

The Latest Dirt...

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

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

We at C&E Trenching 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 2019

The Long Winter!

As I write this, just a few days before the end of February at 1 p.m., the sun is shining and it's a balmy twenty-four degrees. I hope by the time you read this, the snow is mostly gone, and this February is just a memory for the record books. Our family has lived in The Basin since 1985 and we can't remember a February with this much winter or even close since we've been here. As I was thinking about it and how odd it is compared to our normal, balmy February, I was reminded of Laura Ingalls Wilder's book *The Long Winter*. If you haven't read her books, hurry up and go grab them from the library and get reading. Start with *The Long Winter* as it may help to have some perspective on what a winter really is.



We didn't have to tunnel to my home office but it was still an impressive cut!

The Long Winter took place in 1880-1881 in the Dakota Territory. The first blizzard hit in October, with the trains soon shutting down and not running again until May. Blizzard after blizzard hit and with no trains running, the coal that the town of De Smet relied on for fuel was soon exhausted. Food became very scarce. Some families had only turnips to eat, while the Ingalls relied on ground wheat that they ground via their coffee grinder and baked into loaves of bread. For fuel, they twisted grass hay into knots and fed the fire. Their only entertainment was grinding wheat and twisting hay. An interesting side note on Laura's books is that they are considered historical fiction, but while they are based on facts they aren't all factual. For example, during that winter the Ingalls had a newly married couple living with them. Laura wrote in her diary that the man would sit all day in his rocking chair, not lifting a hand to help with the fire or the wheat. In her book, no mention is made of the couple. The speculation is that she despised him too much to include him in her story.

One time it snowed and drifted around their house so much that Pa was able to tunnel out to the barn to take care of the animals. It also provided enough insulation that the house warmed up for the first time in months. Of all her books, I always liked this one the least, as it

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The Stephens – sweethearts after 53 years apart.

Freedom! It's what every kid dreams about and the one thing that Alan Stephens misses the most. "Growing up I delivered the Tri-City Herald in the area around the Mormon church on Thayer just north of Wilson," recalls Alan. "In fact, I delivered so many that I actually earned a bike through an incentive program with the newspaper. This bike was my ticket to freedom. I remember riding that bike clear across town. When the sun was up, away I would go around town, visiting friends and returning around dinner time."



Newlyweds, Jeanene and Alan Stephens share Richland memories.

Alan's family first came to the area to work for Hanford in 1948. "My father worked in security. I can remember him telling stories about how boring it was patrolling the miles of fence line out in the middle of desolate sagebrush throughout the midnight hours," tells Alan.

"No one really knew what was happening on the Hanford site which created some bad problems. One time my father happened to find a few tools out in the dirt, so he picked them up and brought them home. Unbeknownst to him, those tools were "hot" with radiation. The tools landed my dad in the hospital for three days and information spread. 'Don't pick up any tools, on the site.'" Growing up in the Hanford "city" was definitely a different experience. People came from all over the US, each bringing their culture and all were expected to live together. Amazingly, it all worked out pretty well. "We really didn't think about how different our city was until a new person would come to town and find it really odd to have a black car sitting on your street with two guys in black suits and sunglasses just watching things.

This type of security was normal for our area. There was constantly the FBI and CIA coming through town checking on things. Richland was very safe at this point. When Hanford released control of some of its area back to the City and local police, that is when crime started happening and you needed to be more concerned. That's when we actually started locking our house doors."

In September of 2018, Alan married his high school sweetheart, Jeanene. The two had not communicated for 53 years. During high school, the couple seemed meant-to-be. However, an accident in Jeanene's father's car when Alan was driving caused Alan to lay low for a bit and the two drifted apart and married others. A few years ago, both became widowed and they reconnected at a high school reunion.

Jeanene and Alan both remember growing up in Richland. Visiting Denslow Drug Store's soda fountain was definitely a highlight. The two were both Richland Bombers, the class of 1965/1966. Jeanene enjoyed modeling in high school and really wanted to take shop classes and play sports. However, those weren't offered to girls at that time. Alan enjoyed school only because Jeanene was there. Otherwise, book learning wasn't his thing. Alan was a mechanic and loved working with his hands. When his dad purchased him a '54 Mercury for \$100, the fun began. "That car was pretty hot," smiles Alan as he remembers it. "We put in a new engine, bored it out and souped it up. That Mercury was never beat. We raced near Spokane in the Deer Park area. But sometimes, I'd get in a street race or two. On the south end of town, there was a stop light coming into Richland from Kennewick where you went to George Washington Way or the bypass. Two cars would set at the red light and when it turned green the race was on. That stretch of road was a perfect quarter mile. We raced for bragging rights. I never did get a ticket for racing but I did get one for having straight pipes. I remember \$17."

