

Nuggets of Fun and Nostalgia for Treasure Valley Golden-Agers

A Mother's Christmas Story

A mother and her family were eating dinner on Christmas Eve in a small restaurant many miles from their home. She tells this story:

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat little Becky in a high-chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking.

Suddenly, Becky squealed with glee and said, "Hi." She pounded her fat baby hands on the high-chair tray. Her eyes were wide with excitement and her mouth was bared in a toothless grin. She wriggled and giggled with merriment. I looked around and saw the source of her merriment.

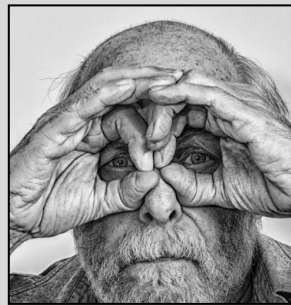
It was a man with a tattered rag of a coat, dirty, greasy and worn. His pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of well-worn shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose, it looked like a road map.

We were too far away from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled terrible. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists. "Hi there, baby; hi there, baby girl. I see you sweetie," the man said to Becky with his hands over his eyes looking through his fingers.

My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby.

Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, "Do you know patty cake baby? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, she knows peek-a boo!" Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk.

My husband and I were so embarrassed. We ate in silence, all except for Becky, who was running through her repertoire for the admiring skid-row bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments.



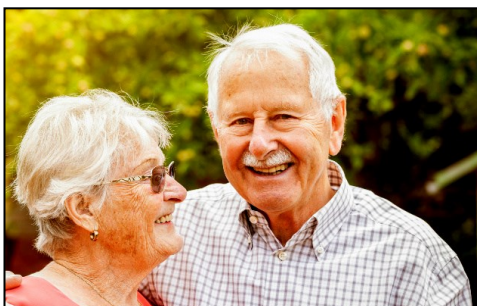
(Continued on page 2)

UNDER THE MISTLETOE



Sitting under the mistletoe
 (Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
 One last candle burning low,
 All the sleepy dancers gone,
 Just one candle burning on,
 Shadows lurking everywhere:
 Some one came,
 and kissed me there.

Tired I was; my head would go
 Nodding under the mistletoe
 (Pale-green, fairy mistletoe),
 No footsteps came, no voice,
 but only,
 Just as I sat there, sleepy,
 lonely,
 Stooped in the still and
 shadowy air
 Lips unseen—
 and kissed me there.



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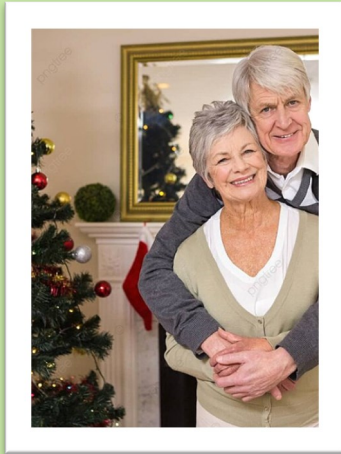
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Christmas Wishes For You

By Sherry Asbury



May peace dwell with you,
may prosperity huddle near.
May family gather together
without heartache or tear.

There is a star shining
in the night sky ... just there.
It is for you to wish upon
to keep you safe from care.

May everything you need
be yours to have and proclaim
as you're due; just close your eyes
and ask it in His precious name.

Merry Christmas to you, friend.
Let your season be a blessed one
filled with love and cheer and more.
Smile, laugh, and enjoy the fun.

(A Mother's Story—Continued from page 1)

We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot.

The old man sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Becky," I prayed.

As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to side-step him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Becky leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop her, Becky had propelled herself from my arms to the man's.

Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship. Becky, in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid her tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain and hard labor-gently, so gently cradled my baby's bottom and stroked her back.



No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. And I stood awestruck. The old man rocked and cradled Becky in his arms for a moment, and then his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby girl."

Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone. He pried Becky from his chest unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift."

I said nothing more than a muttered thanks. With Becky in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why I was crying and holding Becky so tightly, and why I was saying, "Oh my God, please forgive me."

I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment, a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of dirty clothes. I was a woman who was blind, holding a child who was not.



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Now That's a Good Question!

