



# Tri-Kin Trailways

June 2022  
Volume IX Number 2



## Views From Home

Normally this page is devoted to highlighting a country where our Trinity Carts have been shipped and it is sometimes titled “News From the Field”. However, this time we haven’t heard where our last load of 70 carts is headed. This will be especially for those who have never visited the Colbert/Spokane area where we assemble our carts for those who desperately need them. We’ll just give you a quick glimpse of the beauty of our area with a few pictures.



Mt Spokane from the Trinity parking lot - a great ski area in winter time



Little Spokane River nearby



Left - Near Spokane

Right - River through downtown Spokane



We had some very prestigious visitors at the Trinity Shops recently and judging by their response, they enjoyed us as much as we appreciated having them. Page 2, Vol IX No 2  
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A group from the Gem State Chapter of the H.E.T. Club got to see first-hand how we are able to help those in developing countries who cannot help themselves. Here are a couple paragraphs from the Thank-You letter we received from them: “Thank-you so much for hosting our group Saturday morning. It was good of you to come up and address the group. I appreciate it. Every single member told me they truly enjoyed visiting your facility and the presentations. It was kind of your volunteers to give up their Saturday morning to allow us to learn the history and details of how Rainbow Freedom Carts are made and distributed to over 103 countries. Please thank them as well on our behalf.

“Those of us who rode the Freedom Carts had so much fun. I too did not make it up the hill. In retrospect, I wish I had attacked it at an angle. I may just have to come out and try the challenge again!



“Dick, you are a remarkable man who ‘lives boldly’ (your words, not mine LOL) and has created a ministry that impacts the least of those that God loves dearly. May He continue to bless you, your team and the mission. It is absolutely remarkable.”



Now as to why they are called the H.E.T. Club. It’s pretty hard for a novice to tell the difference, but we believe there was only one Terraplane (T.) in the group and the rest are Hudsons (H.) The cars have a long and interesting history, but here are a few highlights. The Hudson Motor Car Company was founded in 1909 to build an automobile affordable for the middle class. In 1919, Hudson introduced the Essex (E.); for budget-minded buyers, designed to compete with Ford and Chevrolet, as opposed to the more up-scale Hudson line competing with Oldsmobile and Studebaker. At their peak in 1929, Hudson and Essex produced a combined

300,000 cars in one year; Hudson was the third largest U.S. car maker that year, after Ford and Chevrolet. In 1932, Hudson began phasing out its Essex nameplate for the modern Terraplane brand name. The new line was launched on July 21, 1932, with a promotional christening by Amelia Earhart. For 1932 and 1933, the restyled cars were named Essex-Terraplane, then from 1934, as Terraplane, until 1938, when the Terraplane was renamed the Hudson 112. On May 1, 1954, Hudson merged with Nash-Kelvinator to become American Motors Corporation. The last Hudson rolled off the assembly line on June 25, 1957.



The only Terraplane in the group

It’s amazing the club members keep these almost 90 year old cars in such good looking, and running, shape. We appreciated having them visit and look forward to seeing more of them in the future.

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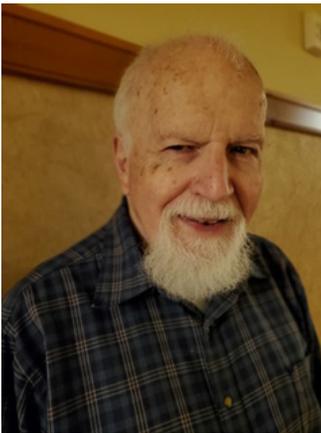
“If we have the ability to respond, then we have the responsibility.” - Mel West

## *Our Spotlighthed Volunteer*

We spotlight one volunteer in each issue of the newsletter. For this issue it is someone who has served as a pastor for 51 years. Starting while he was in college at 19, he split the work 50-50 with his college professor in a small, but very difficult, church. After a year, the church realized his potential and called him full time.

