



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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He surveyed our canals.

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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 offer 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.

December 2016

What do Old Maid, hot cocoa, walks in the woods, and jumping on the couch have to do with each other? Read on to find out...

As I write this, we had the first snow of the year last night, creating a perfect environment to think about Christmas. This year our family is staying local all through the Christmas season and I will have to admit I have been humming, "There is no place like home for the holidays". Even as a young child, we were often traveling over Christmas which was fun, but there is something extra special about being home. What do you remember about Christmas as a young child?

For me, in eastern Kansas, it often would start with a trip to the woods on Grandpa's farm. I remember frozen ground and a fresh layer of snow, frosty breath and bright, crisp, fresh air as we walked into the woods to gather fresh greenery and twigs with red berries. I loved those trips to the woods, as adventure and excitement was always just around the next tree. Walks there with my Dad would bring stories of sapling climbing. (Find a small sapling, climb up till it bends and ride back to the ground. Note: If you try this, don't get one that leaves you hanging at the halfway point!) He would also point out the spot he wanted to build a dam for irrigation water. After coming out of the woods, we would stop in at Grandma's house for some hot cocoa and saltine crackers with peanut butter on them. Then we would play a robust game of Old Maid or Uno for a while before heading home with our spoils from the woods.



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
A friendly neighborhood dog watches with interest as Rudy & Robert spread pipe in the snow.

Dad farmed and dairy farmed with his brothers and father. As a family run business, the only guarantee was that there was always more work than time. Especially on Christmas Eve, it seemed to be a given that there would be a last minute problem to delay his coming home. My sister and I would stand on the couch to look out the big window facing the drive, bounce and wait and ask Mom over and over, "When is he coming?" After a nice dinner on Christmas Eve, we would always open our big gifts, so we were motivated to get on with it! Then Christmas Day, it was dinner at the grandparents after church and

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She Farmed, He Worked. Together They Got it Done!

When you pump your irrigation water out of a canal, you can thank Marvin Shollenberger. He was one of the many men who surveyed the land and oversaw the construction of the irrigation canals and pump stations throughout the Columbia Basin.



Marvin & Marjorie Shollenberger pioneered in The Basin.

In 1951, Marvin & Marjorie Shollenberger moved from Tieton, Washington to Moses Lake, where Marvin began working for the Bureau of Reclamation on the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project. Marvin assisted in installing all the irrigation canals and the surveying and installation of controls. He made sure the grade was just right so that all the irrigation water was mostly gravity fed. The first year he lived in Moses lake he worked primarily on Potholes Dam. The mosquitos at Potholes were terrible. "It felt like you were getting eaten alive. When we'd go down there, there would be black swarms of mosquitoes as big as a house." After that first year, the Bureau moved all its workers down to Eltopia. "There was nothing down here in regards to irrigation," remarked Marvin. "I started everything from scratch."

In 1958, Marvin and Marjorie purchased a farm near Mesa. Originally, they were going into a 4-way partnership but things changed. Each partner had to be worth \$5000 and as it turned out, only Marvin and Marjorie qualified. So they bought the farm and began farming alone. At this same time, Marvin was laid off of his job with the Bureau and took a job with the Corp of Engineers in Walla Walla. The family moved to Walla Walla and kept the farm near Mesa.

"We started with nothing," tells Marvin. "Since my job was in Walla Walla, Marjorie and the kids would live and work down on the farm all summer. They would do all the farming, then I'd come down on weekends and vacation days to help out. We didn't have a lot of money so we purchased all used equipment. I first purchased an International Farm All H – just a 40 horse, so it only pulled a single bottom plow. I found a little 6-foot disc and later borrowed Mr. Hailey's grain seeder. He had never met me before and wasn't sure about letting me borrow it but he let me use it and that is how we planted our first crop. The ground was not smooth. I knew sprinklers were coming out so I wasn't worried about irrigation. However, I hadn't thought about the cost of sprinklers. We were able to get a loan and bought enough sprinklers for one plot. When we were farming two plots, we'd water one section than we'd move everything including a mainline to water the other section.

"We didn't even have a pipe trailer," recalls Marjorie. "It was a huge amount of work."

