“Lots of fast girls and beautiful horses”…

that’s what you’d find at the Plain Rodeo, according to the event’s poster that is hanging in the restroom at Plain Hardware! The poster was hand drawn by rodeo organizer Hardy Shore, who along with Galen Pobst put on The Plain Rodeo for about 8 years during the 1930’s.

The Plain Rodeo, which attracted crowds of over 1000 people during its heydey was held across the street from where the newest Thousand Trails Lodge stands today. According to Byron Newell, Plain’s local history buff, they also held the rodeo behind the lodge as well, where the manmade ponds are now. Horsemens and spectators from all over North Central Washington travelled the gravel roads to participate and watch professional “cowboys” ride buckin’ broncos, rope cattle, bull ride and more. In the photo accompanying this story, W.O. Burgess, Byron’s grandfather, is the man holding the megaphone and was the emcee of the rodeo. “He was very quick witted and outgoing. I can see why he was asked to be the emcee,” said Byron.

For other tidbits of local history you can visit www.plainhardware.com and click on Local Activities & Events and then History of Plain to read past Plain Talk historical highlight articles or you can come to Plain Hardware and pick up a copy of the book ‘They Found a Valley—A History of Plain, Washington” by Alpha Burgess Buntain. This book was written by the daughter of W.W. Burgess, one of the original pioneers of the Plain Valley. It is an easy and interesting read about the early life here in the Plain Valley.
The 411 on Yellow Jackets

OK, if you haven’t noticed, the yellow jackets had a banner year. These pesky bugs reside in any convenient space in the ground, stone walls, under decks and porches and other nooks and crannies around your home. Although they lack the pollen-carrying structures of bees, yellow jackets can be minor pollinators when visiting blooms. Even though they eat other insects, they’re also attracted to the things we eat and drink, which means we can’t enjoy a picnic or barbecue without at least a few of them paying a visit. They especially love meat and foods that are sweet and they’re even attracted to human sweat. As the days shorten and finding food is more difficult, yellow jackets become increasingly angry and it’s best to especially avoid them as the weather turns cold.

Yellow jackets have a “memory” of sorts and will return for some time to a prior source of food (like your picnic table or grill).

Yellow jackets are attracted to dark colored clothing. If you’re going to be in an area where there will be yellow jackets hovering around, it’s a good idea to dress in light-colored clothes. It’s also a good idea not to wear any kind of perfume or fragrance. This will only attract the yellow jackets to you. If a yellow jacket is swatted or even hurt in any way, it will send off a signal to the other yellow jackets in its hive, who will come to its rescue. In fact, if you step on or squash a yellow jacket, a rupture in its venom sack can incite other yellow jackets to attack.

If you find yourself on the receiving end of a yellow jacket stinger, the key is to act quickly. The faster you act, the better are your chances for walking away with as little swelling and pain as possible. Remove the stinger immediately from the wound by scraping a credit card, butter knife or other thin straight-edged object along the wound. After the stinger is removed, clean the wound with soap and water to remove any bacteria. Wrap some ice in a cloth or place in an ice pack and apply to the wound for ten minutes. After ten minutes, remove the ice for ten minutes. The ice should be applied in several ten minutes on-ten minutes off increments. If you’re still experiencing pain, you can take some aspirin. If itching and swelling continue to occur, take an over-the-counter oral antihistamine such as Benadryl.

In the spring a fertilized female yellow jacket builds a small nest and begins laying eggs. She tends to the resulting larvae until the first brood matures into female workers which rear consequent larvae and extend the nest. This is why it is very effective to put your yellow jacket traps out early in the season before you notice them around. Males develop from unfertilized eggs toward the end of summer and mate. At the onset of cold weather all the wasps, including the old queen, die except young mated females which overwinter among leaf litter or in ground cavities. Finding a warm, insulating place to nest for the winter is the key to their survival. A very cold winter that kills some of these females will result in fewer yellow jackets the following year.

Yellow jackets are not native to our area. In 1975, the German yellow jacket first appeared in Ohio and has now spread across the United States.
**LOGO CHALLENGE 2010**

**PLAIN HARDWARE LOGO WEAR CHALLENGE**

**Wear It—At The Highest or Lowest Elevation (2 winners!)**

and Win a $50 Plain Hardware Gift Certificate

Send us a photo of yourself wearing a Plain Hardware t-shirt, sweatshirt or cap and if your entry is the photo taken at the highest elevation or at the lowest elevation between August 1, 2009 and August 1, 2010 you will win a $50 Plain Hardware gift certificate! Make sure there is proof of your locale in the photo, i.e. standing next to the Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, etc. Also, send us your phone number so if you are the winner we can notify you.

