

'Donation Boot' kicks up \$1,600 for BMD



Mary Jean's (pictured above) cowgirl boot has been a part of fundraising for 56 years, including this year for the BMD.



COURTESY PHOTOS

SUBMITTED BY
CINDY WEELDREYER

of Bohemia Mining Days.

Until then, thank you, donors.

The story of the donation:

A few weeks ago, Cindy called and asked if I had a cowboy boot to lend her for a collection vessel for fundraising at Coiner Park. I had a cowgirl boot that goes back to 1964.

My deceased wife, Mary Jean, and I had, at that time, a commitment to help a candidate running for governor of Washington. One of the fundraisers for this campaign was a full-blown rodeo in Ellensburg.

Mary Jean bought a pair of riding boots (cowgirl boots), which she wore only for special events.

In 1975, we were transferred from Washington to Oregon and the great Willamette Valley. Then 1979-1980 brought Jean and I volunteering at the Bohemia Mining Days Festival.

Again, to dress the part, Mary Jean brought the boots out of the closet.

This went on at special events until 1988, when the boots began to bother her feet. Somehow, in storage, one boot was lost.

The single boot rested

in the storeroom, waiting for its mate to be found — until the rejuvenation of that single boot through Cindy's request for a vessel for the donation of BMD.

The ironic part is, the original purchase of the boots were through a fundraiser for a governor's campaign in 1964. The boot has traveled full circle in 56 years as being connected to fundraisers.

My sincere thanks, one and all — volunteers and donors. Your BMD committee is working toward a bigger, better, brighter festival for 2021.

Pet Tips 'n' Tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"



Julie's Shadow



Julie and Shadow shared a joyful reunion when a good Samaritan brought him home.

Julie moved from a small farming community in one state to another. She was escaping an abusive partner. Often, the family pets in domestic violent situations are also in danger. The abuser hurts the animals to "get back" at their human victim. Sadly, the victim often stays too long because they have nowhere to go with their pets.

Julie came up with a good plan for her much loved cat... or so she thought. She gave seven-year-old Shadow to neighbors.

"It broke my heart, but Shadow was safer and happier," said Julie. "I gave his new family explicit instructions that should they be unable to keep him then he was to be returned to me."

Then she moved away; but months later, one of her old neighbors told her that Shadow's family had moved and abandoned him. How could that be possible, wondered Julie. Everyone loved Shadow, who was a sweet and gentle soul.

"Even though he is a big cat, he is a lover. He'd rather turn and run than fight," said Julie.

Luckily, Shadow's life was about to make a turn for the better. Other neighbors rescued him and gave him space in their carport. (Their 'crabby old cat' would not allow the homeless kitty into its home.)

Julie was in turmoil because her 'crabby old car' was "acting up" and she knew it would not make the long drive up and back to get her kitty.

Not knowing what to do, she posted her cat-conundrum on Facebook message boards in each county.

The results were heartwarming.

"The outpouring of good will and the willingness of people to help reunite us was moving," said Julie. "One reader, Rabecca, said that she was driving up and back for a one-day turn-around trip and would love to pick up Shadow. On the day of her 550-mile trip of kindness, I waited with anticipation. I had warned her that he was a big cat, but apparently I wasn't descriptive enough. She was surprised to see that he is a 25-pound Maine Coon, 3/4's the size of a bobcat. There is no way he would fit into the normal cat carrier she had for his trip home."

Like a champ, Shadow happily roamed in their vehicle. He was content because he had only been in cat carriers on those scary trips of running and hiding from the abusive man in his life. This was a new adventure.

"When they handed him to me, he immediately rubbed his head against my hand in recognition," said Julie. "We placed him in his old cat carrier for the rest of the trip home. He fearfully began meowing asking, 'What is going on,' but as soon as I put my hand in his carrier and told him he was back with his mommy who loved him, missed him terribly, and apologized profusely, he quieted down. He kept rubbing his head against my hand and gave it kisses."

"Thank you so much to everyone who responded to my Facebook posting and to Rabecca for her gift of time and my cat. This community has many wonderful-caring beautiful souls. Shadow and I are happy together, to be here, and look forward to meeting many more of you."

Note: The names and locations were altered for the woman's and cat's safety.

Tips: Victims with pets remain in dangerous domestic situations because they feel trapped; with children, no money and nowhere to take a pet. Immobilized victims know that their pets won't be safe when left with a violent partner, so they stay for the sake of the pet's.

Over 70 percent of victims report that the abuser has already injured, maimed, killed or threatened to harm family pets. Today, many animal shelters and Women's Shelters (Safe Houses) have developed a network of people to foster pets while women transition their lives.

These facilities are always looking for foster volunteers and donations. (Some Safe Houses have opened spaces which allow victims to also house their pets.)

Share your fur-avorite pet memory or adventure at angelscribe@msn.com. Visit *Pet Tips 'n' Tales* on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PetTipsandTales Humane Society for Neuter/Spay Assistance Program. 541-942-2789

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

CONTRIBUTED BY
LIL THOMPSON
FOR THE SENTINEL

• Everywhere I go, people are doing a great job wearing their masks and keeping social distancing of 6 feet or more.

As time continues on, we must not waver, even as it gets hard to do — especially in our Lorane community where we have many over 65.

• Lorane Christian Church is continuing its Drive-Up Church services, while the virus continues. If you miss a service, they can be found on the Lorane website.

• The construction on Stoney Point is moving

along. Please be sure to watch for workers and equipment as you slow down in that area.

• Lorane Grange meets next on Thursday, Aug. 6, beginning at 7 p.m. with potluck snacks.

Members will be wearing masks and adhering to the 6-foot distancing rule. They will discuss the dinner and bingo evenings in the fall.

Rural Art movie nights are also hoping to resume in October at the Grange. It all depends on how we are doing with COVID-19 and the Governor's mandates.

• Stay safe, everyone, in the heat.

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