



Sometimes you shovel

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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Keep the pictures coming!

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

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

September 2019

It's Really Your Road Construction

The fresh smell of turned earth has always made me happy. Fall was always my favorite time in farming since we got to work ground! The fresh smell of the dirt after it was turned over has stayed with me for years. It maybe even explains why I am still in the "dirt" business.

At five o'clock on a Friday evening, I am the happiest I have been all week. About three o'clock, the office walls were closing in on me and I decided I "needed" to run over to visit a job that was wrapping up in Kennewick. I hadn't made it to this job yet since it had only been going about three weeks and my days seem to fly by with "must do's", not leaving much time for "like to do's". When I arrived, the crew was just getting started laying some sod and I spent the happiest and most relaxing hour of my week chatting with the guys I usually only see once a week at best, sweating, getting a blister on my office hands and generally having a blast.



Finishing touches on some sod surrounding the green we cut through. You can still see where we replaced the green sod as well.

On this job we tied into a sewer manhole that was located just across a green on a golf course so, of course, the sod had to go back when we were done. As we were laying sod, there were golfers hitting balls within a few feet of us and chatting with us. One of them sliced a ball that came within a few feet of hitting one of us. You could tell they were feeling sorry for us poor slob that had to work for a living, but I wouldn't have traded a second with any of them! I would far rather lay sod on a humid, 86-degree day with a crew like ours that was still happy and cheerful at the end of a long week than play golf. Of course, I have to admit that golf has never been very high on my list. Sorry to disappoint some of you! A great vacation for me involves, not golf, but watching an active construction site going on nearby. At any rate, today was a good reminder to get out and experience the fun of construction as too often the days are spent in the "not fun" of construction.

The "not so fun" parts are stress, wondering what one thing you missed that will hold up a crew, and was it 24-hour notice to the city or 48? Is our subcontractor going to show up when promised? Is the material there? Complaints that come in while we are fixing things under the road are from drivers that insist they must still be allowed to drive on a perfectly smooth surface at 30 MPH above the speed limit! For your enjoyment, here are some of the official complaints that we received on just one job recently. One gentleman in his BMW claimed he hit one of our temporary trenches so hard that it ruined all four of his run-flat tires. Keep in mind that the construction speed of this road was 20 MPH.

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C&E TRENCHING, LLC
P.O. Box 3788
Pasco, WA 99302
509-545-6940

The Crawford's See Change

"If you found a mouse in the bottom of the water tank, you didn't tell Mom," Jim Crawford recalls. "You just fished him out and added a bit more chlorine to the household water tank."



Brothers Jim & Ross Crawford stand in front of the house his parents built. His parents purchased the plans for the house from the 1955 Farm Journal magazine. Half-way through building the house, they ran out of lumber. When their father questioned the builder, he stated, "Oh, that was if you weren't going to live in the house. If YOU are going to live in this house, you'll need to add more lumber to make it nice."

Originally published August 2012

Water, in general, was a commodity that Elmer "Les" and Eva Louise Crawford never wasted as they pioneered in the Columbia Basin. And Eva Louise adapted well to this and other circumstances considering she was raised in a very wealthy family who employed a house-keeper. Due to her privileged upbringing, The Depression impacted her differently than many others. One of her challenges during those years was learning how to do without nylons, tires and gasoline, as they were rationed for the war effort. Eva Louise left the wealthy life behind the day she saw Les walk into the USO in Glendale, CA. Years later, she would ask Les if he ever dreamed that he was going to walk out with a bride that day at the USO. And he always replied, "All I went in there for was a cheese sandwich."

Les & Eva Louise were the eighth family to pick a farm here in the Columbia Basin. Their first farm was in Block 1, but later they moved up north of road 170 where some of their family still lives and farms.

Throughout their years of pioneering, the Crawford's tried to be very self-supporting. They raised all of their meat and vegetables. "In fact," their son Ross Crawford remembers, "all the food we were eating was home grown except maybe the bread that came from a store."

When the Crawford's built their house north of 170, there were too many surrounding homes on the current well system, so they spent the first three years hauling water from Mesa. They pumped the water out of a tank in their basement. Les eventually drilled a well and went down 100 feet. They soon ran out of water so they went down to 200 feet and you couldn't phase the water flow. "On Sunday night, our neighbor family would come and take showers and watch TV," remembers Ross. "We got the first colored TV in the Basin. Dad traded two bushels of corn for it."

