

VOLUME XCVI
June 2019

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



Happy
Father's
Day

The righteous
man walks in
his integrity;
**His children
are blessed
after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7

Submit your comments to our Editor, Jacquie Hinton, about "The Shepherd's Staff;" and, any other *thoughts* you might have about the publication that you feel will be constructive or interesting to our readers. You may do so by emailing us at: newsletter@pahrupcc.com





A Tiny Testimony

All of my family and many of my friends know I am a bird lover. I love to bird-watch. I try to identify as many birds as I can using various bird books and apps.


At home we have a bird feeder that attracts mostly house finches, and a couple of varieties of sparrows (including the white-crowned sparrow whose song I especially enjoy). On the ground, doves, pigeons and the occasional quail like to clean up the birdseed unceremoniously flung out by the smaller birds at the feeder above. I also have a thistle-seed sock that is wonderful for attracting brightly-colored goldfinches.

Hanging from the eave over our back patio we use a "nectar" filled feeder for hummingbirds. Although I am fairly certain I have seen at least one other variety, the most common at our home is the black-chinned hummingbird.

In addition to my bird-watching books, I also like to watch any nature shows or documentaries on birds, and hummingbird documentaries with today's technology that enable high-speed devices to play back video in slow-motion reveal some remarkable things about these birds. These tiny aviators are an amazing testimony to our awesome Creator!

Here are some fascinating facts about hummingbirds.

- Hummingbirds on average are about two-thirds the weight of a nickel.
- The structure of a hummingbird's wings is such that rather than a relatively simple up and down motion, each wing does variations of a figure-eight movement enabling maneuverability that exceeds any other bird.
- They are the only birds that can fly backward and the only birds that can truly hover for an extended time.
- An average hummingbird's heart rate is more than 1,200 beats per minute. (By comparison, a human's average heart rate is only 60 to 100 beats per minute at rest.)
- While feeding, the hummer's tongue cycles at a rate of about 20 licks per second, and consumes an average of about a fifth of an ounce of nectar in a single meal. In cold weather, one may eat three times its body weight in nectar in one day.
- "Hummingbirds have... a unique ability to go into a trancelike state called torpor to help them survive cool temperatures and periods of inactivity, especially while sleeping at night. In torpor a hummingbird's body temperature drops significantly, its heart rate slows, and its metabolism runs at a greatly reduced rate. This saves a hummingbird from burning up all of its energy and starving because the metabolic rate of a torpid hummingbird is as little as 1/50th the rate of an active bird." [<https://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/learn/hummingbirds/amazing-facts-hummingbirds.php>]
- Some hummers fly more than 3,000 miles from their nesting grounds in Alaska and Canada to their winter habitat in Mexico. Other less-ambitious varieties only tackle the 500 mile nonstop flight across the Gulf of Mexico during both spring and fall migrations (keep in mind that this means 18-20 hours of continual flight without landing!).
- A Black-chinned Hummingbird's eggs are about the size of a coffee bean. The nest, made of plant down and spider and insect silk, expands as the babies grow.

VOLUME XCVI June 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 3
<i>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2</i>			



A day or so later, I noticed the bird back on this branch with something in its beak. It dawned on me that she was building a nest! Sure enough, over the period of a week we watched the nest grow as she added one tiny element after another until she had completed a perfect little 1½ inch home. She then laid two petite jelly-bean eggs in the new nest.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



Needless to say, I am thrilled with this opportunity to watch in wonder as this tiny bird does exactly what God created her to do!



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



Astoundingly, secular sources make observations about the perfectly-functioning complexity of living things like hummingbirds and continue to make their arguments that this is all a result of evolution.

Such arguments are foolish because they begin with the premise that there is no God behind the intricate designs of all things in the natural world.

