



Spring? Maybe...

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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Our caring community continues to humble us.

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Keep the pictures coming!

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.

March 2017

When the house is on fire, break the rules!

The door to my office banged open, followed by the rushing, pounding feet of my son. "DAD! Come QUICK! The HOUSE IS ON FIRE!" Instantly, I was on my feet and headed to the door at which point I remembered I was talking to Verizon about our phone service. "I've got to go," I said, hitting the end call button and tossing the headset on the counter. "Where is it?" I shouted. "The microwave," he replied breathlessly. I made it to the house and in the door to the kitchen in a time that would have made the famous Olympian Usain Bolt gasp. As I slid to a stop, I looked around searching for the flames that in those few short seconds had become fixed in my mind. After all, he said the house was on fire! Instead, I saw a slightly smoky haze that the fan over the stove was quickly dissipating, an open microwave that was flame free, a fairly calm wife and daughter, and an interested baby. "Where's the fire?" I asked. "Mom got it out," my daughter replied. "It's in the sink."



Got a few holes around? Call us! We've got the equipment and dirt to get you back farming.

I have been thinking about communication a lot lately. In our business, it is one of the most important things (if not the most important). There are so many ways for communication to get distorted. From the customer to the contractor team, from team member to team member, team to supplier, team to inspector, to project manager, and on and on. If the first set of drawings were perfect in construction, from there on down it would cut construction costs by a huge amount or as our President might say "a very, very huge amount"! It's not likely to happen but it's one of the best things for a construction company to focus on improving day by day and something that C&E is constantly working on. It is tough. As this story illustrates, in my son's eyes there was a big problem that needed my immediate attention. That is what he was trying to communicate and did, quite effectively. Had my wife not been as calm and clear thinking, it could have become a much bigger problem.

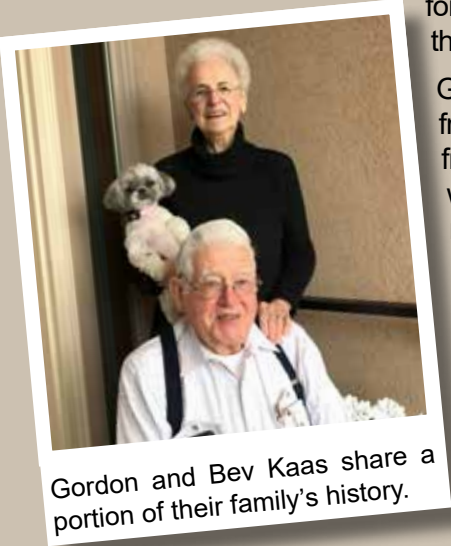
What would have happened if Terrance had come in and realized I was on the phone? He knows he is supposed to wait quietly until I am off the phone if he wants to talk to me. What if he had waited and five minutes later when I am off, had said, "Dad, I think you need to come in the house." When I inquire as to why he might say, "Well, ummm Mom was defrosting the tortillas for supper and I noticed that they were sparking in the microwave. So I told Mom and she stopped it but it kept sparking. So she has tried to spray it with a spray bottle of water and it just keeps sparking and burning." Now I would probably be on my feet, still confused but starting to understand that I needed to go check things out. But by this time, if Marla had not acted, we could have a real problem on our hands!

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Farm Truck School Buses

"I'd save a seat for my best friend, Robert George, every day on the bus," recalls Gordon Kaas. "I was the first to be picked up and he was one of the last." Together the boys rode the "bus", which was really an old farm truck that they had turned into a bus, to their little country school in Richland. The bus had seats lengthwise along the side then a section down the middle with the backs together. There was no heater so it was pretty cold in the winter. By the 4th grade, the school bought a real bus. "I remember getting on the new bus for the first time and thinking this was the longest thing I'd ever seen."



Gordon and Bev Kaas share a portion of their family's history.

