

## Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

### Three Red Marbles

I was at the corner grocery store in our little Idaho town buying some new potatoes. I noticed a small boy, ragged but clean, hungrily eyeing a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes. Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller, the store owner, and the ragged boy next to me.



“Hello Barry, how are you today?”  
 “H’lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus’ admirin’ them peas. They sure look good.”  
 “They are good, Barry.. How’s your Ma?”  
 “Fine. Gittin’ stronger alla’ time.”  
 “Good. Anything I can help you with?”  
 “No, Sir. Jus’ admirin’ them peas.”  
 “Would you like to take some home?” asked Mr. Miller.  
 “No, Sir. Got nuthin’ to pay for ‘em with.”  
 “Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?”  
 “All I got’s my prize marble here.”  
 “Is that right? Let me see it.” said Miller.  
 “Here ‘tis. She’s a dandy.”  
 “I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?” the store owner asked.  
 “Not zackley but almost.”  
 “Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble,” Mr. Miller told the boy.  
 “Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.”  
 Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me.  
 With a smile she said, “There are two other just boys like him in our town, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Creative Job Descriptions

I recently called an old retired engineering buddy of mine and asked him what he was working on these days. He always had some interesting project going to keep him busy.

After a thoughtful pause he replied that he was working on “Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment.”

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned he was washing dishes in hot water under his wife’s supervision.

### Saving for College

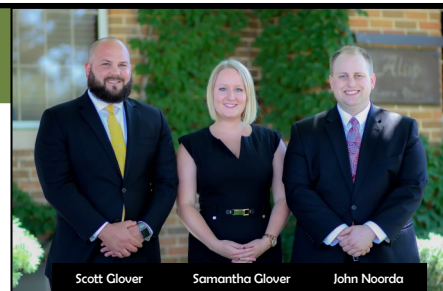
During the summer before college, I worked at the only job I could find: cleaning out horse stalls.

My dad told his friends I was an “equestrian emissions expediter.”

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**Enemies** has 7 letters,  
so does **Friends**.

**Lying** has 5 letters,  
so does **Truth**.

**Negative** has 8 letters,  
so does **Positive**.

**Under** has 5 letters,  
so does **Above**.

**Cry** has 3 letters,  
so does **Joy**.

**Anger** has 5 letters,  
so does **Happy**.

**Wrong** has 5 letters,  
so does **Right**.

**Hurt** has 4 letters,  
so does **Heal**.

It means life is like a double-  
edged sword, so transform  
every negative attitude into a  
positive. Always choose the  
better side of life.



For example, the other day I  
fell down the stairs. Instead  
of getting upset, I just  
thought, "Wow, that's the  
fastest I've moved in years!"

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**Three Red Marbles** *(Continued from page 1)*

with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store."

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two had nice haircuts, wore dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket.

Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes...

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket.

"Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size...they came to pay their debt.

"We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world," she confided, "but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho."

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

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## War Veteran Becomes Beloved Character

His mother was 40 years old when Jesse was born. Jesse grew up in a very rough home in Morgantown, West Virginia. Jesse's father, who was mentally ill, was a violent man and was abusive to Jesse. At 13, his father died leaving his mother to take care of him and his brothers.



At the time, things weren't easy for Jesse and he didn't think life held much hope for him. While Jesse had his struggles, he had dreams too. He wanted to be a ventriloquist and he found books on ventriloquism. He practiced with sock puppets and saved his money until he could get a real ventriloquist dummy.

When he was old enough, he joined the military. The military recognized his talents and placed him in the entertainment corp. He toured the western Pacific Islands as a comedian as part of a G.I. variety show called

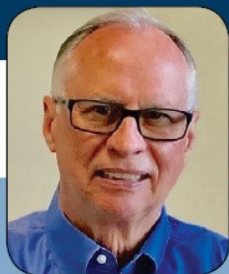
"Stars and Gripes." It was there he was able to share his talents with fellow soldiers.

In 1946, he discharged with rank of Technician Grade 5, which was the equivalent then of a Corporal. During his military service, Jesse was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with 4 bronze service stars), Army Good Conduct Medal, Marksman Badge (with an M1 Carbine) and Honorable Service lapel pin.

Through his military service, Jesse gained confidence and found that he had a talent for making people laugh. In spite of his early struggles, Jesse became one of the best-loved TV characters of all time. For it was Jesse Don Knotts who brought us Barney Fife!

## Say, what?

- ◆ To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.
- ◆ The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.
- ◆ The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.
- ◆ The colder the x-ray table, the more of your body is required to be on it.
- ◆ Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film.
- ◆ If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.
- ◆ If your car could travel at the speed of light, would your headlights work?
- ◆ Why is it the more calories the better it tastes?