Jeanene remembers riding her bike around town. The Uptown Shopping Center was a popular place with many stores. JC Penney's was on the corner and the theater was there. "You could sit in the theater all day. Go for matinee and just stay. I'd always sneak in some treats in my big purse," laughs Jeanene.

After high school, Alan joined the Navy and spent the next 23 years serving our country and literally seeing the world. The list of places Alan rattles off when asked where he was stationed is quite impressive. Alan narrowly escaped death in Viet Nam several times and feels privileged to have the opportunity to enjoy his retirement years with Jeanene in his home town. Together, the two reminisce about the "good ole Richland days" and both chant, "Go Bombers!"



The awards arrived. Above are our Ambassadors for 2019 chosen by all C&E team members. (l-r) Sal (Humor Award), Jamin Miller (Safety Award and Excellence Award), Robert Nelson (Ownership Award), Rudy (Servant's Heart Award).

Meet Lynette

Lynette is our Administrative Assistant. She keeps the place looking amazing and running smoothly. This winter Lynette attended Bible college in Belize. She fell in love with the area and would love to return some day. She's a total ranch girl. She loves cows and has her own cow that she milks daily. Retiring on a ranch would



Lynette, pictured with her milk cow, Bernadette, joined the office crew at C&E.

definitely be a dream come true. She's an outdoor person and highly recommends cave tubing. In Belize, a group with head lamps floated through the darkness of about a one-mile cave admiring the cave walls. "It was a really neat experience," tells Lynette. "Something I'd love to do again." When she's inside, she enjoys sewing and reading a good book. Vacationing all over the world is a dream. "I probably won't make it everywhere but starting in Asia or Africa

would be fun." Lynette is thankful for great parents. "I really appreciate my parents. They have encouraged me to be me. They make me feel accepted and I'm able to do things on my own. They are very good about treating me as an adult and letting me spread my wings and grow." Qualities in a co-worker that are important to Lynette are integrity, kindness and even bluntness with the ability to say it kindly. Thanks for all you do in the office, Lynette. We really appreciate it. Welcome to our team!



Meanwhile, while we're all here working in the cold weather, Robert headed out to Belize and just had to send us a picture of him working in short sleeves. Way to plan it! You missed out on our record breaking snow for the month of February.

ATTENTION!

A simple "CLICK" gets mom out of the kitchen

Mother's Day is just around the corner and here's your chance to get her out of the kitchen and enjoy dinner on us! Send us a photo of you and your mom to news@candetrenching.com by April 15, 2019 along with a special memory you have of her. We'll publish our favorites in our May newsletter along with the lucky mom who gets to get out of the kitchen and enjoy dinner on us!



Enter to win...
Dinner with mom!

Winter ...Continued from page 1

pretty much sums up my two greatest fears: being without food and incredible, desperate boredom! However, as our mini long winter month has stretched on and on it has given me some needed perspective! The one day we were stuck at our house doesn't seem so bad upon reflection!

On a positive note, we wanted to send out a thank you to all of you who have helped keep roads open and pull out your neighbors! Our crew has enjoyed helping keep some of Benton County's properties open, along with the Ferguson warehouse, the local Toyota dealer and others. We even got to pull out a stuck Sheriff! It's been fun to see the community working together, not sitting around waiting on or complaining about an overwhelmed County, but in true rural spirit, jumping in and doing what they can. That, my friends, is what makes it so great to be a part of this community!

Boat Humor

Last summer, down on Lake Isabella, located in the high desert an hour east of Bakersfield, my wife, new to boating was having a problem. No matter how hard she tried, she just couldn't get her brand new 22-ft Bayliner to perform. It wouldn't plane at high speed at all, and it was very sluggish in almost every maneuver, no matter how much power she applied.

After about an hour of trying to make it go, she walked over to the nearby marina. Maybe they could tell her what was wrong.

A thorough topside check revealed everything was in perfect working order. The engine ran fine, the outdrive went up and down, and the prop was the correct size and pitch.

One of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath the boat. He came up choking on water, he was laughing so hard. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer.

One summer our family met up with our cousins at Shasta Lake, a central point for us both. Lake Shasta is a huge, deep reservoir with a max depth of 518 feet. Our cousins had just got a new boat and wanted to take a maiden voyage with us. We met up, planning to spend lots of time on the water over the long weekend. Like with anything new, you're always a little jumpy and a touch nervous the first time out. This adventure proved no different. After carefully keeping the boat from hitting the dock edges and making sure the major things were done like putting in the drain plug and making sure the motor was submerged, we took off from the dock and skimmed across the water. All of a sudden, the driver made a quick turn, killed the engine and exclaimed, "It was only 25 feet deep there." (Anyone who boats on the Columbia knows 25 feet is considered deep. We start getting nervous around 10 feet.) We pause, float a bit then see that the depth is back to 100 feet and take off. This surprising depth change happened multiple times throughout the day. Because there seemed no sense in the depth change, we determined the reservoir bottom must just have drastic depth variances. The next day, we were all used to the depth changing rapidly and instead started watching the fish finder part on the depth sensor device. We would be floating and eating snacks, when all of a sudden, a huge cluster of fish would appear on the screen. We'd dream of having a fishing line in the water right then and even peered over the edge of the boat at times hoping to see some of those fish near the surface. We never saw any but had fun looking. The weekend ended in a success. The new boat ran great and finished without a scratch. The weather was fantastic. We all said our goodbyes and agreed we must do it again. A few weeks later, our friends called us to tell us that all that stressing about depth and dreaming of a major fishing catch was in vain. The depth/fish finder had been in demo mode the whole weekend.

