



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!



The Hitchin' Post

Available on-line at www.weednm.org

P. O. Box 565, Weed, NM 88354, patrice@cavemen.net

January 2019

Patsy Ward, Editor

A Community Oriented Newsletter for Weed and Surrounding Area
"If You're Lucky Enough to Live in the Mountains, You're Lucky Enough"

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Comings & Goings, Get Well Wishes, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...Noel and Shirley Akers - 15

Happy Birthday to:

...Bill Lee Parker - 4

...Abbie Rose Barone - 5

...Anna Rae Brown - 6

...Gary Stone - 11

...Jacob Hibbard - 12

...Elaine Wright - 15

...Jesse Hibbard - 18

...Earl Burton; Seth Scarborough - 21

...Kara (Goss) Cochran - 23

...Kensie Lynn Goss - 1/23

...Louise Winkel; Judy Wagner-Raymond - 24

...Felicity Braziel - 25

...Kirk Hall - 28

...Kathy Miller - 1/29

...Allie June Barone - 31

Prayers & Get Well Wishes to:

...Julie Burris, ICU Gerald Champion Medical Center

...Robin Stone Pruitt, sister of John Bell

...Jerry Bell, brother of John Bell

Congratulations! to:

...Kermit Hill & family on their early Christmas gift. Their new grandson, Walker Reid Hill, was born December 3.

Annual Weed Christmas Party *Sylvia Bell*

The annual Weed Christmas party was held on Thursday, December 6th at the Weed Café. Thanks to Shirley Akers for the use of the café and decorating it so beautifully. Thanks to her decorating crew as well. The meal was amazing! Jerry Bell fried two turkeys and Sylvia Bell cooked a ham. Everyone brought wonderful sides and desserts. It must have been good—there were just a few bites of turkey left. The children enjoyed little gifts, and everyone enjoyed visiting. Somehow, we never got around to any kind of a program because we were enjoying each other so much. The community of Weed sure knows how to throw a party! Thanks again for all your support and for making the Christmas holidays even better.

Sacramento/Weed Volunteer Fire Department

Claudia Allison, Secretary

Since the last Hitchin' Post, the department responded to two fire alarms (where there was no fire and a burn started by a resident which had to be put out by the department) and one EMT call.

Your neighbors responded, and no bill was sent. Please keep in mind that, when the Sac/Weed department responds to your call for help, you will not receive a bill from them. The cost is borne by the county and paid for with your tax dollars. If you think you might need help, please call 911 to report the location and give a description of the problem with as much detail as you can provide. If it turns out you do not need their assistance, members will shake your hand, wish you well, and go on about their day.

Please do not hesitate to make the call.
We wish you a safe and Happy New Year.

Dates to Remember

January 8 - VFD meeting, 6 p.m.

January 29- Bookmobile: Piñon 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.; Sacramento PO, 11:10-12:00; Mayhill PO, 1:30-2:30

February 3, 2019 - Super Bowl LIII (53), will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on. Kickoff time for this indoor venue is 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Ladies Luncheon, Every **Thursday, 12 N**, Weed Café, for women of ALL surrounding communities. Come join us!

Sacramento Mountains Men's Coffee Klatch. Every **Monday, 9 a.m.**, Bro. Don's. Come Join us. For more information, contact Bro. Don Brown, 575-687-3919, or Andy Dalager, 575-687-4106.

RoadRunner Mobile Food Pantry *Lou Woltering*

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 3 p.m., open for approximately 1 ½ hours, Mayhill Baptist Church; bring your own containers. Sponsored by Mayhill Community Center.

Hunting in Unit 34

Tom Ward

January 1-15: Deer, forked antler, Archery

Yoga Classes Resume

"Yoga For Every Body" will resume after the holiday break on Friday, **January 4**. Please note that the Monday class has been dropped.

New schedule: **Every Tuesday and Friday 9 a.m.**
Location: The Wright's on Highway 24 south of Weed.
Contact Elaine for information at 687-3073 or wrightelaine0@gmail.com

Greetings from the "Battleground" of NW Florida!

Sure looks like one even though trucks are moving debris from early to late. But we still have debris everywhere. I just wonder where they are putting all the stuff. Are they creating a mountain????

Anyway, as I write, it is still a few days before Christmas. And by the time you read it, it will be 2019. Gee! And I can remember thinking 2020 was so far in the future!