"The first year of farming, the kids and I stayed with my brother," tells Marjorie. "Eventually we put up a small cabin that had no running water or plumbing. After several summers with no running water, I threatened Marvin. 'I don't care if you rob a bank, but I'm not spending another summer out here without a well.'" The lack of an outdoor toilet was another source of

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Eltopia School District #15

When I was talking to Marvin & Marjorie (story at left), they told me the following too. In 1952, the Bureau moved its labor camp down to Eltopia and the Shollenberger's moved there too. With all the new families, the Eltopia School District, (yes, Eltopia was its own district) swelled from 15 students to 45 almost overnight. The additional students proved to be a challenge. The two teachers who taught soon retired and more were hired. The Principal was also the Superintendent and his wife was a teacher. Soon, the school needed a janitor and a bus driver. Marjorie's father fulfilled the janitor position and Marjorie drove the 15-passenger bus. "That bus was full. In fact, it was standing room only, sometimes," Marjorie recalled. The next year, the school purchased a new bus but needed someone to drive it back from Ohio. So Marvin & Marjorie took a road trip back to visit Marvin's family in Pennsylvania and then drove the bus home. "They paid us \$250 to drive it back but we had to buy the gas. We had planned to tow the car behind the school bus, but when we started the car it was swaying so bad that we ended up driving both vehicles back." Marjorie drove the 48-passenger bus until she quit in 1958 when they moved to Walla Walla. Her route took her 2 ½ hours to complete twice a day. She earned \$97 a month. As more people settled in The Basin, more people wanted schools closer to their areas. This conflict ended up splitting the Eltopia School District which eventually led to its closure when it was absorbed into Pasco School District and North Franklin School District.

Attitude Adjustment...

Continued from page 1

Christmas with all the cousins. I always felt sorry for the kids that had to wait until Christmas morning to open their gifts, then rush to church. Still do, in fact! We would get up Christmas morning and open stocking gifts so we really felt we had the best of it! The funny thing is that money was extremely tight in those days and I can't remember a single gift I received then. What I do remember is the extreme joy of it all, the anticipation, and the love of our parents as they sacrificed to make Christmas such a wonderful time. Looking back now with a father's eyes, that is the gift I hope to pass on to my children. A little more challenging than swiping the Discover card, but hopefully worth it.

So, what do you remember about Christmas as a child? I would love to hear your memories if you are so inclined. My memories were triggered by a conversation last week with a long time customer/friend. He hasn't lost his love of Christmas even though he has several years on me. In fact, he made me laugh when he said, "You know how they always say it is more blessed to give than receive? Well, I tell my grandchildren that just in case it isn't, give something to yourself. That way you will have both bases covered!" After I got done laughing, he said, "Now you can't put that in the newsletter." Which you can see, I did anyway! But his name shall be withheld to honor the spirit of the request even if not the letter. All in all, I hope you have a wonderful Christmas with many warm and love filled memories created. Now I think I am going to go have a cup of hot cocoa!



Irrigation Time....

I know, it's hard to plan for irrigation season with all the snow on the ground. But a bit of pre planning now will be to your benefit this spring. Our spring availability is filling up rapidly.

Do you have work you want done this spring?

We need to know that now so we can save a spot for it. Spring is our busiest time of year and the schedule fills up so fast. Call Jake today at 509-545-6940 and get your job on the list.



Sal, Edgar and Nate laying 12" mainline way out in Washington wine country. This main will provide irrigation water to another large block of grapes.



Putting a new (to us) scraper through its paces! We are excited to add another scraper to our fleet giving us a few more options to support your project better!



Trying to show the fun of a busy project with several machines working in tight quarters and talented operators moving almost as one. It is a beautiful thing!

Laughable One-Liners

1. Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.
2. I'm great at multitasking. I can waste time, be unproductive and procrastinate all at once.
3. Just read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?
4. Telling a girl to calm down works about as well as trying to baptize a cat.
5. I can totally keep secrets. It's the people I tell them to that can't.
6. Apparently I snore so loudly that it scares everyone in the car I'm driving.
7. Outvoted 1-1 by my wife again.
8. My wife is so negative. I remembered the car seat, the stroller, AND the diaper bag. Yet all she can talk about is how I forgot the baby.
9. I saw a sign that said "Watch for children" and I thought, "That sounds like a fair trade".
10. A woman never wakes up her second baby just to see it smile.
11. I never ask my kids to call me. I just change the Netflix password and then don't respond to their texts.
12. Remember, children. The best way to get a puppy for Christmas is to beg for a baby brother.
13. When you stop believing in Santa Claus is when you start getting clothes for Christmas!
14. I wasn't planning on giving Christmas gifts this year until I heard about those exploding Samsung Galaxy phones.
15. There are 364 days until Christmas and people already have their Christmas lights up. Unbelievable...
16. Wife walks in to see the boys have built a chair fort. Wife: PUT THOSE CHAIRS BACK! Me: (climbing out of fort) YOU HEARD YOUR MOTHER!
17. The first time I got a universal remote control I thought to myself, "This changes everything".
18. As I watched the dog chasing his tail I thought, "Dogs are easily amused". Then I realized I was watching the dog chasing his tail.
19. Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect.
20. I like to hold hands at the movies... which always seems to startle strangers.



