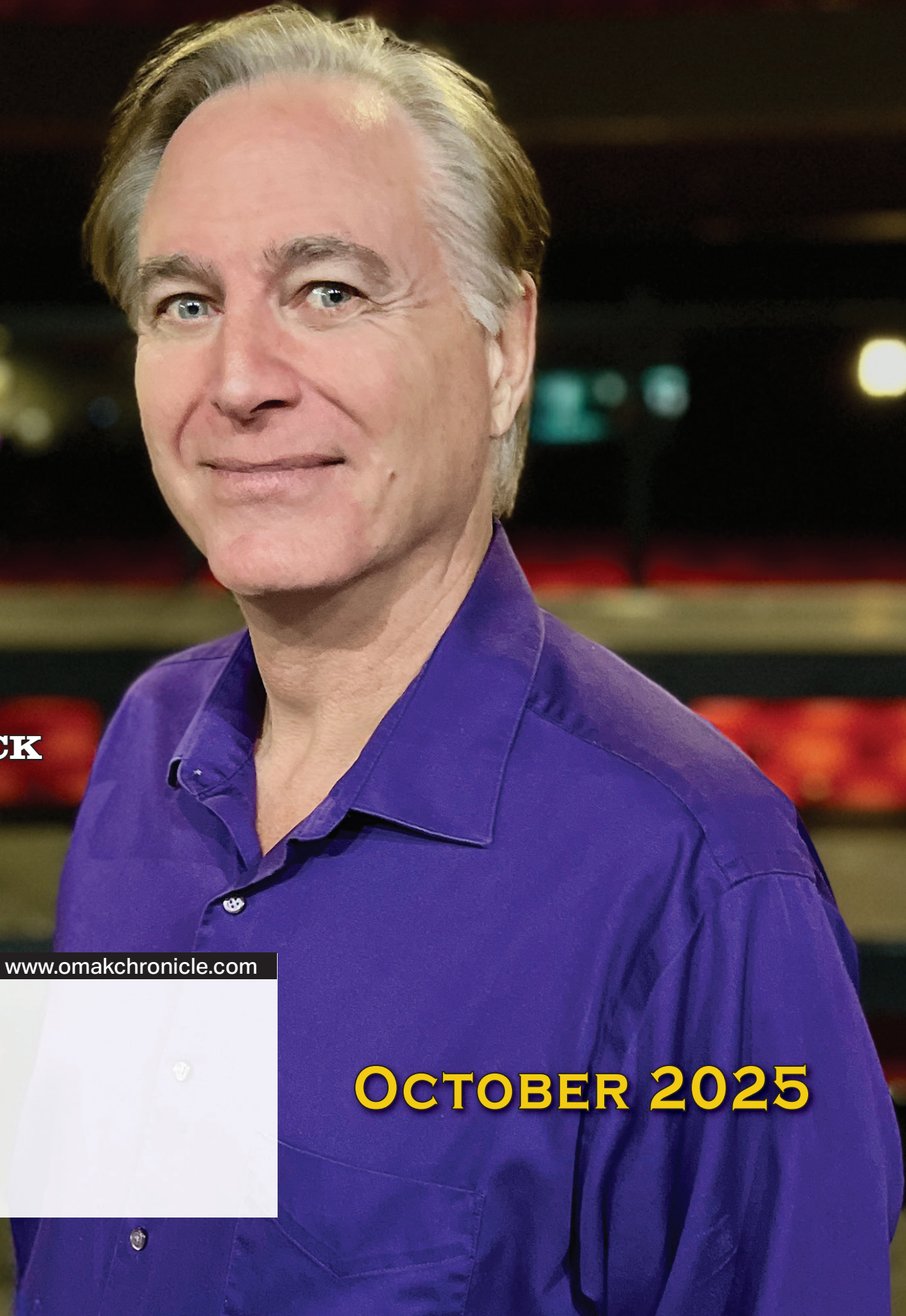


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**OCTOBER 2025**

# Early Loomis: Cattle, mining, several firsts

By Dee Camp  
*The Chronicle*

Loomis has its roots in the cattle industry, but mining played an even bigger role in growth of the unincorporated burg in northern Okanogan County.

The town is named for Julius Allen "J.A." Loomis, who came to the Sinlahekin Valley in 1886 and purchased an interest in a ranch at the base of Palmer Mountain, according to "History of North Washington," published 1904. It was also known as Loomiston in its early days.

In 1875, Phelps and Wadleigh cattle ranch located near what became Loomis. Owners of the Okanogan's first big cattle ranch were attracted by mild, open winters and waist-high bunch grass, according to Bruce A. Wilson in "Late Frontier: A History of Okanogan County, Washington."

Phelps and Wadleigh's cattle ranged in the Sinlahekin Valley, surrounded by Palmer, Aeneas, Chopaka and Gold mountains, according to the 1904 "History." During the early 1870s Hiram F. "Okanogan" Smith, John McDonald, James Palmer, George Runnels, Henry Wellington and others came to the valley, with some lending their names to the mountains.

Another early settler was Alvin R. Thorp, who raised fruit and other crops — including peanuts — in the valley. (For more on Thorp, see the Feb. 27 issue of *The Chronicle*.)

Jacob Neiderauer, also known as "Dutch Jake" and founder of the Q.S. mine, homesteaded at the base of Mount Aeneas.

During the winter of 1879-80, Phelps and Wadleigh lost most of its cattle — thousands of head — and unloaded their operation on Henry Wellington, an old-time prospector and stockman, according to the 1904 book.

## Enter Guy Waring

Wellington sold the Loomis ranch in 1884 to Guy Waring, founder of Winthrop and one of the first three Okanogan County commissioners.

Two years later, Waring and Loomis became business partners.

"It was at this time that the original trading post was established, and the point derived a 'local habitation and a name,'" according to the history book. "Their stock in trade, consisting of almost every variety of general merchandise, was freighted in from Spokane, a long, expensive and inconvenient haul, crossing the Columbia at 'Wild Goose Bill's' ferry."

The trading post became the first business enterprise in what would become northern Okanogan County. (The area was still part of Stevens County.)



OKANOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Loomis about 1905, looking north toward Chopaka Mountain.

"Notwithstanding the scarcity of (white) population the store did a flourishing business, the few customers making large individual purchases, thus swelling the volume of trade to profitable proportions," said the "History of North Washington."

Until the mining boom of the early 1890s, business was conducted in a small building at the creek on Loomis' ranch. Goods later were moved to a larger structure near the Northern Hotel, and business continued until 1898.

"Loomis improved rapidly during 1891-2, affording an embarrassment of riches in the way of business," according to the 1904 history.

## Town grows rapidly

The town boasted three general stores, eight saloons, two dance halls and other businesses. The Loomiston Journal, the town's first newspaper, was established in June 1893 — just before

the price of silver dropped. The paper hung on for a couple years before being shuttered, "History of North Washington" reported.

In 1888, George H. Noyes had arrived from Springfield, Mass., and purchased Waring's interest in the trading post, the 1904 book continued. Waring returned to Boston, Mass., but later came back to Okanogan County and located near Winthrop.

Through Noyes' efforts, a post office was established at Loomis in 1889, and he became the first postmaster until the start of Grover Cleveland's presidential administration in 1893. He later became U.S. commissioner, based in Loomis, according to the 1904 book.

"Postmarked Washington, Okanogan County," by Guy Reed Ramsey, lists other early postmasters as John Boyd, George H. Ellis, John P. Forde,

(Continued on page 18)



OKANOGAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Adair pack train heads for the mines on Grandview Mountain near Palmer Lake around 1905.

# Perception is everything: Rise above life's hardships

**N**o matter how bad life feels in the moment, it can always be worse.

That may sound like a tired old cliché, but I was recently reminded just how true it is—from several thousand feet in the air.

I recently took a helicopter ride with some friends over Lake Osoyoos in Oroville. It was one of those picture-perfect late-summer evenings, and as we lifted off and the world shrank beneath us, I felt something shift inside me.

The houses and people below looked like toy models—small, quiet, distant. Problems that felt enormous on the ground seemed to shrink with every foot of altitude.

It was a literal and emotional change in perspective. Just a few

weeks before that flight, my life felt like it was unraveling.

In early June, I fell asleep at the wheel and totaled my car.

By the grace of God, I walked away without a scratch, but I remember thinking at the time, this is as bad as it gets.

I was wrong.

Two weeks later, one of my best friends—someone I played music with, laughed with, leaned on—died suddenly. No warning. No time to prepare.

Then came news that a neighbor up the road had lost her son to a senseless act of violence. The kind of loss that has no words.