In the Church, the calendar year starts the first Sunday of Advent. It progresses to Christmas and, in spite of what everyone seems to think, is NOT over by 2 p.m. on Christmas day. Christmas continues to January 12 which is Epiphany. Legend has it that Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to Jesus. And, if I am understanding my Bible, it didn't happen on a beautiful, quiet Christmas Eve....it was maybe a couple of years later. I say this because King Herod had all the male children up to 2 years old killed because he didn't want the competition and because the Bible refers to a child, not a baby. The story of the Magi is in the 2nd chapter of Matthew in case, like me, you need to look it up to refresh your memory.

And after Epiphany comes the period of time in the Church year called the "ordinary Time." The dull, boring, same thing every day ordinary time! And, as Sean Hannity says, I am not making this up. It truly is called ordinary time! After all the excitement has passed, here we are again. For us, it is more hurricane related stuff. And, in addition, the regular stuff of life...cooking meals, cleaning up, washing clothes, doing jobs in the yard that we save for cooler weather.

I have been trimming bushes and trying to get a handle on the "kudzu" of Florida....called, oddly enough, Florida Holly. You don't know what Kudzu is? Well it is an oriental vine imported from across the pond by a bunch of geniuses who figured it would be an excellent plant to control erosion. And it does that. Unfortunately, it also takes over any place where it is planted. One source I consulted gave me the happy news that the stuff can grow up to 3 feet in a day! I haven't seen any here; but when I lived north of Mobile, AL several years ago, the abandoned house next door was completely covered with it.

And, unfortunately, their sad job is not confined to the South. In NM there is Salt Cedar that was planted, again, to control erosion. And it, too, has run rampant. And the cherry on top of this amazing plant is that is a water pig! Just what moisture-starved New Mexico needs!

People need to think about the long-term effect of "solving a problem." Too often they wind up creating another one in the process. I say they need to learn how to play a better game of Chess! I am a lousy Chess player. I lack the ability to see in my mind the effect of the present play on future plays. And when I see the goofy ends of lots of so called "expert" decisions, I think I am not alone!

Type atcha next month! *Joy Garrett Goin*

Ramblin Ruminations on World War 1 Hysteria

Kermit Hill

One hundred years ago world leaders met at Versailles, France to formally end World War I. Even though U.S. president Woodrow Wilson put forth a rational 14-point program, it was rejected and the U.S. did not ratify the treaty. That treaty stripped Germany of power, led to Hitler, and Dad had to go back over there in 1943. Wilson was taken to France on the new battleship USS New Mexico by the way. In 1916 Wilson swore we would not go to war. In 1917 he called for a declaration of war, and in 1919 tried to create a fair treaty. The treaty that was made laid the foundation for the Vietnam War. But Americans generally rejected both Wilson and the Great War by 1920. The war to end all wars didn't. What happened?

In case you haven't noticed, humans can have strange characteristics. They are prone to hysteria, defined as: Behavior exhibiting overwhelming or unmanageable fear and emotional excess. The stage had been set for this drama by several events and phenomena. In 1916 Pancho Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico. Widespread disease epidemics were common. Very large numbers of immigrants came each year-46 different languages were spoken by men who served in the U.S. military, and there was general economic insecurity. Strikes in Colorado led to the Ludlow Massacre in 1914 when the national guard killed a number of strikers.

New Mexico suffered its share of hysteria. The National Council of Defense clippings and letters give us examples. Most interestingly this Council was created at the time Wilson was promising no war. Of course, he was facing re-election. Each county had a person charged with clipping war related items from the county papers. These clippings and related letters are in the state archives in Santa Fe.

This is my favorite: Candy Infested with Diphtheria germs Given to Lordsburg Tots by man believed to be German. The cemeteries around Weed are full of people who died of diphtheria in those days. Of course, Lordsburg

is down on the Mexican border. As a side story, the Great Flu epidemic of 1918 was spread by the war and killed far more people than the war did. Go see Ona George's grave at the Avis Cemetery. Like over half the New Mexicans in service who died, he did not even get overseas.

Elephant Butte Dam was completed in 1915. In 1917 a Las Cruces lawyer wrote, "It is our opinion that troops or other guards should be stationed at this dam." They were, and Eugene Manlove Rhodes saw a good story in it, but his German bad guys fail. In 1918 Henry Wray published a magazine article titled "America's Unguarded Gateway" in which he claimed that Germany, and possibly Japan, intended to either invade the U.S. or get Mexico to via New Mexico. Mexico was neither that stupid nor organized. A group of New Mexico college professors slammed Wray and accused him of Libel. They also had to call down a furor brought on by this one, "Sees end of German as language of scholarship." This was at UNM. Both of my kids minored in German.