The deadline for this contest is August 1, 2010.

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**XC Ski & Snowshoe Rental Info**

Dry, powdery snow, sunny days, pristine lakes, snow-clad mountains and miles and miles of groomed cross country ski and snowshoe trails... here is what you need to know to get out there and enjoy Plain's winter wonderland!

**CLASSIC SKI PACKAGE**

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**SNOWSHOES**

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**SKI HOT WAX**

$10

Plus, you can pick up trail maps, Snow Park permits, ski accessories, snow tubes and sleds for the kids from Plain Hardware as well. And don't forget, after your ski or snowshoe adventure, warm up with an espresso drink or hot chocolate from our espresso bar...a perfect way to finish a perfect day... Mmmmmmm.....

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**Employee Profile**

**Dave Saugen**

Dave Saugen, Plain Hardware's newest “Hardware Guy” was born in Spokane and raised in Oak Harbor, Washington where his momma must have fed him well... "Between 5th and 6th grade I gained 50 pounds and grew 12 inches! By the time I was in 7th grade I was 5’10” and weighed 170 pounds! Obviously, I had a clear advantage in sports. I started swimming at age 12 and loved it so much that I would ride my bike 14 miles round trip, twice a day, to swim team practice. Needless to say, I ate all the time!" By the time Dave was a senior he had racked up many swimming awards and qualified to participate in the Washington State High School swimming championships all four years of high school. However, Dave’s favorite place to spend time during his summer vacation was always Tall Timber Ranch, a 53 year old Christian youth camp located near Lake Wenatchee. “I spent many summers of my childhood at Tall Timber Ranch, starting out as a camper when I was a kid and then volunteering as a camp counselor in High School. I loved it there. It was my home away from home while I was growing up.”

After high school, Dave attended Whitworth University, where he met his wife Christie, graduating with a degree in Sociology in 1999. Dave’s first job out of college was working for AmeriCorp Literacy Program at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Wenatchee. Then Dave moved to Seattle where he worked for Flip Builders. In 2001, he and Christie got married at Plain Community Church and by September they had both landed jobs at Tall Timber Ranch. He served as the Property Manager and Christie was the Program Director. They stayed there until 2004, when Dave decided to go back to school and get his Master’s Degree in Christian Studies. He graduated from Regent College in January 2008.

“After graduating from Regent College, Christie and I were trying to decide where to settle down. We decided on Plain because we both realized that Plain was where our hearts were. Moving back felt like coming home for me,” said Dave. The big challenge for Dave and Christie however, was how to make a living. “I started out doing a variety of odd jobs around Plain until last November when I heard through a friend that Plain Hardware was hiring. I interviewed and had a job offer the same day. It was simply a perfect fit!”

Dave and Christie are currently in the process of building a new home on River Road as well as taking care of their two children, Serenity (age 3) and Micah (age 1-1/2). When Dave manages to find free time, he enjoys his family time, woodworking, bike riding, hiking, photography, reading and back country telemark skiing.

If you haven’t met Dave yet, he is most likely the friendly looking guy wearing an orange Plain Hardware cap and eating a Snickers candy bar...Stop in and say hi...I know he would love to meet you. But don’t ask him to share his snack...old eating habits die hard!
SNOWSHOE HIKES
Our Best Suggestions Yet!

We have many great areas to snowshoe in the greater Plain area...here are a few of the best...

Best Sunny Day Hike—Lake Wenatchee State Park’s North Campground

This is the clear gem of winter snowshoe hikes on a sunny day. An easy fifteen minute hike down to the lakeshore gives way to a stunning view of Lake Wenatchee with Dirtyface Mountain towering above. It doesn’t get any better than this!

Best Moonlight Hike—Beaver Hill

Break out the champagne and headlamps, and try this one on a clear night! The lights from the houses on the valley floor light up your view, while the stars sparkle overhead. Truly a treat prior to Christmas when all the holiday lights dazzle from below! Drive to the top of Beaver Hill and find the trail to the south side of the road.

Best Hike to Take the Kids—Lake Wenatchee State Park’s South Campground

This hike starts right at the Lake Wenatchee swimming beach with great views from the get go. So it doesn’t matter how far little Johnny makes it before he (or you) wants to head back. The trail follows the lakeshore for a bit and then heads down along the Wenatchee River to the confluence of Nason Creek. Good for all ages, even Grandma!