Then my father suffered a medical emergency and was airlifted to a hospital in Seattle. As of the time of writing this column, he was still in the hospital undergoing a procedure.

I don't share this to bring anyone down. Quite the

opposite.

We're surrounded by hardship these days.

It's in the headlines, the grocery store receipts, the moments when we realize we're tired of being tired. The world is heavy.

And yet, as I think back of looking out that helicopter window, I realized: we have a choice. We can focus on the weight of it all, or we can look

for the good. We can keep our eyes down, or we can rise above it—even if only in spirit.

Pain is real. Grief is real. But so is beauty, healing and the chance to see things differently. Sometimes, you just need a new vantage point to be reminded.

Perception is everything.

— Brock Hires is editor of *The Good Life* magazine.

He can be reached at [tgl@omakchronicle.com](mailto:tgl@omakchronicle.com).



**BROCK HIRES**

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John Merritt is as comfortable on the theater stage as he is at his own home, where his family has always (literally) applauded his work. He often volunteers for backstage and production jobs in between song and dance roles.



**BROCK HIRES**

An aerial view of Lake Osoyoos in Oroville.

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# The Right Place in the Right Space



Seen in progress, a modFORM home built on Burch Mountain is a V-shaped structure with a central courtyard. Its design accentuates the great views from the bedroom and living area wings and assures relative privacy for downhill neighbors. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

**Story by Susan Lagsdin**  
*Good Life Contributors*

Architect Duff Bangs is only half-kidding when he says “the ‘architecture’ part is the easy part.” With today’s technology, drawing a house to specifications can become the job of a skilled drafter with computer skills.

The hard part — understanding a client’s needs and translating them into a home — comes earlier on, generally when the



PHOTO BY MIKE IRWIN

Duff Bangs opened modFORM in 2019 after years of studying architecture, working with mentors, building houses and exploring small home options. He’s recently moved to a new office in Cashmere.

architect and the future homeowner can talk face-to-face and walk the building site. Duff’s stated mission in that ongoing collaboration is designing spaces that are not only visually striking, but livable, purposeful, and personal.

Not every goal can be granted. “When a client comes in with a sketch or a wish list, I guide them through the process of achieving it,” Duff said. “But there’s always an envelope we need to design within — we have to stay within those parameters.”

He pictures the constraints as kind of a box inside which a home can be constructed on a lot. Decisions might involve local zoning and code standards (setbacks, decking, roof height) or landform and geologic issues (floodplain, wind, landslides). They might be about maximum views, or sensitivity to sightlines from and to neighboring properties.

Or the “box” might be budget considerations. His good-sense guidance can often save money to be used elsewhere, perhaps on top-tier materials or structural enhancement.

Two examples he gives are changing a wall of solid glass into several big windows or suggest-

ing a modern shed roof over a more complex series of hipped or gabled ones. (He admits he’s an admirer of that slanted roofline with a deep overhang that he feels works best in North Central Washington’s harsh climate.)

Duff, 43, knows the local terrain well. He grew up in East Wenatchee, worked for 15 years in Seattle and now lives in Cashmere with his wife Ashley and their young daughter. He works solo; after six years, his architectural firm modFORM remains a one-person office, with expert consultants always available.

He designs homes throughout the state and more frequently in the region, from Quincy to Leavenworth to the Methow Valley, and he’s worked closely with Wenatchee’s community planning groups Our Valley Our Future and Common Ground.

Duff prepared himself carefully for his career, but he admits he’s also benefited from being in just the right place at just the right time.

“From my first sketches in third grade, the plan was always to be an architect, so I took the right math and science classes in high school,” he said, “But I was an artist at heart; I still had this idea

that all an architect really did was draw pictures of cool houses.”

A building trades course in high school taught him basics and “I finally began to see how my physics class connected to the woodshop,” he said. He also took to the field, working construction jobs to learn how these dream houses of his really grew out of the ground.

A scheduling glitch meant Duff spent extra time in college to achieve his architecture degree. His Wenatchee Valley College AA credits transferred well, but he found he could have slid right into the WSU’s four-year architecture program as a freshman there. He said those two “bonus” years were valuable ones, though.

“It turns out I started the architecture program just in time to work with a visiting professor from Seattle’s BUILD LLC,” Duff said. “That relationship led to internships with them and my first job right out of college in 2007.”

That year was bad news for the new-home industry. The good news? BUILD LLC had a design-and-build business model, so Duff had a few more years to learn the ropes, or rather the ladders, with them. He said, “There I was on the job site again, build-

ing houses. I even worked in their cabinet shop for a while.”

Working in such a multi-faceted architecture firm gave Duff a breadth of building knowledge for which he’s grateful, from site prep to environments and engineering to construction administration, and yes, designing plans for beautiful homes.

Finally it was time to fly the nest and go solo. For two years he and his wife Ashley designed and fabricated tiny homes. Their venture included a cross-country marketing trip, a pivot into the booming world of RVs, and the complications of permitting and inspections that occur when a small structure puts on wheels.

“After much thought, I realized I was better suited to a service-based business,” Duff said, “than I was manufacturing and distributing a product.” The first foray did give him business skills for setting up the next big venture, the long dream: opening his own architecture firm and designing custom homes for clients.

In 2019, Duff returned to Wenatchee and started mod-FORM in the year of an optimistic industry upswing. “Where was my first office? In my home,” he said. “It was also at Café Mela — I spent hours drinking coffee there — and the co-workspace at Mission Street Commons.”

Then came COVID, which Duff initially dreaded, with his first



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This home on the Loop Trail in East Wenatchee opens wide to the river and foothills with a 30-foot span of glass accordion doors. A slight rise and copious native plantings lend an air of isolation in a developed neighborhood.

office in downtown Wenatchee still new. But ironically, westside urbanites were soon eager to have getaway places in the sun for vacation, retirement or long-distance work. He kept designing homes, once again positioned well for success,

Interest rates? Now they’re up again, with some new homes on hold for a while. But he’s busy

with commercial and multifamily designs, as well as remodeling and home additions.

Duff’s varied experience has made him unafraid of vacillations in the industry. His confidence matches his skills. “As much as I love being an architect, I know that in the future I could easily shift, if I have to, into just about any related field.”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Working closely with the group Common Ground, Duff Bangs designed Crail Cottages, an 8-unit community of affordable homes off Ninth Street in Wenatchee. Construction continues on the modern townhouse units.

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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH ...

# Colorado

**Story by Linda Reid**  
**Photos by Ken Reid**  
*Good Life Contributors*

Do you have certain places you hope to be able to see in your lifetime? Sometimes we plan ahead to make it happen, but life has a way of surprising us and plans don't always become reality. Ken and I carefully planned three trips to Colorado. The first was in the 1970's when a gas shortage aborted our trip. The second time, in 2011, it was a health crisis that stopped us, and the third time, in 2020, it was COVID! Being determined to get to Colorado, we planned one

last trip there for July of 2025. If this didn't work for us, we would know it was not meant to be. Why was our desire so strong? We wanted to experience Rocky Mountain National Park and go to the summit of Pikes Peak. Ken's Great-Aunt and Uncle retired to the Colorado Springs area and testified that it was the most beautiful place in the U.S. Because of our delayed travel plans, we didn't make it while they were still alive, but we are certain they know we finally did!

Ken is more than our travel photographer. He is my own, personal travel agent. I booked our cabin in Estes Park, our

required daily National Park entrance passes, and our Pikes Peak Cog Rail Train trip. Ken booked: our flight from Seattle to Denver, our rental car, our Air B&B in Colorado Springs, our three nights in hotels, and our Amtrak train trip back to Seattle, with a 24-hour layover for a day on Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Our adventure with "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" played out much more smoothly than Steve Martin's classic film by the same name.

Words that I might use to describe the indescribable beauty of this place, such as overwhelming, awe-inspiring, or magnifi-

cent, fall short of the true sense of this "Rocky Mountain High" country. It is better if I defer to Ken's stunning photos which are the heart and soul of this story. Before I turn this into a photo essay, I do want to set the scene for our experience in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Estes Park (elevation 7,522 feet) is the gateway town to the Eastern entrances to the Park. It sits in a valley surrounded by towering peaks. Elevations in Rocky Mountain National Park go from 7,860 to 14,259 feet. The town of Estes Park is dedicated to tourists who love exploring Elkhorn Ave. and the enjoyable



**Alpine Visitor Center**  
Elevation: 11,796 ft.  
3,594 m.  
Today's Ranger Programs:  
High Country Tales 2:30 PM



Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved road in the U.S. climbs from the plains, through the forests and the alpine meadows, to the alpine tundra where snow still lingers in July.

