

Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

White elephant gifts were an awkward burden in the past

Before I forget, here is Betty Kelly's holiday walnuts recipe that I promised.

First, stir together 1 1/2 cups white sugar, 1 1/2 cups brown sugar and 3/4 cup evaporated milk. Cook on medium to soft ball stage (240 degrees). Remove from heat and stir in 1 1/2 ounces brandy (the *real* thing) and 1 1/2 ounces pure vanilla.

Stir in 3 pounds walnuts (shucked and halved). Spread on a single layer of waxed paper. When dry, put in an airtight container.

I don't know about you, but Dr. Seuss books were a fun part of our children's lives when we were "growing them up." Recently, I ran across one of his books written in his 80s during a long illness, "You're Only Old Once." I enjoyed it and believe many of us can relate to it. Here is a sample:

"This small white pill is what I munch at breakfast and right after lunch. I take the pill that's kelly green before each meal and in-between."

"These loganberry-colored pills I take for early morning chills. I take the pill with zebra stripes to cure my early evening gripes. These orange-tinted ones, of course, I take to cure my charley horse. ..."

"I take three blues at half past eight to slow my exhalation rate. On alternate nights at nine p.m. I swallow pinkies. Four of them."

Children's book? One reviewer wrote, "Well ... not immediately. You buy a copy for your child now and you give it to him on his 70th

birthday!"

Not so long ago, I was at one of those fun Christmas parties where we were given large baked potatoes and got to dress them ourselves from the many little dishes of favorite toppings. Included was a favorite of mine: a big dish of chili and sour cream.

The food was followed by a white elephant exchange of gifts. I got in a conversation about what white elephants have to do with Christmas. It seems Christmas is the favorite time for this rousing game.

Researching the origin of the white elephant gift exchange, I learned that in Thailand and other Asian countries, white elephants were regarded as holy beings, possessing powers of prosperity, fertility and power. Elephant owners, usually kings, excessively pampered the live white elephants.

If the king didn't like an assistant, he might gift him with a white elephant. What at first appears to be an honor becomes a financial burden, as the recipient is expected to pamper the elephant because someone might want to worship it. The death of such a magnificent creature spelled disaster.

Thus, the white elephant lives on in many ways. It has come to symbolize a prized possession whose maintenance cost exceeds its worth.

Of course, over the years, humor has entered the choice of something we no longer wish to keep and on and on.

Admittedly, it's a fun game. Christmas is a time for fun games, too.

History in the Making

A look back at Warrenton's top stories from The Columbia Press annals

Weyerhaeuser sells mill to Hampton Affiliates

DEC. 2009
TEN YEARS AGO

• A Warrenton firefighter is arrested for stealing \$20,800 from the Warrenton Firefighters Association, a nonprofit organization that awards scholarships and oversees the agency's annual Christmas food drive.

• Warrenton author Sue Glen's new book, "Images of America: Warrenton-Hammond," is released.

• Weyerhaeuser's Warrenton sawmill closes and is sold to Hampton Affiliates.

• Two people are found dead after a house fire in the 400 block of Northwest First Street. Police believe Joseph DeWilde, 73, slit his wife's throat, then set the house on fire. Karen DeWilde, 69, had filed for divorce the previous month.

DEC 1999

TWENTY YEARS AGO

• Warrenton Business Association is exploring the possibility of constructing a fishing pier at the city park adjacent to Hammond Marina.

Senior lunches

Monday, Dec. 16: Spaghetti with Italian sausage, broccoli, romaine salad, ice cream.

Thursday, Dec. 19: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, tomato-vegetable soup, bread pudding.

The Warrenton senior lunch program is at noon Mondays and Thursdays at Warrenton Community Center, 170 SW Third St. Suggested donation is \$6 for 55 and older; \$7 for those younger. For more info: 503-861-3502.