Farming has progressed. When harrow beds came out, Ross remembers his father saying, "I never thought I'd see the day when the American farmer would put his hay up and never have to touch it."

Who is it?

A very large, old building was being torn down in Chicago to make room for a new skyscraper. Due to its proximity to other buildings, it could not be imploded and had to be dismantled floor by floor. While working on the 49th floor, two construction workers found a skeleton in a small closet behind the elevator shaft. They decided that they should call the police.

When the police arrived, they directed them to the closet and showed them the skeleton, fully clothed and standing upright. Two days went by and the construction workers couldn't stand it anymore. They had to know who they had found. They called the police and said, "We are the two guys who found the skeleton in the closet and we want to know who it was."

The police said, "It was somebody kind of important."

"Well, who was it?" they asked.

"The 1962 National Hide-and-Seek Champion," the police said.

I Got Fired Today

A guy came in the store and asked me what the best thing for finding your ancestors was.

"Probably a shovel," was not the right answer.

Shovel Invention

According to the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Archaeology, the first known shovels were discarded ox scapula (shoulder blades) from about 5,000 years ago used by the folks in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age who used them to move soil and rocks.

Road Construction... Cont. from page 1

Another lady said she hit a trench and was sure something was wrong, so she took her car to be checked out. After telling her that nothing was wrong, the shop let her know that if nothing else, they could align her tires just in case they needed it. Of course, she attempted to pass that bill on to us. Another driver claimed he had two wheels damaged and another one a bottom plate. There was a call from a man who claimed the vibration from our compactors caused both of his flat screen TV's to quit working. Each one is a phone call to the underwriter (sometimes multiple ones), photos of the construction signs and so on. Maybe you are starting to understand why going out and laying sod was so much fun for me!

Are we too far removed from the dirt of life to care anymore? We want our vegetables to be traceable so if we get sick, we can sue somebody! Take another route home? Slow down? Wash our vegetables? Who has the time for that? When you dug your vegetables from the garden that you had spread the cow manure on, it didn't take much incentive to wash them well! I was recently reminded of a book by Ralph Moody called Little Britches. It is the story of Ralph's boyhood from the time he was nine and they moved to Colorado to ranch. The part I remembered was that the local farmers could pay off their property taxes by helping on the road team for a set amount of time. Ralph (at 9 or 10) drove a team of horses hauling gravel to spread on the road. Other men shoveled the gravel on and spread it out where it was dumped. I think if we all spent a couple weeks on the road team, we would think differently about our infrastructure! It isn't the county's or the city's; it is ours. We the people, by the people. Sometimes I think not only do we forget that, but the counties and cities do as well.

Enough of my rant! I hope you all have a great month of September. I don't know about you, but fall is my favorite time of the year in the Basin. Not just because it is dirt-working season on the farm, but that is sure one of the reasons! Go out, revel in the smell of fresh earth, slow down and breathe. Life is going by fast for all of us. We need to take time to enjoy the ride. And don't forget to give a friendly wave to the construction team, even if they look grumpy. It will make their day to see a friendly face!



Greg pauses while prepping this leach bed for pipe installation. Congrats to Middleton's on their latest expansion. We can't wait to come check it out!



Our thanks to Harvest Heights Church for contracting with C&E to build their new multipurpose room (building in back). A special thanks to Circle K Enterprises, Brashear Electric, Total Energy Management and Dakota Concrete. We couldn't have done it without you!

A Prisoner is digging a tunnel out of prison

He is slowly making progress day by day, but with just a spoon for a shovel it seems like an impossible task. After numerous years of blood and sweat, he finally manages to reach the surface outside of the prison grounds. He is overwhelmed with happiness at the thought of finally being free and can't hold in his excitement any longer. He starts shouting at the top of his lungs, "I am free, I am free, I am finally free!"

A passing little boy walks up to him and says, "Big whoop! I just turned four!"

Inventions

I've heard a lot about how important 'the wheel' was for civilization, but I think it's time to recognize 'the shovel' for being the ground-breaking invention that it is.

And, even though the shovel invention was ground-breaking, the invention of the broom was the one that truly swept the nation.



