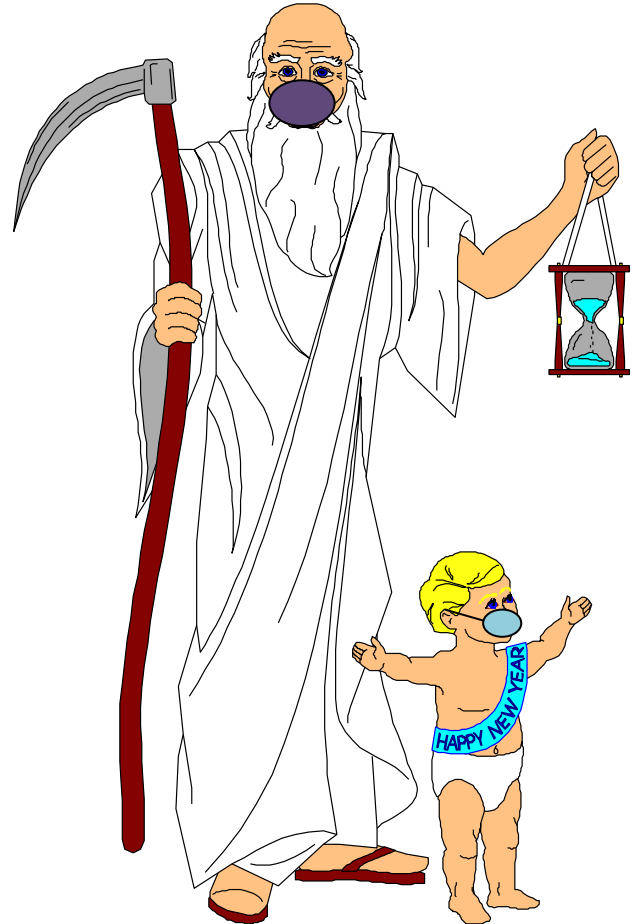




Please stay safe.



\*\*\*\*\*

We are featuring our 4<sup>th</sup> build with the Duncan family in 1997 in this issue.



Verne Blalack presents prize # 1 of our silent auction to Jeanne White from Medimont. Jeanne has been a supporter for this organization for years. Thank you, Jeanne, for continuing to bid until you outbid your competition and for your additional contribution.



**UP IT GOES!** While Sally Davis watches from behind, Jim Campbell checks the wall's alignment as Mary Davis, Mike Spencer, Drago Duncan, Wayne McPeak, Casey Duncan, Dan Davis, Verne Blalack, Chris Campbell, and Ron Booth raise a wall on the Duncan home.

*Photo by William Bunton*

*Be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another*  
**Ephesians 4:32**



Randy Seaton and Terry Seaton clear the logs from the Duncan home site after Dick McPeak, Construction Supervisor, felled the trees. *Photo courtesy of Shoshone News-Press and Bunton Studios*

Mark Schram volunteered to dig the foundation when the site dried out. Concrete Unlimited supervised the foundation.

## Learning Construction

Interview by Brian R. Lee

When Casey and Anne Duncan enlisted Habitat for Humanity to help them acquire a home, they entered into a learning experience unlike anything else they would ever experience in their lives.

Habitat for Humanity, now known locally as Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, helped them acquire a lot in the Osburn, ID, Sunny Slopes area in 1997. But because of the hard winter, they were unable to start on their project to build their first house until June.

Casey became involved in all the facets of the construction from the day they broke ground. No contractors were involved, but he did get a lot of help from his friends. However, he said it was the direction of volunteers Verne Blalack, Dick McPeak and Al Groller from Habitat for Humanity who made things happen.

“Verne Blalack was a fountain of knowledge,” Casey said. “I knew nothing about construction when I started. I learned a ton about construction.”