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Firefighter arrested for stealing funds

By Gary Nevan

In what Warrenton Fire Chief Ted Ames terms "A dramatic level of trust that has been violated," a Warrenton volunteer firefighter has been arrested for embezzling \$20,800 from the Warrenton Firefighters Association, a non-profit organization that awards scholarships and oversees the fire department's annual Christmas Food Drive.

Christopher D. Bartlett, 32, of 655 S.W. 11th Street in Warrenton, was arrested on Nov. 26 and charged with Aggravated Theft I, Forgery I and Aggravated Identity Theft I. He was lodged at Clatsop County Jail but was released Monday, Nov. 30, due to overcrowding at the jail.

Ames said that Bartlett allegedly stole \$15,000 from the association's food drive fund, and \$5,800 from the association's general fund.

"We will have a food drive this year; funds have been set aside, we'll make it through," Ames said. Bartlett joined the fire department in 2000 and was elected the association's treasurer two years ago.

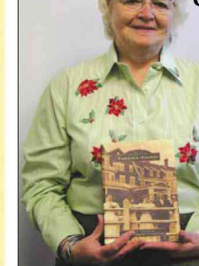
The association's account requires two signatures on all checks and withdrawals including Bartlett's and the association president, Chris Penno. Ames said that Bartlett allegedly had been forging Penno's name on checks since late spring.

"He had control over the funds and due to personal problems in his life, he needed the money," said Ames. "We had no idea this was happening until a few weeks ago."

"It's a terrible thing to happen," he added. "We depend so much on each other. Trust has been violated. We're all in shock."

Those interesting facts and much more local history

New book covers history of Warrenton-Hammond



Sue Glen's latest book is about Warrenton.

By Gary Nevan

Local history buffs remember early towns in the Warrenton area named Flavel, Skipanon and Lexington. But how many know about Yellow Bank, Fairhaven and Sellington? Fairhaven was platted on June 7, 1914, and later vacated on May 14, 1917. The exact location of Yellow Bank has never been determined and Sellington was platted on July 14, 1913, but has never been vacated. Sellington is located back behind where the KOA Campground is in Hammond.

Those interesting facts and much more local history

is in the new book by Warrenton author Sue Glen titled *Images of America: Warrenton-Hammond*.

Working closely with the Warrenton-Hammond Historical Society and local residents Chuck and Charlotte Bergerson, John and Carolyn Shepherd, Bernice and Trudy Enke, and others, Glen's 127-page book is filled with hundreds of old photos and fascinating history about the Warrenton and Hammond area.

Glen traces Warrenton's history from its beginning when D.K. Warren platted a town in 1889, later incorporated in 1899. But there were earlier towns in the area including Lexington, located near Warrenton High School, which was the original county seat until it was vacated in 1888.

Hammond's history goes back even further. In June, 1873, Bartholomew Kindred received the original donation land grant of 620 acres signed by President U.S. Grant. The town was platted and recorded in 1890. An interesting sidenote is that Glen is related by marriage to the Kindred family.

This is not Glen's first historical book. Born in Connecticut, her family has lived in New England since the 1600s. While living in New York, she decided to research the history of Governor's Island. Owned by the U.S. Coast Guard, she discovered they were going to be leaving the island and it would be put up for sale. Glen wrote a letter to then-President Bill Clinton asking that the island be made into a national park. During his last six hours in office, Clinton agreed to designate the island as a national park. However, when George W. Bush took office, he put a hold on all Clinton's last hour decisions. Glen then wrote to

Santa arrives in Warrenton this Sunday

Residents can build family memories and community spirit by participating in Sunday's annual Christmas

- Heavy rain causes a culvert pipe to fail and create a 6-foot-deep sinkhole on Northwest First Street between Elm and Date avenues.
- The Port of Astoria will petition the city to vacate King Street and restrict entry to its property along Youngs Bay and will install a gate at King Street after receiving complaints from the fire department about fire hazards from mounds of debris.

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