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Answers in Genesis makes this astute observation:

The hummingbird is a very good example of the evidence for God as Creator. We need to keep in mind that all the hummingbird's features would have to work perfectly from the beginning for it to have survived—long bill, special tongue, unique rapid wing-beat—in order to be able to gather its highly efficient energy food. The migratory behaviour—energy storage, flight endurance, long distance navigation—must also have been perfect from the beginning so the adults could reach their nesting grounds and return with their young. [<https://answersingenesis.org/birds/the-hummingbird-gods-tiny-miracle/>]

I believe that it is intellectually dishonest for someone who has studied scientific phenomena to deny the existence of a Divine Designer. The very idea that a hummingbird (among countless other things) is simply a result of random chance over eons of time is absolutely ludicrous!

Imagine making such a claim about a Black Hawk helicopter with its aeronautical and technological features! Yet when do hummingbirds crash? Or need a pilot? [<https://www.ucg.org/the-good-news/god-science-the-bible-hummingbirds-how-do-they-do-that>]

As a matter of fact, the Bible tells us that it is the very existence of such marvelous complexity that testifies to the undeniable truth that there is an all-powerful, divine Creator!

[God's]invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made (Romans 1:20).

Job recognized this when he stated:

*Ask the beasts, and they will teach you; **the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you**; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that **the hand of the LORD has done this?** (Job 12:7–9 emphasis mine)*

Yes, the hand of the Lord made this little hummingbird to be a tiny testimony to His divine nature. He has done this. And the God Who created and cares for our feathered friends (Matthew 10:29-31) is the God Who created and cares for me and loves me enough to provide salvation through Jesus Christ (1 John 4:9-10)!

Praise the Lord!

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

(Psalm 150:6)

Serving the Savior,

Pastor Keith

VOLUME XCVI
June 2019



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

PAGE 7


HAPPY
Father's
DAY

The father of a
righteous man
has great joy;
he who has a
WISE SON
delights in him.

PROVERBS 23:24 NIV



The Shirt that Speaketh

A few weeks ago at Dig Deeper, we had a discussion on what is and what is not appropriate to wear to church on Sunday mornings. It was a healthy conversation and we ended with the conclusion that it's far more about what's in your heart than what's covering your ankles. Y'all know me and most of you probably only see me on Sundays. If I'm wearing a tie at church, you're probably tipped off to the fact that it's either the first Sunday of the month (communion) or that I'm preaching. I like ties and enjoy wearing them (not so much the tying... it's rare that I get it right the first time), but I do tend to reserve them for more special occasions. Most weeks, you'll see me in a button-up sports shirt and slacks.

It makes me smile that many folks assume that I wear this particular outfit throughout the week. There's certainly something to be said for pastors who wear somewhat fancier clothes Monday through Saturday. At this point in my life, I'm still a t-shirt guy for weekdays. I've been intrigued for many years by what constitutes "grown-up" garb. My dad has worn sport shirts since he was born, I think. Most of the preppy and hipster pastors wear things I'd never be comfortable wearing, so I stick with my particular "style." I suppose, at the end of the day, that's neither here nor there. I typically try to apply the "look put together and pleasant" philosophy and do my best to heed Amy's advice/instructions when I receive it/them.

I think one thing that we can all agree on is that it may not be the greatest idea to wear a novelty t-shirt with a snarky or sarcastic message when you're going to a job interview. I personally find the snark/sarcasm shirt craze a bit obnoxious, but I'll try not to throw stones today. Most of the time, these sayings are just a little too far in the cheese or lame categories for me to get behind them. For me, it's less a moral issue than it is a dignity thing.

These musings on statements plastered across one's chest are borne from something I saw in Wal-Mart one day during my grocery shopping. I suppose if our culture thinks it's amusing for adults to be disrespectful and cocky it shouldn't surprise me that we encourage our kids to also be disrespectful and cocky. Very little I see in this department shocks any more, but it does make me sad.

