



Tri-Kin Trailways



December 2023
Volume X Number 4
(Our 55th issue since
December 2009)



News

A} Good News B} Neutral News C} Bad News

First, the *A} Good News*. We have several (15) things we have been busily working on for the past several months that fit this category.

We are moved and back in operation – it was not easy and took a lot of heavy back-work, but we are now completely out of our old facility and in Dick Carpenter’s shop building. It is somewhat smaller, but with much cleaning and dumping, we now have the elbow room to paint, weld, and assemble carts, all in one area.

Something we have been working on for months, and which is vital for our organization to have is Liability Insurance. We are now insured and ready to relax on that subject.



A roofing friend of one of our volunteers loaned us a very large dumpster, which we filled, they he paid for transportation to the dump, as well as for the dump fee.

completed carts until we have enough for a semi load. We mentioned the “dog-leg” in her driveway in the last newsletter, but, with some

minor tree trimming, we can get a semi-truck from the road to her shop. That’s Bill Silverthorne and Carol Horlacher loading wood from the shop Carol is loaning us for storage. Bill used some of the “scrap” wood to build a very nice set of shelves for the builders to use.



Our finances are still in good shape and we have enough funds to keep up the pace for a long time. However, as you will see in the “Neutral News” we are looking at the long-term future and the possibility of buying land and

building our own facility, or buying an existing shop building large enough for our needs.

At this time, we do not have pressing financial needs, BUT, a) if you are led to give now, it will be very much appreciated, and you will get an official tax-receipt letter. b) Donations for future building (maybe like the one to the right, or larger) or land will be put in our savings account, and will be used later for that purpose.



The West-Side (Seattle area) Tri-Kins have been busy and their publicity is paying off with several new wood-working volunteers. We welcome them, and surely appreciate their help getting wood from the forest to our assembly shop.

Our wonderfully productive Canadian “tree-to-1x 6 usable boards” (Robert Prinse), is such an asset and we appreciate him very much. He buys cut trees, mills them into slabs, dries them in his kiln, then cuts them into the 1 x 6 pieces we need for the cart sides, seat, and box.



Getting the wood from Canada into the US has always been a huge task as the distance between Spokane and Chilliwack Canada is much too long for a one-day trip. The trip would also add the expense of an over-night stay. When the Lynden Washington Lions Club heard about our dilemma they gladly stepped up and make the trip in a few hours as one of their community projects. They are very much appreciated, but, as you will see in the “Bad News” section, they

have recently lost their long-time leader.

As long as our “cross-state” shipments are kept within Washington and a few other surrounding states, Peninsula Trucking ships the cut wood, then the completed carts, at no cost to us. Those costs really add up and we appreciate their generosity very much.



Our wonderful group of volunteers still come into the shop for a day, two, or three, per week. Without them, we would be nothing. As you’ll see in the “Neutral News” section, we aren’t getting any younger, and still need to ask for more younger people to help.

We completed the next load of 70 carts and shipped them on October 19 to World Vision in Fife Washington.

That made a total of 4423 carts completed and shipped since we began in February 2005.



Pictured is the load crew, and two very happy “crew members”, Jim Dixon and Karen Tollackson.

Our Board of Trustees has been expanded from 3 to 6, which means decisions are now being made by more than one person, a real positive, both for better decision making, and for showing the State we are now more of a legitimate organization. The Board is now made up of: Dick Carpenter, Maurice Feryn, Don

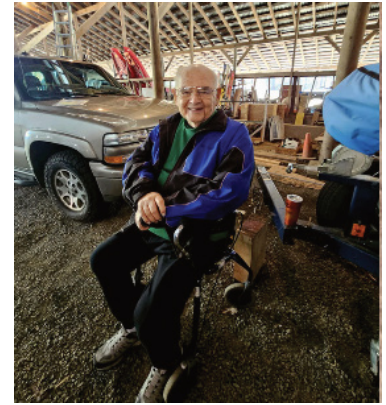
Mattocks, Cliff Garrison, Jim Dixon, and Joe Kramarz.

Dick Carpenter is still unable to actively participate in cart building and logistics, but at least he is able to visit and watch the progress. We appreciate so much Dick's leadership and for his past vital participation, especially in encouraging volunteers, participating companies, and donors.

B} Neutral News



Not bad, but not to our liking either. Unfortunately, time seems to go in only one direction, which, unfortunately also applies to our group of volunteers. As our volunteers age, they need to be replaced. A good example of that comes from the Puget Sound side of the state; Bill Gray (in the blue shirt), one of our faithful wood cutters is moving into a very nice retirement facility in Des Moines near the water. We thank Bill for his faithful service and extremely accurate wood cutting for many years, but he does need to be replaced.



We currently need new volunteers in several areas: a) Assembly of carts where there are various areas of need, so somebody who is willing to be cross-trained. b) Metal working area; metal preparation for welding and powder coating. c) Accounting, preferably someone who is familiar with Quick Books, or Word and Excel.