A man with a stuttering problem got a job working as the lookout person on a boat. He was told to look around for large ships that were headed their way and to yell out the word "Ship!" when he saw one coming. A few hours later, the stuttering man yelled, "S-s-s-shhh-s-" but by the time he managed to complete the word "ship" a huge ship crashed into them and sent the whole crew flying. This happened another few times, leaving the crew all bumped and bruised. A few minutes later, the stuttering man again started to yell "s-s-s-shhh-" and another crewman yelled out, "Another ship must be coming!! Quick! Abandon ship!" They all jumped into the water just as the stuttering man finished yelling, "Ss-s-sh-shark!!"



A tow truck pulls out a semi-truck as seen from the seat of our grader. Seeing people stuck was a pretty common sight for all of February.

Lake Shasta

Shasta Lake, also popularly known as Lake Shasta, is a reservoir in Shasta County, California. It began to store water in 1944 due to the impounding of the Sacramento River by Shasta Dam, the ninth tallest dam in the United States. It has a capacity of 4,552,000 acre-ft at full pool, an elevation of 1,067 ft, and a surface area of 30,000 acres, making it the state's largest reservoir and its third-largest body of water after Lake Tahoe and The Salton Sea.



Photo credits to: psyberartist via Flickr.



Here my neighbor is pulling out another neighbor that thought he could make it in his jacked up truck. Oops! Thanks to all the people with tractors, we didn't stay snowed in long!



Craig opens up Curtis's driveway after the first big blizzard. How does anyone get along without a loader around?

Ray's TWILIGHT SEPTIC TANK CO.

WE'RE OPEN
BIG Ready to
Serve you
NEWS!

Hot news! C&E Trenching now services your septic tank in addition to just installation and repair.

Back in 1954, Ray started pumping septic tanks in the Tri-Cities in the evening as a side job. Since he was always working in the "twilight" he decided to call his company Ray's Twilight Septic Tank Co.

In 2019, C&E purchased Ray's Twilight Septic Tank Co. with the goal of continuing to help keep local Tri-City resident's septic tanks clean and healthy! We changed our name to Ray's Twilight Septic Service. The name has changed but we still provide the incredibly great service you expect! We serve Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties in the Columbia Basin and we'll be happy to serve you!

In order to get the longest life out of your septic system, you need to properly take care of it. Beginning in the next issue, we will be focusing on ways to care for your tank and drain field. Some may be a no-brainer to you, while others may take you by surprise. Remember, just because something is in the "As Seen on TV" aisle at Walmart, doesn't mean it will solve all your problems if you buy it. In fact, it could just create new problems.

Is your tank in need of pumping? If so, give us a call or visit our website for a free quote. Dan, our truck driver, will be out to get your tank cleaned and ready for more years of service.

Want to know more about Ray's Twilight Septic Service? Visit our website at www.twilightseptic.com.

509-375-3333
TwilightSeptic.com



Newlywed Humor

On a visit to my wife's native England country for our honeymoon, we arrived at London's Gatwick Airport. My new bride headed for the British-passport control line while I, a Canadian, waited in the foreigners' line. When my turn came, the customs officer asked me the purpose of my visit. "Pleasure," I replied. "I'm on my honeymoon." The officer looked first to one side of me, then the other. "That's very interesting, sir," he said as he stamped my passport. "Most men bring their wives with them."

When my brother and his wife got married, both were university students and money was scarce. My parents visited them and were ushered into a living room bare of furniture. They were graciously invited to sit on boxes of books and boards - under signs that optimistically proclaimed 'couch', 'armchair' and 'rocker'.

The alleged most commonly used words of endearment: Honey (48%), Baby (44%), Sweetheart (41%), Dear (39%), Lover (32%), Darling (31%), Sugar (24%), Angel (20%), Pumpkin (13%), Beautiful (6%).

Advice: Hold your wife's hand in the mall because if you let go she'll start shopping. It looks romantic but it's actually economic.

Marriage Tip: No woman has ever started an argument with a man while he was dusting, vacuuming, or washing dishes.