The Alpine Visitor Center has a short but steep trail (mainly steps) up to 12,005 feet with a panoramic view across the tundra to the never-ending mountains. It was breathtaking in more ways than one, at that elevation!

Riverwalk. Our rental cabin (called “Grandma’s Cabin”) was less than three miles from the town. We loved the location, the views from the property, and the busy birdhouse on the deck. Best of all, we were only about a 20-minute drive from the most convenient Park entrance station. All entrances to the Park require timed reservations in the summer. Happily, their system ran smoothly. We always took these ten essentials with us on

our daily explorations of the Park: our National Park passes, trekking poles, hiking boots and good socks, large water bottles, food to fuel our energy, sunscreen, hats, rain ponchos for afternoon thunder showers, and our phones (camera included) to help us relive our memories and share them with The Good Life readers! Welcome to the lofty heights of Colorado.



Bear Lake is the most popular part of the Park. Free shuttle buses run between trailheads and the lake. The photo’s background includes the highest mountain in the Park, Longs Peak (14,259 feet). It is nearly as tall as Mount Rainier but does not stand out since there are 77 peaks in the Park that are over 14,000 feet tall!



As we exited the Park after an evening picnic at Sprague Lake, we encountered a large herd of female elk and their junior offspring, browsing in a large meadow. There must have been over 50 of them with no bull elk in sight. It was a roadside tourist attraction!



An easy hike took us to this Alluvial Fan waterfall. It was created by a flash flood from the Lawn Lake Earthen Dam failure in 1982. The flood created a fan-shaped (triangular) area of debris, including large boulders, where the Roaring River once flowed.



Estes Park, with Lake Estes in its center, is the charming gateway town to Rocky Mountain National Park. Our rustic rental cabin provided a cozy home while we were visiting the Park.



The Red Rock Amphitheater, just outside of Golden, is a worthwhile stop. It is an amazing concert venue constructed right in the midst of eye-popping red rock monoliths on three sides of the stage and the vast audience seating area. Although there was no shade there in the early afternoon, we wandered around awestruck by the surrounding natural beauty for almost an hour. The museum displays the fascinating history of this jewel.



This giant troll sculpture, one of 130 scattered around the globe, was created by Danish artist Thomas Dambo who is considered to be the world's leading recycle artist. This sculpture is near the old mining town of Cripple Creek in the mountains above Colorado Springs. We found "Rita the Rock Planter" at the end of a short, scenic walking trail. Her story is that after a long nap, she awoke to find many unsightly holes in the ground (mine shafts) and decided to refill them with rocks. Her actions convey a message to protect our natural surroundings.



Pikes Peak! You can hike it (no thanks), drive the narrow road without many guardrails (no thanks), or take a journey in the Cog Rail Train directly (and safely) to the 14,115-foot summit in 75 minutes. The views make you feel as though you are "on top of the world," which we pretty much were! No wonder Katherine Lee Bates was inspired to write the lyrics for "America the Beautiful" near the top, at a place called "Inspiration Point" and she had to hike to see that view!



Morning is the time to visit the Garden of the Gods. Fewer people, great lighting, cooler temperatures, easy parking as you drive the loop and stop to take short walks to see the natural red rock sculptures. It reminds us of Bryce Canyon's formations. The Visitor Center deserves a stop for its educational and artistic displays.

# FACE FRONT & AIM FOR THE BACK OF THE HOUSE

The local theater scene is collaborative. Here, John Merritt stands in the Performing Art Center's scene shop, its walls papered with decades of various promotional posters. Many are from Apple Blossom Festival and Hot August Nights musicals.



**Story by Susan Lagsdin**  
**Photos by Mike Irwin**  
*Good Life Contributors*

It was John Merritt's junior high school drama teacher, he remembers, who first taught him to project his voice to the far reaches of the auditorium, "to the little old lady in the back row who forgot her hearing aids."

And as a teenager, after seeing Carol Channing tear up the stage in *Hello Dolly*, he was hooked on musicals throughout his high school years in Southern California.

That early experience, coupled with a family tradition of singing, gave John the vocal chops to perform anywhere anytime. With music always his mainstay, he took a long detour from those school productions to his recent years as a most valuable player on Wenatchee's community theatre stages.

After graduation, John chose the U.S. Navy, and then, in bootcamp, an acapella harmonizing group (aka barbershop quartet) chose him.

The next six years were a deep dive into the military's electron-

ics technology, punctuated by informal concerts on land and on sea. Later, as a civilian he stayed enamored with barbershop singing, complete with touring performances.

In 1995, only two days after arriving in Wenatchee from southern California to start his career-culminating position with the Bonneville Power Administration, John walked into a local



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Here, John Merritt is Sweeney in the 2010 MTOW production of *Sweeney Todd*. When he first saw the play as a boy, he said, "I gotta do that!" John's roles have ranged from dapper to daring, but slimy bad guys are some of his favorites.

barbershop rehearsal. By the time his wife Melanie and their toddlers moved to town, he was singing bass in Wenatchee's Acme acapella quartet.

Five years later, when a barber-shop buddy headed off to audition for a Music Theatre of Wenatchee production, John tagged along and won a role in their annual old time radio show. The next year, 2001, he dusted off his long-held talents, played Billy Flynn in *Chicago* and was off and running.

Every year since then, for a quarter of a century, he's auditioned, rehearsed, performed and fallen in love all over again with theater, whether it's a thought-provoking drama or a mainstage musical. Or whether he's a spotlit lead actor or the backstage scene-changer.

Frequently, it's the former. Though he's done straight drama, even bit parts in TV and movies as a Los Angeles-area native son might, musical comedy is John's forte, with singing and acting coming most naturally. And then there's dancing. Not his most shining moments, he admits, "But I move OK, and I'm good at taking instruction," he said, "so it's always worked out."

At 65 and recently retired, John's at the sweet spot in terms of stage characters. Last month he starred in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* as a conniving, svelte lady's man. He surmises going forward he could "maybe still play forty" with some hair color, and it would still take several wrinkle lines and whitener to look aged.

John calculated he's been in over 70 local theatrical productions, and he's worked with half that number of different directors, each with their own style. "Most good directors," he feels, "tend to let the actor 'do their thing' first, maybe even play the part over the top, and then they make any suggestions later." He added, "And the best ones somehow make you feel great about yourself even if you mess up."

Directors often circle the actors backstage for traditional calming exercises or pep talks, but John



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This winsome pose is from the 2023 Apple Blossom musical, *Shrek*. Accents, long monologues and dancing may be tough, but John said he lost 23 pounds with the physical rigor of playing, on his knees, the 4 foot-6-inch-tall Lord Farquaad.

adds other pre-curtain habits. He assures himself solo time. He'll do private vocal prep and breathing exercises after a group warmup, maybe stroll the empty stage and review his first scene's lines.

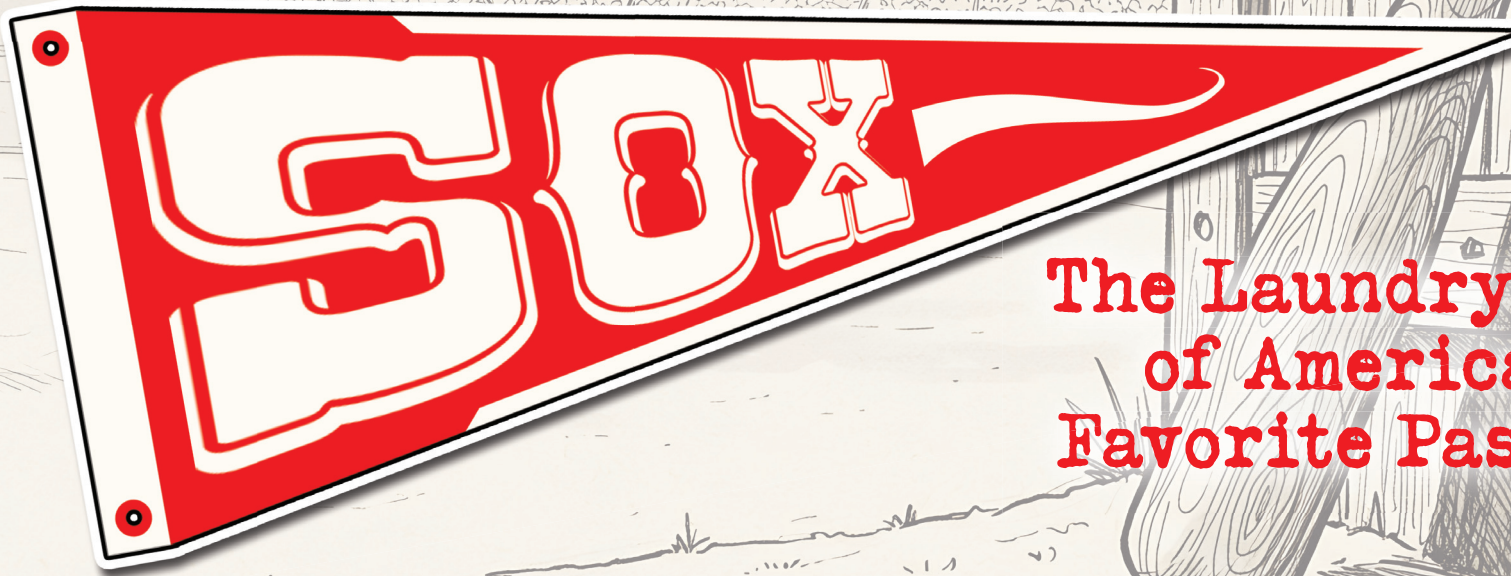
John has always been open to taking roles around the region, but his heart belongs to Music Theatre of Wenatchee for its camaraderie and closeness. He's been its president and he's served on the board. Over the last 25 years, "It's become my home away from home," he said, "and watching it grow and expand has been just phenomenal."