I was wheeling my cart through the aisles on my way to the orange juice and happened to pass by the little boys' shirts. Some of these tiny clothes I find adorable. Others, not so much. I've long been irritated by "cutesy" shirts that say things like "Always in trouble," or "Mommy's little rule-breaker" or "Future felon." Is disobeying one's parents and making a mess of something to be celebrated? Seems odd to me... Anyway, this particular shirt wasn't one of those. It didn't have any potty humor on it or any declarations of rebellion. Indeed, from a cultural perspective, it really wasn't as bad as it could have been. That may have been why it struck me so deeply. It was a plain t-shirt with two words. On the bottom was the word "follow" and it was scratched out. Written above it in bold lettering was the word "lead."

What's the big deal, Pastor Caleb? Isn't it a good thing to teach our kids to not be followers? I could agree with that, probably. I'd get behind teaching kids to not follow bad examples and set a good example, but do you really reckon that's what this cheap piece of clothing was advocating? I know that this message is a favorite of many movies and books. Again, there is value in distinguishing oneself from the crowd and not fitting into a world that is broken. Those weren't my first thoughts when I saw that shirt, though, and I would be willing to put forward that few others have those thoughts.

¹Maybe not... but my point still stands: he's not the greatest barometer of what folks are supposed to wear.

²My congratulations to those of you who aren't familiar with these terms. Allow me to recommend looking at ads for the majority of stores. These days, it almost feels expected that you wear boat shoes (if you're feeling preppy) or skinny jeans (if you're feeling hipster).

³You think I'm joking, but what's the qualitative difference?



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

I saw this shirt and I immediately thought, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew ⁴.19). My reaction was more a theme than any particular verses, but there are repeated references in the New Testament to the disciples following Jesus wherever He went. Matthew 16.24 says that if we want to come after Jesus we must deny ourselves and *follow* Him. In 2 Timothy 1.13, Paul tells Pastor Timothy to "Follow the pattern of the sound words" he heard from his mentor. To develop this a little further, throughout the Old Testament, people were rebuked for not following God and instead following their own paths (cf. Isaiah 65.2).

I know this is a message you've heard from me in bits and pieces before, but let's apply it today to how we think through what we wear (and that in which we clothe our children). As Christians, our lives are supposed to be marked not by leading but by following. There is no shame in being a follower if you're following the right leader. Indeed, there is joy and true dignity in submitting yourself to someone worthier than you. I won't condemn you for buying these shirts for your kids or for your grandkids. Instead, I would simply like you to ask yourself what you are teaching your kids through the clothes you buy them. Are the silly messages on their t-shirts fostering in them a sense of arrogance or self-sufficiency that is, frankly, opposed to the Christian life? If they were to take the messages on their shirts to the logical conclusion, would they be more like Christ for it?

Now, I'm not saying you need to make sure your kids or grandkids only wear shirts from Christian bookstores (though I suppose there's may be something in that). If you want my decidedly Calebesque advice, all kids should have a Captain America t-shirt or two. Really, though, whether you eat or drink, wear ties or tank tops, all that we do should be to glorify God and be conducive to our spiritual growth.

A fellow follower (even if my shirt doesn't say so),
Pastor Caleb

⁴This is a joke... Please don't take me seriously here or hear this as a word from the Lord.



2019-04 Guy & Jan Piersall's April Activity Report

Individual Meetings/Presentations

Las Vegas:

Met with Gary Chapin in Las Vegas to discuss Rotary meetings. He is an old time Rotarian, past president of N Las Vegas Rotary Club to discuss GHNI. He has referred us to the N Las Vegas Program chairman. We called him and have scheduled a presentation to the club in late May.

Hosted Dennis Morman for the National Association of Broadcasters meeting in Las Vegas. I drove him into LV each day for 3 days for the meetings and I attended one day. Didn't learn anything. All too technical for me.