- Why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are flat?
- Why do banks charge a fee on 'insufficient funds' when they know there is not enough?
- Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?
- Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars, but check when you say the paint is wet?
- Why is it that people say they 'slept like a baby' when babies wake up every two hours?
- If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be?
- Do married people live longer than single ones or does it only seem longer?
- Why do toasters always have a setting so high that could burn the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?
- If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?
- Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?
- Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster?
- Why do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune? *(You just sang it in your head, didn't you?)*



Short Snorts

A woman texted her husband: "Windows frozen. Won't open."
Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it, then gently tap the edges with a hammer."
Wife texts back: "Computer really messed up now!"

Scientists recently placed a matching 10-piece set of Tupperware in a sealed chamber. When they opened it a month later, there were 14 lids that did not match the remaining 6 containers.

One day you're young and the next day you have your favorite pharmacy!

I've reached the age where I appreciate a nice handrail!

90% of all electric vehicles are still on the road. The other 10% made it home.

It's not procrastination if I never had any intention of doing it in the first place.

I'd tell you a hat joke, but it's over your head!



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THE TOP 10 SHAKESPEARE QUOTES

1. The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves. (*Julius Caesar*)
2. To be, or not to be: that is the question. (*Hamlet*)
3. The course of true love never did run smooth. (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*)
4. If I lose mine honour, I lose myself. (*Antony and Cleopatra*)
5. All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts. (*As You Like It*)
6. Brevity is the soul of wit. (*Hamlet*)
7. Be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. (*Twelfth Night*)
8. Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none. (*All's Well That Ends Well*)
9. Good night. Good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow. (*Romeo and Juliet*)
10. But I will wear my heart upon my sleeve. (*Othello*)

It's so cold that:

- Lawyers have their hands in their own pockets.
- You have to open the fridge to heat the house
- Your false teeth chatter, and they are still in the glass
- People look forward to getting a fever
- We had to chisel the dog off a lamp-post
- Pet stores are selling hamsters, gerbils and penguins
- I chipped my tooth on my soup.
- Starbucks is serving coffee on a stick.
- I actually saw a hipster pull his pants up.
- Ice cubes are coming out of my faucet.
- I'm thankful for hot flashes
- Donald Trump's hair froze in place.
- I saw a greyhound bus and the dog was riding on the inside.



The greatest love story is not Romeo and Juliet who died together, but Grandpa and Grandma who grew old together.

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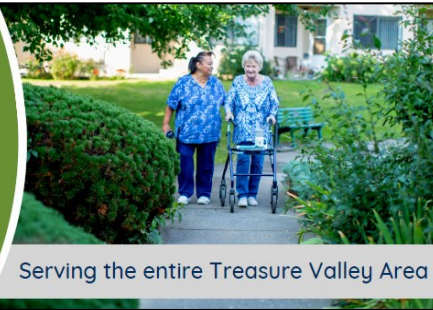
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Secret Treasure

A man and woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They had kept no secrets from each other except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all of these years, he had never thought about the box, but one day the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it,



he found three crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$9,500. Shocked, he asked her about the contents.

"When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll."

The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only three precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him three times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness.

"Honey," he said, "that explains the doll, but what about all of this money? Where did it come from?"

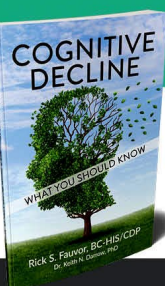
"Oh," she said, "that's the money I made from selling the dolls."



Christmas Quiz

(Answers on Page 6)

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?
4. What color are mistletoe berries?
5. What color suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
6. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
7. According to tradition, when should you have your Christmas decorations down by?
8. Which U.S. state was the first to declare Christmas Day an official holiday?
9. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' what was the gift given on the seventh day?
10. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh (including Rudolph)?
11. What is the name of the ballet that takes place at Christmas?
12. What plant is sometimes known as the 'Christmas flower'?
13. Which ornament is typically placed on the top of the tree?
14. Where was Jesus born?



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New Pants for Christmas

~ Brann Rafferty

In halls decked with holly, and trees all a-glow,
I feasted on goodies, let my inhibitions go,
From gingerbread houses to cider so bold,
I consumed with abandon, in holiday's hold.

Eggnog flowed like a river, a creamy delight,
Pies disappeared faster than stars in the night,
Turkey and stuffing, and oh, the mince pies,
I ate 'til I felt like a stuffed Christmas prize.