Riverside Playhouse, the group's homebase, is on the Chelan County PUD's former downtown property, currently in re-construction, so John's especially pleased that the building abutting its east wall is now owned by the theater. That remodeled annex will mean more actors, more production support, more audiences — more live theater.

John has plans to travel a bit, but he'll keep an eye on the calendar so he can attend auditions and continue doing shows in Wenatchee. In any given season, even if you're in the back row of the Riverside Playhouse or the Performing Arts Center, you're likely to hear his voice ring out, loud and clear.

# Bringing History Forward

SUE BLANCHARD



## The Laundry List of America's Favorite Pastime

Story by Sue Blanchard  
Good Life Contributor

It's October, the quintessential month we don our caps and jerseys, popcorn and peanuts, and practice our seventh-inning stretches for the all American fall classic, *The World Series of Baseball!* Immersed in that thought, it seemed a natural reaction that my attention was drawn to a tum-of-the-century baseball in my collection of childhood toys displayed atop an ink-welled school desk. Mind you, this is no ordinary baseball to catch one's eye ~ it is quite obviously homemade and most unique!

Hand-stitched and made of faded blue denim, a remnant of a rag bagged work shirt, the ball's S-curved seams are carefully yet basically crosshatched in coarse spooled thread. The ball's core is solidly firm and its form well rounded, as a real baseball should be. When held in hand, the ball's rudimentary construction conveys the feel of a child's earnest effort and yearning to create a baseball all their own. Are you now as curious as I am about this one-of-a-kind baseball's origin?

In piecing together its story,

this seemingly simple childhood toy actually threw me an unexpected curve ball! The crudely embroidered block print initials of its owner, 'H.A.S.' (see photo), are those of young Helen Adelaide Stewart (b. 1912) of Malta,

Montana ... a girl! Having been gifted this heirloom for safekeeping by Helen's aging niece more than a century after it was made and played with gave me pause as I realized, "This young girl and her special ball were surely

in a league of their own!" So it seemed only fitting that young Helen's old denim baseball, kept as a keepsake throughout her childhood and adulthood and for decades beyond her passing in 1977, should serve as an inspiration for rounding the bases of sports history and discovering how a humble stick and ball created both a national pastime and a literal *laundry list* of original teams.

Stick and ball games are instinctively ancient, with roots traced back thousands of years - at least to 1700 B.C. The game of *lacrosse* boasts a captivating history that spans centuries; its genesis can be traced to the stick and ball games of indigenous North American tribes long before colonization. French Jesuit missionaries simply observed tribal men playing with sticks that they thought resembled a Bishop's hooked staff, a crosier, and called the game *lacrosse* (the staff) ~ *the oldest sport in America*. Did you know that *polo*, the 'sport of kings' associated with power and prestige, is also one of the world's oldest-known stick and ball team sports, originating in Persia (Iran) over 2,000 years



Helen Adelaide Stewart's handmade denim ball that inspired this story. I was given this heirloom for safekeeping with my other antiques by Helen's aging niece (a distant neighbor) who did not recall why it was cherished by Helen and her family for a century. Since I could not unravel its mystery, I enclosed the ball in this 'period appropriate' fielder's mitt to hold her dreams in a league all its own.

ago? Yet it is the 16th century English game of *cricket*, brought over by the colonists, that is said to be the ancestor of 18th century baseball in North America.

Now you might assume, as many do, that a man named Abner Doubleday actually “invented” the game of baseball in 1839; after all, Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York is named in his honor. But this claim is considered by baseball historians to be a popular myth not backed by evidenced facts. Abner Doubleday was indeed a noted Union Army Major General during the Civil War who encouraged his soldiers to popularize the ball and stick game throughout the war as well as nationwide as troops returned to their home states. Truth be told, Doubleday was actually most famously known for firing the first Union shot in defense of Fort Sumter and playing a significant role in the Battle of Gettysburg. Why, then, did baseball’s popular legend surround Doubleday? Far better to give credit for baseball’s ‘creation’ to an American military hero than perhaps an Englishman, a firefighter or bank clerk!

It was actually volunteer firefighter and bank clerk Alexander Cartwright, founding father of the Knickerbocker Baseball Club of New York, who is credited by historians for making baseball a structured and organized professional sport. In 1845, Cartwright codified a set of rules that became the foundation of modern baseball: a diamond-shaped field, setting bases 90 feet apart, the concept of foul territory where a ball would be out of play, establishing a nine-inning game, defining a nine-player team and a 3-strike rule. Interestingly, a *run* in those early days was called an *ace*, and the first team to score 21 *aces* (runs) would win the game, no matter what the inning. For all of his contributions to the professional game, it is Alexander Cartwright who is most referred to as the “father of modern baseball”.

The first officially recorded,

organized baseball game using modern rules was played on June 19, 1846 at the Elysian Fields in Hoboken, New Jersey. The New York Nine defeated the New York Knickerbockers 23-1 in four innings, with Alexander Cartwright himself serving as umpire. As its counterpoint, the longest professional baseball game in history was played 135 years later by two Triple-A teams. In 1981, the Pawtucket Red Sox (Rhode Island) and Rochester Red Wings (New York) played 33 innings over three days with 8 hours and 25 minutes of playing time, ending in an exhausting 3-2 win for the Red Sox.

With the creation of organized teams for competition, donning a uniform and changing your team’s name was simple - *you literally just changed your socks!* The Cincinnati Red Stockings were a pioneering professional baseball team founded May 4, 1869 and were the first professional team in baseball history paving the way for the modern game of *pro baseball*. When the Cincinnati team disbanded in

1870, several of the players and their manager moved to Boston in 1871 and formed the Boston Red Stockings ~ who then changed their socks to red and yellow in 1929 to become the Boston Braves, then wore royal blue and yellow socks as the Boston Bees, and somehow, through all these socks and name changes, the original “Red Stockings” of 1869 are known today as the navy-blue-socked Atlanta Braves! Whew, that’s a league and laundry list all in one!

Now to avoid pairing up the wrong socks in the locker room laundry, the Boston Red Stockings team of 1871 that later morphed into the Atlanta Braves is a distinctly different team and franchise than today’s Boston Red Sox of Fenway Park. Fenway’s team, founded originally as the Boston Americans in 1901, changed their name (and socks) to the Boston Red Sox in 1908, with the team playing continuously at Fenway since 1912, honoring Fenway Park as the oldest major league baseball field still in use ~ most likely with the oldest

original socks, too!

Stealing second in 1871, Chicago’s pro team became the White Stockings. The team did not suit up for the ‘72 and ‘73 seasons due to the Great Chicago Fire. They became the Chicago White Sox in 1904... you can guess the color. Why the spelling of “Sox”? The change was primarily driven by the need for a shorter, more headline-friendly name, especially for newspaper editors who had to set the type and print the page. In fact, the moniker “White Sox” was already in use as a nickname by the Chicago press before the team’s official name change.

Dubbed America’s favorite ‘*National Pastime*’, baseball became as beloved as apple pie. According to the Library of Congress, the phrase itself was coined in 1856 by the New York Mercury, a prominent weekly newspaper during the Civil War, to describe the game’s enduring popularity and cultural influence. During the industrial era of the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, many US companies formed baseball teams, often known as ‘industrial leagues’ for both their male *and female* employees. These teams played a significant role in communities, providing entertainment, unity and a sense of local pride.