The “him” we are referring to is John Shaffer who is now in retirement. He and his wife of 60 years (Barbara) live in the Wesley Lea Hill retirement community in Auburn Washington. Their first ministry was in Alaska. In all John served in 18 Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Illinois, Washington, and Alaska.

John was born in Champaign County Illinois to a farming family. He says he enjoyed gardening and operating the farm equipment more than working on tractor mechanics. He attended Illinois Wesleyan University and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.



Some of the churches may have been small, but they were important. In Clam Gulch Alaska where they were meeting in a Quonset hut, two people showed up, on a very cold and windy Sunday. When he announced the topic of the sermon, one of them said he didn't believe in evangelism, but by the time church was over, he said he was now convinced.

John's involvement with the Trinity Project began shortly after he retired in 2008. A friend took him to dinner with a list of 20 things he thought John could do in retirement. One of them was raising money and doing promotional work for Trinity. Dick Carpenter provided a demo cart for him, and as long as his old pick-up truck kept breathing, he could transport the cart for his presentations.

Active in Lion's International, he participated in 2 conventions (Germany and Seattle). During the one in Seattle, John “drove” a cart from the Space Needle to the Convention Center. For a “leg enabled” person, with full feeling in his legs, the pain was a bit excessive. People would see the cart, ask questions, and he would tell the Trinity story over and over. He spoke at many churches and service clubs. He didn't keep track of the money raised, but he guesses it was substantial.

John was thrilled one day while he was in Lubumbashi, a city in The Democratic Republic of the Congo, when he was visiting an orphanage and saw one of our carts. It had been used so much it was no longer functional. But, it was a joy to know it had spent many years allowing a young boy, without legs below the knees, to be able to walk. The miracle was that a family in the U.S. had arranged for him to come to America to be fitted with state-of-the-art artificial legs. When John first met him in the DRC, the boy asked if John thought he might be able to play soccer here. He was not only allowed to play soccer, but he was outstanding as a goalie and has indeed thrived in his new location.

John tells many more extremely interesting stories about his experiences over the past 84 years, but unfortunately we've run out of room. We surely appreciate the publicity and hard work he has given the Trinity Project since his retirement in 2008. Thanks John, you are very much appreciated.



Be careful of what books you read, for as water tastes of the soil it runs through, so does the soul taste of the authors that a man reads. - John Tripp 1601-1669

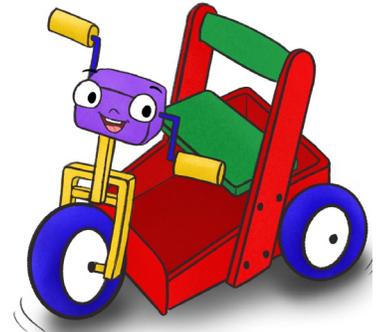
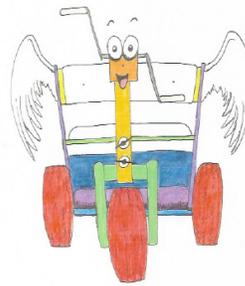
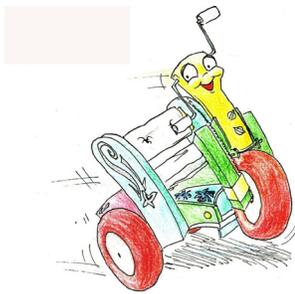


A recent picture of Dick & Lois Carpenter, both looking very "chipper"



Even the very small pieces need to be painted. Dick Hiller doing the tedious work.

*How's this for the work of four talented young people?*



The "THING"

Would anyone care to hazard a guess as to what this "thing" is? As far as we know, it just appeared in the paint shop and nobody seems to know anything about it. Even Dick Carpenter denies any knowledge of it.

Labels

Most of the time when we get Trinity type pictures, I put an identifying label on them, then use them in future newsletters as needed. This one, I'll let you readers title however you want to.



