

COMMUNITY

'Pard' Cummings: From Maine to Riverside

By DEE CAMP
The Chronicle

FRANCIS J. "PARD" CUMMINGS was born in Maine, but through ever-westward movement ended up on the opposite side of the country, settled in Okanogan County and became a successful business operator before Washington became a state.

Cummings was born Dec. 13, 1850, in Bangor, Aroostook County, Maine, and lived there until age 18, when he went to work in the oil fields of Pennsylvania.

He worked for some of the largest oil operators and construction contractors who were opening the oil properties of John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie, according to the 1924 "Glimpses of Pioneer Life."

The book is a compilation of articles published by The Okanogan Independent in 1923-24 detailing biographies, experiences and events "intimately concerned with the settlement" of Okanogan County.

After a couple years, Cummings "felt the urge and call of the West and came to Minneapolis, Minn., where he worked in the hotel business, according to "Glimpses."

"This town at that time was enjoying a real western 'boom' and Cummings cleaned up a nice little stake in about two years, then disposed of his business and hit the trail for the Dakotas," the book said.

He crossed the plains with ox teams to California, then went to Montana in 1873, according to "History of North Washington," a 1904 illustrated history of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Chelan counties.

Cummings, described as an expert horseman and crack shot, signed up with an expedition with Gen. George Custer of the U.S. Army in Montana, where they engaged in several battles with the Sioux, according to "Glimpses."

Cummings stayed in Montana, near the present-day town of Deer Lodge, and drove the overland mail stage from there to Missoula for about five years.

"During this time Cummings saw and met the toughest and roughest bandits, gunmen and outlaws," "Glimpses of Pioneer Life" continued. "He had many gunfights with the worst of these stagecoach bandits and many narrow escapes from death, but it is well



SUBMITTED PHOTO

'Pard' Cummings at the wheel of his car in 1917. He died a few years later of a stroke while driving.

remembered by the old-timers that the stage that Cummings drove was never robbed."

He acquired his nickname, "Pard," during his time in Montana.

The lure of the West struck again and, after hearing tales of the Yakima country, he organized a pack train to the area. In the 1880s he landed at Union Gap or Old Yakima City, and during the boom days ran a stage line into Ellensburg, according to "Glimpses of Pioneer Life."

to Alma, the predecessor to Okanogan, and opened a trading depot. He traded at first with Native Americans, and the business grew into a large general store that became a gathering point for Natives, prospectors, cowboys and pioneers "for hundreds of miles around," according to "Glimpses of Pioneer Life."

The mining boom was on and "many notable characters out of the West visited and outfitted at Pard's place at Alma," the book continued.

In 1898, Cummings moved his operation upriver to a point about a mile and a half

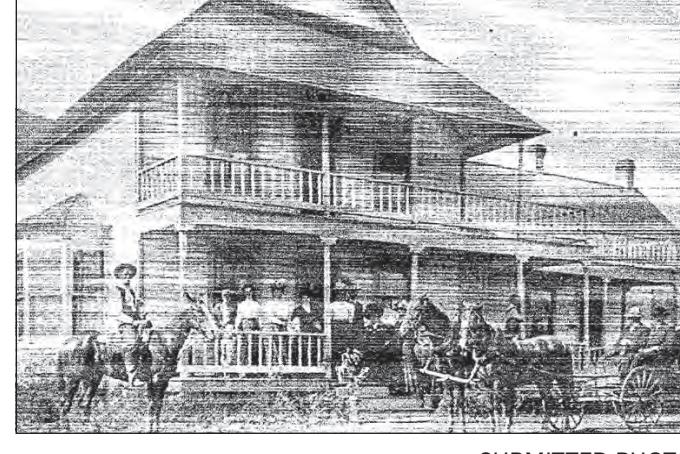
upstream of present-day Riverside. Because of McLoughlin Falls just upstream, the spot also was the head of navigation on the Okanogan River.

"In the fall of 1899 Mr. Cummings opened a small store on the land he thus acquired by relinquishment and as the North Half of the Colville Indian Reservation was thrown open for homestead settlement in the spring of 1900, this small store grew very rapidly and soon enjoyed the largest trade of any store this side of Coulee City and Ellensburg," according to "Glimpses."