Dear Santa, I plead, as the scale gives a sigh,
Bring stretchy new pants and don't ask me why,
For I've eaten like royalty, bursting at seams,
Now I need new attire, for my dining regimes.

So here's to the feasting, our holiday rite,
Merry Christmas to all, let's eat day and night,
With waistbands expanded and spirits held high,
May your holidays be filled with joy and pie!

Answers to Christmas Quiz on Page 5

1. Germany
2. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.
3. Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.
4. White
5. Green
6. Christmas Day
7. January 5th
8. Oklahoma
9. Seven swans a-swimming
10. Nine
11. *The Nutcracker*
12. Poinsettia
13. A star or angel
14. Bethlehem



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What a Deal!

Esther was driving home from a business trip when she saw an elderly woman walking on the side of the road. Feeling sorry for her, she stopped the car, rolled down the window, and asked the lady if she wanted a ride.

The lady nodded, and without a word climbed into the passenger seat. Esther headed down the road. The next town was an hour away, so she tried to make small talk with the old woman. But she just sat silently watching the scenery go by.

After more than half an hour of this silent drive, the old woman turned and noticed a package lying on the seat behind Esther. "What's in the package?" the woman suddenly asked.

Somewhat startled by the sudden question, Esther replied, "It's a new pair of shoes I got for my husband."



The old woman was silent again for a moment or two. Then apparently speaking from her many years of experience, she simply said, "Good trade."



I hear there is scientific proof that birthdays are good for you: the more you have, the longer you live.

Your shadow exists because light that traveled 93 million miles unobstructed, was deprived of reaching the last few feet thanks to you.



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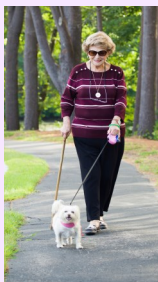


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An elderly lady was walking her dog in the park when a young man grabbed her purse and ran away.

A bystander witnessing this ran over and asked if she was all right.

She smiled and said it was no big deal. She just carried the old purse to hold the bag she used to pick up her dog's "business" until she got home to dispose of it.

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**Once There Was a
Snowman**

~ Anonymous

Once there was a snowman,
Who stood outside the door,
He wished that he could come
inside,
And run about the floor.

He wished that he could warm
himself,
Beside the fire, so red,
He wished that he could climb
Upon the big white bed.

So he called to the North Wind,
"Come and help me, pray,
For I'm completely frozen,
Standing here all day."

So the North Wind came along,
And blew him in the door,
And now there's nothing left,
But a puddle on the floor!



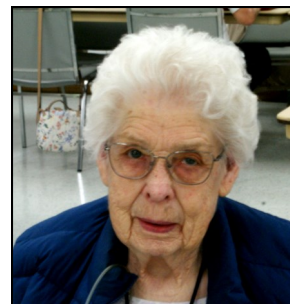
Milestones



Mary Bayne Quinette
Dec 1, 1923 —100 years
Nampa Grace Assisted



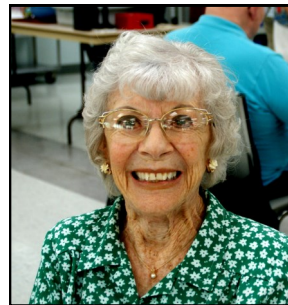
Marge Warnock
Nov 28, 1927—96 years
Nampa Karcher Estates



Lucy Henzler
Dec 20, 1927—96 years
Nampa Senior Center



Don Gibbons
Dec 24, 1929 —94 years
Caldwell Senior Center



Martha Sweet
Dec 4, 1930—93 years
Nampa Senior Center



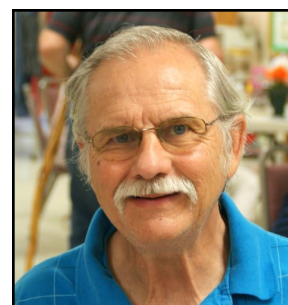
Sybil Hinatsu
Dec 13, 1932—92 years
Parma Senior Center



Sherran Davis
Nov 10, 1943 —80 years
Nampa Senior Center



Patti Vickery
Nov 6, 1953—70 years
Nampa Senior Center



Gene Swendson
Dec 3, 1953—70 years
Caldwell Senior Center

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people should check on
the elderly during
the holidays.
I'm usually up by 6 or
6:30. Bring donuts.

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