Gordon's father was originally from Denmark and his mother from Canada. The two met while working in Madras, Oregon, then moved to Richland in 1918 hoping for better farm land. The family chose a plot of land north of Richland and planted an orchard. Four years later, they were forced to move when the government condemned the land for the Hanford project. "At twelve years old, I thought it was fun to drive around and search for

available property to buy, but available land was scarce. We'd find a piece and make an offer, only to find out that someone had already purchased it," recalls Gordon. Land was quickly snatched up because of so many displaced farm families. Eventually, Gordon's family purchased a piece of land in Kennewick. "We all worked hard on the farm. We had some asparagus. My twin brother and I would go out and cut the asparagus before school each morning. In the heat of the summer, sometimes we'd have to cut it twice a day. After cutting asparagus, we'd go hoe weeds in the peppermint." The peppermint was harvested by a team of horses and a sickle mower. "After the peppermint dried a bit, we'd bring it in and stomp it into a tank to extract oil. We'd get three or four guys stomping the peppermint leaves to make sure it was really packed in tight. Once it was full, we'd put steam to it and extract the oil. We always had a barrel of peppermint oil in our laundry room ready for sale when the price was right. It was too valuable to leave outside. We would sell peppermint oil for \$6-\$7 a pound. Salesmen would come along and buy it for peppermint gum, cooking, and more.

In the early 40's, the Kaas's purchased their first tractor. The tractor came with a bigger sickle and it drove faster, a highlight to young boys. Farming was still lots of work. Gordon's father passed away when Gordon was 16 and the boys continued working on the farm. "My brother and I shared duties. I took the irrigation portion and he took the milking. I think I out foxed him on that deal," smiles Gordon. "Irrigation was six or seven months out of the year and that milking was every day. One day, my brother was sick and so I thought I'd try to help him out. But that cow wouldn't let me milk her. She'd kick and carry on. Finally, I had to go get my brother up to milk the cow."

"While working on the farm, I would watch the men leave with their dinner buckets to go work at Hanford and think to myself that that looked like pretty easy work," Gordon said. "I applied at Hanford and got a good job quickly because I was a displaced farmer's son." Gordon worked there a year, then was drafted into the military and served two years with one and a half years in Korea. When he returned home, he married Bev and settled down. "I worked at Hanford and Energy Northwest for 21 years. By that time, farming was starting to look better and my kids were asking about

[Continued on page 5](#)



Wayne hard at work putting the final numbers to a bid before deadline.



Need dirt? Sure, we can help. Back right up here!

House Fire...Continued from page 1

Keith Lee, a business man and author out of the Seattle area, says that communication is 7% the words you say, 38% intonation and 55% body language. When Terrance shouted "House on fire!", I could hear the intonation that there was no joke. He was on the verge of panic, his body language shouted problem and when I looked up, his words clearly articulated major problem. Such clear communication from an 11-year-old!

That same evening, since dinner was tainted with a metal pool, we headed out for dinner to a place that does call ahead seating. With it being a little later, I knew they would be busy and our 18-month-old gets a bit cranky if she eats too late. So I called and they said it would be a ten to twenty minute wait and we would be in the queue. "We'll see you in twenty-five minutes," the friendly gal I was talking to said as I hung up. Knowing we were in the queue, we headed over trying to relax and let our heart rate come back down from our "house fire".

Once there, I checked in and she asked for my confirmation number. "I don't remember that she gave me one," I told her. "Yes, she did," the gal replied. "I was the one that talked to you." Great! Well, then what is the problem if you were the one that talked to me, I wondered. I just looked a little confused and she sighed and said, "You have to have that number. It is very important!" "Okay, I am sorry," I said. "I just don't remember you giving it to me. I must have missed it." (It's very possible she gave it to me and I missed it. After all, my brain was still working on adrenaline when I called!) She threw off some frustrated body language, gave me a buzzer and said it would be a short wait. I slinked away, having been thoroughly put in my place by the young woman and no longer feeling warm and fuzzy towards her or the restaurant.

The interesting thing about this is how just a bit of tweaking to the attitude and a slight adjustment to the words said and the body language and I could have walked out her biggest fan. Something more like, "Do you remember your confirmation number? Oh, don't worry about it. I was the one that talked to you so it must be your lucky day! Here is your buzzer and we'll get you in shortly. Oh, and in the future, do your best to hang onto that confirmation number as..." (I still don't know why they need that since she never told me why it was VERY important). Which brings up a final point, start with "Why" for the most effective communication. If you are interested, there is a good book with that title "Start With Why". I recommend it as a good read if communication is an interesting or important subject to you.