Phoenix:

Ruth Graham introduced us to Rebeka Walker. She is the CHE trainer in the Phoenix area. We explained about GHNI and she invited us to participate in CHE introductory training program at Pure Heart Church in Phoenix on Fri night and all day Saturday. We agreed to come and participate. There were 12 attendees, including the mission's pastor Dondi Rodrigues from Pure Heart Church. We showed 4 videos and talked about GHNI programs in Africa and Asia over the conference time that gave real examples of CHE in action. The reception to our presentations were very well received. We talked with Pastor Dondi after the conference and he would like to meet with us next time we are in Phoenix. He is working with a group of area churches in the area to collaborate on mission work. He would like us to come down to participate. We will do that. Rebekah would also like us to come down and participate as she does other CHE conferences in Phoenix.

Met with Matt Nutter, mission's pastor at Central Christian Church, a large Phoenix church with 5 satellite campuses in Phoenix. Last year I met Matt at the International Wholistic Mission's Conference. Our Phoenix friend who attends Central Christian, Ruth Graham, brought him over and introduced him to Jan and I. Matt is a former missionary to the Middle East. We introduced him to Jamal and they spent some time together. Jamal has followed up over the past year and has received some funding from Central Christian for projects. Matt's heart is helping in the Middle East. We will court him and the church encouraging Middle East support. We will also work with him to see if we can get someone to take a vision trip to India, Nepal or East Africa with us.

Attended Praise and Worship Church, met with P&W mission leader Chuck Monroe and Judy Verbosky. They are patiently waiting for word that the funds to be raised in Africa to finish the well. I thanked them for their patience and encouraged them to think about another project after the well is done. Jan and I went out to lunch with Chuck and his wife Sylvia.

While in Phoenix we visited 2 Rotary meetings-East Phoenix and Scottsdale. Met the president of each club. East Phoenix gave us a few minutes to tell about GHNI and have invited us to do a presentation in the future. The Scottsdale president turned us over to the program chairman to discuss a future presentation. We also met a member who organizes presentations for foundation funding. We will try to set up presentations sometime in July or this fall to both clubs and meet with the foundation rep. Jan and I made it into the Scottsdale Rotary email newsletter with our picture and names.

Jan sent follow up thank you cards to Ruth, Rebeka, Dondi, and Matt.

Church Presentation

Distributed GHNI April prayer letter at Pahrump Community Church (PCC).

<p>VOLUME XCVI June 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 11</p>
<p>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10</p>			

Talked with Pastors Keith and Caleb at PCC about a possible summer fundraising activity for GHNI. No activity or date set.

Group Presentations

Did a presentation to the Pahrump Rotary Club and challenged them to join with other local service clubs and possibly the local Chamber of Commerce to sponsor a village.

Contacts

Talked with Roy Mankin about going to Serbia with me. Cannot go because of heavy workload right now. Might possibly go with me to India this fall.

Talked with Roy Bell (Pahrump Community Church Deacon) about Serbia trip again. Can't go now, but maybe a fall trip.---

Phone Calls

Skype call with Dan and Sushil regarding Sushil's activities.
Phone calls to Rotary club leaders in Las Vegas and Pomona, CA.

May Plans

Study David Pope and MENA UPG Initiative/Strategic Resource Group info. They provide funding for Middle East projects and David is in charge. I believe they have already given money to GHNI. I had set up a meeting at FTT with David for Hal, Jeff, Mike Constance and myself to explore joint work. It was decided I would be following up with David for 2019 and possibly join his committee. I had a phone call with David in late January. He encouraged me to study the MENA and SRG websites. I did a cursory look at them, but need to go back and look in more detail. There is a very loonnnggg report in there I need to read (60 pages +). Haven't made much progress.

Contact Pahrump Chamber of Commerce to explore a possible fundraising project for GHNI.

Trip to Serbia – Great trip with Dan Emig and Dave Ahl.

Prepare LV Rotary presentations for late May.

That's all folks that I have in my notes!!! Thanks for prayers and encouragement.

Jan and Guy Piersall

Guy and Jan Piersall are GHNI missionaries our PCC Church Family supports



Grateful to be able to participate with the French Navigators' conference May 11,12 in Strasbourg, France.

