

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

by Susan Urhausen

This dreadful space between winter and spring is tough on many of us. It seems like nearly every other morning through the first half of March, I have woken up to a fresh skiff of snow. Now, I am one who loves snow, so momentarily, it turns me into a kid again, anxious for snow and the onset of holiday season. Then I snap to and remember that it is March, and far away from holiday season. I also realize that the bits of snow we have had lately are fleeting and are usually gone by noon or sooner. I'm sure it is much tougher on those who detest the winters around here and merely tolerate them, counting the days until spring finally takes over. I think winter is fighting back some this year though. For the spring lovers, the arrival of seed and plant catalogs either offers fodder for dreams of the near future, or pure torture.

What I really dislike this time of year is the muddy, sloppy dirty mess of a place winter has left behind. I was noticing all the garbage along the road between Kettle and Colville the other day (I actually got out of town by a few miles, the wonder of vacation!). It dawned on me that the reason I had not noticed that the last time I drove into Colville was because the snow was hiding it from view. That is only one thing I love about snow. It just makes the world look cleaner and more uniform or organized or something. My driveway would make a mud bogger happy right now; one spot anyway.

This mud and dust make me feel really sorry for the police departments. I'm not sure if the ones up in this area suffer so much, but can you imagine getting a decent description of a suspect's car? I can picture it now; someone witnesses a crime of some sort, and is getting interviewed by a city police officer. "What color was the getaway car, sir?" "It was brown, but a funny brown." "What do you mean, funny brown?" "Well, it was brown, but not really, you know?" "No, I don't know. What kind of brown; light, dark?" "Funny." "Yes sir, you said that, but it doesn't really help me." "I know. It was kind of like brownish-white, you know, like brown with a white undertone, do they make anything like that?" "I don't know sir." "How about the windows, did they have any decals or anything, could you tell whether it was a man or a woman driving?" "No officer, I couldn't tell, the windows were tinted." "Tinted? What color?" "Brown officer, but a funny brown, you know?"

Can you imagine? I bet they get descriptions of brown with blue undertones, red undertones, gray, silver, green; you name it! It almost doesn't pay to get your car washed much at this time of year either, one drive down a country road and all is for naught. You arrive home with a brown car, with whatever undertones, and brown tinted windows.

Soon, the grass will begin growing, flowers will bloom, trees will bud and that wonderful spring 'smell' will be in the air. All the ugly brown-ness will be replaced with new growth, spring rains, gardens of vegetables and flowers. Attention will be turned to all the 'found' things that winter left behind, and the hope that spring brings with it every year.

I will wash my car about then, maybe in April. Until then, if I commit a crime, I'll be the one in the brown car with blue undertones, and brown tinted windows. Maybe you can join me in picking up some of that 'found' stuff in your meanderings, even if it isn't in your yard.

Kettle Falls Rotary Club
ROTARY NEWS



Have You Seen The Happy Dell Park Dugouts Yet?

Austin Anderson, a Kettle Falls High School Senior, raised \$3,500 in cash and materials to build both dugouts at Happy Dell Park. Austin launched this project in order to receive the Scouting's highest rank: Eagle Scout. Fortunately, we now have two wonderfully constructed dugouts at Happy Dell Park and Austin is officially an Eagle Scout.

Austin worked diligently to complete this project timely and professionally so that our community could enjoy playing games on a good field with proper dugouts. These dugouts were no easy task. In fact, Austin first had to rip out the old benches and then lay the concrete before putting in new benches. He then built the two dugouts with chain link fence and appropriate roofing.

As an Eagle Scout, Austin is now eligible for many college scholarships. Furthermore, he instantly increased his chances at receiving highly competitive college scholarships by including his newly acquired Eagle rank. Additionally, being an Eagle Scout also looks great on resumes and will benefit Austin when he enters the job market. He would also be awarded a higher pay grade if he chooses to join the military. Austin's display of leadership, perseverance and organizational skills has certainly gained him the respect he deserves in our community.