Baseball’s simplicity and accessibility played a major league role in becoming a popular favorite pastime of the common person, for anyone, regardless of social class, background, gender, age or ability could find a stick and ball, practice their skills, toss stones, sticks or make scuff marks in the dirt for bases, and play the game. From school yards to barn yards, sand lots to city parks, baseball and its venues became an affordable and accessible form of entertainment, drawing crowds and onlookers, large and small, to watch the games. Could this possibly have been how and when young Helen (born in 1912) was inspired to “*Play Ball*”?



NEXT PAGE



In 1935, The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum was established in Cooperstown, New York while FDR was president to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the origin of baseball and its legacy. The connection to Abner Doubleday, though founded on a myth, helped establish Cooperstown as the 'birthplace' of baseball and a destination for baseball fans.

The iconic song 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame' was actually first played at a high school ballpark in Los Angeles, California in 1934. Its two composers had never attended an actual baseball game prior to writing this popular song! There is no certain date when the song's tradition began, but the practice gained exceptional popularity from renowned broadcaster Harry Caray, who did play-by-play announcing for the Chicago White Sox. Caray would sing the song to himself from the broadcast booth during the 'stretch'. After hearing him sing one day, White Sox owner Bill

Veeck, Jr. had Caray's microphone turned on so that the ballpark crowd could hear him sing ~ and the crowd joined in! When Caray moved into the Chicago Cubs broadcast booth, he continued the practice, sparking what has become a 7th Inning Stretch tradition! Although the New York Yankees play *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* after each 7th inning, since 9/11 and the falling of the Twin Towers, baseball's iconic song is always preceded by *God Bless America*.

America's favorite pastime, once an ancient game of ball and stick, has taught us far more than the rules and strategies of the sport. It has displayed on its fields of dreams the values of team spirit and a collective effort, staying focused on your goals, a dedicated work ethic, earning your position, the resiliency of failing and learning from our errors. Challenges in life and on the fields of our endeavors are inevitable, but so are persistence and determination if we encompass their worth

in our game plan.

Baseball legends Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio and Reggie Jackson each fought personal and professional wins and losses on and off the field their entire careers. Yes, wins count toward stats and fame, but each of these iconic baseball legends avowed that it was the losses and hardships that taught them what they had to overcome to win and earn their legacies.

Yogi Berra's iconic catchphrase, "It ain't over til it's over," lines up

the 'batting order' Babe, Lou, Joe and Reggie wanted their fans to follow in their lives:

*Step up to the plate, grip the bat, swing for a homer, run all the bases and add up the score ~ then go to bat again, and once again ~ giving your all until the final call.*

Seems like a perfect game plan, considering that we are also the umpires calling every pitch and swing of the bat in the longest game we'll ever play to win. Enjoy the game ~ it's a fan's favorite personal pastime.

**Salmon BAKE**  
with Wenatchi-P'squosa elder Randy Lewis

Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center

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# HUNTING DEER

**Story by Susan Sampson**  
*Good Life Contributor*

When I was a kid in the late 1950s and early 1960s, October brought a ritual bigger than trick-or-treating. It brought about deer hunting season. The flurry of activity at Uncle John's Western Auto hardware store was men buying hunting licenses, deer tags, ammunition, and sometimes one of the new Winchester rifles displayed at the back of the store near his collection of Winchesters mounted on the wall. He had nearly every one.

All of the Sampson men—Uncle Gene, Uncle John, and my dad Vake, took time off from their businesses to go on their annual hunting trip together. They lived on the coast where forage was plentiful for deer the year 'round, so they didn't hunt close to home. They crossed to the east side of the Cascades where forage could be scarce, because the deer herds there needed to be thinned, they reasoned.

My dad hunted by another honor code. He would not shoot a doe because shooting a preg-

nant female was like killing two deer. He and his brothers disparaged "road hunters," men who never got out of their pickup trucks to shoot a deer. (On the other hand, when Uncle John was old and too crippled with arthritis to hike in the hills to hunt any more, people said he shot a deer with such precision that it fell dead in the bed of his pickup truck. When I asked him about it, he just smiled.)

The Sampson men were all married to women who worked with them in their businesses—Gene and Kathleen had a beer and wine distribution company, Johnny and Evelyn had a Western Auto hardware store, and Vake and Milly had a plumbing shop. There came a time when the women wanted an autumn vacation, too, so hired babysitters and joined the hunting camp. Camping got a little cushier. The hunters graduated from sleeping on bales of hay in their tents to using air mattresses, then folding army cots, then travel trailers.

Ritual within the camp was practical. When somebody shot a deer, it had to be hung up imme-

diately, gutted, and skinned out, to cool the carcass as fast as possible to prevent spoilage. Chilly night air provided the only other refrigeration. They retrieved the liver as soon as possible, and that would be their delectable dinner, since it would not keep. As soon as they could, they delivered carcasses to a butcher who would slice and wrap up steaks and chops and grind small bits of meat to make a lean sausage.

Over time, other friends would join the camp. The family doctor, Dr. Richard Uhlman, a trained surgeon, was slickest at cleaning his deer.

They told hunting stories around their campfire at night. Milly told of standing behind a tree while a herd of elk rushed passed so close she could smell them. She saw two bear cubs swinging in the top of a thin, limber tree. Vake saw a stately wolf. They stared at each other for a moment, then the wolf loped away. Moments later, Vake heard gunshots and wondered whether somebody had hit the animal.

And stories being stories, one of my cousins teased my broth-

er for shooting a fleeing deer exactly in the anus. My brother doesn't remember that. They heard about a man who saw a buck rear his head on the far side of a knoll close to him. He aimed and fired and was sure he'd hit his target, but the head reared up again. He took aim, squeezed the trigger, and fired, and was sure he'd struck his target. But again, the buck reared up. He'd just sighted-in the rifle, so he knew its sights were aligned properly. Once more he fired, then hurried over the knoll—and found he'd shot three deer.

Our neighbor across the street, Charlie Panchow, was enthralled by that story. Then one day, over a cup of coffee at our dining table, he told my dad, "Did I ever tell you how I accidentally shot three deer?"

As the pages of the calendar flipped over to October, I was thinking about those old hunters. All but Evelyn, who died in her 40s of breast cancer, lived into their 80s or 90s, then passed on naturally. My generation revered our parents, but none of their offspring—I, my siblings, my cousins—none of us hunts.



# NATIONAL VETERINARY TECHNICIAN WEEK

October 12-18, 2025

**Story by**  
**Shawna Bais, DVM**  
*Good Life Contributor*

Did you know that the third week of October is Veterinary Technician Week? First celebrated in 1993, this special week is a time set aside to honor the dedication and hard work of veterinary technicians. Veterinary technicians are critical to the day-to-day function of veterinary practices and essential members of the veterinary medical team. They routinely work long hours and often do so under high stress. They are on the front lines with people and their beloved pets who need care.

Veterinary technicians undergo rigorous training which equips them to manage anesthesia, perform laboratory tests, take x-rays, administer medications, provide dental care, and offer nutritional and preventative care guidance. Veterinary technicians practice in diverse areas like private clinical settings, emergency and specialty care, labs, research, zoos, and public health. Their expertise directly improves your pet's health whether they are providing critical care during emergencies or assisting with routine checkups.

Veterinary technicians are often the first point of contact

during your pet's medical visits. Not only do they have scientific knowledge, but they bring empathy and provide compassionate nursing care to ensure your pet receives top-notch care at every stage.

Please join me in celebrating these amazing people and in giving a special shout out to my own team. You are the heart and soul of our hospital and I couldn't do it without you. I express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our team. Your willingness to stay late once again, even when you have personal obligations and responsibilities at home, is truly commendable. Your positive attitude and resilience in maintaining a smile amidst the challenges and exhaustion of working on an emergency late at night are invaluable. You have saved my sanity on so many occasions. And saved my life. Literally. You have kept me from being kicked, dragged, scratched, bitten, and trampled over and over. Thank you for all the IV bags and lines you changed, catheters you placed, wounds you prepped, bandages you changed, creatures you fed, drugs you ordered, equipment you fixed, phone calls you saved me from, and patients you kept safely anesthetized. Thanks for being the heroes to

so many pets and clients. You truly change lives.

Ready to celebrate National Veterinary Technician Week with us this year? Here are some ideas to show the veterinary team members in your life how much they mean to you.