CONSTRUCTION APPRECIATION WEEK

In all honesty, when was the last time you were thankful for road construction? I'll have to confess that I'm one of those people who get irritated at the inconvenience of road construction. Curtis mentioned that infrastructure updating, like road construction, really is something we should be thankful for because it's ours. We benefit from nice roads. Having returned from summer trips to Florida and the Dominican Republic, I'm very thankful for nice roads and the super construction crews that keep them drive-able. This month when you see a construction crew, take the time to say thanks or offer a friendly wave as you pass through road construction. Our roads would be a mess without their willingness to work hard in the hot sun! The construction industry is growing and these interesting stats from the last few years tell the story.

- Construction spending in the United States topped \$1.23 trillion in 2017 and is expected to rise 4.3% on average.
- At \$951 billion dollars, 77% of construction spending occurred in the private sector in 2018.
- Steel demand for construction in Asia and Oceania is over 1 billion metric tons annually. (Learning note of the day: Oceania is comprised of 14 countries in the ocean area around Australia.)
- 10.6 million people worked in the construction industry in 2017.
- 35% of construction-related companies added staff in 2017.
- The construction industry has added 297,000 net jobs in 2018.
- 90% of U.S. general contractors reported labor shortage concerns.
- Construction in the western U.S. projected 7% growth last year.
- 20% of U.S. construction occurs in New York, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, and Washington DC.
- 50% of all construction in the U.S. is expected to occur in just 20 cities over the next 5 years.
- New York City is the most expensive city to build in, costing \$3900 per square meter, in 2017.
- About 64% of all on the job fatalities in construction are due to the "Fatal Four" hazards: falls, electrocution, being struck by an object, and being crushed.
- 39% of companies cite "lack of IT staff" as the most limiting factor in adopting new technology.
- 75% of construction firms promote themselves through social media.
- The average backlog of projects for general contractors is 9.3 months, indicating a stable market with room for growth.

Construction guys are busy. Be sure to say thanks to the work crews around you.



About 25,000 feet of 20" HDPE pipe to weld together in a short time frame means two fusion welding machines on site!



Three pipes ready to be installed in the ditch and one long shadow taking pictures!

Welcome to C&E

We thrive on referrals.

Dirk Tuinstra

Horn Rapids Golf Course

Sonray Enterprises



Phase 2 of installing 20" HDPE is a careful coordination of three excavators. Then into the ditch it goes.



The lead machine is pulling and guiding. Two more pipes to go. Fun times!

Thanks for calling, Again!

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At Anchor Hauling, we care about road safety. We want everyone home at night. With school starting, many teens are on the roads. Here are a few tips, that will make a difference.

- Adjust your car's head rest to a height behind your head – not your neck – to minimize whiplash in case you're in an accident.
- Make sure your windshield is clean. At sunrise and sunset, light reflecting off your dirty windshield can momentarily blind you from seeing what's going on.
- Don't drive like you own the road. Drive like you own the car.
- Don't make assumptions about what other drivers are going to do. The only thing you can assume about another driver with a turn signal on is that they have a turn signal on. He/she might not be turning at all, and just forgot to turn it off.
- Make sure your car always has gas in it – don't ride around with the gauge on empty.

Anchor Hauling cares about road and hauling safety. Our crew is trained and ready to haul for you no matter if it's one gigantic piece of equipment or millions of granules of sand. Give us a call next time you're ready to move equipment or get rock delivered and let us give you a quote. Our free quotes will help you make educated decisions. Our skilled team will deliver your load successfully.



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2000 Uses for

It all started in 1953. Three solo employees of the Rocket Chemical Company set out to create a rust-prevention solvent and degreaser for use in the aerospace industry. On their 40th attempt, they got their water displacement formula perfect and WD-40 (water displacement, 40th formula) was created!

The first company to use WD-40 commercially was Convair, an aerospace contractor, to protect the outer skin of the Atlas Missile from rust and corrosion. The product worked so well that several employees snuck cans of WD-40 out of the plant in their lunch boxes to use at home.

A few years later, they decided consumers might also find a use for the product in their home workshops and garages if it was in an aerosol can. Soon, the company nearly doubled in size, growing to seven salesmen who sold an average of 45 cases per day from the trunks of their cars to hardware and sporting goods stores throughout the San Diego area.

In 1993, WD-40 was found to be in 4 out of 5 American households and was used by 81 percent of trade professionals at work. More than one million cans are sold each week in the United States alone.

Now for the 2000 uses: actually, we'll do the one, two, skip a few counting to avoid mailing you a newsletter the size of a phone book. If you really want to see all 2000, check out the link on our social media pages.