As we mentioned above, our financial situation looks good for our current needs. Since we have no desire to overstay our welcome in the Carpenter's shop, we need to be looking to the long-term future, which means to either buy a facility (like the one pictured on the right) large enough for our needs, or buy land and build our own. Funds donated and specified for that need will be put into our savings account to be used when moving again comes to the forefront.



C} *The Bad News* (or let's call it the "not so good" news).



The President of the Lynden Lion Club who initiated the wood-run to Canada to pick up the 1 x 6 wood we need, John Edmunds, died on August 31 of bone cancer. He was 82. His good, hard work, and humor will be especially missed. He always ended his messages with the advice "Live your life, not your age". Wise advice for all of us. The picture shows John with one of his Lion Club parade floats. John was unknown to us until our webmaster, Brad Hurte, who also lives in Lynden, contacted the Lynden Lion Club to see if they knew anyone who could help get wood from Canada into Washington. John answered the phone and met Brad for coffee. When he heard of our need, he did not hesitate, but said that, even if he couldn't convince the Club to make these "wood runs" that he would. The club agreed enthusiastically and have been faithfully making the run between Lynden and



Chilliwack BC for almost a year now. We aren't sure money comes in "tons", but the Lynden Lions have saved Trinity a "ton of money". We owe John and the Lynden Lions a great deal of gratitude.

Our "chief hooker" as he liked to be called, Larry Rees, died on September 14 of heart failure (and also most likely of a "broken heart".) He was 89. His wife of nearly 60 years, Jeanne, died just two years ago and his life without her was so hollow. Larry was an Army veteran, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration until he retired in 1990. He was an avid bicyclist, runner (marathon type), skier, and enjoyed family camping trips. Larry and Jeanne were founding members of the Colbert Presbyterian Church. He performed a vital function for Trinity by inserting, then removing, the cup hooks for each board to be painted. We miss him already.

A Very Significant Milestone



The organization we were part of when we started here in Spokane, PET International (now called Global Mobility), has reached a real milestone. There are currently 24 affiliates of the organization; when we joined in 2005, we were #8. Global Mobility counts carts that each of its affiliates builds and ships, and our 4423 are included, even though we are no longer one of their affiliates. The 100,000th Mobility Cart went to Aristides Antonio Mejia, a 50-year-old resident of Quezaltepeque, El Salvador, who has only one leg. The picture shows Antonio on a cart built by one of Global Mobility's affiliates.



The picture shows Antonio on a cart built by one of Global Mobility's affiliates.

Tired Yet?

Since Larry Rees died, Bill Johnson has taken over the "chief hooker" job. The picture (right) shows him after he has put hooks in 384 pieces. Great work Bill. We won't say that hooking that many boards was too much for Bill, but the next thing we knew was that Bill had recruited his wife, Le Ann, to help. Welcome Le Ann.



Our Culture

Almost six years ago, Dick Carpenter wrote an article about the culture that had been established when he began the Trinity (PET at that time) Project in Spokane. As we are transitioning into new quarters and getting used to having to do things in a somewhat different way, Dick's article bears repeating.

Before February 2005, we had no thoughts of starting an organization, let alone a culture. We were driven by the enormous need for Freedom Carts around the world; 22,000,000. As Christians, we were aware of Matthew 25 in which Jesus tells us we are doing it for Him when we do it for one of the least of these. This scripture, and the lingering memories of Viet Nam land mine horrors, pushed me into a brand new "culture".

The fact that hundreds of thousands of leg-disabled men, women, and children, suffered from land mine explosions while playing, or going to school, while drawing water, or working in rice fields, gave me the motivation to do what I could to help them regain their mobility.

Seeing Christ, as the creator of a culture that would emerge from our work within a charity, planted the seeds of a new culture. Satya Nadella (Chairman and CEO of Microsoft) writes: "Culture is about listening and learning, and harmonizing individual passions and talents into a mission."

An example of "listening and learning then harmonizing" came at the very beginning. I had decided to buy a building in Spokane for "only" \$95,000! It was perfect for the needs of the ministry in terms of space. Thankfully, some of the early team members advised against it. They suggested we use our existing shops and tools. I'm so thankful I listened. Had I not listened, the ministry would have lasted only a short time as we would have been saddled with a very large debt.

By listening, God set in motion a culture; a family of individuals, united by a shared mission. Each Tri-Kin brings to the ministry a host of skills, knowledge, experience, education, and talents, which when we listen and learn from one another greatly multiplies the resources we have for the task we were given. Here are just two examples: As our culture has developed over the past 13 years, we have realized the importance of listening to future volunteers in choosing our staff. One potential volunteer said he was willing to do wood work. As we talked it became clear God had sent Don for an entirely different task. He left that meeting as editor of our new newsletter, you are now reading the 33rd since he started in 2009.

A very qualified husband and wife team volunteered to work in the Trinity Shop. They had built their own airplane and Dave was an excellent welder. When they discovered we had a movable jig for building the carts and a newly invented "chuck" to hold sprockets so they could be welded to the front wheel, Dave and Carol decided they could be more efficient working from home.

Satya concluded. "It takes deliberate work and it takes some specific ideas" in making a culture our own. As we ship our 3,000th cart this month, we can feel the culture that has developed so naturally. Those cultural moments only come from a team working and caring for one another.

