

LEITHAUSER: Sisters woman was pioneer in church, Rodeo

Continued from page 7

clean before they got there. Mom loved her dishwasher.”

Possibly the biggest advance in bringing Sisters an identity was financial investment and involvement of the Leithausers and nine other founders in creating Sisters Rodeo. Since Pete knew everyone in the small community, the couple naturally gravitated to becoming part of the establishment of the rodeo

The rodeo was dependent on the wives of the founders. They painted numbers on pieces of oil cloth to pin on contestants, painted seat numbers in the stands, sold tickets and kept some order in a rodeo that quickly earned a reputation for rowdy good times, along with a growing celebrity as one of the best small rodeos in the nation.

In 2007, Sisters Rodeo Association honored Edith as the Grand Marshal of the rodeo parade. Pete was chosen as Grand Marshal in 1985.

After they sold the grocery in 1977, the Leithausers moved to 40 acres on Camp Polk Road, where their basement party room became a destination for many social gatherings over the next few decades. Edith liked to have fun, and was the right hostess for some really memorable evenings.

When she lost Pete in 1990, Edith refused to indulge in what she considered self-pity. Instead, she went to the

post office (which she still owned and leased to the government at the current location of Melvin’s) and spent a few days greeting people as they arrived to get their mail. In small towns, the post office is a center of social interaction, so she knew she’d be able to visit with everyone and hold on to her extraordinary appreciation of life.

Edith was a dedicated supporter of Sisters High Mountains Jazz Festival, never missing a performance in the festival’s 15-year history. She was also one of the first seniors to enjoy Senior Meal Site gatherings until far into her 90s.

Her enthusiasm to be surrounded by children did not subside with age. In her 80s and 90s, Edith often hosted the parish children of St. Edward’s, who scheduled visits with seniors and shut-ins as part of their religious education. A visit to Edith’s house was a time of inspiration, as she told stories of Sisters and how her faith had kept her whole.

“Kids brought her much joy,” Theresa Slavkovsky reflected. “I remember when a boy took an electronic game to her house and she got so excited. She wanted to learn how to play it.”

Edith once described her life with Pete in Sisters this way: “We worked liked two dirty dogs and made a go of it.” An entire community with some history in Sisters knows the truth of that. Edith Leithauser, even at 96 years old, taught an entire community how to “make a go of it” in an enchanting manner.

A NEW SONG: A kind word can go a long way to help someone

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In writing this I just outed myself; admitting one of my weaknesses. Not that it was ever really hidden. Being fat is one of those challenges that you wear on your hips, arms, boobs, stomach ... you get the idea. It turns out the only person I was really hiding from was myself.

There is a degree of shame that it’s taken me this long to handle my eating problem. It’s embarrassing to have to squeeze into theater seats, being unable to fit into cute clothes and getting out of breath so quickly.

I’ve felt the disapproving stares of “athletes” who can barely hide their disgust for my lack of self-control. Over the years, friends have made snide comments about overweight people, forgetting I’m standing there as the poster child of

their disdain.

It would be helpful to not feel judged or disrespected by others. When I see an overweight person I wonder why they are carrying around all that baggage and what makes them fill the void with food? Feeling unloved, not good enough or unheard are tough emotions that are often buried and forgotten until they percolate to the surface uninvited.

We all have our coping mechanisms for painful emotions. The thing I’m trying to remember is that they are also bad for my health.

We’re all dealing with issues of one kind or another. I invite you to take the time to consider why someone’s grumpy, sad or quiet. With a kind word, you might be just the person to add a little happiness into their day. With all the chaos in the world, we are so fortunate to live in our little town.

We are a tiny microcosm of society with the opportunity to make the world a better place one smile at a time.

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 ___ milk; nonfat beverage
 - 5 Ill-gotten gain
 - 10 Kindergartner’s recitation
 - 14 Game similar to lotto
 - 15 Normal
 - 16 Cowboy’s shoe
 - 17 Take ___ account; consider
 - 18 Irritating
 - 20 Fraternity letter
 - 21 Meanie
 - 22 Snake’s poison
 - 23 Excavator’s chambers
 - 25 Chicken’s mom
 - 26 Hits hard
 - 28 June and July
 - 31 Usually dry streambeds
 - 32 Twitter post
 - 34 ___ of a sudden; without warning
 - 36 Arkin or Thicke
 - 37 Squeeze
 - 38 Soft cheese
 - 39 Badminton court divider
 - 40 Molar or canine
 - 41 Papers to be filled out
 - 42 Whispered confidence
 - 44 Lays to rest
 - 45 Sweltering
 - 46 Actress Vera
 - 47 Ropers’ event
 - 50 Soap brand
 - 51 Naughty
 - 54 Diplomas
 - 57 Sled race
 - 58 Competes
 - 59 ___ of cake; easy task
 - 60 Wrought ___ fence
 - 61 Vatican leader
 - 62 Inserted
 - 63 Breakfast order
- DOWN**
- 1 Pass over
 - 2 Mattel’s boy dolls

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Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/16/15

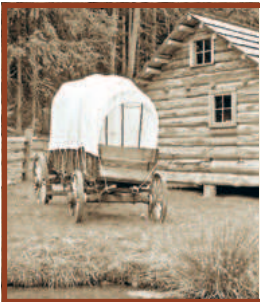
— Last Week’s Puzzle Solved —

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- 3 Make fearful
- 4 Cow comment
- 5 Sudden forward movements
- 6 Consumers
- 7 ___ as a button
- 8 Long-tailed rodent
- 9 Building wing
- 10 Not here
- 11 Godsend
- 12 Singer Perry ___
- 13 Flower stalk
- 19 Happening
- 21 Singles
- 24 Rub ___; gloat
- 25 Garden tools
- 26 Waterbird
- 27 Boys and men
- 28 Fit together, as gear teeth
- 29 Capital of Pennsylvania
- 30 Secretion left on a snail path
- 32 Horse’s gait
- 33 Moist
- 35 Not as much
- 37 Wordsworth or Longfellow
- 38 Long-winded speaker, often
- 40 Scouting group
- 41 Jam-packed
- 43 Swiss or Edam
- 44 Prejudiced
- 46 Chop finely
- 47 Invitation letters
- 48 Cincinnati, ___
- 49 Profound
- 50 Perished
- 52 Very excited
- 53 Comfy rooms
- 55 Group bath
- 56 Child
- 57 Commit perjury

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