1. Raise awareness. Spread the word to your family and friends. Most likely these people have pets and visit a veterinary hospital without being aware of this holiday.
2. Thank a veterinary technician next time to go to the veterinary hospital. Let them know you see them and appreciate the effort they put in.
3. Be kind and compassionate. Often veterinary technicians work long days and deal with a lot of stress and complaints. Remember to be kind when you

interact with them.

4. Get to know your veterinary technician team. Invest some time into asking about their interests and help create a friendly atmosphere.

5. Food and gifts are always welcome! Surprise treats can make a long, difficult day so much sweeter. And handwritten notes are extra special.

6. Praise them to others. A positive word goes a long way.

And while we take a week to focus on veterinary technicians, they deserve our thanks every day of the year. The next time you visit your veterinary hospital, take a moment to acknowledge, and express gratitude to the veterinary technician assisting you. You will be acknowledging an individual who profoundly impacts lives.

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Shawna Bais, DVM



# The Real Treat of October: LEARNING TO LIVE WITH FEAR

October seems designed for fear. Ghosts on porches, skeletons hanging in trees, children dressed as goblins knocking on our doors. But the scariest things aren't found on Halloween night. They live closer to home—sometimes in our own hearts.

For many of us as we grow older, fear takes on new shapes. Not the thrill of roller coasters or haunted houses, but quieter, heavier fears. Fear of becoming frail. Fear of losing our memory. Fear of being a burden. Fear of losing friends, outliving loved ones, being forgotten. These are not the fears of children. They are the fears that tap us on the shoulder in the quiet hours, whispering, “What will happen to you?”

One way to shrink fear down to size is to take a step toward it. Action often brings fear out of the shadows and into daylight, where it looks less monstrous.

- If we fear frailty: we can begin with a simple daily walk, or gentle exercises with light weights, or stretching. Each small choice helps our bodies stay stronger, longer. Get in a SAIL (stay active and independent for life) class! I am told there are more SAIL volunteers in Washington than in any state. I help with one in Cashmere. They are all over the Valley. Get certified as an instructor yourself!

- If we fear losing memory: we can engage our minds in book clubs, picking our old music instrument back up or trying out a new gig - learning something new. I sat in on a little writing group that had sprung up in Cashmere. They were reading their pieces and giving each other feedback. Every bit of



***“Do the thing you fear, and the death of fear is certain.”***

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

new learning strengthens brain pathways.

- If we fear isolation: we can reach out—a phone call, a card game, when you get together with others, you'll hear new opportunities. Yesterday I heard about fun, cutthroat Bingo on Tuesday nights at Yonder Cider in Cashmere, dare to step inside a church on Sunday. Or really take a daring step and join a social dance club. And there are so many ways to volunteer.

- If we fear being forgotten: we can write down family stories, record voice notes for grandchildren, or plant kindness in the community around us. Legacies don't have to be grand—they

can be small deposits of love.

But what about when there isn't a step to take? What about when the diagnosis is clear, the frailty undeniable, the loss irreversible? Here, action is not the path. Here we learn a gentler courage—the courage to sit with fear rather than wrestle it.

We don't have to get rid of fear. We can acknowledge it as part of being human.

That begins with pausing.

- Noticing where fear shows up in the body—maybe a knot in the stomach, a tightness in the chest.

- Placing a hand over the heart.

- Taking a slow, steady breath.

- Whispering to ourselves, “Here is fear. It belongs to life as a human. I can hold it.”

As poet Rainer Maria Rilke once said, “Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final.” This human life is full of 10,000 sorrows and 10,000 joys.

Let me tell you about a woman I'll call Ruth. She was in her early eighties when I first got to know her. Her biggest fear wasn't really about being terminal, dying—it was losing her ability to contribute. “I can't stand the thought,” she said, “of being stuck in a chair, unable to move, unable to think straight. What good would I be then?”

Ruth's fears mirrored some of those fearful thoughts that my husband, John, and I have said out loud to each other when we take the time to slow down. We recently did this at our family cabin. It felt freeing to me. Just say all those fears out loud to somebody.

Ruth did eventually name the big fear out loud: “I'm afraid of being useless.” She noticed the heaviness in her chest when she said it. She placed her hand over her heart and breathed slowly.

And she practiced, gently, the idea that even if one day she could do very little, her presence—her smile, her kindness—would still be a gift.

“I'm not fearless,” she told me once. “But I'm feeling freer.”

Facing fear isn't about becoming fearless—it's about becoming free. Free to act. Free to breathe. Free to live a human life in all its joys and sorrows all the way to the end. What a treat!

How might we move up to The Good Life this October by facing our fears and living free?

# FUN STUFF

## WHAT TO DO AROUND HERE FOR THE NEXT MONTH

### OCTOBER 2

**Sing Songwriter Storyteller** October is planned at 7 p.m. at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Omak Senior Center, 214 N. Juniper St. All ages are welcome.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post No. 97, 102 E. Main St., Brewster. Information: greg-wagg@yahoo.com.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the Omak Elk's Lodge, 110 S. Ash St. Information: 509-826-7112.

**Open microphone** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave., Okanogan. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

### OCTOBER 7

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 7:30 a.m. at 429 Oak St., Okanogan. Information: 509-557-8099.

### OCTOBER 9

**Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán** will perform at 8 p.m. at the Town Toyota Center. Tickets and information: towntoyotacenter.com.

**A hand quilting class** is planned from 6-9 p.m. at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Omak Senior Center, 214 N. Juniper St. All ages are welcome.

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**Open microphone** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave., Okanogan. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

### OCTOBER 10

**The Selena Experience** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at the Numerica Performing Arts Center, 123 N. Wenatchee Ave. Tickets and information: numericapac.org.

**Karaoke** is planned at 7 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second

Ave. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

### OCTOBER 11

**Give a Hoot fun run** is planned at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

### OCTOBER 14

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 7:30 a.m. at 429 Oak St., Okanogan. Information: 509-557-8099.

### OCTOBER 15

**The Okanogan Valley Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen** will meet at 6 p.m. at the

Tonasket Senior Center, 22 Fifth St. Information: baldhillsmules@hotmail.com.

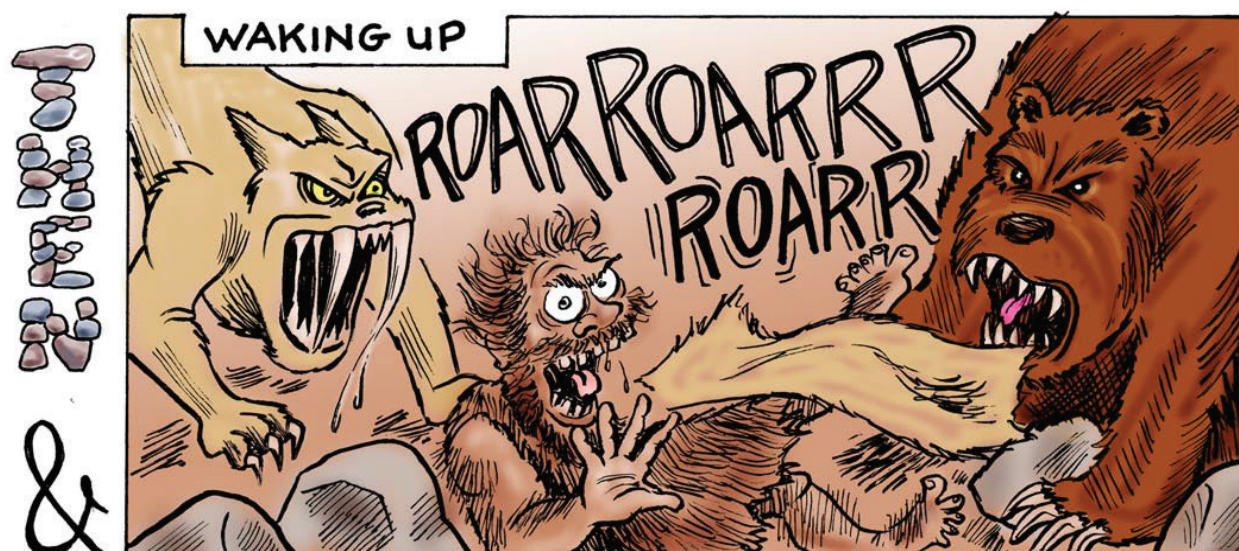
### OCTOBER 16

**A hand quilting class** is planned from 6-9 p.m. at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Omak Senior Center, 214 N. Juniper St. All ages are welcome.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post No. 97, 102 E. Main St., Brewster. Information: greg-wagg@yahoo.

NEXT PAGE





com.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the Omak Elk's Lodge, 110 S. Ash St. Information: 509-826-7112.