Encouraged by times alone with God & small group time in His Word.

(Karen right, back to camera)



May 19 - June 3 we travel to Misawa, Japan and to Seoul, South Korea, to minister alongside US military chaplains, service members and families! Thank you for praying for good flights, connections and fruitful ministry! (Green Arrow points to Misawa)

Thank you also for your investment, enabling us to proclaim the Risen Christ, so others will know Him and make Him known, generation after generation!



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CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



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CUTE

Mike and Karen Kotecki are Navigator Missionaries in Germany our Church Family Supports



Dear Prayer Partners,

"And He was saying to them, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, beseech the Lord of the Harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Luke 10:2 (NASB)

Looking back on this past year of Good News Clubs, we can clearly see that the harvest is plentiful. Children are hungry to know God. It's estimated there are 41 million children in the United States between the ages of 4-14, the age when children are most open to the Gospel. This is also the age where they're most vulnerable to the lies of the pervading culture. Our enemy knows this very well and he is fighting for the hearts of this young generation.

We can't reach all of the children in Southern Nevada but by God's grace, we can reach more. I've attached a list of 15 new locations where doors seem to be opening to us for a Good News Club in the fall. As you'll see, for most we just need the workers. I don't know when the last time you used the word "beseech" but it basically means to beg, to plead. Isn't it interesting that Jesus told His disciples to beg Him for more workers?

Will you join us in beseeching the Lord of the Harvest? Please consider printing this list and keeping wherever you do your praying. Pray for each school/location by name and plead for the needed workers. Your continual prayers will accomplish more than we can ever know.

Blessings abound

Susan Mackert



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

PRAY FOR POTENTIAL NEW CLUBS 2019-20

SCHOOL/LOCATION	PRAYER REQUEST
Kahre Elementary, Gowan/Bufalo	We have approval to meet at this school on Tuesdays, beginning Sept 9 th . Principal is very supportive. Please pray for a full team of volunteers and a church sponsor.
McMillian Elementary, Lake Mead/Tenaya	The team from Liberty Baptist Church wants to adopt an additional school. Pray for wisdom in deciding between this school and Ronzone.
Ronzone Elementary, Lake Mead/Jones	Pray that God puts together the team of volunteers He wants for this school, whether from Liberty Baptist Church or another church.
Trinity Life Center, St Louis/Oakey	We have two dedicated volunteers for this Club; need at least two more, preferably three or four more! Pray for an opportunity to present need to members of Trinity Life Church.
American Freedom Classical Academy, Near Ann Road/5th	Have two team members. This could be a very large Club with both elementary and middle school children. Pray for an abundance of volunteers!
Virgin Valley Elementary (Mesquite)	River Valley Bible Church wants to adopt school. Pray for presentation at church this summer and that God will call volunteers to serve.
Triggs or Goynes Elementary NLV – Centennial/Simmons	Summit Ridge Church is open to having a Club at one of these schools. Pray that God will call a team of volunteers enough for both schools!
Doral Academy Pebble, 215 and Pebble	Two teachers in this school are CEF trained; pray for enough volunteers to do both elementary and middle school program. Southern Hills Baptist Church is adopting this Club.
Squires Elementary, NLV – Bruce/Tonopah	The Pastor from Igelsia de Dios Principe de Pax has requested a Club at this school. Pray for a team of volunteers.
J.D. Smith Middle School, NLV – Bruce/Tonopah	We had a Club here in the past. Lead teacher stepped down to have a baby. She's ready to start back up in the fall. Need an additional volunteer or two.
Leavitt Middle School, Lone Mountain/Bufalo	Craig Road Baptist would like a Club at this school. Pray for opportunity to present to congregation and that God will call forth the volunteers.
Thorpe Elementary, Near Whitney Ranch/Russell	Oasis Baptist Church used to meet at this school; would like to do a Club. Have some team members – need 2-3 more.
Aggie Roberts Elementary, Windmill/Pecos	Have team of volunteers ready. Principal said no in the past. Pray for a change of heart and an open door!
O'Rourke Elementary, Iron Mountain/Durango	Pray for a sponsoring church. Looks like we have a team; pray for commitment from all.
Sewell Elementary Lake Mead/Warm Springs	Positive response from school. The Well Church has established relationship with the school. Pray for members to sign up to volunteer.