1. Protects silver from tarnishing.
2. Removes road tar and grime from cars.
14. Keeps ceramic/terra cotta garden pots from oxidizing.
23. Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
26. Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
34. Keeps pigeons off the balcony. (They hate the smell.)
35. Removes all traces of duct tape.
37. Cleans and removes bugs from grills and bumpers.
43. If sprayed on the distributor cap, it would displace the moisture and allow the car to start.
44. It removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor.
69. Removes tea stains from counter tops.
89. Removes lipstick from fabric.
1999. Removed a python snake which had coiled itself around the undercarriage of an Asian bus.
2000. Removed a naked burglar trapped in an air conditioning vent. (Thanks to the police officers who shared this trick, but not the pictures!)

For all 2000, visit us on Facebook or Instagram.



Some rocks are bigger than others! We hear this one is going to be painted bright orange like a pumpkin!



We do tend to think that rainbows follow this water truck around. Finally, here is the proof! What a beautiful evening.

Amazing Medicine

An engineer was unemployed for long time. He could not find a job so he opened a medical clinic and put a sign up outside: "Get your treatment for \$500. If not healed, get back \$1,000."

One doctor thinks this is a good opportunity to earn \$1,000 and goes to the clinic.

Doctor: "I have lost taste in my mouth."

Engineer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Doctor: "This is Gasoline!"

Engineer: "Congratulations! You've got your taste back. That will be \$500."

The Doctor gets annoyed and goes back a couple of days later to recover his money.

Doctor: "I have lost my memory. I cannot remember anything."

Engineer: "Nurse, please bring medicine from box 22 and put 3 drops in the patient's mouth."

Doctor: "But that is Gasoline!"

Engineer: "Congratulations! You've got your memory back. That will be \$500."

The Doctor leaves angrily and comes back after several more days.

Doctor: "My eyesight has become weak."

Engineer: "Well, I don't have any medicine for that. Take this \$1,000."

Doctor: "But this is \$500..."

Engineer: "Congratulations! You got your vision back! That will be \$500."

Budget Cuts

Two workers and a managerial looking guy are walking down a park path with a shovel. Every 20 feet they stop, one worker digs a small hole in the ground, and the other one fills it back up, while the managerial dude watches with a pencil and clipboard in hand.

A bored passerby watches the trio do this for a half hour, and finally comes up to them and asks, "Excuse me, but what are you doing?"

The man with the clipboard barks back, "Well, what does it look like we're doing?"

"It looks like your first worker keeps digging holes, and the second worker is filling them back up, but I can't figure out what the point is."

"Ah, I see your confusion. Bill was supposed to be the *third* worker. Steve would've been planting the trees, but we had to downsize his position for budget reasons."

Ray's Twilight SEPTIC SERVICE

TIP #1 *Monitor Water Usage*

Americans value hard work, and who, after hard work or play, doesn't love a long, hot shower?

*****3 Easy tips to save water and still get a great shower!*****

1. Change out your shower heads to a low gallons-per-minute shower head. I know you hear this frequently but take a look at some of the latest shower heads. They will give you an amazing shower, using only a fraction of the water.
2. Make sure you have aerators in all your faucets. This is a little screen that you can feel if you poke your finger up the faucet nozzle. This alone can save gallons a day from going into your septic system.
3. Fix leaks! Leaks are the single most destructive thing that can destroy your drain field. That constant drip or stream of water adds up over time. Fix the leaky toilets and dripping faucets and sleep good.
4. Bonus tips (a couple extra things you can tweak without messing with your lifestyle): Make sure your dishwasher is full when you run it. Make sure your washer load size is set properly (average load of laundry uses 47-50 gallons of water). Also, use a 1/3 to 1/2 of a sink of water when washing dishes.

Paying attention to each of these suggestions will not only save your drain field, it will also save on your water bill by cutting down the estimated 80-100 gallons of water an American uses every day! But most importantly, you can still get a great shower.

P.S. If you would like to calculate the average amount of water your household uses per day, visit www.csgnetwork.com/waterusagecalc.html. Be prepared for some heart-stopping figures.

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

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“There’s nothing like a shovel full of dirt to encourage literacy.”

- Margaret Atwood

Photo Contest

The Latest Dirt went to... Italy!

Glen Nakamura, Monty Mahler, Isaac Carlson, and Bruce Carlson traveled to Modena, Italy. In the picture, they are in the Ferrari Museum. Thanks for sharing. I'm sure this was a really cool stop!



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.



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