we are soft when he sees this picture! A powered wheel barrow?



For all of you that have wondered, this is the view from a 350 size excavator while loading a 30 ton truck!

Back to School in the 70's

1. Take the kids downtown to go shopping at Sears for back to school clothes the last week of August. Get everyone a new pair of corduroys and a striped tee shirt. You have spent a total of \$43.00. Then, take everyone to Woolworth's lunch counter for grilled cheese and chocolate milk.
2. On the night before the first day of school, (that would be the Sunday night after Labor Day in mid-September) throw the kids in the back of the station wagon and drag them downtown to Eckerds, K-Mart, Ames, Dollar General, Drug Fair or the like and hurry them over to the back-to-school area to pick out a lunchbox. Make sure to tell them to get a move on because you don't have all night for them to make a decision.



They need to get in bed by eight and yes, they're going to miss the Wonderful World of Disney if they can't decide between The Fonz and Dukes of Hazzard. Why is it so hard for them to pick? Tell Kimberly if she can't make up her mind between Holly Hobbie and The Bionic Woman then you're going to pick Pigs in Space and you don't want to hear another word about it until June. Grab a composition book for each of them and a pack of pencils too. That's all they need. Remember to save some grocery bags so they can cover their textbooks with them after the first day of school.

3. Get up in the morning and make yourself a cup of Sanka with Sweet 'n' Low. Line up all the lunchboxes on the Formica counter top in your kitchen. Open up a bag of Wonder Bread and do this assembly line style.
4. Spread yellow mustard on bread. Slap baloney on bread. Unwrap American cheese slices and put on top of baloney. Put top on the sandwich and wrap sandwich in tin foil or wax paper. Put it in the lunchbox. Every kid gets the same exact lunch. Period.
5. Put some Planter's Cheese Balls into a baggie and close with a twist tie.
6. Take Twinkies out of the box. Put one in each child's lunch box.
7. Fill Thermoses with either Kool-Aid or whole milk.
8. Close the lunchboxes. You're done. They'll grab them, along with a frosted, dutch apple Pop-Tart on the way out the door as they walk a half mile down the road to get to the bus stop.

With Pinterest, social media, and mega shopping choices, times have changed.



Nate takes a break from the bottom of a deep hole while waiting for the next sewer pipe to be set. Our project was extending a sewer main in Kennewick.

Back to School Word Search

Try to find all of the hidden Back to School words in the word search puzzle below. (Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.)



ACADEMICS
BACKPACKS
ERASER
GRADE
GYM
LISTEN

MATH
PENCILS
RECESS
RULER
SNACK
TEACHER

Butterfly Wings, Sunflowers and Solar Power.

Did you know that the sunflower that God created led scientists to a solution of more efficient and compact solar powered farms? Originally, solar farms took up large amounts of land space. After trying multiple attempts at mirror angles and placements, they found that they needed



Small or gigantic, the sunflower has inspired smaller footprints for more efficient solar production.

large spaces in order for the shadows of other mirrors to keep from covering their neighbors and reducing power production. Eventually, scientists looked to nature for ideas and landed on the sunflower. The sunflower follows the sun every day and its little seeds in the middle of the flower are set at precisely 137 degrees from its neighbor. MIT scientists found that “the numerically optimized layout takes up 20 percent less space than the previous experiments”. What’s more, the spiral pattern reduced shading and blocking and increased total efficiency.

Currently, scientists are studying the butterfly wing to figure out how God’s perfectly designed creature stays warm enough not to freeze. They figure the scale formation on the wings helps retain heat. I’m always amazed at the intelligence of the Great Creator, God.



Uncle Dennis demonstrates his preferred blue tooth device! Excavating runs in the family. Dennis has an excavating company in Kansas and there’s always lots of laughs when he visits, along with trade talk. For some reason, our team isn’t jumping on our proposal to replace our blue tooth with this contraction!

“Did the job quicker and better than I thought it would be.”
-Under the Son Farms

Nice To See You, Again!

We’ve been at your neighbors recently. Need a project done?
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Construction
Windmill Ag

Do you need trenching between crops? ----- Call us at 509-545-6940 to get it scheduled.



Another part of the PSD (Pendleton School District) project required we demolish the old gym.

Welcome to C&E

Andrea Banford
 Cathrine Gosnell
 Charlie Creed
 Connie Yale
 Darrell Niles
 Denzel Still
 Diamondback Farms
 Dick Root
 E Mac Corporation
 Harvest Height Assembly of God
 Heather Thorne
 Jacob Govey
 Jose Rosales
 Ken Kniveton
 Kirby Naglehout Construction
 Lewis Studer
 Mohinder Sohal
 Nathan Thompson
 Olsen Brothers Ranches
 Ron Roberts
 Sand Castle Builder
 The McGregor Company
 Tifani Bottineau
 Tim Rice
 Van Belle Excavating

School Humor

- Mom: How did you find school today?
Boy: I simply hopped off the bus and there I was.
- Mia: I think we need a new teacher.
Mom: Why is that?
Mia: Our teacher doesn't know anything, she keeps asking us for the answers.
- The summer holiday was over and young Jack returned to school. Only two days later his teacher phoned to tell his mother that Jack was misbehaving. "Wait a minute," his mother said. "I had Jack for two months and I never called you once when he misbehaved."
- What did the gangster's son tell his dad when he failed his examination? "Dad, they questioned me for three hours, but I never told them anything!!"
- Teacher: Brett, your essay on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your sister's. Did you copy her?
Brett: No, miss. It's the same dog.
- Mother: Does your teacher like you?
Son: Like me? She loves me. Look at all the X's on my test paper!



