

DIRTY FINGERNAILS AND ALL

Excuses, excuses

BY SIOUX ROGERS

Hello to all my garden buddies! After reading the rest of this, I hope you will understand why I did *not* write my “Dirty Fingernails” article for this issue. *Hint:* This was caused by a wild saga (or three).

Excuse No. 1

Last week while I was mowing the lawn, I stepped on a giant nest of very nasty hornets. OMG, they got in my mouth and bit my tongue, and while I was trying to get them out of my mouth, they bit my fingers. All my fingers swelled up to the size of baby watermelons and, by golly, I could not type one dang word.

Excuse No. 2

My favorite Aunt Mary announced to the family that she was going on a solo rock-climbing adventure in Canada. This may sound jolly to you, but Aunt Mary is very old and very skinny and very bald—well, very scant on hair. I was so nervous for her, but she insisted on going. Well, since she is my very *very* dear Aunt, I said

The author's own flower arrangement discovered at a flea market in Budapest by the author.



Sioux Rogers

I would go with her—although she was worried that *I* would slow *her* down (imagine!). Sadly, Auntie Mary was right. Not only did I ruin the trip, I am more of a wreck than when we started out. Remember those watermelon-sized fingers? They don't grip rocks! What was I thinking? (Forehead smack.) Not only did I fall over backwards off a steep rocky incline, I broke my right elbow and ripped my hoop earring (don't all mountain climbers wear hoop earrings?) right through my earlobe when it caught on a branch during the tumble. Let's see, what else? Oh, yes, when I fell, Aunt Mary ran to get help. I didn't want to be left behind so I started running after her, or so I thought. Turns out I ran in the wrong direction, and Aunt Mary had to call search and rescue. When the rescue dogs got a whiff of me, they started growling and I started, well, you know, screaming and running.

The two biggest dogs latched onto my backside, causing me to trip and break my knee. When I finally made it home, I realized that—due to multiple broken body parts and gaping wounds—I could not possibly manage any kind of sane column.

Excuse No. 3

I went to sleep in the Applegate and woke up in Budapest, where I am now fulfilling my dream of pawing through all of the fantastic flea markets.

Next issue and with aplomb,

Sioux Rogers

dirtyfingernails@fastmail.fm

Voices of the Applegate
Fall Concerts

Voices of the Applegate, our community choir, begins another fall season of diverse and exciting music with our director, Shayne Flock. Rehearsals start on Tuesday, September 3, at 6:30 pm at Ruch Library and continue on through the fall until November 19.

Our rehearsals will be held every Tuesday evening at Ruch Library from 7 - 8:30 pm, except for the first one, which runs a little longer to allow time for registration. Everyone is invited to participate. No auditions are necessary.

Two concerts will be held at the end of the season—the first one on November 22 at the Historic Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, on 6th and California Streets, and the second on November 24 at Applegate River Lodge, 15100 Highway 238.

Shayne Flock took over directing Voices of the Applegate in the fall of 2018 and has infused the choir with his enthusiasm and talent as a teacher. We are a community choir made up of singers from the Applegate Valley, Williams, and Jacksonville. The choir holds about 22 participants who are all devoted to music and singing. Many of our songs are in three- or four-part harmony; some are in foreign languages.

Come and join us. Music can brighten your life and expand your talent. There is nothing more joyful than raising our voices together.

For more information, call Joan Peterson at 541-846-6988.

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