After loading 70 carts into a FedEx trailer, we eat freshly donated pizza while discussing with each other the issues we are presently facing. Our culture also includes writing thank-you notes to the 15 companies who support us.

Satya says "Culture is a way of being. It encourages building, collaboration, and exploration." I can say, we have that kind of culture and it feels like Love.

Just a couple of updates to this are that, as of October 2023, we have shipped 4423 carts, and the number of newsletters written to date is 55.



We all know that $2+2 = 4$, but so does $1+3$. The way you do things is not always the only way to do them. Respect other people's opinion and their way of thinking.

A Very Special (Modern) African Country

The 70 Trinity carts we loaded on October 19 went across the state to World Vision in Fife.

World Vision then sends them, with other human necessities, to a country they know needs the help they can give to the needy. In the case of our 70, World Vision shipped them to a country we became familiar with over 10 years ago. Our own Jim Dixon has been to Rwanda 10 times with a team of heart doctors and other specialists. Jim was the guy who had to keep all of the machines and monitors, necessary for heart surgeries,



operational. And just knowing how to operate each machine was only a small part of his assignment. He also had to know them well enough to repair them when they went on the blink during a surgery. And, when you are nearly 10,000 miles from home, that is not necessarily a simple task. The picture shows Jim, in a surgery room, in Kigali, Rwanda. Jim found the Rwandan people to be very friendly, caring and forgiving. He says: "The beauty and charater of the people is unforgettable."

Rwanda (officially the Republic of Rwanda) is a small landlocked country located in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, is often referred to as the "Land of a Thousand Hills" due to its picturesque landscape of rolling hills and stunning scenery, mostly due to almost daily afternoon showers

and hot temperatures. Elevation of the country varies between 5,000 and 8,000 feet.

Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. One of Rwanda's main attractions is its extraordinary wildlife, making it a popular destination for eco-tourism. The Volcanoes National Park is



home to the critically endangered Silver Back mountain gorillas, drawing visitors from around the world who come to observe and support conservation efforts.



Rwanda is home to a diverse population, with its largest ethnic groups being the Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa. Its size is only about 1/6th of the state of Washington, yet their population is about double that of our state. Life expectancy is fairly short; 64 for men and 69 for women, roughly 10 years

shorter than the U.S. Languages spoken are mostly Kinyarwanda, French, English, and Swahili. The people of Rwanda are warm and welcoming, known for their hospitality and strong sense of community. The country is also renowned for its commitment to gender equality, with women holding a significant number of positions in government and playing vital roles in the development of the nation.



The light blue band on the Rwandan flag represents happiness and peace, the yellow symbolizes economic development, and the green symbolizes the hope of prosperity.

Rwanda is also known for its remarkable rebound since the devastating genocide in 1994, when an estimated 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by dominant Hutu forces in 100 days. Rwanda has emerged as a model of stability and development in the region. Their main exports are tea and coffee. The country has made significant progress in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and tourism, which has contributed to its thriving economy.

The map shows Rwanda's location with its neighboring countries.



Our Spotlights Volunteer for this Issue

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Our Spotlights Volunteer is one who is “hard to catch”. Even in retirement, he is so busy we had to trick him to sit down long enough that we could pry a little personal information from him. With Eldon Manteuffel having to slow down his participation of building seats for Trinity, Ted Ward has “willingly” (a bit of arm twisting was necessary) taken over Eldon’s previous seat making tasks. Ted and Eldon have known each other many years as Eldon was Ted’s best man at his wedding. Ted also rented one of Eldon’s houses, and when Eldon taught 6th grade, he had Ted’s daughter and one of his son’s in his classes.

Ted met his future wife, Judy, at a church program in 1957. After they married, he got a degree from Eastern Washington University (EWU) while they raised a family of two boys and a girl. He taught shop in Vancouver for two years but later returned to Spokane after missing friends and family. He worked construction and then started his own plumbing business (TJB Plumbing) which he had for many years. It grew over the years to where he had 34 employees at one time.

After Ted sold his plumbing business, he took a year off just to travel. His dream was to build homes. So, in multiple contracting roles, he did just that. For his own family he remodeled a five bedroom, 3 bath farm house in Green Acres where they also raised a half dozen beef cattle. Ted actually “retired” in his 80’s after working at what he said was his favorite job, Home Depot for over 10 years. The picture shows Ted in his own home workshop.

Now Ted stays busy studying for and teaching Bible Studies, so his time for seat building at Trinity is somewhat limited. We do appreciate Ted and his willingness, to step into that vital role, and hope we will have a very long-lasting and fruitful relationship together.



Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.

Keep in mind, someone else is happy with a lot less than what you have

A negative thinker sees a difficulty in every situation. A positive thinker sees an opportunity in every difficulty.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.





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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.

For address changes and comments about this newsletter, send to 8trikin@gmail.com. Our mailing address is: the Trinity Project, PO Box 361, Colbert WA 99005-0361.

Our web-site is: nwtrinityproject.org. We are on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/trinityfreedomcarts/> where we always appreciate a thumbs-up.

