

## SCAFFOLD RIDGE

by Lynn Rigney Schott

Sometimes, in the quiet of pines  
and the stir of firs  
you can make out the lines  
on the face of the earth.

The elders squint into the sun,  
at night they read the map of the stars.  
They tell us the stories we came here for,  
and we must pay attention  
before we get to write our own stories.  
This is good manners, one of the things  
we learn from the courtesy of pines,  
who are always willing to listen.

There is a psalm in the palm of your hand,  
a story that is also a prayer.  
We invent the world with songlines and stanzas  
and we name things before we begin to count them:  
wind, tree, rock, mountain, river.  
Our words are wiser than we are –  
they wait on the page to take root and ripen,  
they wait in the air to take wing.

When you find yourself alone, sitting  
on a bed of balsam and pinegrass  
with only the sound of a yellowjacket  
to remind you of some of the possibilities,  
take a look at the bones of old trees  
turning gray among needles and cones  
and make up your mind about one difficult thing.

The ceanothus is awkward and sprawling,  
always underfoot, but it knows its job  
is to nourish the soil.  
Your job is to finish the story the land began.  
Listen: the pines are thinking out loud;  
learning their language starts  
with the alphabet of silence.



## Many Said I'd Never Make It

by David Bull

The day finally arrived. I turned FIFTY!!!!!! A half century!!! Lord, when did I get that old? And why should I feel great about it???

I don't know how I feel about it. I think I look young for my age, I even have a full head of hair (and not a great deal of gray). ... so I don't look in the mirror and see "an old man." On the other hand, there are mornings where I feel it.

Overall, I'm pretty satisfied with my life - no real regrets. I have achieved goals I set for myself, had success in different business ventures and am even more surprised to find myself living here in the US and happily married rather than where I expected to be living back home in Australia.

BUT ... I turned FIFTY!!!!!! A half century!!! Lord, when did I get that old?

I guess there is the wisdom that seems to come with that age and the experiences of life learned. I look back and think how unfortunate the innocence of youth all too quickly falls by the wayside as the realities of life set upon us.

Our idealistic aspirations of love, school, careers and living happily ever after quickly turn from blissful dreams to a naivety befitting of adolescence. By the time we've completed our journey through puberty and into young adult life we've faced at least a few harsh realities that put our childhood dreams into perspective and only then do we begin to take on a more realistic view of life.

We never know where this more realistic view will take us and what it may bring. I look back and laugh now at the the idea that only ONE decade ago I believed my life would still be in Australia.

TWO decades ago I was forced to make decisions that would alter my life forever.

THREE decades ago I had achieved recognisable success in a different career that many others only dream of, setting goals and enjoying life to the full. FOUR decades ago I was playing sports, seeing the world and living my life without a slightest concept of where my life would lead.

But, now, I turned FIFTY!!!!!! A half century!!! Lord, when did I get that old?



## Ministry 'n Mind Thrift Store

by Peggy Mandin

This thrift store is a ministry of Columbia River Bible Church, a non-denominational church serving the needs of our local community and beyond. Karen Goodell, wife of Pastor Randy Goodell, stated that God spoke to her heart about establishing a thrift store ministry and she obtained permission from church elders to find a location and proceed.

The location she found is in the Buckhorn Building on the edge of town. Ministry 'n Mind started out occupying the first floor on the left side of the building, later expanding to include the second floor. Vince's barber shop occupies the right side. This location gives easy access and good visibility to the store. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the store started with donated display racks and shelving and has grown for the past three years into a destination for Kettle Falls residents and out-of-towners. Karen reported that "the community has been very good to us" with their donations.

Karen knows thrift stores. Prior to living in Kettle Falls (that was 18 years ago) Karen learned to organize, sort and price donated items while working at the Northwest Christian Thrift Store in Spokane. Because of her experiences Ministry 'n Mind emphasizes reasonable prices and friendly customer service. Items for sale, as well as the shopping area are clean and neat; the space is light and bright. The combined bathroom/fitting room is particularly lovely. Labels listing sizes and prices are made by the volunteers and are very easy to see and read.

The store offers men's, women's and children's clothing as well as housewares and books. There is a locked fenced area to the side of the building for larger donations such as bicycles. A free bin and rack stand just outside the front door. Items in the free

area are perfectly usable, but may need a button sewn on or a stain removed, something the volunteers do not have time to address.

The goal of Ministry 'n Mind is to "reach out to the community". The money from the thrift store is used to help finance the Columbia River Christian Academy, a pre-kindergarten through 12 school attached to the Columbia River Bible Church. Financial assistance is also provided to N.E.W. Family Life Services. Clothing is provided to Buena Vista Nursing Home, Early Childhood Educational/Assistance Program (ECEAP), City Gate Ministry and Union Gospel Mission in Spokane, Hope for Youth in Ethiopia and a ministry in Mexico. Fabric is given to Quilts for Christ Ministry, a group of women who sew quilts and lap robes for the sick. Clothing and housewares are provided for a loss of possessions through fire loss program, and stuffed animals are given to the Family Support Center for their Kids First program.

Karen shared a quote by Hudson Taylor that guides the work of Ministry 'n Mind: "God's work, done in God's way, will never lack God's supply."

Ministry 'n Mind is open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4:30pm and Saturday 9am-3pm. The address is 380 East Third, Kettle Falls, WA 99141 and the phone number is 509-738-6927.



Ministry 'n Mind shopfront

## The Best Bear Protection: Buffalo?

Dale Grabow wishes he had had a video camera. One evening just at dusk his two bull buffalo suddenly became agitated. Their tails went up, a sign of displeasure, and they started running toward a steep bank on his buffalo ranch. According to Dale, buffalo are careful when they go down a bank, walking in switchbacks for a safe descent. Well, on this day the two buffalo launched themselves off the bank and into the air. Dale was alarmed, thinking they were going to break their legs. He ran to look over the bank to see what was happening. A newborn buffalo calf, about three days old, was on the property and he thought it might be in some kind of danger. Upon reaching the edge of the bank Dale saw the buffalo chasing a bear; one of his neighbors confirmed that he had seen a mother bear and cub crossing the property. Dale did not go to investigate right away, keeping himself out of danger. In the end, the bear was gone and the buffalo intact, but both man and beast had to release the build-up of adrenaline.

ministry 'n Mind  
Thrift Store  
A Ministry of: Columbia River Bible Church

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