



Senior Moments

with Emma Edwards

More choices than you think

I suspect many of you are familiar with Portland author Randy Alcorn. In one of his books, he cautions “Don’t bury today by worrying about tomorrow.”

When you think of it, we have a lot more choices than we realize — even in a single day.

I am not really talking about things like “Should I have soft-boiled eggs or scrambled, or maybe even fried?”

Sometimes, as we age, we think we don’t have choices but are forced to “go with the flow.” Regardless of age, I urge you to realize that you do have choices.

A 98-year-old friend of mine is still upset with one of her daughters who changed her name after leaving home many years ago.

She refuses to call her daughter by her new name and sticks with the name she gave her at birth.

There again, choices. Both parties made valid choices and learned to live with them.

Yes, in our lives, choices can include what we call ourselves. A few years ago, when we had senior lunches -- before they were shut down by Mr. Covid -- we would see a new person and try to get to know them.

I remember a gentleman who said his name was J. I asked if he spelled it Jay and he said no, it was just J. No last name either. I did not ask further.

He may not have known it, but he is described as a mononymous person. The single name usually becomes

the last name. Most of us are familiar (if into the entertainment world) with stars who go by a single name, such as Madonna, Prince, Cher and Beyonce. Their names are mononyms (an adjective).

There is a similar word, polynym, used to refer to a people with many names. Passport agents are not too happy with verifying single-named or many-named people.

Wonder what they’d do with the gentleman whose name is simply J.

As seniors, we’ve made lots of choices for both good and bad. In fact, there are counseling firms that specialize in assisting people in making choices. There is such a firm in Astoria.

While on the subject of choices, how about what we watch on TV in the evening? Who holds the remote controller? We even need to make a choice how to respect a telemarketer. Or people dialing the wrong number?

Truthfully, I have met the nicest people during wrong-number calls and a few times recognize their voices.

When someone (it could be God) puts someone on your mind to make a phone call to or drop a note of encouragement, you have a choice whether you’ll act on it.

Seniors are, perhaps, richer in the realm of choices than at any other time in their lives! And do remember that we can lean on each other to sort through our many choices.

Some go by that age-old saying — when in doubt, don’t.

History in the Making

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



25 years ago, city hires its first female officer

**JANUARY 2011
10 YEARS AGO**

- Mark Kujala is appointed mayor by Warrenton city commissioners. He takes over for Gil Gramson, who left the commission in December. Dick Hellberg is named vice mayor.

- Don Patterson and Robert Fulton receive community pride awards from Warrenton Business Association for improvements made to their complex, which includes Warrenton Mini Mart, Fultano’s Pizza, and Bubba’s Sports Bar.

Brad Pope received the award for his new Bayshore Animal Hospital building on Marlin Avenue.

- Warrenton High School Band Director John Hammond is named Music Educator of the Year by the Oregon Music Education Association.

**JANUARY 2001
20 YEARS AGO**

- Jeff Hazen is appointed mayor and new city commissioners Lylla Gaebel and Paul Rodriguez are sworn in.

- The city could qualify for a state loan that would reduce the city’s interest rate to 1 percent on its loan for the \$8 million water filtration plant.

The move would raise the rate for water customers from \$16 per month to \$36 per month.

- Patty McDowell and her two children get the keys to their new home, which was built by Habitat for Humanity in the 900 block of Northwest Warrenton Drive. The group has nearly finished a second home next door.



Patty McDowell takes the key to her new home at 998 N.W. Warrenton Drive from Tim Regan, co-chair of Pioneer Spirit Habitat for Humanity. At left is fellow co-chair Dave Pastor.

**JANUARY 1996
25 YEARS AGO**

- Barbara Balensifer is appointed mayor for a second term and says her top priorities are downtown revitalization and putting in sidewalks on Main Avenue from downtown to the high school.

The biggest challenge ahead: Financing for future growth, which will strain the water and sewer systems.

- Burglars break into nine Warrenton businesses on Main Avenue, Harbor Drive and Harbor Place, more break-ins than in all of 1995,

according to Police Chief Dan Kneale.

- Robbyn Bailey is hired as the city’s first female police officer. She was one of 127 people who’d applied for the open position.

- The city applied for a grant and loan for design and construction of a water and sewer project along Alternate Highway 101 and in the North Coast Business Park, formerly the site of a proposed Alumax aluminum plant.

Having water and sewer greatly increase the area’s development potential.

Special columns in The Columbia Press

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Week 3: Off the Shelf by Kelly Knudsen

This week: History in the Making

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