<p>VOLUME XCVI June 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 16</p>
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Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Nevada By Bob Jacobs

This Refuge is a protected wildlife refuge located in the Amargosa Valley in southern Nye County. The refuge was created on June 18, 1984 to protect an extremely rare desert oasis and is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It's also the largest remaining oasis in the Mojave Desert with at least 26 plant and animal species found nowhere else on the planet. There are approximately 40 springs spread over the 23,000 acres of the reserve, the majority of them are pretty pools of clear bluish water.

NOTE: Most of the water in Ash Meadows is fossil water; fossil water comes from an ancient body of water that has been contained in some undisturbed space, typically groundwater in an aquifer, for millennia.

Over the past decade they have updated and improved Ash Meadows and are still in the process. If you haven't been here in awhile or never have been here I would highly recommend paying a visit to this interesting area. They have constructed 3 different boardwalks for interesting and easy walks through special areas with informative kiosks along the way to tell you what you are looking at and the other interesting things to see in those areas. Also the boardwalks are all ADA accessible (Americans with Disabilities Act) so most people can enjoy this unique experience of strolling through nature. There are many things to see and visit when you're here and I listed just a few of the more popular places below.

Crystal Springs Boardwalk (a little less than one mile round trip): Leads to a brilliant blue spring flowing at 2,800 gallons of water per minute. This boardwalk starts at the Visitors Center.

Point of Rocks Boardwalk (a little over one half mile round trip): Is a favorite, complete with a picnic area, viewing scopes, and Kings Spring, the home of a rare species of pupfish.

Jack Longstreet Cabin Boardwalk (less than a quarter mile round trip): It ends at the cabin and one of the many springs that are in the refuge. Journey back to the days of the Wild West and go inside this historic stone cabin of infamous gunslinger Jack Longstreet. This historical landmark belonged to Andrew Jackson "Jack" Longstreet who was a charismatic Nevada legend reputed to settle arguments with a gun, a champion for those who could not protect themselves. Jack and his American Indian wife Susie resided in the cabin for five years using his 80 acre property to raise horses. They named the farm Ash Meadows Ranch. During his residence in Ash Meadows Jack befriended the Western Shoshone and Southern Paiute Indians. He had their respect and they gave him their friendship in return.

Crystal Reservoir Drive: This is a remarkably clear reservoir with a surface area of about 70 acres. I think you will be surprised as to the amount of water that is in this refuge. The sky blue water of this reservoir is the home of many different birds so it's a paradise for birds and bird watchers.

Visitors Center: Discovery awaits at this brand new facility that offers visitors a chance to discover all the wildlife and wonder in the largest remaining oasis in the Mojave Desert. Explore the interactive exhibits; watch the wonderful Ash Meadows movie and much, much more.

Devils Hole: This is actually part of the Death Valley National Park System, on the eastern side of the refuge and is worth a visit even if it is just a hole/spring in the earth. Devils Hole is a geothermal pool within a limestone cavern that to this day, no one knows how deep it is. This area is fenced off, protecting the unique natural wonder and the extremely rare species of the Devils Hole Pupfish.

Ash Meadows Refuge is opened from sunrise to sunset, however for the hours of operation of the Visitor's Center or for additional information on this area call them at 775-372-5435. Ash Meadows is about a 40 minute drive from Pahrump. To get here take Bell Vista Boulevard West for about 18 miles until you come to the Ash Meadows turnoff (watch for the sign) and turn right (North) onto the dirt road. From this point on its all dirt roads but they are well maintained and any vehicle should be able to make this trip however like any dirt road in the Desert, they are **dusty**. Just follow the signs in the refuge to the different places of interest. One more thing, this place is free; there is no charge to visit.