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## What Do You Make?

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life. One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education.

He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach." To stress his point he said to another guest:

"You're a teacher, Susan. Be honest. What do you make?"

Susan, who had a reputation for honesty and frankness replied, "You want to know what I make? I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.

"I make a C+ student feel like the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study hall in absolute silence.

"You want to know what I make? I make kids wonder.

I make them question I make them criticize. I make them apologize and mean it. I make them write. I make them read, read, read.

"I make them show all their work in math and perfect their final drafts in English.

"I make them understand that if you have the brains, and follow your heart, and if someone ever tries to judge you by what you make, must pay no attention because they just didn't learn."

Susan paused and then continued. "You want to know what I make? I MAKE A DIFFERENCE. What do you make?"



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Age is only important if  
you are wine or cheese.

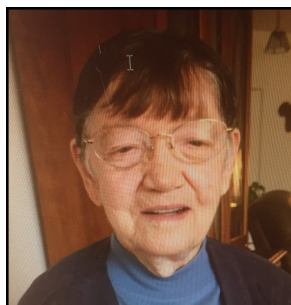
# Milestones



Forsie Mower  
June 13, 1920—99 years  
Nampa Heron Place



Helen Bergemann  
Sept 21, 1921—98 years  
Nampa Senior Center



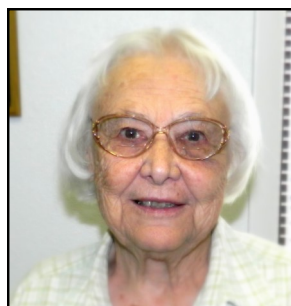
Mary Lou Free  
August 10 1959—60 years  
Caldwell Autumn Wind



Helen Bohne  
Sept 3, 1923—96 years  
Parma Senior Center



Polly Hayward  
Sept 5, 1923—96 years  
Nampa Sunnyridge



Alice Martin  
Sept 23, 1924—95 years  
Melba Valley Senior Center



Frank Chastain  
Sept 18, 1925—94 years  
Nampa Senior Center



Patty Yetter  
August 25, 1928—91 years  
Horseshoe Bend



Alvin Hunsperger  
Sept 1, 1928—91 years  
Melba Valley Senior Center



Gene & Margaret Lee  
August 5, 1946—73 years  
Melba Valley Senior Center

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Alvin & Shirley Hunsperger  
August 28, 1948—71 years  
Melba Valley Senior Center



## School Daze

During snack time, a kindergartner asked why some raisins were yellow while others were black. I didn't know the answer, so I asked my friend, a first-grade teacher, if she knew.

"Yellow raisins are made from green grapes, and black raisins are made from red grapes," she explained.

One little boy suggested, "Maybe that's why she teaches first grade, because she's just a little bit smarter than you."

## Kidnapped

**Student:** "I don't understand why my grade was so low. How did I do on my research paper?"

**Teacher:** "Actually, you didn't turn in a research paper. You turned in a random assemblage of sentences.

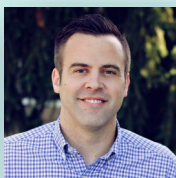
"In fact, the sentences you apparently kidnapped in the dead of night and forced into this violent and arbitrary plan of yours clearly seemed to be placed on the pages against their will.

"Reading your paper was like watching unfamiliar, uncomfortable people interacting at a party that no one wanted to attend in the first place.

"You didn't submit a research paper. You



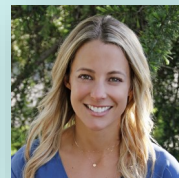
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### Why English is So Hard to Learn

You think English is easy? Check out the following:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that the workers had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture shown at the store.
5. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present to his girl.
8. A large bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object he showed me.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid in his hospital room.
12. There was a row among the canoeists when told they should row in a row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present with fawns.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell into a sewer line.
16. The wind was too strong to wind the sail around the mast.
17. Upon seeing the tear in her new dress, she shed a tear.
18. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
19. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

### Heteronyms

*Homonyms* are words of like spelling, but with more than one meaning or sound.

When pronounced differently, such as these, they are known as *heteronyms*.

### Soft and Fluffy

When her child's towel was stolen during a school swimming trip, an irate parent demanded of me, "What kind of juvenile delinquents are in class with my child?!"