Cummings later moved his store downstream to what is now the townsite, according to "History of North Washington," which called him "one of the substantial and leading citizens of the community."

"Riverside had been built on another old camping site, at the mouth of Johnson Creek — which, by the way, derived its name from a friend of mine, Jake Johnson, who was connected with John Jeffries in a cattle drive from Yakima to Cariboo in 1864," wrote A.J. Splawn, a former state senator, in the 1917 book "Ka-mi-akin The Last Hero of the Yakimas."

Splawn wrote that a "great



SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Pard" Cummings home in booming Riverside.

flood" swept through Riverside, taking with it houses and fences, and doing great damage. The year was not specified.

"When the waters receded there was left near Pard's house a carp pond which he was still enjoying," Splawn wrote of visiting with Cummings during a 1905 trip to the area.

"History of North Washington" references a 1903 flood, but said only one building was vacated in town because of it. People on Main Street got around in skiffs, and steam-boats were able to land at the

rear of Cummings' Glenwood Mercantile Co. store.

Cummings was married, but there's some uncertainty about the circumstances of that marriage.

Splawn, in "Ka-mi-akin The Last Hero of the Yakimas," wrote that Cummings needed a housekeeper, so he hired "a beautiful widow with two sweet little girls. There was no limit to the value of this little woman. She was a dressmaker, barber, doctor, artist and cook all in one. Pard was tall and strongly built with massive frame and mild eye and it was no surprise to anybody that he should win the affection of this splendid woman whom he married."

However, an obituary for Mrs. Harold Flower in the Nov. 18, 1934, issue of the Spokane Spokesman-Review, said Mrs. Flower (no first name was listed) came to Washington in 1888, settling in the "wilderness" that was Okanogan County.

She and her first husband — Cummings — owned and operated one of the first mercantile businesses in Riverside "and were extensive property owners in the town and surrounding country," said the obituary.

"The only means of transportation in those days, as there were no roads, was by boat on the Okanogan River and over the trails to the small inland towns," the obituary continued.

Another account, at findagrave.com, lists Clarissa Bennett as his wife, and that they married Jan. 4, 1897, in Okanogan County. The same source lists her name as Clarissa Jane Houghtaling Flower.

Cummings started a cattle

See **CUMMINGS**, page 4

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES (PAID NOTICES)

Darrell Walter Carlton

1929-2021

On Feb. 14, 2021, Darrell Walter Carlton of Omak, Wash., passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 91, reuniting with his true love, Dorothy, on Valentine's Day.

Darrell was born July 6, 1929, in Omak, to Walter and Mabel Carlton. Raised on his family's ranch in Okanogan, Wash., he developed a strong work ethic while helping the family manage their farm.

He played football for Okanogan High School and graduated in 1947. He often recounted the story of how he met the love of his life, Dorothy Sprowl, at a dance in 1949 where she repeatedly refused to dance with him. He said that he had never been turned down before and he made it his mission to win her over. His persistence paid off and in 1951, they were married.

They lived in Oceanside, Calif. with their first child, Debra, while he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. After his service, the family returned to Omak where Darrell, following in his father's footsteps, worked hard as a logger to provide for his family, which soon included three more children, Greg, Steve, and Brian. Darrell and Dorothy were married nearly 50 years before her passing in 2000. His family often joked that Darrell had "nine lives," having an uncanny ability to cheat death after surviving many close calls.

Over the years, he enjoyed bowling, golfing, fishing (watch your head, Darrell!), hunting, and socializing with his friends and family. He was an avid lover of sports and eventually managed to turn Dorothy into an enthusiastic Mariners fan. In his later years, he could often be found comfortably ensconced in his recliner, watching westerns and war documentaries, and rooting for his favorite sports teams.

Darrell was a warm, loving, and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was known for his playful sense of humor and a well-earned reputation for being a prankster, a trait his son Steve carried on with until his passing in 2013. Hardworking and down

to earth, he was kind, generous and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Darrell was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy; his son, Steve; his parents, Walter and Mabel Carlton; his sister, Norma Jean Butler; and an infant brother.