"The work we have had done by you has been done professionally and we will continue to recommend you to anyone who will listen." - Cameron Nursery

Amazing Community Support

Thank you to all of you who wrote in, called or just asked us about my Dad. It was a bit humbling and heartwarming all at once! He is home now and in physical therapy, making steady gains but with about two months to go until he can put any weight on his injured leg. Aaron is back from another round of treatment and the doctors tell him he is doing well with all things considered. Unfortunately, this last round did the work of thinning shears on his hair, so he is a little less top heavy than when you saw him last time. Lord willing, that will soon grow back. Thanks again for all your prayers and interest on Aaron and Everett's behalf!



Everett found humor in his current circumstances and sent us a photo of his newest fear - being ejected from his power lift chair.

"I told my doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places." - Henny Youngman

March History Tidbits

March 2, 1949 - First automatic street lights are installed in New Milford, Connecticut.

March 3, 1931 - The Star Spangled Banner becomes the National Anthem.

March 4, 1681 - King Charles II of England granted a huge tract of land in the New World to William Penn to settle an outstanding debt. The area later became Pennsylvania.

March 4, 1789 - The Constitution of the United States of America goes into effect.

March 6, 1950 - Silly Putty was invented.

March 7, 1876 - Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone.

March 8, 1969 - The Pontiac Firebird Trans Am, the epitome of the American muscle car, is introduced.

March 10, 1862 - The first issue of U.S. government paper money occurred as \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills began circulation.

March 12, 1888 - The Great Blizzard of '88 struck the northeastern U.S. The storm lasted 36 hours with snowfall totaling over 40 inches in New York City where over 400 persons died from the surprise storm.

March 17, 1845 - The rubber band was invented. Can you imagine life without them?

March 18, 1974 - The five-month-old Arab oil embargo against the U.S. was lifted. The embargo was in retaliation for American support of Israel during the Yom Kippur War of 1973 in which Egypt and Syria suffered a crushing defeat. In the U.S., the resulting embargo had caused long lines at gas stations as prices soared 300 percent amid shortages and a government ban on Sunday gas sales.

March 20, 1922 - The US Postmaster General orders all homes to get mailboxes.

March 24, 1934 - The Philippine Islands in the South Pacific were granted independence by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after nearly 50 years of American control.

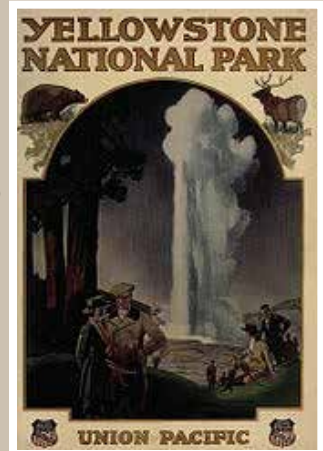
March 27, 1977 - The worst accident in the history of civil aviation occurred as two Boeing 747 jets collided on the ground in the Canary Islands, resulting in 570 deaths.

March 29, 1848 - Ice jams stop the flow of water over Niagara Falls.

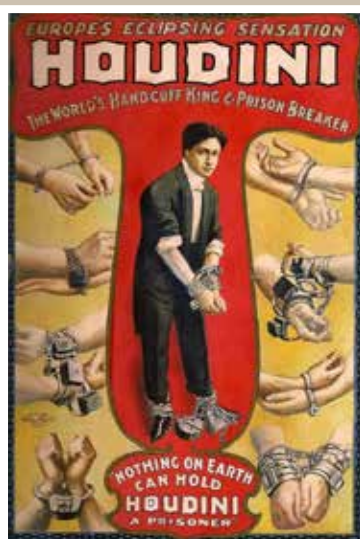
March 30, 1967 - U.S.A. buys Alaska for \$7.2 million.

March 30, 1981 - Newly elected President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest while walking toward his limousine in Washington, D.C., following a speech inside a hotel. The President was then rushed into surgery to remove a 22-caliber bullet from his left lung. "I should have ducked," Reagan joked. Three others were also hit including Reagan's Press Secretary, James Brady, who was shot in the forehead but survived. The President soon recovered from the surgery and returned to his duties.