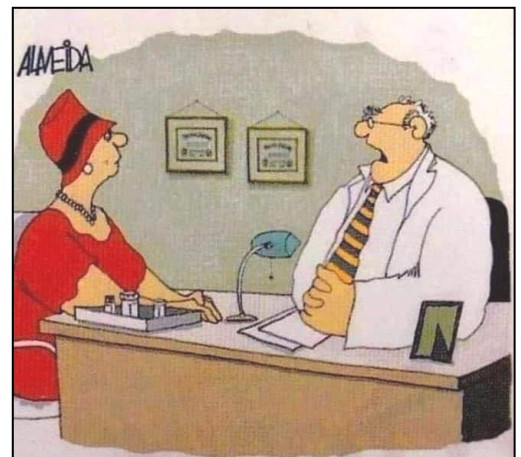
"I'm sure it was taken accidentally," I said. "What does it look like?"

"It's white," said the parent. "And it says *Holiday Inn* on it."

### Honest Answer

One of my students was always late turning in his work. I recently asked him where his homework was.

He replied, "It's still in my pencil."



"Forget about organic food. At your age, you need all the preservatives you can get!"



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## Not My Teacher's Pet

Our teacher asked us what our favorite animal was. When it was my turn, I said, "Fried chicken."

She said I wasn't funny, but she must have been wrong because all the other kids laughed.

My parents told me to always tell the truth, so I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal!

Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again.

I told my dad what happened and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do too. Especially chicken, pork and beef.

The next day in class my teacher asked my what my favorite LIVE animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken! She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed and told me not to do it again.

I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her which famous person I admired most.

I told her, "Colonel Sanders."

Guess where I am now.

## There are friends, and then there are REAL friends!



Friends: *Will knock on the door.*

REAL Friends: *Will walk right in and say, "I'm here!"*

Friends: *Will say "hello."*

REAL friends: *Will give you a big hug.*

Friends: *Enjoy coming for dinner.*

REAL friends: *Always bring the food.*

Friends: *Will eat at your dinner table and leave.*

REAL Friends: *Will spend hours helping you clean up.*

Friends: *Call your parents "Mr. and Mrs."*

REAL friends: *Call your parents "Mom and Dad."*

Friends: *Hate to see you cry.*

REAL Friends: *Cry with you.*

Friends: *Know a few things about you.*

REAL Friends: *Could write a book about you with quotes.*

Friends: *Get mad when you don't stay in contact.*

REAL Friends: *Years can go by and you pick up like yesterday.*

Friends: *Come and go.*

REAL Friends: *Are family.*

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Getting old is just one body part after another  
saying, "Ha, you think this is bad?"  
Watch this!!"



### First Grade Perspective

First graders were given the beginning of these cliches, and asked to provide their own endings. The results are often better than the original! Take a look...

1. If at first you don't succeed  
*...go play.*
2. Eat, drink, and...*go to the bathroom.*
3. All's fair in...*hockey.*
4. He who laughs last...*didn't understand the joke.*
5. People in glass houses...  
*better not take off their clothes*
6. All work and no play...*is disgusting.*
7. Don't put all your eggs...*in the microwave.*
8. Better to be safe than...  
*punch a 5th grader.*
9. Strike while the...*bug is close.*
10. It's always darkest before  
*...Daylight Savings Time.*
11. Never underestimate the  
power of...*termites.*
12. Don't bite the hand that  
*...looks dirty.*
13. You can't teach an old dog  
new...*math.*

## Milestones



Genevieve Johnson  
Sept. 23, 1928—91 years  
Nampa Park Place



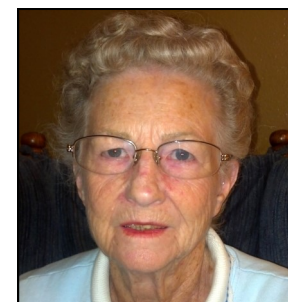
Barbara Aldridge  
Sept 27, 1928—91 years  
Nampa Park Place



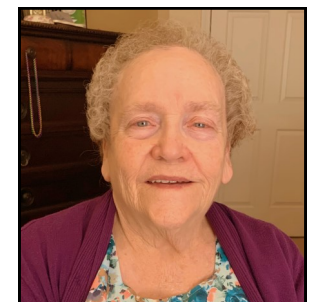
Pete Peterson  
Sept 30, 1928—91 years  
Caldwell Senior Center



Jackie Colvin  
Sept 4, 1929—90 years  
Caldwell Autumn Wind



Alice Story  
Sept 17, 1934—85 years  
Caldwell Autumn Wind



Mary Woods  
Sept 18, 1939—80 years  
Caldwell Autumn Wind



Dixie Nelson  
Sept 19, 1939—80 years  
Nampa Sunnyridge



Evelyn Holbrook  
Sept 24, 1939—80 years  
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Dean Pratt  
Sept 27, 1939—80 years  
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