"I now pronounce you man and wife, you may now change your Facebook status."

My husband-to-be and I were at the county clerk's office for our marriage license. After recording the vital information--names, dates of birth, etc--the clerk handed me our license and deadpanned, "No refunds, no exchanges, no warranties."



Even big kids love our Tonka trucks loaded with goodies. Congratulations to Arlen Albin who was a winner at the Eastern Washington Ag Show.

I  winter*

* this might be debatable.

Simple Formula for Living

- Live beneath your means.
- Return everything you borrow.
- Stop blaming other people.
- Admit when you make a mistake.
- Give clothes not worn to charity.
- Do something nice and try not to get caught.
- Listen more; talk less.
- Every day take a 30 minute walk.
- Strive for excellence, not perfection.
- Be on time. Don't make excuses.
- Don't argue. Get organized.
- Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
- Take time to be alone.
- Cultivate good manners.
- Be humble.
- Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
- Know when to keep your mouth shut.
- Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
- Learn from the past. Plan for the future.
- Live in the present.
- Don't sweat the small stuff.
- It's all small stuff.

Millau Viaduct - A Record Breaker

Recently, one of our readers cued us into this amazing engineering marvel in France when she sent us a picture for our newsletter contest (see last page). This caused me to do a little research on this and watch some

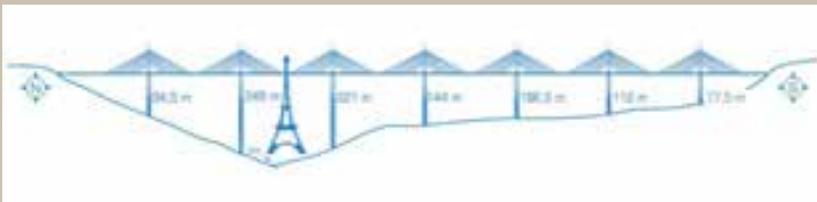


amazing Youtube videos. Brilliant minds worked tirelessly to build this amazing bridge that is nearly a quarter mile tall.

In 1991, France determined it needed to build a bridge to connect two limestone plateaus

and relieve heavy traffic problems for the small towns in the Taran Valley which connected Paris to Spain. They hired two amazing, award winning architects to design the bridge. Even though the structure was massive, both designers wanted it to appear as light and airy as a butterfly. Therefore, they removed as much structural material as possible. The interesting thing about this bridge is that they began building the bridge from the sides and hoped to line up in the middle. The use of careful GPS measurements and constant monitoring brought the two sides together with no more than a few millimeters difference. When the highest part of the road was complete, a famous base jumper accessed the bridge by night and hid in a pillar before jumping off the bridge at daylight. A crew filmed it all, then dashed away before authorities caught them. (In other words, this is a no, no.) The project was completed in approximately three years and was finished a month before its deadline. The Millau Viaduct is ranked as one of the greatest engineering achievements of all time. Its highest point is 62 feet taller than the Eiffel Tower. Millau Viaduct is so high that it glides above the clouds. (Check out internet pictures. I couldn't include everything.) It is considered one of the most beautiful bridges. The speed limit on the bridge was reduced from 81 mph to 68 mph because tourists were slowing down to take photos.

Since opening in 2004, the deck height of Millau has been surpassed by



several suspension bridges in China. In 2012, Mexico's Baluarte Bridge surpassed Millau as the world's highest cable-stayed bridge. The Royal Gorge suspension bridge in the state of Colorado is also higher, with a bridge deck of approximately 955 feet over the Arkansas River. You really should watch a few Youtube videos about its construction. The hurdles they overcame will amaze you.



Seriously, this was January. No snow and rainbows. Thanks to Jose Anguiano, a C&E team member, for snapping this photo.



Tri-Cities broke the record, with 24" of snow in the month of February and more predicted before the month is over. If you live here, this comes as no surprise!

Thanks for calling, Again!

- Anchor Hauling LLC
- Bart Larsen
- Benton County Public Works
- City of Kennewick
- Crown Property Management
- Dirt Holdings
- Doug VanBatavia
- Garden Gate Nursery LLC
- JJ Danz
- LW Weidert Farms - Tim Weidert
- Mary Bauman
- Miller Ag, LLC
- PUD No. 2 of Grant County
- Skone Irrigation
- Van Rijn Farms
- Wells Fargo

Welcome to C&E

We thrive on referrals.

JJ Danz

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When it snows, you have two choices: shovel or make snow angels.

Photo Contest

The Latest Dirt went to... ...France!

Karine Klempel (pictured) along with her daughters, Joy and Faith, toured France for three weeks. While in France, they visited the world's tallest bridge (at the time of construction). The Millau Viaduct is taller than the Eiffel Tower. This bridge really is an engineering marvel. Learn more about it and its construction challenges on page six. Thanks for taking us along.



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.