Shollenberger's Cont...

Continued from page 2

conflict. "The first summer we stayed at the farm, we didn't have an outside toilet but there was a big piece of sagebrush on the property. It was all ok until the day the neighbor asked, 'What are you doing behind that big sagebrush?'" Then building an outhouse became a top priority. "There were no trees in the Basin and it was pitch black at night. Whenever you drove anywhere at night, you'd run over a lot of jack rabbits. They'd just run right in front of you."

As the years passed, both Marvin and Marjorie attended college during the winter months. Marjorie earned her nursing degree and Marvin took classes and passed the civil service engineering exam. Passing this exam gave him the equivalent of a 4-year degree and helped him further his career. At the Corp, there was about 1000 people employed. Later, Marvin became a supervisor. "It was luck," said Marvin. "And by the way, I spell luck, G-O-D." They both furthered their education while parenting their three kids, working on the farm and working full time jobs, too.

They survived by hiring help. "We started out with a Hispanic man working for us," explains Marvin. "He worked a long time and then he had to return to Mexico. About a year later, his son came and asked for a job. He worked for us for a short time before leaving because our farm was small and we didn't have enough work for him. I was kind of put out with him leaving," said Marvin. "When he left, he said his sister and her boyfriend would come work for me. I said, 'No way'. About two weeks later, he came back and wondered if I had found any help. I hadn't and he said, 'Don't you want my sister?'" I said, "Ok, send them over.' His sister and her family have worked for years with us. They live in our original house. Her kids have become our grandkids. In fact, they probably don't even know our first names. They just call us Grandpa and Grandma."

Life pioneering the land was not easy but neither Marvin or Marjorie would have written their life's chapter any different way.



If you have been missing Robert, it may be due to his slow method of travel! However we're glad to know that he's licensed to ride.



Thanks for calling, Again!

Cameron Nursery
 City of Kennewick
 City of Pasco
 Delma McAfee
 Doug Muse
 Empey Brothers
 Finley Cherries LLC
 Gesa Credit Union
 LW Weidert Farms - Tim Weidert
 Mil-Ray Inc.
 Simplot/Grandview Farms
 Three Monkeys LLC
 Van Rijn Farms
 Will Robison
 Wire 2 Water Design & Consulting

Welcome to C&E

We thrive on referrals.

Colt Warren
 Tesoro Logistics

Heard the Good News?

Luke 2:10-11 -- And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Micah 5:2 -- But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

2 Corinthians 9:15 -- Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.



Our thanks to Anchor Hauling & Dale for braving the snow and cold to deliver pipe to us. Really, why does working in snow feel like abuse, but playing in it is so much fun?



Yep, getting ready to pour concrete in the snow! Which means a couple nights of running heaters to keep it from freezing while it cures, but no little bit of snow is going to keep this crew down...for long, anyway.

See you at the Pasco show!



We are about to embark on our favorite winter job - catching up with you! We will be at the Eastern Washington Trade January 3rd & 4th. We have great door prizes, free stuff and fantastic company! Sign up for your free TONKA TRUCK! Stop by and enjoy a break.



**EASTERN
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COME GROW WITH US

January 3 & 4, 2017
TRAC - Pasco, WA

Stop by for a free drink.