**Open microphone** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave., Okanogan. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 17**

**Karaoke is planned** at 7 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 21**

**The Omak Chamber of Commerce** will meet at noon at Magoo's Restaurant, 24 N. Main St., Omak. State Rep. Andrew Engell will be guest speaker. Information: omakchamber.com.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 7:30 a.m. at 429 Oak St., Okanogan. Information: 509-557-8099.

**OCTOBER 22**

**Arturo Sandoval** will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Numerica Performing Arts Center, 123 N. Wenatchee Ave. Tickets and information: numericapac.org.

**OCTOBER 23**

**A hand quilting class** is planned from 6-9 p.m. at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Omak Senior Center, 214 N. Juniper St. All ages are welcome.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post No. 97, 102 E. Main St., Brewster. Information: greg-wagg@yahoo.com.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the Omak Elk's Lodge, 110 S. Ash St. Information: 509-826-7112.

**Open microphone** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S.

Second Ave., Okanogan. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 24**

**Karaoke is planned** at 7 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 25**

Cashmere Community Concerts presents Jim Faddis and Dale Adkins at 7 p.m. at 213 S Division St, Cashmere. Admission charged. Information: cashmerecommunityconcerts.com.

**The Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra** will present "A Star Wars Saga" at 7 p.m. at the Numerica Performing Arts Center, 123 N. Wenatchee Ave. Admission charged. Information: 509-667-2640.

**OCTOBER 28**

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 7:30 a.m. at 429 Oak St., Okanogan. Information: 509-557-8099.

**OCTOBER 30**

**A hand quilting class** is planned from 6-9 p.m. at Icicle Creek Center for the Arts, 7409 Icicle Road, Leavenworth. Information: 509-548-6347.

**Taking Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS)** weight loss group meets at 5:30 p.m. at the Omak Senior

Center, 214 N. Juniper St. All ages are welcome.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Post No. 97, 102 E. Main St., Brewster. Information: greg-wagg@yahoo.com.

**Bingo will be played** at 6 p.m. at the Omak Elk's Lodge, 110 S. Ash St. Information: 509-826-7112.

**Open microphone** is planned at 7:30 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second Ave., Okanogan. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 31**

**Karaoke is planned** at 7 p.m. at After Hours, 647 S. Second

Ave. Admission is by donation. Information: See "After Hours Okanogan" on Facebook.

Submit your events

The Good Life publishes free notices of non-commercial events open to the general public. Announcements should specify the place, time and date, whether admission or fees are charged, and the daytime name and phone number of a person who can supply more information. Only written items will be accepted. Announcements may be e-mailed to [tgl@omakchronicle.com](mailto:tgl@omakchronicle.com); submitted online at [www.omakchronicle.com](http://www.omakchronicle.com); mailed to P.O. Box 553, Omak 98841; or dropped off at 618 Okoma Drive, Omak. The deadline is the 10th of each month. All events are subject to change.

October Trivia Answers

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The eighth month                     | 22. The Statue of Liberty           |
| 2. Tourmaline and opal                  | 23. Germany                         |
| 3. Marigold (calendula) and cosmos      | 24. Tecumseh                        |
| 4. Libra and Scorpio                    | 25. Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce   |
| 5. Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day | 26. The Bahamas                     |
| 6. The Georgian calendar                | 27. The U.S. Navy                   |
| 7. Hunter's Moon                        | 28. The sound barrier               |
| 8. Oktoberfest                          | 29. Mata Hari                       |
| 9. The owl                              | 30. Black Monday                    |
| 10. Pablo Picasso                       | 31. The Cuban Missile Crisis        |
| 11. Mahatma Gandhi                      | 32. The gunfight at the O.K. Corral |
| 12. 6                                   | 33. The Donner Party                |
| 13. Cy Young                            | 34. The Boston Americans            |
| 14. John Lennon                         | 35. Breast Cancer Awareness Month   |
| 15. The X Files                         | 36. Yosemite                        |
| 16. Mario Puzo                          | 37. Pumpkins                        |
| 17. Evel Knievel                        | 38. The World Series                |
| 18. Curly Howard                        | 39. Dr. No                          |
| 19. McDonald's                          | 40. The Model T                     |
| 20. The Soviet Union, Sputnik 1         | 41. The Jazz Singer                 |
| 21. The Great Chicago Fire              | 42. The War of the Worlds           |
|   | 43. Reggie Jackson                  |

ELI ELDERBERRY

BY BOB WELLS



(Continued from page 2)

William J. Ford and Mrs. Millie R. Ford. Early on, mail was routed through Ruby and Conconully.

“The Conconully stage was anxiously awaited by those early post office patrons,” according to Ramsey.

“A typical western mining town is Loomis,” according to the 1904 “History.” “Its main street of three blocks in length was laid out in perhaps the worst place in the valley. It rises abruptly north and south from a deep ravine which intersects the theoretical townsite.”

The ravine was partially filled in and the main street was graded.

### Major supply center

Loomis was one of three major supply centers for the Okanogan County mining boom of the late 1880s to early 1890s. Ruby, which disappeared after the Panic of 1893 in which silver prices plummeted, and Conconully were the other two.

Loomis recovered from the 1893 troubles because of its gold deposits and payroll from John Boyd’s Palmer Mountain Gold Mining and Tunnel Co., according to Wilson.

Besides commercial interests, Loomis was home to religious, educational and community organizations.

Loomis First Presbyterian Church was organized in May 1897 by the Rev. J.T. McArthur, Waterville, and Rev. C.H. Phipps, Spokane, according to “History of North Washington.” Methodists and Catholics also had a presence.

A school also was organized, and by fall 1897 had 50-60 scholars, according to the Palmer Mountain Prospector newspaper. A Ladies’ Aid Society also was in operation.

### Silver mines abound

Mining figured largely in Loomis’ early history.

Silver was mined from several area mines and, for a time, the Ivanhoe produced some of the richest silver ore mined in Washington, according to Wilson. The Black Bear included a mill that ground away in downtown Loomis.

“Mining development, though in many instances woefully mismanaged, employed hundreds of men and proved the immense value of the ledges” of ore, according to the 1904 history. “At enormous expense mining machinery was rushed into the district.”

After the Panic of 1893, mining in the area remained largely dormant until the fall of 1898, “History of North Washington” reported.

At that time, the big dog on the mining block was the Palmer Mountain Gold Mining and Tunnel Co., managed and promoted by John Boyd. He was born in Ontario, Canada, grew up in North Dakota and was naturalized in

1888. By 1892, he had moved to Loomis and was operating a general store, John Boyd and Co. He became postmaster in 1893.

Boyd and several others formed the mining company in 1895, raised money, and the next year Boyd began the company’s mining tunnel, which ran upward into Palmer Mountain, according to Wilson.

By 1898, the company held 41 mining claims on the southwest slope of Palmer Mountain and the tunnel was some 1,000 feet long. The next year, the tunnel was 2,300 feet long and had crossed 12 veins of gold and silver.

“During the summer and fall of 1899 a wonderful change for the better passed over Loomis,” according to “History of North Washington.”

“From a sleepy, unprogressive settlement there spring into life a bustling, hustling mining camp where the sound of the hammer was heard from morning until nightfall,” the book continued. “Only the scarcity of lumber retarded the erection of many buildings badly needed, and which would otherwise have been added to the town. Every hotel and lodging house was crowded to the point of discomfort. It was a daily occurrence to meet men going from one hotel to another in search of a bed.”

### Ample capital

Conservative mining men, reinforced by ample capital, injected new life into the area, the 1904 book continued.

Early newspapers often engaged in boosterism, and The Palmer Mountain Prospector, established in 1897, “has, beyond a doubt, done more for the mining interests of upper Okanogan County than any other single agency,” according to “History of North Washington.”

Founder Frank. M. Dallam “is a thorough newspaper man and The Prospector ranks among the best edited papers in eastern Washington,” the book continued.

(Another paper, The Loomis Register, was moved from Molson in 1900. It published until 1903.)

Boyd’s tunnel work continued, with the tunnel growing to 4,000 feet; plans called for the tunnel to extend another 9.5 miles to Oroville, Wilson wrote.

Meanwhile, the town’s founder, J.A. Loomis, became insolvent in 1894 and in 1898 the firm of J.A. Loomis and Co. was dissolved, the 1904 “History” said. According to the book, Loomis became insane and was committed to the state asylum at Medical Lake, where he died in the fall of 1899.

### Property values skyrocket

During the summer of 1899, with development of Boyd’s tunnel in full swing, property values in Loomis skyrocketed, the 1904 history

said, and by December “a gratifying increase was noticeable in the business of the Loomis post office.”