Several civic service organizations, local businesses, and community members donated to Austin's project. The Kettle Falls Rotary donated the chain link fence and additional funds for other materials, Kiwanis International donated the aluminum benches and the 12 poles for the project, Boise Cascade donated the plywood, Kubesh Concrete donated the concrete, and Kaiser Welding welded the joists to the poles. The Kettle Falls Lady Lions, Dr. Ed and Heidi Johnson, Terry and Betty Baxter, and Janell Anderson donated funds for Austin to purchase the remaining materials.

Austin was unable to raise the last \$600 for privacy slats to add the chain link fence. However, if you are interested in donating funds so that Austin may add the privacy slats, please contact Susan Brown our Rotary President at 738-4848.

Projects like Austin's are exactly what Rotarians enjoy, value and admire. Many people see our Rotary symbol on projects throughout our community and have no idea what Rotary is or what we do. Very few people know about the work we carry out in our local communities, at the district level or the many projects we support worldwide. It really is all about the little things we do every day to help make our community and our world a better place to live, work and play.

Are you interested in becoming a member of Rotary? Rotarians are a diverse group of people, many of which are business and professional leaders who take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives by serving their community.

Meeting every Thursday at 7:00am Sandy's Restaurant



Friends of the Library Meeting:

The Friends will be having a meeting at the Kettle Falls Public Library on Tuesday, April 5th at 6:00. Interested in becoming a "Friend"? The "Friends" could use your help with shifts at the Book Nook and enjoyable fundraising events. Talk to the library today about how you can become a "Friend" of the Kettle Falls Library!

The Knitting Group:

Join us every Wednesday from 10:30 – 12:00. Bring your sticks, strings, and projects to the library to create, ask questions, and be in good company. All skill levels welcome.

Book Nook Hours:

The Friends of the Library will have the Book Nook open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 – 12:00, as well as the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:00 – 12:00. Come down, buy some books and help support the Kettle Falls Public Library building fund.

Book Discussion Group:

Everyone is welcome on Monday, April 11th at 2:00. April's book is Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese.

StoryTime:

Introduce your child to the world of stories, songs, and activities every Wednesday at 10:30 (for ages 2 – 5).

Open Computer Lab:

Do you want to learn how to use word, surf the internet, access email, create a flier, download audio books, upload pictures, or something else? Bring your questions to the library on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 11:30 – 2:30 for personalized computer instruction. You can also work on the Microsoft e-learning program via WorkSource during lab times.

Kettle Falls Lady Lions "Serving Our Community"

LADY LIONS EASTER EGG HUNT: The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 23rd at the Old Kettle Falls Swim Area. Please remember that it is Free for all children from birth through 4th grade, and you must be there by NOON SHARP, as we always begin at 12:00 noon, with no exceptions. We would hate for your kiddies to miss it by a few minutes, because the eggs go fast. All Lady Lions donate 6 dozen boiled eggs, and they are colored by students and teachers at the Kettle Falls Elementary School. Remember that the Easter Bunny will be there to hand out goodies and prizes. As in the past, the Co-Chairs of this event are Tracy Price and Mary Hansen. Hope to see you all there.

The March meeting was held at the home of Trisha Martin, and co-hosted by Deanna Hurst and Brandi Hillbrant. Thank you ladies for the fine food. This meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15th and our guest was Greg Goodnight, Superintendent of Kettle Falls Schools, who gave us all good information about the upcoming Maintenance and Operation Levy that is being voted on April 26th. It is important that all voters get out and cast their ballot on this important issue.

Donations were approved at this meeting for Meals on Wheels (\$200.00), and Relay for Life Golf Tournament (Gift Certificates from TJ's Tavern and Colville Auto Repair).

Deanna Hurst reported on signage that we are purchasing to hang from the Reader Board, announcing our Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas Craft Fair. Our thanks goes to Jim McCombs for his donation of part of the printing that he will be doing.

The next Lady Lions meeting will be a working meeting, and will be held at the home of Tracy Price, with Darletta Woodbury and Mary Hansen, co-hosting. It is scheduled for April 12th, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. for our social hour and the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining Lady Lions and attending this meeting, please contact our President, Betty Baxter, at 738-6034.



NEXT MEETING ... SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12TH, TUESDAY AT 5:30 P.M. ... CONTACT BETTY