Best Hike if You Want a Good Workout—Nason Ridge

Park near the Nason Ridge Trailhead at Kahler Glen, and head up the Nason Ridge Trail. Peek-a-boo views of Fish Lake and Lake Wenatchee abound, but it is nothing compared to what awaits you at the top – 360 degree views from the open ridge top at over 3000’ elevation. It’s breathtaking on a clear day...and best of all after this hike you can eat whatever you want for the rest of the day!

He Wore It & Won
Plain Hardware Logo Challenge 2009
The Results are In!

In the previous issue of the Plain Talk Newsletter we challenged you to send us a photo of yourself wearing your favorite Plain Hardware t-shirt, sweatshirt or cap. We offered a $50 gift certificate to the person submitting the furthest photo from Plain.

And the winner is...Eric Prestbo

Eric’s photo was taken in Pretoria, South Africa in February, 2009. That’s a whopping 10,436 miles from Plain!

Also, a big honorable mention to customers Scott and Rowena Ferguson who travelled to the following places and sent us photos from them all...Indonesia, Panama Canal, Australia, South Africa and St. Helena. Their furthest photo from Plain was taken at Maputo, Mozambique (10,345 miles away), only 91 miles closer to Plain than the winner!

What are the conditions on Stevens Pass? Snoqualmie Pass?

Log on to www.plainhardware.com and click on the weather/road conditions button to check the current mountain pass webcams.

Wanna go, but no one to go with?
Join a fun group of ladies on the ActiveGirl Escapes Moonlight Snowshoe Hike and Holiday Party on December 12. No experience required! For more information, please call 509-630-1108 or email the ActiveGirl team at gwen@activegirlescapes.com.

Wants go, but no one to go with?
Join a fun group of ladies on the ActiveGirl Escapes Moonlight Snowshoe Hike and Holiday Party on December 12. No experience required! For more information, please call 509-630-1108 or email the ActiveGirl team at gwen@activegirlescapes.com.

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WIN A $25 PLAIN HARDWARE GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Guess the correct total cumulated snowfall amount from October 1, 2009 thru April 1, 2010 and win a $25 Plain Hardware Gift Certificate! Entries must be dropped off at Plain Hardware by December 15, 2009 (one entry per person). Mail in entries will not be accepted. Winner(s) will be announced online at plainhardware.com and notified by phone or e-mail by April 30, 2010.

GUESS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SNOW CONTEST

Entry must be dropped off in person at Plain Hardware by December 15, 2009 (one entry per person)

Total accumulated snowfall (from Oct. 1, 2009—Apr. 1, 2010)

Estimate (in full inches): __________________________

Name: __________________________ Phone#: __________________________

E-mail address: __________________________

Good Mood Food

After a wonderful five year sail around the Caribbean, my parents Kurt & Nadine and my little sister Jana and I have set down our anchor here in the little town of Leavenworth. In August we opened a restaurant called “Good Mood Food”—a bistro featuring local natural cuisine and fresh juices. Sharing the roof with the Red Bird Coffee House has made this the perfect place to come for a gourmet espresso drink and a “fresh from the garden” breakfast or lunch.

Going to the Leavenworth farmer’s market and getting produce from local gardens has become our main source for the ingredients for my parent’s epic quiches, pastas, pitas and wraps. Mom bakes berry scones and pastries from scratch every morning and we also have a selection of other breakfast items like black bean breakfast burritos to eat in or take out. For lunch we offer pasta dishes and a wide variety of authentic pitas including gyros. Dad often stuffs the pitas with falafel, wild salmon, roasted turkey, hummus or roasted organic vegetables! Our menu changes daily, depending on what produce is fresh and available. It is always fun to see what dishes my parents dream up!

Here at Good Mood Food my whole family is working together to create good meals for our community to enjoy. We hope you can stop by and say hi soon. We are open every day from 7:30-4:00 and are located at 285 Highway 2 next to the Red Bird Coffee House. You can also visit us @ www.goodmoodfoodcafe.com.

—Lisa Witkowski

Becky Sue Rocks the Lumberyard!

Plain Hardware held its Third Annual Moonlight Music Fest “A fundraiser for our firefighters” from 7-10pm on August 15th. Luckily, the chilling wind didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the nearly 600 people who enjoyed the music of Gregg Harnish and Becky Sue and Her Big Rockin’ Daddies. Most of our local volunteer firefighters were on hand to help out with parking and to mingle with friends and neighbors. Approximately $2000 was raised to help purchase much needed equipment for the firefighters, so a big thank you to the community and to Gregg Harnish for donating his musical talent! We are looking forward to having our 4th annual Moonlight Music Fest on August 21, 2010...so mark your calendars now!

Log on to www.plainhardware.com and click on Local Activities to view photos of this year’s Music Fest.

