



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

Watch out for falling nuts

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right." -- Henry Ford

So, here it is a few days after Christmas and almost the end of the year. Christmas. That is the time I suddenly realize that all the things yet to be done could have been done three months ago.

Maybe we so readily write down New Year's resolutions because we're so fresh over lamenting what we did not do the year before.

However, do we do better next year?

About a week ago, I was lamenting to a sweet friend what all I still had to get done before Christmas.

This is what she told me to think on: Whatever you do do today is more than you did yesterday before you do do what you just did do!

I know, sounds like a lot of do do! (Did I say that?) Oh, well. Forgive me, I am a little happy tired I guess!

As many of you know, I enjoy poetry that was written decades ago. This is one of my favorites:

*"Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be, the last
of life, for which the first was
made. Our times are in His
hand who saith, 'A whole I
planned, youth shows but
half; Trust God: See all, nor
be afraid!'" -- Robert Brown-
ing (written mid-1800s)*

We seniors realize more and more every year the truth of Mr. Browning's writing. As we observe youth of today, either in our own families or circling around us, we like to envision their future years.

We may be looking at the president of a large company or even of the United States.

Or a future homeless unfortunate. There is a senior group I heard about recently called the JOY group, of Just Older Youth. Mr. Browning would have liked that.

Often, genealogy is a topic for discussion at our senior lunches. Recently, I read a definition of genealogy that described it as tracing yourself back to better people.

Another thought in the same article quoted someone as saying, "I trace my family history so I will know whom to blame."

The one I liked best was "Genealogists never die; they just lose their roots." Yes, I knew you would like that too!

Not to belabor the subject, but recently I ran across several one liners on the genealogy topic: "My family tree is a few branches short! All help appreciated." Another, "Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!"

And with chocolates and other goodies available at this time of the year, I thought you would like this little ditty -- And I have mixed emotions over the following little quip that was shared with me: "My wife is a light eater; as soon as it's light out, she starts eating."

Christmas is over and now I can say, "See you next year."

Senior lunch menu

Monday, Dec. 31: Parmesan chicken, pasta with pesto sauce, tomatoes, minestrone soup, berry trifle.

Thursday, Jan. 3: Pulled pork, roasted potatoes, corn, coleslaw, chocolate cake.

The Warrenton senior lunch program is at noon (doors open at 10:30 a.m.) Mondays and Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW Third St. Suggested donation is \$5 for ages 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more information, call 503-861-3502.

It's Whale Watching Week along Oregon coast

Annual Whale Watching Week is under way as gray whales are migrating south.

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department will have volunteers from the Whale Watching Spoken Here program at 24 stations along the Oregon coast from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily through New Year's Eve.

They'll offer whale-watching tips and facts about the animals.

Nearby stations are at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Ilwaco, near the Peter Iredale Shipwreck in Fort Stevens State Park, and at Ecola State Park in Canon Beach.

Every winter an estimated 20,000 gray whales migrate



Visitors look for whales passing offshore near Depoe Bay.

south from Alaska to the warm calving lagoons off the coast of Baja, Mexico.

During the busiest times, 30 whales pass by per hour.

"Whales are a special part of the Oregon coast," said

Luke Parsons, a ranger with the Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay. "We're very proud to work with our volunteers to help visitors connect with the whales and our oceans."

This Week in Aboriginal History

by Carl A. Ellis



Seminole tribe is first to offer Indian bingo

Dec. 28, 1890: Sioux leader Big Foot leads his tribe away from the reservation only to be surrounded by 7th Cavalry troops at Wounded Knee Creek. The next morning, when the cavalry tries to disarm the Sioux, shots ring out. During the next six hours, 146 Sioux men, women and children, including Big Foot, are killed. The 7th Cavalry loses 31 men.

Dec. 29, 1776: Mingos is directed by Chief Pluggy to attack a stockade in the settlement established by John

McClelland near present-day Lexington, Ky. Men are killed on both sides, including leaders from both forces. The Indians eventually give up the attack.

Dec. 30, 1759: A Spanish force of 600, responding to a Comanche attack that destroyed two missions on the San Saba River in central Texas, march north to the Red River. There they engage several thousand Comanche and other Plains Indians fighting behind breastworks and armed with French rifles. The Spaniards are routed out, losing a cannon in their retreat. From this point on, Comanche raids will be a constant threat to settlers throughout Texas.

Dec. 31, 1813: Indian and British forces under Gen. Phineas Riall attack Buffalo, N.Y., burning the small village to the ground. Settlers

will return soon, and rebuild.

Jan. 1, 2001: The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians open Tahquitz Canyon near Palm Springs to visitors.

Jan. 2, 1979: The Seminole Tribe of Florida becomes the first tribe to enter the bingo gaming industry. Their endeavors encourage other tribes to begin gaming enterprises on reservations as a step toward economic self-sufficiency.

Jan. 3, 1895: Hopi Chief Lomahongyoma and 18 other Indians are placed in Alcatraz for five days for their resistance to the U.S. government. The 19 are jailed for refusing to farm on individual plots away from the mesas and for refusing to send their children to government boarding schools.

Ellis is an author and historian working on a book about American Indians.