Our good friend (Mel West), one of the three founders of the PET (Trinity) project, wrote this interesting article:

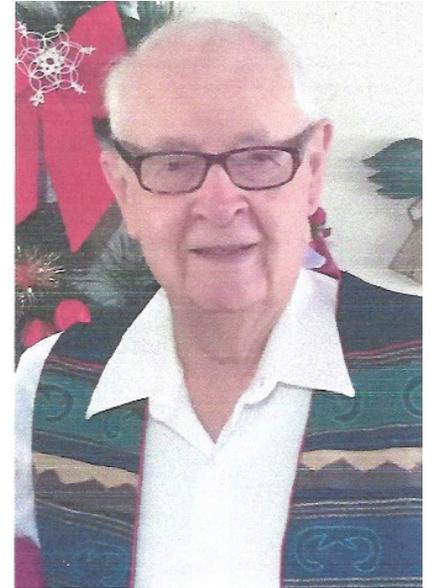
### *My Life as a Candy-Maker*

In 1946, Barbara and I enrolled in the University of Missouri for the last year for both of us. We found a great place to live in the basement of an old farmhouse which was used as an overflow for several sororities. I maintained the house, furnaces, lawn, plumbing, etc. We lived there at no cost. We were on the GI Bill so school costs were low, but we still needed living costs.

I saw an ad in the paper for an evening clean up person in a candy shop across the street from the law building. I got the job, and it was hard work. They had a rough concrete floor and spilled candy, syrup, etc, on it all day long. That didn't daunt me, and I kept it clean. The candy makers were cluttered, not very well organized. After two months of janitorialing, I went to work one evening and the owner of the shop, the wife of a law student, was distraught. She said the candy-maker had quit; I can't find another candy-maker, what will I do?

"How about me", I asked. "Are you a candy-maker", she asked. "Not yet", I said, "But I can read." I had read the 3x5 recipe cards and candy making is simple. Just follow the simple directions. No problem. Weigh, heat, and use a thermometer.

She took a chance and I was the candy-maker for the rest of the year. Barbara dipped chocolates some. Our most popular sales were "nut rolls", nougat rolled in nuts and about 1 inch across, sold by the inch. We had a 4" thick marble slab for pouring out candy to cool and cut. Mostly we made candy in 40 pound batches. I've not made an ounce of candy since, but I've eaten a lot.



Mel West at 97



An inventor in our midst. The pictures show Eldon Manteuffel installing a seat belt on the seat of one of the carts. But, he discovered a very frustrating problem early. Since the belts are made out of nylon, when you try to put a screw through the belt into the wooden seat, the threads of the nylon tend to wind around the screw as it is turned. The solution: heat the screw before it goes into the nylon belt. That not only cauterizes the threads in the belt, but it also makes a very tight seal so water can't seep into the wood seat.

Eldon uses the same principle when he cuts each seat belt from a large roll. In this instance, rather than cut the belts with a knife or scissors and then cauterize each end of the belt, why not just heat a putty knife, put the heated blade on the belt and viola, the belt is cut and both ends are immediately cauterized. Brilliant inventions.



The wood is “Rainbow-colored”, but these are the tires we got when we ordered “any color but black”.



A Very Important Milestone  
Dick Carpenter at 82 on May 3

We had another special group of visitors at the Trinity Shop in April and as a result of their visit, we were featured in their newspaper - “The Fig Tree”. The article was titled “Volunteers build carts for people who cannot walk”. They did an excellent job of describing what we do, why we do it, and how it is done.



They included eight pictures of the shop and various stages of cart construction. Here are two of the pictures they published which are especially good, and get the message of hope out.

The paper’s title comes from the Bible verse in Micah 4:4 which says: *Everyone will find rest beneath their own fig trees or grape vines, and they will live in peace. This is a solemn promise of the LORD All-Powerful.*



The paper was started in 1984 by Mary Stamp who is still working as hard as ever to be able to produce news that is positive and hopeful, rather than dwelling on differences, and other violent aspects of society. Their primary goals are to look at alternative things happening around us, to highlight those who are making positive differences in their community. Any where there are divisions, the Fig Tree tries to bring people together.