He is survived by his sister, Janice Little, of Okanogan; daughter, Debbie Fennio, of Kirkland, Wash.; sons, Greg (Sue) Carlton, of Omak, and Brian Carlton, of Okanogan; eight grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

There will be a viewing Thursday, March 4, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Precht-Harrison-Nearents Chapel and a memorial service at 11 a.m. Friday, March 5, 2021, at the Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church in Omak.

A graveside service will follow at the Okanogan City Cemetery where he will rest next to his beloved Dorothy and his son, Steve.

We would like to thank the staff at Lilac Estates Adult Family Home for their loving care over the last four years.

Due to current restrictions, in-person attendance must be limited. The upper level of the church will be reserved for family and we'll welcome a small number of family and friends in the lower level of the church, where the service will be projected on a large screen. Safety protocols prohibit access between levels, and we kindly request that socializing take place outside following the service. Please follow safety guideline by practicing proper distancing, mask-wearing, and staying home if you are feeling unwell or have had exposure.

Upon request, a link to join the memorial via Zoom will be provided for anyone who wishes to attend virtually. We hope you'll gather with us, wherever you are, to celebrate the long, well-lived life of Darrell Carlton, who will be missed greatly by all who were lucky enough to know him.

Obituary policy: The Chronicle publishes both paid obituaries and death notices. Paid obituaries cost \$100 (prepaid) and include up to 250 words, one color photograph and submitted biographical information. Additional photos cost \$10 each. Obituaries may include the following information: decedent's full name, age, date of birth, date of death, hometown, time living in Okanogan or Ferry counties, career and family history, surviving family members and funeral home and arrangements. Paid death notices, with a photo, may be placed in the Wednesday paper for a \$40 charge. The deadline for submissions is 10 a.m. Thursday for the Saturday paper and 10 a.m. Monday for the Wednesday paper. For more information, call The Chronicle at 509-826-1110.

SPORTS & RECREATION

WASHINGTON OUTDOORS REPORT

Trout fishing opportunities abound

MARCH 1 WAS OPENING day for trout anglers at the Tucannon Lakes near Pomeroy in southeast Washington and at the Quincy Lakes in the Columbia Basin. Here's how things are shaping up:

Tucannon Lakes:

According to Jason Towery, the owner of the Last Resort RV near Pomeroy, the Tucannon lakes are ice free. Blue, Spring, Rainbow and Deer lakes will all be stocked by Friday the 26 with catchable sized trout and some jumbo-sized fish, too. Towery expects the fishing to be very good at all of these lakes in early March. Towery had no information about when or if Watson or Big-4 Lake would be stocked. Big-4 Lake suffered damage from floods and a bridge to Watson Lake was blown out last year by these same floods. While there will be some holdover fish in Big-4 Lake, Watson Lake was drained last year and not stocked.

In addition to trout fishing in the Tucannon Lakes, Towery suggests fishing the Tucannon River in March for steelhead too.

Quincy Lakes:

There will be no Quincy Lake Trout Derby this year but there will be a Youth Fishing Day at Burke Lake on March 6.

"Starting at 7 a.m. chamber staff and volunteers will be handing out gift bags to kids 15 and under at Burke Lake who are going fishing," said Cari Mathews, executive director of the Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce.

There will also be some fishing poles given away that day during this drive-thru event. As for how the fishing may be, state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Mike Schmuck says Quincy and Burke Lakes will both be good bets and should put out quality trout this spring. As of Feb. 22, Burke was 40 percent ice free and Quincy had some open water too. With warmer weather and wind most of the ice should be gone by the opener and boats should be able to launch at both lakes. The little hike-in lakes south of Burke Lake should offer additional opportunities for rainbows and there are a few big ones there too.

Lake Lenore

Another body of water that opened March 1 is Lake Lenore between Soap Lake and Coulee City. Known for its large Lahontan cutthroat trout, Schmuck says the lake should have fishable open water for the opener. Schmuck says there are plenty of Lahontan cutthroat trout in Lake Lenore but angler catch rates have gone down in recent years. Part of this is because water clarity has become worse and many anglers are using the same techniques and offerings they've tried in the past when the water was clear. Despite the lower catch rates, Schmuck says the lake is still stocked with 70,000 fingerlings every fall and they plenty of big cutthroat trout in the spawning area every spring. In other words, there are some big trout waiting to be caught at this selective regulation lake if you can figure out how to entice them to strike.