During September, October and November, some \$16,000 worth of postal orders were issued and cancellation of stamps had increased \$200 per month over the report for the preceding quarter, the history said.

“So heavy was the incoming mail that the contractor barely arrived on schedule time,” said the book.

Telephone service came to Okanogan County in 1900, with lines coming from Spokane through Waterville and Chelan to Pateros and Brewster, and another line connecting Spokane with Rock Creek, B.C., and then through Bolster, Chesaw to Conconully, Riverside, Malott and Brewster, Wilson wrote.

Loomis, however, got the first switchboard in November 1900. It served 140 miles of line. By 1902, the Pacific States Telephone Co. directory listed 45 phones — about half of them in Loomis, according to Wilson.

“At present the service is all that could be desired,” according to “History of North Washington.”

Loomis Soda Works, established in 1901, produced a variety of beverages, including orange, lemon, cream and strawberry soda, ginger ale, sarsaparilla and soda water.

By 1904, Loomis also boasted four secret societies: Woodmen of the World, the county’s first Odd Fellows Lodge, Puritan Circle Women of Woodcraft and Aerie No. 522 Fraternal Order of Eagles.

### Boom begins to fade

But the boom brought on by Boyd’s mining operation began to fade. While mining machinery for his and other operations arrived in a frantic manner, by 1904 “some of it yet lies on the hillsides, never having been erected; silent yet eloquent testimony to the disastrous results of the financial depression of 1893,” according to “History of North Washington.”

“Mills and concentrators were erected before the over-sanguine owners knew what treatment was required for the most economical extraction and conservation of ore values.”

Between 1905 and 1908, an electric generating plant, powered by Toats Coulee Creek, allowed Loomis in April 1906 to become the first town in Okanogan County with electric lights, Wilson wrote.

The plant also was to power elevators and conveyors at Boyd’s mill, the building for which was the largest in Washington state.

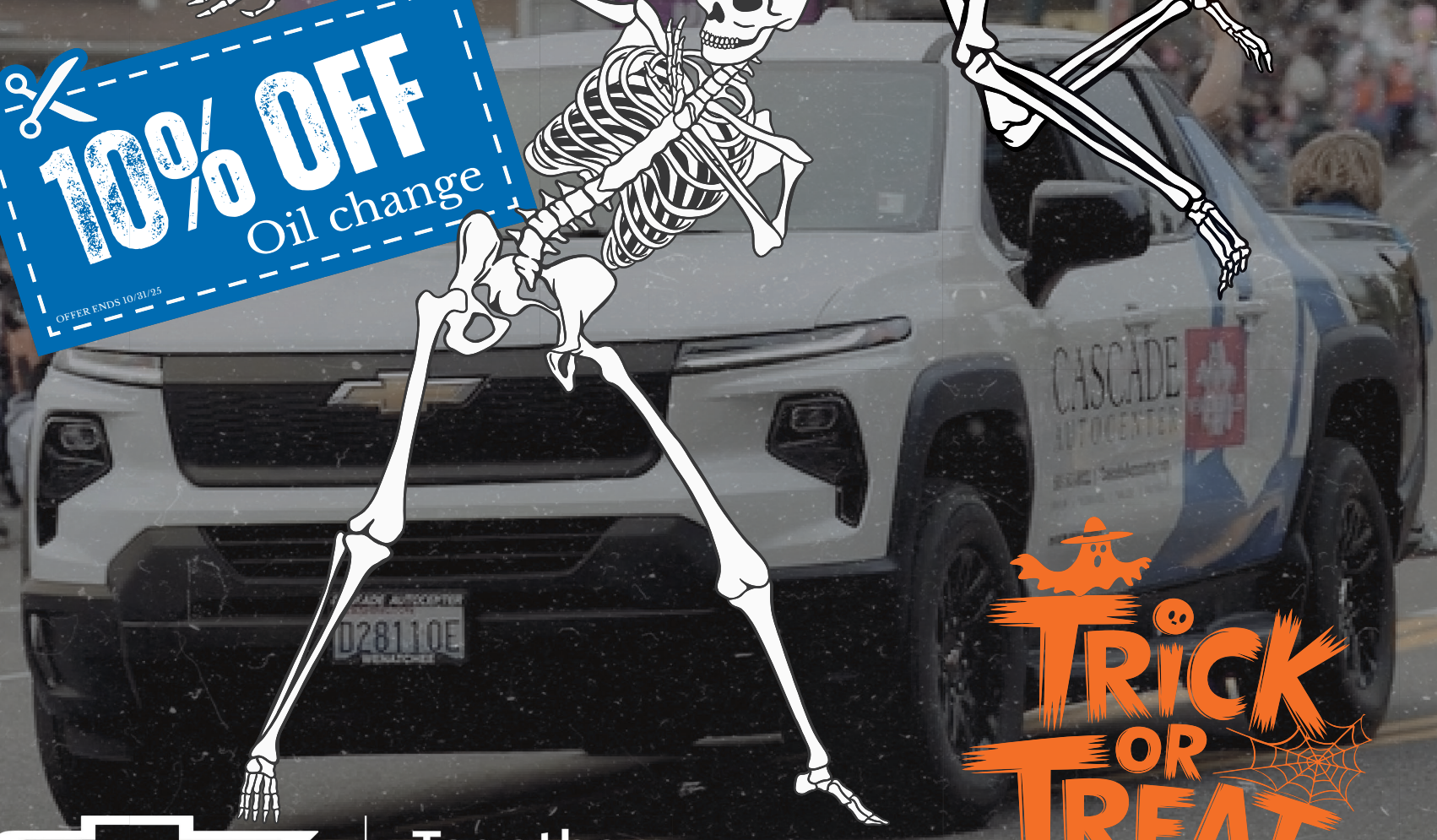
But, according to the Okanogan Independent in August 1908, work ceased on the tunnel and mill, Boyd disappeared, and the tunnel never produced ore and the mill never operated.



# OCTOBER TRIVIA

1. What does October mean?
2. What are October's birthstones?
3. What are October's two birth flowers?
4. What two astrology signs fall in October?
5. What American federal holiday occurs in October?
6. In what type of calendar is October the 10th month?
7. The first full moon after the Harvest Moon falls in either October or November. What's it called?
8. What autumn beer-drinking festival is held in October every year in Munich, Germany?
9. What is the bird of the month for October?
10. What famous Spanish artist was born on October 25, 1881, in Madrid?
11. What political leader was born on October 2, 1869, in India?
12. How many U.S. presidents have been born in October?
13. What baseball Hall of Famer, who still holds the record for most wins by a pitcher at 511, was born on October 5, 1867?
14. Which member of The Beatles was born on October 9, 1940?
15. Chris Carter was born on October 13, 1957. What spooky American TV show did he create?
16. What's the name of The Godfather novelist who was born on October 15, 1920?
17. What American daredevil was born on October 17, 1938?
18. Which of the Three Stooges was born on October 22, 1903?
19. What American fast food franchise opened its first store in the UK in Woolwich on October 1, 1974?
20. The first man-made satellite to orbit Earth was launched on October 4, 1957. Who launched it, and what was it called?
21. What killed more than 300 people and made more than 100,000 people homeless on October 8, 1871?
22. What gift did the United States receive in October of 1886?
23. As the Cold War came to an end, the Eastern and Western halves of what country reunited on October 3, 1990?
24. What Shawnee chief was killed on October 5, 1813, during the War of 1812?
25. Who promised to "fight no more forever" on October 5, 1877?
26. Where did Christopher Columbus land on October 2, 1492?
27. What branch of the US military was born on October 13, 1775?
28. What did Chuck Yeager break on October 14, 1947?
29. What WWI spy was executed by a French firing squad near Paris on October 15, 1917?
30. What was the largest one-day drop in the stock market in history, which occurred on October 19, 1987, called?
31. What 13-day confrontation took place in October of 1962?
32. What happened in Tombstone, AZ on October 26, 1881?
33. What ill-fated party left Illinois for California on October 28, 1846, only to be stopped months later by snow in the Sierras?
34. Who won the first World Series?
35. Why do people wear pink and sport pink ribbons in October?
36. What California national park celebrates has celebrated its birthday every October 1 since 1890?
37. What generates more than \$700 billion in sales every year, thanks, in large part, to October?
38. What October sporting tradition started on October 1, 1903?
39. On October 5, 1962, the first James Bond film debuted in London. What was it?
40. What Ford first went on sale on October 1, 1908?
41. The first "talkie" opened in NYC on October 6, 1927. What was it?
42. What radio program panicked Americans on October 30, 1938?
43. What baseball player's nickname is Mr. October?

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