They also produce a Resource Directory which points people in need to others who can help. The directory reassures people in need of help that there is really hope, and gives them the place to find it.

At the end of their article they quoted this : The project exemplifies Margaret Mead’s insight: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The visit and news article have such positive implications, we were so glad to host them and surely hope they return soon. Thanks so much Mary and crew.

The panel at the bottom of this page explains several different ways you can donate to The Trinity Project. There are ways to give funds, leverage your assets, and at the same time save income/estate taxes.



We can't give you financial or tax advice; that needs to come from a professional tax advisor or tax attorney, who will help you determine financial consequences of your charitable activities. What we can tell you is that if you have items such as stock, a 401(k), IRA's, or 403(b)s, you are able to donate up to \$100,000 to be transferred directly to the Trinity Project. {Inherited stock falls in another (even better) category.} One thing you do need to keep in mind is that, to avoid taxes, the funds must be transferred

directly from your account to the Trinity Project. Once you personally receive a check, tax is due. Again, different rules apply to different types of investments and timing as to when contributions to the investment were made, so please check with a tax advisor or attorney as you plan your personal charitable giving. There are many tax advantages when you give retirement assets to a qualified charity such as The Trinity Project.

Giving from a traditional IRA is a fantastic option when it comes to charitable giving. When you give a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) you take money that would normally incur income tax and transfer it directly to The Trinity Project. This can do two things: as the giver, you decrease your taxable income, and a QCD can fulfill the annual Required Minimum Distribution that begins when you reach age 72. You can donate up to \$100,000 per year. This is a really good way to give if you are at least 70 1/2 with a traditional IRA, even if you take the standard deduction on your tax return.

Two additional ways of donating to The Trinity Project are through making a bequest of part, or all, of your estate, and setting up either a revocable living trust or an irrevocable trust (there are advantages and disadvantages to each).

Trinity has a Charles Schwab account which is funded for future costs for the production and shipping of Trinity carts. To get more specific details about this account, please contact Mike Larson at (509) 998-5517. This is a great way to keep from having to pay capital gains tax, and to reduce your tax liability at the same time.

## Other Ways to give to the Trinity Project:

- 1) You can send checks, made payable to The Trinity Project, then mail them to: PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361. You will receive a tax deductible letter shortly after the first of next year.
- 2) Go to our web-site: [www.nwtrinityproject.org](http://www.nwtrinityproject.org) and click on the word "DONATE". That will take you to an image like you see at the right. Just click on the yellow button. We'll send you an official tax receipt just after the end of the year. (*Please don't try to click on this one, it's just an example to show what the "real" one on our web page looks like.*)
- 3) Donate electronically through **PayPal** (you don't have to have a PayPal account). All you need is either a credit or a debit card. You can also make this a **recurring monthly donation** by checking the "Make This A Monthly Donation" box.
- 4) We have an account with **Amazon.com** where, when you purchase from Amazon, you can designate a part of their profit to come to us. When you sign in to Amazon, use "**smile.amazon.com**". The first time you will be asked which charity you would like to support. Just find "The Inland Northwest Trinity Project", click on it and, each time you use "smile.amazon.com" to sign-in, a part of your purchase price goes to help those who cannot walk. There is no added expense to you.





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### Freedom Cart Connection – Contact and Newsletter Information

For volunteer opportunities, visits to the Freedom Cart shop, or to request a presentation, please call Dick Carpenter at (509)466-3425 or send him an e-mail at [bebold@comcast.net](mailto:bebold@comcast.net).

For address changes and comments about this newsletter, send to [8strikin@gmail.com](mailto:8strikin@gmail.com). Tax-deductible donations may be sent to The Trinity Project, PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361.

Our web-site is: [nwtrinityproject.org](http://nwtrinityproject.org) Please also see the article “Ways you can make a direct impact on the Trinity Project” on page 7. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where we would appreciate a thumbs-up.