Here we're using the mighty 27 (pictured above with the D8) to install a new commercial entrance to a lot in King City.

Back to School - NOT!!

Was summer vacation a bit too short? Kids share their best excuses for getting a day off of school. While these might be good and some kids are great at getting out of going to school, one young lady commented that it seemed like she was always doing make up work. So enjoy skipping a day or two, but in the long run, it really is best if you go to school. There are only so many jobs that will hire without a high school diploma.

- I had to organize the decorations for my dog's birthday party.
- My friend and I had skipped half a day of school. She came up with a lie that we had to help an old woman who collapsed in the street on the way to school. The lie was so elaborate my friend had put the emergency services number in her call history to show the teachers. Funny enough, they believed us and we were deemed "heroes".



- I ripped up every valid excuse note my mother ever wrote, replacing it with my own forged note. That way, the handwriting was always consistent.

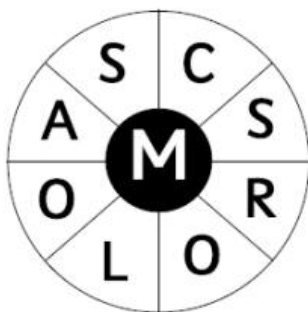
- In the 6th grade, I had a big math test I did not prepare for. I drank Ipecac to induce vomiting. I got to stay home, but the joke was on me. I threw up all day. Ugh.

- I claimed to have cut off my toe. When asked about it, I showed them my bandaged foot with cranberry juice on part of it.

- I go to a small school and everyone knew I LOVED pickles. One day I felt a little too tired to wake up so I stayed home and the next day I told everyone (including the attendance office) that I got some kind of acid poisoning from "eating too many pickles". They all believed me and my absence was excused.

- I once told a teacher two weeks before a school concert that I wouldn't be able to go because I would be sick. She just asked, "You'll be sick?" and when I nodded, she dropped it. She either believed in my ability to see into the future or thought my stupidity was just too much to even question.

- I used the exact Ferris Bueller method in high school countless times, and it worked every time.
- Once during my high school spirit week, it was "superhero" Thursday. I didn't have a costume and didn't have time to buy/make one. I had a genius idea. I skipped school that day, and on Friday, everyone was demanding a reason why I wasn't at school. My excuse was, "I was here. I just came as the Invisible Woman."
- I broke my glasses in gym and pretended I couldn't see well enough to stay in school. They let me and my friend leave so he could walk me to where my mom was going to pick me up.
- I said I had an appointment with the doctor, because my dad has a PhD and we went to the movies.
- I used the excuse that I missed the bus for months, until the school caught on that I lived across the street. I could see my high school from my porch.
- When I was in middle school, I was supposed to be singing in a talent show, which was NOT going to happen on my watch. So the night before, I faked stomach pains so believable my parents decided to take me to the ER because I was apparently showing signs of appendicitis. They gave me a cat scan and it turned out I had an ovarian cyst on the side where my "pain" was. I ended up missing a lot more than one day of school because they had to perform surgery to remove it. To this day, nobody knows I faked the stomach pains and finding that cyst was a miracle.
- If you tell your teacher you contracted lice over the weekend, they'll actually be thankful you didn't come to class. The email is quick and easy: "That's the last time I'm buying a beanie from a thrift store..."



Wheel Word Challenge

Your aim is to make as many words of two letters or more and using the letters in the word wheel only once in each word. Always include the letter in the center of the wheel. No proper names allowed.

Can you find a 9 letter word? _____

Total words found: _____

Score: Good = 10+ | Excellent = 14+ | Outstanding = 18+

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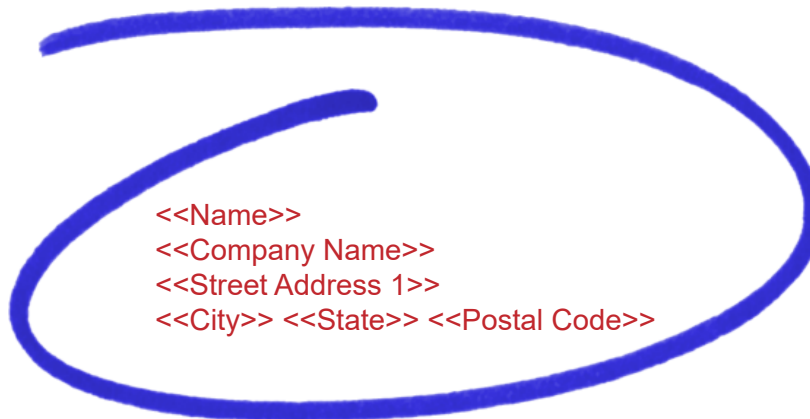
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"As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in schools."
-Author Unknown

Photo Contest

Send Us Your Picture



Create an "Insta-pool" to top off your summer! Everything you need is buried in the shop or laying around the farm.

Get that camera out and snap some pictures, then send them to us. The catch? Every picture submitted must show a copy of our newsletter. So when on vacation, sitting around a cozy fire, jumping out of an airplane or pulling an Evil Knievel stunt, hold a copy of our newsletter and take a photo. Then send it in to us and you will be entered to win one of our custom C&E dump trucks loaded with C&E prizes. Send your picture to news@candetrenching.com.