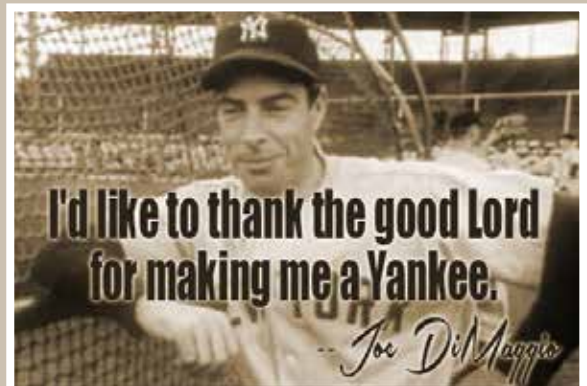
March 30, 1964 - Jeopardy debuts on television.



March 1, 1872 - Yellowstone becomes the U.S.'s first national park.



March 24, 1874 (Birthday)- Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was born (as Erik Weisz) in Budapest, Hungary. He came to the U.S. with his family as an infant and lived in New York City. He began as a Coney Island magician, then became a world famous escape artist, known for escaping from chains, handcuffs, straightjackets, locked boxes and milk cans filled with water. He died on Halloween 1926 from a burst appendix and was buried in Queens, NY.



March 12, 1942 - Baseball great Joe Dimaggio agrees to a new contract with the NY Yankees, and gets a \$6,250 raise. My, how times have changed!



The first commercially built U.S. computer, the UNIVAC I, sold.

Kaas...Continued from page 2

getting a horse. I decided if I was getting land to feed a horse, I was getting enough land to feed a family and it needed to be done before I was forty.”

In 1972, at age 39, Gordon and Bev purchased a farm and began farming mainly alfalfa and a small bit of wheat. “After a few years, I added potatoes. I soon learned that as a solo farmer, farming alfalfa and potatoes at the same time was a bit of a strain. However,” Gordon pauses and nods towards his wife Bev, “when you start farming at thirty-nine, you have built in help that comes with you. Bev did everything on the farm. I couldn’t have done it without her. She baled as much hay as I did, and believe it or not she enjoyed it too.” Together, they farmed many years.



What do you call a cow that has had her calf delivered?

Answer: De-calfinated!

Contributed by:
Arlen Wolf of Quinter, Kansas



Lonnie uses a tag line to guide a trench box into place, with Cwentin’s expert hand at the controls.

Below: Excavating to install a 36-inch water pipeline for the City of Pasco.



Our crew working in the snow. One of our friends in the business said, “You sure have a tough crew! I’ve been watching them lay pipe in the cold and snow.” Tough and dedicated!



Anchor Hauling helping C&E out on one of our projects in spite of the weather. Thanks, guys!

Thanks for calling, Again!

Anchor Hauling LLC
Bechtel National Inc.
City of Pasco
Heritage Landscaping, Inc.
Roundy Farms
South Columbia Irrigation Dist
Western States (CAT) Equipment
Yost Gallagher Construction

Welcome to C&E

We thrive on referrals.

Applebee’s - Pasco
Bosch Construction
Cintas
Heather Flores
Ruan’s Garden
Taxes Y Mas
Toyota of Tri-Cities
UPS Freight - Richland

Home-Cooked Meals

The elementary school cook prided herself on the healthy meals she provided with lots of vegetables and fruits. When the power failed one day, the cook couldn't serve a hot meal in the cafeteria, so at the last minute, she whipped up great stacks of peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches. As one little boy filled his plate, he said, "It's about time. At last, a home-cooked meal!"

Flower Problems

Man to florist: 'I'd like a bunch of flowers, please.'

Florist: 'Certainly, sir. What flowers would you like?'

Man: 'Er.. I'm not sure...Ummm..'

Florist: 'Let me help you, sir. What exactly have you done?'

Rain Dance

The manager of the garden center overhears one of his nurserymen talking to a customer.

'No, we haven't had any of that in ages,' says the nurseryman. 'And I don't know when we'll be getting any more.'

The customer leaves and the manager walks over to give him a telling off. 'Never tell a customer we can't get them something,' he says. 'Whatever they want we can always get it on order and deliver it. D'you understand?'