	<p style="text-align: right;">CONTINUED ON PAGE 17</p>
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16



Visitors Center



Some of the Boardwalks at Ash Meadows



Crystal Reservoir



Snowy Egret at Crystal Reservoir

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17



Jack Longstreet's Cabin

NOTE: Sadly in 1984 a flash flood reduced this cabin to rubble. However Historic Restoration Experts painstakingly set each stone back in its original position based on photos taken early in the last century. Restoration concluded in 2006 and the above photo shows the cabin as it exists today.



DAD'S FAVORITE SAYINGS

- 1. When I was your age. . .*
- 2. A little bit of dirt never hurt anyone.*
- 3. Go ask your mother.*
- 4. Were you raised in a barn?*
- 5. You don't know what hard work is.*
- 6. It builds character.*
- 7. Don't make me stop this car.*
- 8. You're grounded until you're thirty.*
- 9. Money doesn't grow on trees.*
- 10. Because I said so.*

<p>VOLUME XCVI June 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 20</p>
		<p>EDITORIAL PAGE</p>	

You're a Grand Old Flag

"Flag Day" is celebrated on June 14 in the U.S., but all of June is "National Flag Month." So, cite some of the "holiday" history sources. June 14th was chosen because June 14, 1885 was the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes as our national flag.

There are many sources that do and/or do not designate Betsy Ross as the original designer. However, regardless of the sources of the whys and wherevers it was originated, it is still "Our Grand Old Flag!"

Growing up I can remember our class singing "You're A Grand Old Flag" – "LOUDLY" – VERY "LOUDLY" at least once a year. I don't really remember the reason (which was probably on "Flag Day.") But I do know that we were avid singers of this song. Maybe because living in Washington, D. C. you see "flags" flying everywhere. On Massachusetts Avenue along "Embassy Row" the flags flying are not "the red, white and blue." They represent the country of the Embassy that is under it.

My personal preference however is our "Old Glory!" Yes, the 13 red and white stripes and the 50 white stars! Was there ever any flag as beautiful?!? Speaking of "Old Glory" you might want to research how that term came about. In fact, you might want to research the entire history of our "Old Glory." Do you know what the 13 stripes and the 50 white stars represent? If you have young children/grandchildren in elementary school, middle school or high school, ask them and see what they know about our "flag."

What do you do when our flag passes by in a parade e.g. civilians and military – men and women? I don't think you have to live in Washington, D. C. to know proper "U. S. flag etiquette."

Our national flag has many nicknames e.g., "Old Glory," "the Stars and Stripes," "the Red, White, and Blue," and the "Star Spangled Banner." Did you know our original flag is on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

The most common nicknames for the American flag are The Stars and Stripes, The Star-Spangled Banner, The Red, White, and Blue, and Old Glory. While "Old Glory" is now synonymous with any American flag, the origin of the name relates to a specific flag that was owned by Captain William Driver, the one that is on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C.

Don't you just love learning about the history of our country. I know I do. We have so much to be proud of. But we have a lot not to be proud of, too. But our country is just like we are – we are NOT perfect and we have our "good and not so good" points, also.

On June 14, let's all say a prayer for our country and our people. Let's rejoice that we live here and are free to worship by our choice. I love this country and I am proud to be "American" and celebrate our history.

MY PRAISE TO OUR "OLD GLORY" AND LONG MAY IT WAVE!

	<p>CONTINUED ON PAGE 17</p>
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16



**You're a Grand Old Flag
Song by George M. Cohan**

You're a grand old flag
You're a high-flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave
You're the emblem of
The land I love
The home of the free and the brave
Ev'ry heart beats true
Under red, white and blue
Where there's never a boast or brag
But should old acquaintance be forgot
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.

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