Beaver Valley School Update

The Beaver Valley Parent Fund, community members, and the School Board have committed to and are currently fundraising to build a covered play area at the school. If you would like to make a donation please call Jennifer Crossley at 763-0718 or send a check to BVPF at 19265 Beaver Valley Rd, Leavenworth WA 98826.

The Beaver Valley Parent Fund is also selling the “BEST” cookbook in the valley! It is filled with delicious recipes from members of the Plain community, plus it features artwork from the children of Beaver Valley School. Cookbooks can be purchased for $15.00 at Plain Hardware, Just Plain Grocery, and Midway Grocery. The students are open every day from 7:30-4:00 and are located at 285 Highway 2 next to the Red Bird Coffee House. You can also visit us @ www.goodmoodfoodcafe.com.

—Lisa Witkowski

Church Benefit Sale Raises $6000 for Guatemalan Orphanage

Plain Community Church held its annual benefit garage sale for Mama Carmen’s Orphanage over Labor Day Weekend. Mama Carmen runs an orphanage for over 50 children, ranging in age from infants to teens, who were previously living on the streets of Guatemala City. She receives no public funding. Thru the generous donations of garage sale items and cash from buyers, the church will be able to help the orphanage purchase much needed medicines and basic supplies for the children. Plain Community Church would like to give a big thank you to the Plain community for their generous support. For more info about Mama Carmen’s orphanage or to make a donation, please visit www.mamacarmen.org

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The product I am evaluating this fall bursts on the scene in the winter of 1998 and has successfully made the cut 31 times since then and is still going strong. Are we talking about Tiger Woods, Roger Federer or Tom Brady? No, we are talking about the Plain Talk Newsletter!

In eleven plus years through the pages of the Plain Talk, we have watched Plain Hardware owner’s children Jake and Katie go from small children to young adults. We have seen Jasper set the standard for what a Plain Hardware Greeter Dog should aspire to and we have seen Sadler settle in, step up and fill the paw prints of a legend. We have seen the annual summer music celebrations grow and evolve. In summary, what we have really seen is Plain Hardware grow from a small struggling business to a cornerstone of the community of Plain.

Back in the Fall/Winter 2006 issue, www.plainhardware.com was unveiled. One of the many benefits that patrons of Plain Hardware gained from this web presence was access to the entire library of the Plain Talk newsletters. I’ll bet some of you didn’t realize this, now did you?

For the 31st issue of the newsletter, Gwen requested that I go back and provide faithful readers with some highlights from issues past. Feel free to go online and explore for yourself. Trust me, it is actually a lot of fun to scroll through and watch the growth and evolution of Plain Hardware. Here are a few of the things that caught my attention.

The first employee photo had seven people (5 over the age of 5) and one dog. The last employee picture I could find had over 20 folks and a different dog. The last employee picture I could provide faithful readers with some highlights from issues past. Feel free to go online and explore for yourself. Trust me, it is actually a lot of fun to scroll through and watch the growth and evolution of Plain Hardware. Here are a few of the things that caught my attention.

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This summer of 1999 had a guest article by Mike McCombs that provided pointers on how to make sure you and your home could survive Y2K! Caren Karnofski hasn’t aged a day in the 10 plus years that she has worked at Plain Hardware. The Cougar Inn, which was built by land speculator Oliver Bates in 1910, closed its doors to diners in 1999 (you won’t learn all of this in one article, you have to synthesize). In 2000 there was a feature story on Plain Hardware employee Kendra Helseth, a 13-year-old rope jumping phenom from Plain. She is now presumably 21 or 22 years old. Did you know that you used to be able to see a massage therapist in the upstairs office of Plain Hardware? That is correct, back in 1999 Crystal Fritz had her therapy practice going on up there. In 2001 Jean Moore enjoyed her well deserved 15 minutes of fame and recognition for faithfully recording the temperature and precipitation in the Plain area every day at 6:00 a.m. since some time in 1969! Since the Logo Wear Challenge was first issued in 2004, contestants have weighed in from France, Scotland, Madagascar, South Africa, Bolivia, Slovenia, Vietnam, Japan, Myanmar, China and Russia. The worst article ever to appear was the fall 2005 “Fishing Update” — If you don’t believe me, go check for yourself. My favorite quote through all the years is the “15 kitten” quote in 8 year old Katie’s 2006 Polar Bear Jump interview. The most touching article was the one Rob wrote in 2002 honoring his father.