In the fervor of war inspired righteousness, prohibition of alcohol and women's voting rights were being advocated. Women's rights! God forbid. A Santa Fe editorial titled Ladies and Pants took the Portales Journal editor to task for attacking modern women who wore pants. Another item reads "Governor asked to Stop Bootlegging at Albuquerque." It says bootlegging was a menace to the troops there. Women still wear pants, and prohibition failed. The mines of the United States were very heavily dependent on immigrant labor. "All Coal Mines at Gallup May Be Shut Down."..... most of the men on strike are said to be aliens, many of them Austrians." The same issues arose at Silver City and all other mining areas. The railroads, ships, electric power companies and many stoves ran on coal. No immigrants, no coal. If you ever get up to Dawson near Raton, visit the cemetery there and check out the names of men killed in mine explosions in this period.

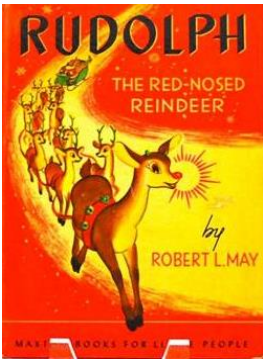
One thing the papers never seemed to mention was what was happening in the Persian Gulf area. It was of great importance to all parties engaged in the war. Need three guesses as to why? The Las Vegas paper tells us however that , " Son Is Drafted; Mother Loses Reason Ends in commitment to asylum. That of course was a major business in Las Vegas. I wonder if the fact that she had 14 kids had anything to do with it. Well, the war ended, and people woke up. About 116,000 Americans died, less than half in combat, and less than half in the service went overseas. Let us please learn a little from history.

How Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Came to be

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So, he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter.



A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas,

they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."

GM Parable

It fits perfectly with how intelligently each country works.

A Japanese company (Toyota) and an American company (General Motors) decided to have a canoe race on the Missouri River. Both teams practiced long and hard to reach their peak performance before the race. On the big day, the Japanese won by a mile.

The Americans, very discouraged and depressed, decided to investigate the reason for the crushing defeat. A management team made up of senior management was formed to investigate and recommend appropriate action.

Their conclusion was the Japanese had 8 people paddling and 1 person steering, while the American team had 7 people steering and 2 people paddling.

Feeling a deeper study was in order, American management hired a consulting company and paid them a large amount of money for a second opinion.

They advised, of course, that too many people were steering the boat, while not enough people were paddling.

Not sure of how to utilize that information, but wanting to prevent another loss to the Japanese, the paddling team's management structure was totally reorganized to 4 steering supervisors, 2 area steering superintendents and 1 assistant superintendent steering manager.

They also implemented a new performance system that would give the 2 people paddling the boat greater incentive to work harder. It was called the 'Rowing Team Quality-First Program', with meetings, dinners and free pens for the paddlers. There was discussion of getting new

paddles, canoes and other equipment, extra vacation days for practices, and bonuses. The pension program was trimmed to 'equal the competition' and some of the resultant savings were channeled into morale boosting programs and teamwork posters.

The next year the Japanese won by two miles. Humiliated, the American management laid off one paddler, halted development of a new canoe, sold all the paddles, and cancelled all capital investments for new equipment. The money saved was distributed to the Senior Executives as bonuses.

The next year, try as he might, the lone designated paddler was unable to even finish the race (having no paddles), so he was laid off for unacceptable performance, all canoe equipment was sold and the next year's racing team was out-sourced to India.

Sadly, the End.

GM has spent the last thirty years moving all its factories out of the US claiming they can't make money paying American wages.

TOYOTA has spent the last thirty years building more than a dozen plants inside the US.

The last quarter's results:

TOYOTA makes \$4 billion in profits while GM racks up \$9 billion in losses.

GM folks are still scratching their heads and collecting bonuses....

IF THIS WEREN'T SO TRUE IT MIGHT BE FUNNY.

Reflections on the Hitching Post Patsy Ward, Editor

Fourteen years ago, I thought there was a need for a "Community Oriented News Letter" to keep the community informed and feel more like a community.

Reflecting on this goal, it seems that most community readers enjoy reading The Hitching Post but there is limited input received. I find out about happenings, that many might find of interest, but are too late to be included in the publication in a timely manner. In many cases, I don't find out until the event has passed or is too late to be included. Information regarding meetings, classes, new arrivals, departures, health issues, openings and closings, etc. are not included. As it costs about \$80/month to publish (\$13,440 thus far), perhaps the need doesn't merit the cost and time spent publishing it. I, personally, am tired of all the fillers I have been using just to have more than one or two pages. I have never asked for help with my expenses, and I don't plan to do so now. The only thing I want is your input, and maybe empty print cartridges.

I have been giving serious thought to this matter and think it may be time to put the Hitchin' Post to bed. Perhaps someone else has a better idea to get out the news.

Please know that those who have made contributions are sincerely appreciated.