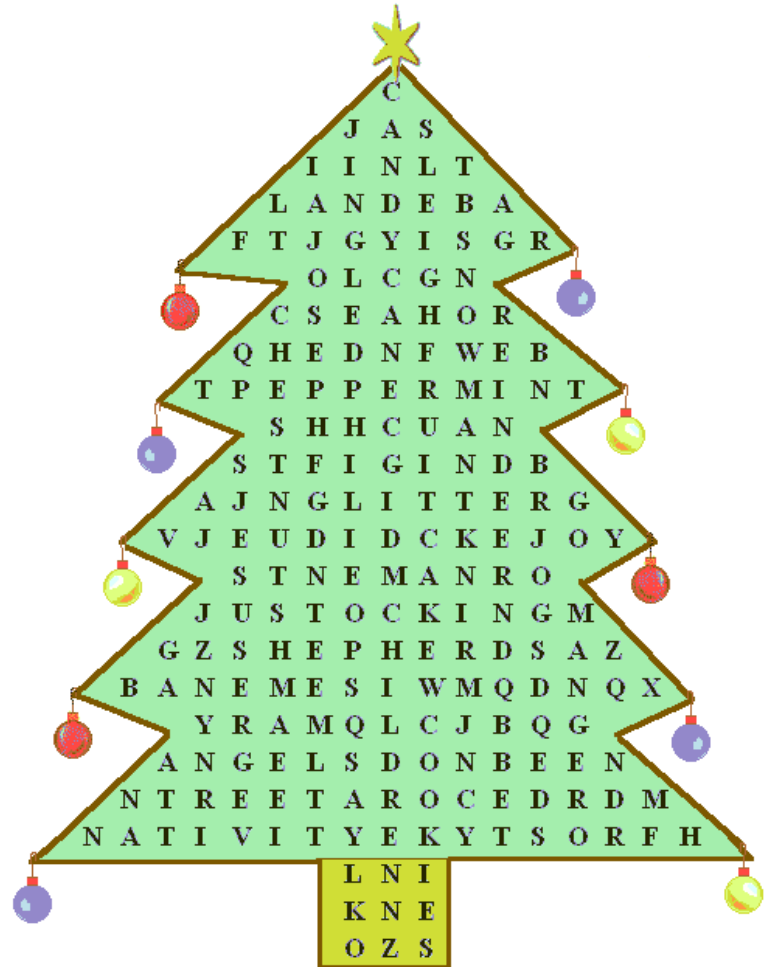


This was a snow creation at a snow festival in Heilongjiang, China. Amazing talent.



Cwentin and Matt put the final touches on the gravel before paving back a road crossing in North Franklin County.

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH



- | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Angels | Glitter | Shepherds |
| Candy Cane | Jesus | Sleigh |
| Chestnuts | Joseph | Snow |
| Children | Manger | Snowman |
| Cookies | Mary | Star |
| December | Nativity | Stocking |
| Decorate | Noel | Tree |
| Frosty | Ornaments | Wisemen |
| Fruitcake | Peppermint | |
| Gifts | Reindeer | |

Thanks to akidsheart.com

Answers to IQ test on page 7: 1. Nephew; 2. 1; 3. 12; 4. No; 5. 70; 6. 2; 7. 60; 8. 9; 9. 0; 10. 12; 11. 2nd; 12. 5000; 13. Mary

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How Smart Are You Really?

This simple test has been used for over 50 years and has tested reasoning and intelligence with great accuracy. If you don't score high, remember, you can always improve. It has been said Bill Gates once took this test and scored a 3 on it. Start the timer, you only get two minutes.

1. What relation is your niece's brother to you?

- Don't know Uncle
- Cousin Son
- Nephew

2. How many birthdays does the average man have?

- Don't know 65
- 1 75
- 10

3. Some months have 31 days; how many have 28?

- Don't know 3
- 1 9
- 2 12

4. Is it legal for a man in Scotland to marry his widow's sister?

- Don't know
- No
- Yes

5. Divide 30 by 1/2 and add 10. What is the answer?

- Don't know 50
- 10 70
- 25 90

6. If there are 3 apples and you take away 2, how many do you have?

- Don't know 2
- 1 3

7. A doctor gives you three pills telling you to take one every half hour. How many minutes would the pills last??

- Don't know 60
- 20 90
- 40

8. A farmer has 17 sheep, and all but 9 die. How many are left?

- Don't know 5
- 1 8
- 3 9

9. How many males and how many female animals did Moses take on the ark?

- Don't know 1
- 3 0
- 2

10. How many two cent stamps are there in a dozen?

- Don't know 6
- 1 9
- 3 12

11. You are participating in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

- Don't know 2nd
- 1st 3rd

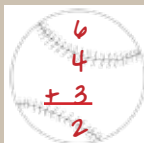
12. Very tricky math! Note: This must be done in your head only. Do NOT use paper and pencil or a calculator. Try it.

Take 1000 and add 40 to it. Now add another 1000. Now add 30. Add another 1000. Now add 20. Now add another 1000. Now add 10. What is the total?

- Don't know 6000
- 5000 4100
- 6000

13. Mary's father has five daughters: 1. Nana, 2. Nene, 3. Nini, 4. Nono. What is the name of the fifth daughter?

- Don't know Mary
- Nano Nunu



2+2 = fish
3+3 = eight
7+7 = triangle



1 Cross
+ 3 Nails
4 Given

→ BORN
BORN
BORN
BORN



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“Dear Santa, if you bring presents with batteries, bring batteries.”

Photo Contest

The Latest Dirt went to...Mt Hood!



Shelly Urlacher enjoyed the Wallowa Lake Tram on Mt Hood. What a gorgeous view! Thanks for taking us along.



Had to include this one of Shelly, too. Shriners Peak Lookout near Mt. Rainier is on my bucket list of places to visit. She seems to have scored the perfect day for this adventure!

Win Big!!

Get that camera out and snap some pictures. 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.



Sorry, cute girl not included.