The pages of Plain Talk also contain lots of awesome tips for where to hike, ski, bike and snowshoe. These newsletters also feature some amazing stories and photographs that capture some of the early history of the area. The next time you hit a cold, wintry day and you are looking for an engaging indoor project, go to the Plain Hardware website and dig through the back issues of the Plain Talk. You can reacquaint yourself with the history of Plain, re-live some of the many events that have occurred over the 11 years that are chronicled in the newsletters or dig up some great ideas on ways to enjoy the outdoors in your special little community called Plain. Happy reading!

“Mommy, where does hardware come from?”

Katie asked one day.

Now that’s an easy question to answer. I wish they were all that easy!

Most of the “hardware store” type products sold at Plain Hardware come from a relatively small family owned and operated business located in Yakima. Yakima Hardware is a regional wholesaler and distributor of hardware that we have used from day one here at Plain Hardware. They are not some huge faceless corporation but a very “down home” local business, and they have stood the test of time. Yakima Hardware was started in 1881, which is eight years before Washington became a state! They filled a vital role in supplying hard goods to the growing farming community in the Yakima Valley. As the area grew and prospered, so did the store, known as the Yakima Hardware Company. The wholesale operation has developed over the years to the point where today Yakima Hardware serves the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Alaska, Utah and Hawaii. They have updated the business name to Horizon Distribution, but to us they will always be “Yakima Hardware”.

Hardware buyer Jody Allen and Yakima Hardware CEO Ken Marble at the hardware show in September.

Every year Yakima Hardware hosts a “hardware show” where all the companies that they buy from come to show off their products. Well, Yakima ain’t Vegas, but we look forward to heading down there every September to meet the vendors, look at what’s new, learn about their products, and talk with CEO Ken Marble, whose Great Grandfather started with the business in 1909! Ken is still just the new young buck there, only having held the CEO’s position for a mere 23 years! In today’s age of consolidation, buyouts, and bankruptcies, their “stick to our small town roots” philosophy fits well with what Plain Hardware is all about—serving and supporting the people, families, and businesses in our community.

Please note that all the items in Yakima Hardware’s warehouse (over 35,000 different products) are available to Plain Hardware customers on-line. Simply log on to www.plainhardware.com, click the ‘Hardware’ tab and go from there. When you find the item you want, simply e-mail your request to hardware@plainhardware.com and Jody will order it for you.
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(509) 763-3501

21328 SR-207, Leavenworth, WA 98826

M-F 12:00 - Close • Sat. 11:00 - Close • Sun. 12:00 - Close

**RECREATION**

Kahler Glen

Golf & Ski Resort by Lake Wenatchee

Play 18 Holes with Cart For the price of 9!

*Through Oct 31, 2009

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*Cross County Ski Rentals Available!

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DAS COPY SHOPPE
Copy, Ship, & More
Maureen Ross, Owner
Josh Ross, Owner
900 Front Street, Suite C
Leavenworth, WA 98826
Phone: 509-548-7411
Fax: 509-548-6150
info@dascopyshoppe.com
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Tired of the hassles of keeping your spa clean?
Let Sparkling Spas care for your hot tub!
We service hot tubs at private homes and vacation rentals...
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• Crushed Rock • Pit Run • Landscaping Rock
• Pea Gravel • Rebar

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Previous owners, Tom & Dodee are back!
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Around the Corner...
Back in Time!

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Leavenworth, WA 98826
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Owners - Chocolatiers
Damian Browne • Susie Johnson
509.548.7274 or 877.763.7274
843 D Front St. Leavenworth • Washington, 98826
website: schocolat.com info@schocholat.com

SURVEYOR

Scott Vollrath
Professional Land Surveyor
P.O. Box 123
Leavenworth, WA 98826
509-548-5290
Cell: 509-630-1578

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Tower Designs
Keith Tower, Owner
- Septic System Design
- Septic Site Evaluation
- Water System Design
- State Certified
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Fax: 509-548-2373
Cell: 509-679-3567

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  Pressure Tanks
  Filters, Salt & Other Water System Accessories
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Fax: 509-548-1100
Mailing Address:
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Leavenworth, WA 98826
Location:
9290 Hwy. 2
Dryden, WA 98821

Tumwater Drilling & Pump, Inc.

WINERIES

Napeequa Vintners
Tasting room hours:
Saturday 11–5, Sunday 11–4 (May through December)
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Plain, WA 98826
www.napeequa.com
509.763.1600

Icicle Ridge Winery
(509)548-7019
Open Daily 12–5

Read past Plain Talk Newsletters on our website…plainhardware.com
**SNOWFALL RECORD FOR PLAIN, WASHINGTON** from October 1969 to April 2009 in inches

Following is data collected by local Jean Moore, a resident of Shugart Flats since 1945. Thank you Jean!

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