

Still living life to the fullest after nearly 100 years

By
Jenna Larkin
IVN Contributing Writer

Bud Winters answered the door with a spring in his step that resembled a man half his age. At about 5’7”, he stood straight as an arrow with a smile on his face and had a firm handshake.

Born in 1914, Winters has had a long and fulfilling life and doesn’t sound like he plans on slowing down anytime soon. Although his parents moved around all through his childhood, Bud learned the values of life and what it meant to work hard and earn what you needed. But, that didn’t stop Bud from causing a little mischief as a tyke.

When he was around four years old, Winters got it into his head to run away to grandma’s house which was 45 miles away. With his two old hound dogs in tow, he made it 13 miles before he crashed for a nap on the side of a dirt road. Bud was found later that evening with both dogs on either side of him, safe and sound but a little tired.

When he was an infant, the family packed up and moved from Oregon and headed to South Dakota where his father owned a homestead. The family lived there for a few years but ended up moving around, while still improving on the homestead. Over the years his family moved from town to town and to different states, catering to the work his dad did at the time.

At six years old he started attending school, during which time he stayed with his grandma. He was also lucky enough to attend grade school until the eighth grade in the early 20’s.

When school was not in session, Winters went home to help on the family farm. In 1928, at 14 years old, he was responsible for hauling grain from the thrasher to the elevator in a nearby town. Winters also had the privilege of herding 2,500 buffalo for a company called Scottie Phillips Buffalo Ranch. The ranch was in the process of saving the buffalo in that area of South Dakota. To herd the buffalo from one place to another, the ranch hands would mount up on horses and round up the herds. To pass the time, songs would be sung and stories were told. Winters worked on the ranch for about a month as part of his education due to the fact that he was unable to attend high school.

Winters eventually ventured out on his own when he became of age and started working for various companies from hauling horses for auction to working for a sawmill out of Wyoming. Through the years he held many jobs, all of them fulfilling, eventually he decided to retire but never fully did so. He still

held a job here and there to help keep him busy.

Through many years, Winters has had a rock behind him to help keep him grounded and out of mischief. He and his wife, Waunnetta, have been married for 68 years.

So what has it been like for her to have been together for so long?

“Oh, it’s been great,” said Waunnetta “We’ve done everything!”

Many of Winters’ jobs required relocating to different nearby towns or even a new state. So he and his family would pack up and go.

“Yeah, I made a gypsy out of her for a few years, especially when I was logging,” Winters said jokingly.

The only remaining son, Winters is the oldest of eight children and his three sisters are still living and spread out across the country.

The Winters have two children, Alice and Theresa. They also have four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

“It’s great,” Winters said. “When they have trouble, pert in near all of them come to me for advice and I try to tell them what to do.”

Waunnetta enjoys it, too.

“I think it’s wonderful, just wonderful,” she said.

By mid to the late 80’s, Waunetta and Bud began to travel and across the U.S., visiting family and friends while enjoying the countryside.

At times they would be gone for three or four months at a time, just enjoying life itself. Some of those excursions included traveling to Eastern Oregon to go hunting and fishing on John Deer River with family friends.

“We just had so much fun when we traveled,” Bud said with a smile that seemed to bring back memories.

His 100th birthday is right around the corner.

“We’re going to have a party. We are having a BBQ and everyone is invited,” Winters said. “I’m not a part of that (the planning), the girls are in charge of that.”

This birthday marks a milestone for a man who has seen and done more than most people do. Many friends and family are journeying from across the country to help celebrate those accomplishments.

When asked what he thought about turning 100, Winters chuckled.

“I think it’s great but I have no idea that I am a 100.”

Winters still gets on his backhoe and does small jobs for people. He still cuts wood for the woodstove; although he admits he can’t do what he used to do.

“There are lots of things I’d like to do, I just can’t,” said Winters, suddenly humbled by the amount of time that has gone by. “I enjoy what I do, I go out and mess around for an hour, come in and sit down for a while and have some coffee and then go back out and do it all again.”

It is frustrating to him that it is so hard to find someone to come out and help when he needs it. It seems not many want to work, to earn their money. He doesn’t understand where, over the years, the sense of pride went in working.

Winters took a stroll down memory lane and told a few stories of when he was a kid and how things have changed since then.

During a Fourth of July celebration, he remembered having a quarter and how back then that was a lot of money. No one had any money, he explained, the country was poor. Families were able to sustain themselves for the most part. Usually only having to buy sugar, sometimes flour and spices. Most everything was grown or raised. For flour his mom would take bushels of wheat to a local flour mill and the owner would grind the wheat and make flour. Some other things that have changed are technology.

“Well, all of it is new, like your Internet and it’s all new. We didn’t even have telephones when I was a kid. We didn’t even have lights till I was about 16. No running water either.”

Applying his 100 years of experience, his advice to youth is to go to school and get a good education.

“If you don’t get an education you aren’t gonna go far now,” he said.

With the many adventures Winters has had over the years and no sign of slowing down, he seems happy and content to continue to live life to its fullest.

“I’ve done a lot of different things. No regrets on any of it,” Winters said, sitting proudly at his kitchen table with Waunnetta at his side.

ALL REPAIRS DONE ON SITE!



TUES - FRI 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.

SAT 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

SUN & MON CLOSED

23772 REDWOOD HIGHWAY
KERBY, OR

541-592-4838

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST
OR ORDER OFF THE MENU
AT THE I.V. GRANGE



FIRST THREE SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH FROM 8 A.M. TO 12 NOON.

3763 Holland Loop
541-592-6045 or 541-592-4478

SPORTSMAN TAVERN

KARAOKE

EVERY FRIDAY

SERVING COCKTAILS

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
AND HEAR ALL OF YOU





ZUMBA

Instructor: Lisa Sherier

541-761-4342

Monday • Wednesday • Thursday •

6:00 PM

\$5.00 for Drop-in

\$40.00 a Month

770 Caves Hwy • Cave Junction

LORNA BYRNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

YARD & BAKE SALE

FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH

@ LORNA BYRNE MIDDLE SCHOOL

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

RAIN OR SHINE



WE ARE ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR THE YARD SALE
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS FROM 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM
AT A+ STORAGE IN CAVE JUNCTION. TO ARRANGE
SATURDAY PICK UP OR DROP OFF PLEASE CONTACT
HEATHER MCLANAHAN 5414500946. ALL FUNDS
RAISED WILL GO TOWARD THE 8TH GRADE MOVING UP
CEREMONY AND FIELD TRIP.

*ITEMS ACCEPTED- GENTLY WORN CLOTHING, BOOKS, TOYS & GAMES, FURNITURE (PLEASE CALL AHEAD IF DONATING BIG/HEAVY FURNITURE) HOME DÉCOR & ART WORK, SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS, DVDS & CDS, COLLECTIBLES.
*PLEASE NO LARGE APPLIANCES, MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRINGS, BEDDING OR BROKEN ITEMS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

3rd Annual

RUMMAGE SALE

10 am to 3 pm

Josephine County Building

102 S. Redwood Hwy, Cave Junction

Books, furniture, toys, clothing, household items and
a little something for everyone.

All proceeds benefit the

DOME SCHOOL RANGERS PROGRAM

>>Donations of quality used items will be accepted on
Friday, April 18 from 2 to 5 at the County Building<<