

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

### What's the Price of a Desk?

In the fall of 2005, Martha Cothren, a history teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room, they discovered that there were no desks.

"Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?"

She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior."

She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior."

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.



The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom, Ms. Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

*Continued on Page 2*

### Traffic Light

I was driving through an intersection in our city when I saw the flash of a traffic camera above the signal.



I had just read how they had installed those new-fangled cameras to catch speeders, but I knew I wasn't speeding.

Just to be sure, I went around the block and passed the same light, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed.

I began to think this was quite funny, so I tried again, driving even slower. Sure enough, the camera flashed as I went through the intersection.

By the time I went through a fourth and fifth time, I was barely moving through the intersection, but with the same result.

Two weeks later I got five tickets in the mail for driving without using my seat belt.



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### Quick Thinking

The old farmer had a large pond in the middle of his orchard well-hidden from view. Most people wouldn't even know it was there.

One evening, the old guy decided to go down to the pond and check the water level, since he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a five-gallon bucket to bring back some fruit.



As he neared the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing. As he came closer, he realized it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his pond. As he approached, he made the women aware of his presence.

As soon as they heard him coming, they all went to the deep end and sank up to their necks. One of the women shouted to him, "We're not coming out until you leave."

The old man frowned, "I did not come down here to watch you young ladies." Holding the bucket up in the air, he said, "I'm just here to feed the alligator."

*(What's the Price of a Desk?—Continued from Page 1)*

At this point, Ms. Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall.

By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.



Martha said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have.

"Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

This is a true story. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.




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## Tale of Two Mirrors

I'm very ugly  
 So don't try to convince me that  
 I am a very beautiful person  
 Because at the end of the day  
 I hate myself in every single way  
 And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying  
 There is beauty inside of me that matters  
 So rest assured I will remind myself  
 That I am a worthless, terrible person  
 And nothing you say will make me believe  
 I still deserve love  
 Because no matter what  
 I am not good enough to be loved  
 And I am in no position to believe that  
 Beauty does exist in me  
 Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think  
 Am I as ugly as people say?



*(Now read it backwards)*

## Competing Claims

After having dug to a depth of 10 feet last year outside of Buffalo, New York scientists found traces of copper cable dating back 120 years. They came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.



Not to be outdone by the New Yorkers, in the weeks that followed, a West Virginia archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet somewhere just outside Wheeling. Shortly after, a story in the local newspaper read, "West Virginia archaeologists, reporting a finding of 200-year-old copper cable, have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the New Yorkers."

One week later, a local newspaper in Ohio reported the following: "After digging down about 30 feet deep in his pasture, Pete Riley, an agricultural engineer and a self-taught archaeologist reported that he found absolutely nothing. Riley has therefore concluded that 300 years ago, Ohio had already gone wireless."

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**Not the E-version**

An Indian poet and scholar once asked an English poet of great renown, "As you are a Master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"

The genius replied back, writing this:

"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many words. Omitting it is as hard as making muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap.

And anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

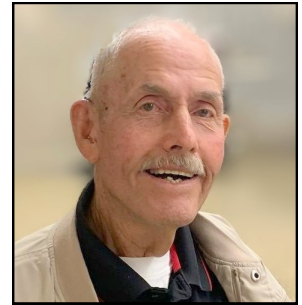
**Milestones**



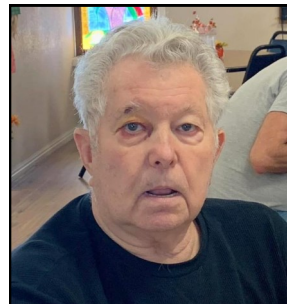
**Bob Deurmyer**  
 Nov 13, 1923—100 years  
 Fruitland



**Barbara Hittle**  
 Nov 10, 1931—92 years  
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**Myrl Haines**  
 Oct 19, 1938—85 years



**Bill Dohrman**  
 Nov 4, 1943—80 years  
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**Lupe Marquez**  
 Nov 11, 1953—70 years  
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**Vonnie Whaley**  
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