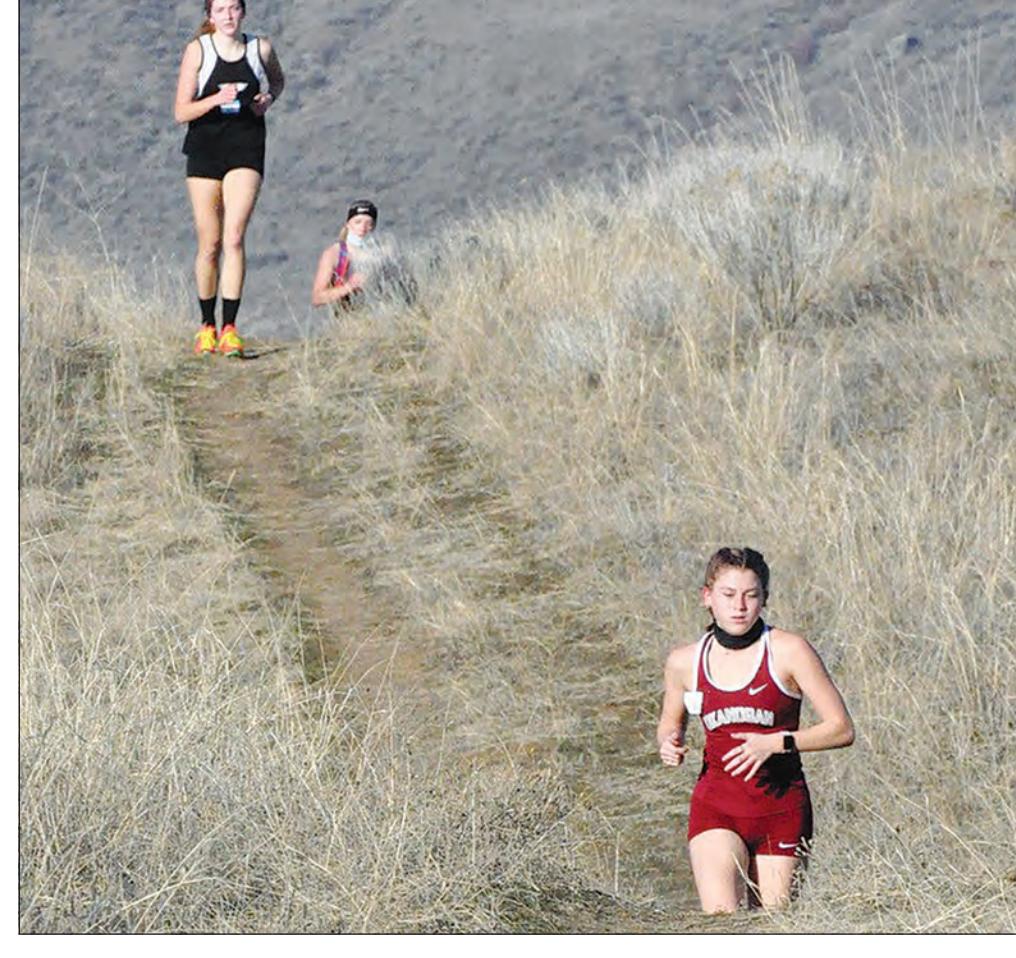
WASHINGTON OUTDOORS REPORT is a syndicated column written by John Kruse. He can be reached at john@northwestern-outdoors.com.



JOHN KRUSE

BROCK HIRES | *The Chronicle*

Varsity boys head out on the course during a high school cross country meet March 3 in Tonasket.

BRUCE THORNTON
Okanogan's Lexi LaDoux (right) leads the girls' race. She covered the 2.4-mile course in 19:38.BRUCE THORNTON
Oroville's Miguel Nunez leads a pack of runners.

CUMMINGS

from page 3

came to stay with the fine old man."

For many years Cummings was a stockholder and director in several banks in the county, was an organizer of the first Okanogan County fair association, served as Riverside mayor and was active in business and civic life, according to "Glimpses of Pioneer Life."

"During all these years his business interests were varied and extensive for he owned and operated mines, sawmills, stage lines, cattle ranches, irrigated orchards, grain ranches, lumber yards, warehouses and (the) general merchandise store," according to "Glimpses."