The nurseryman nods. 'So what did he want?' asks the manager.

'Rain,' replies the nurseryman.

The Specialist

John was waiting at the bus stop with his friend, Tom, when a truck went by loaded up with rolls of sod.

John said, 'I'm gonna do that when I win the lottery, Tom.'

'What's that, John?' responds his mate.

'Send my lawn away to be cut,' concludes John.

Jesus was a "No Show"

Richard, my friend's little grandson, came home from Sunday School and I asked him what they had studied.

His reply was, 'Nothing.' So I asked him, 'Didn't you study Jesus?' Richard's reply was, 'No, he wasn't even there.'

Eternal Benefits

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.

Saving the Easter Bunny

A man was driving along the highway when he saw the Easter bunny hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately the Easter bunny jumped in front of the car and was struck.

The basket of eggs and candy that the rabbit was carrying went flying all over the place. The driver, being a sensitive man, as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit carrying the basket. Much to his dismay, the colorful rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry.

A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong. 'I feel terrible,' he explained. 'I accidentally hit the Easter bunny and killed it. Children will be so disappointed. What should I do?'

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk, and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the dead, limp rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the furry animal. Miraculously, the Easter bunny came to life, jumped up, picked up the spilled eggs and candy, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down the road. Fifty yards away, the Easter bunny stopped, turned around, waved and hopped down the road. Fifty yards further on, he turned again, waved and hopped another fifty yards before he waved again.

The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can. He ran over to the woman and asked, 'What is in your spray can? What did you spray on the Easter bunny?'

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: 'Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave.'

Hymn Confusion

Maria came home from Sunday School on Palm Sunday and told her mother that she had learned a new song about a cross-eyed bear named Gladly.

It took her mother a while before she realized that the hymn Maria had been singing was really, "Gladly The Cross I'd Bear."

Poor Sick Boy

Marty, a little boy, was in church one Easter Sunday with his mother Doris, when he started feeling sick.

'Mummy,' he inquired. 'Can we leave now?'

'No,' his mother replied. 'The service isn't over yet.'

'Well, I think I'm about to throw up,' Marty announced.

'Then go out the front door, around to the back of the church and throw up behind a bush,' said Doris.

After about sixty seconds, Marty returned to his pew,

alongside his mother.

'Did you throw up?' Marty's Mum asked quietly.

'Yes,' Marty answered, embarrassed.

'How could you have gone all the way to the back of the church and returned so quickly?' Doris demanded.

'I didn't have to go out of the church, Mummy. They have a box next to the front door that says, "For the Sick".'

A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away.

'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.

'I don't have to,' the five-year-old replied.

'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Ernie explained. 'But this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

Things to Learn from the Easter Bunny

- Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.
- Walk softly and carry a big carrot.
- Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
- There's no such thing as too much candy.
- All work and no play can make you a basket case.
- Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
- Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
- Some body parts should be floppy.
- Keep your paws off other people's jellybeans.
- The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
- An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare.
- To show your true colors you have to come out of your shell.
- The best things in life are still sweet and gooey!



Elvin with Anchor Hauling gets loaded up with trench spoils from a local project by Nate.



If you drive on Road 38 in Pasco, you may notice less puddles! Our crew is installing a new storm system for the City of Pasco.

Statue Arrested in Germany

True Story: Police have arrested a large Easter Bunny statue in Duisburg, Germany after homeowners reported a 'stalker' staring into their window.



The couple contacted authorities after seeing a figure with a "striking" face about 1.8 metres (6ft) tall peering into their house. They then described to police that the offender was wearing a yellow shirt, blue check trousers and a green backpack.

When the police arrived on the scene to apprehend the stalker, they were faced with a 6-foot statue of the Easter Bunny.

One officer told us, 'We took him into custody but he hasn't said much yet.'

The police believe the bunny was placed outside the couple's home as a practical joke.

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MORE INSIDE!!!



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"Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said." - *Angel at the tomb, Matthew 28:5-6*

Photo Contest

The Latest Dirt....
...read by all - young and old!



The Latest Dirt narrowly escaped being ripped to shreds by Declan Mahler!

Send Us Your Picture

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.



C&E dump trucks loaded