Cummings "was the whole push in the village now," wrote Splawn of Cummings in 1905. "He had seen hard days while pioneering, his bill of fare had not always been of the best and his clothes sometimes showed signs of rapid decay, but he had borne these inconveniences with a smile. I was glad to know that the clouds of adversity had passed and the sunlight of life

business around 1900 and became known as an expert judge of beef cattle. He was also a great lover of thoroughbred horses, said "Glimpses of Pioneer Life."

"He was a charter member of the Oroville Subordinate IOOF lodge in 1920 and was admitted to the Rebekahs in 1911.

Cummings suffered a "stroke of apoplexy" around 1922 and a second, fatal stroke on Aug. 18, 1923, while driving with his wife, according to "Glimpses."

"When his body fell over the steering wheel the car plunged off the Tunk Creek grade," the book continued.

Cummings is buried in Oroville Riverview Cemetery.

THIS IS PART OF AN ONGOING SERIES OF CHRONICLE HISTORICAL FEATURES.

AL CAMP |
Special to
The Chronicle
Brewster's
goalie goes up for a save during a high school soccer game with Okanogan on March 4 at The Plex.

NEWS OF RECORD

Coulee Dam Police

From Coulee Dam Police Department reports

Feb. 27 Medical call on Central Drive. Dispute on Spruce Street.

Feb. 28 Suspicious activity on Holly Street.

March 1 Illegal burning on Fir Street. Disorderly conduct on Stevens Avenue. Dispute on Holly Street.

Oroville Police

From Oroville Police Department reports

Feb. 25 Sex offense on Main Street. Forgery on Main Street. Found property on Main Street.

Theft on Main Street.

Feb. 26 Disorderly conduct on Appleway Avenue. Dispute on 10th Avenue.

Feb. 27 Theft on Golden Street. A bag of marijuana and \$200 taken. Theft on Main Street. Harassment on 10th Avenue.

Feb. 28 Dispute on Main Street. Harassment on 11th Avenue.

Feb. 28 Dispute on Main Street. Harassment on 11th Avenue.

March 1 Trespassing on Golden Street. Disorderly conduct on Main Street.

March 2 Suspicious activity on Ironwood Street.

March 2 Medical call on 21st Avenue. Theft on Eastlake Road. Suspicious activity on Main Street.

Suspicious activity on Main Street.

Street.

March 3 Trespassing on Golden Street. Harassment on Appleway Avenue. Harassment on Main Street.

Brewster Police

From Brewster Police Department reports

Feb. 26 Vehicle accident on Highway 17, Mansfield.

Feb. 27 Agency assist on 17th Street, Bridgeport.

March 1 Agency assist on North Fourth Avenue, Okanogan.

March 2 Fraud on Methow Avenue. Animal problem on West Cliff Avenue.

March 2 Theft on South Second Avenue, Okanogan. Bicycle taken.

March 2 Dispute on West Cliff Avenue.

March 2

Suspicious activity on West Hanson Avenue. Dispute on Valley Road.

Douglas Sheriff

From Douglas County Sheriff's Office reports

Feb. 25 Vehicle accident on Highway 17, Mansfield.

Feb. 26 Vehicle prow on Second Street, Bridgeport Bar.

Feb. 26 Burglary on Crane Orchard Road, Bridgeport.

Feb. 28 Suspicious activity on Columbia Avenue, Bridgeport.

March 2 Disturbance on South Mansfield Boulevard, Mansfield.

March 2 Dispute on West Twisp Avenue, Twisp.

March 25 Dispute on West Twisp Avenue, Twisp.

March 26 Medical call on Twin Lakes Road, Winthrop.

Malicious mischief on Columbia Avenue, Bridgeport.

Twisp Police

From Twisp Police Department reports

Feb. 25 Medical call on East Second Avenue. Dispute on West Twisp Avenue.

March 2 Lost property at Cannon Beach, Ore. Fire on Buckboard Lane.

Winthrop Marshal

From Winthrop Marshal's Office reports

March 25 Dispute on West Twisp Avenue, Twisp.

March 26 Disturbance on East Railroad Avenue, Mansfield.

March 26 Harassment/threats on Monroe Avenue, Bridgeport.

March 26 Suspicious activity on Highway 20, Winthrop.