Casey was fresh out of the U.S. Army. He got a job on an assembly line in Hayden, commuting from Osburn. On his salary from there he was trying to support a young family, but he found every time he got a raise in pay, it was offset by a resulting reduction in food stamp and rent assistance benefits. That made saving money for a down payment on a house impossible.

Then, as soon as he started working on their house, he was laid off from his job. But that proved to be a benefit, as it



Hey, Casey, Who's ahead in the bent nail contest?

enabled him to work full time on the construction of the



Anne Duncan and Sally Davis develop nailing skills while building the Duncan's walls. *Photo by William Bunton*

house. They managed to live off Anne's waitressing income in the meantime.

Once the house was completed to where they could move in, he went on to work for Dave Smith Auto and today is employed by Northwest Mining Supply in Wallace.

But, the benefits didn't end once they moved into their new house. Over the years, Casey took all that construction knowledge he acquired and later added a covered deck, a carport and even dug and completed a basement where they originally had only installed a foundation with a crawl space.

The Duncans' three sons grew up in that house and now live on their own. But, they know whenever they need any advice on some remodeling project, they can come to their father.

Casey says their favorite part of the home is the location, as it provided lots of room to raise their family and has nice scenery. They still live in the home today, having paid off the original loan, and have no need for any smaller empty nest home.

“We will live here probably forever,” he said. “I feel we are really very fortunate to be where we are at today.”

They still hold tight onto an embroidered picture of a home, crafted by N. Campbell, which they received from Habitat for Humanity when they first moved in. It has hung on their wall for many years, and is a treasured reminder of how a strong, beneficial organization and many helping hands made a seemingly impossible dream of home ownership become a reality.

*Below photos are by William Bunton, our president and professional photographer in 1997.*



Ouch, it's a bit hard on the knees.

I noticed.

## September 1997 at the Davis site.



At left, with Anne helping from below, Ron Boothe, Casey, and Jim Taylor the install the metal roof donated by Lifetime Roofing- & Siding Co.

*Photo by William Bunton*

### LET IT RAIN, WE HAVE COVER!

By Ron Boothe

The Duncan house is coming along, thanks to Jim Taylor, master builder, who headed up a crew to put on the attractive metal roof donated by Lifetime Roofing and Siding. Lifetime also furnished the vinyl siding at cost. Jim Taylor, with the help of Ron Boothe, Casey and Anne Duncan, Dan Davis, and Al Groller got the roof put on in 1½ days. Casey and Anne had to replace the 1x4 boards on the roof because the green boards were warping so badly the roof looked like an ocean tide coming in.

Ken Tilton is doing the wiring, and had help from Pastor Bill Lentz, Chairman of the construction committee, in stringing the wire and procuring materials. A special thanks to Judy Linscott and Crown Electric for working to get the house wired. Not only did Crown Electric procure the electrical permit, but Judy has arranged for North Coast Electric to donate all the light fixtures. The wiring is about half installed.

The home really is taking the shape of a domicile, now with the roof on, the donated Andersen windows in, the siding finished on the back side, and the front and back doors installed. The youth group from the Cheney United Congregational Church, who spent a week here, really kept busy. They did some leveling (shovel & wheelbarrow) around the house, set up Jim Taylor's scaffolding, finished putting the Oriented Strand Board on the eaves, wrapped the house and put siding on the back side, mixed and poured the concrete slab under the house for the furnace and hot water heater and installed the radon prevention pipes—a busy, likable bunch [*who also brought \$1000 for supplies*]. Joe Lenhard came with food for lunch one day and stayed to help with this group! Our thanks to Joe & Rosemary for hosting them at the Snake Pit, to Audrey at the 6<sup>th</sup> St. Melodrama for special rates, and to ladies from various churches who brought lunch to the work site: the Monday Night Bible Group at The United Church of Christ in Wallace, and The United Church of Kellogg, St. Rita's Catholic Church in Kellogg, and the New Hope Assembly of God Church in Pinehurst.

Grant Johnson with help from wife, Shellie, has again donated his expertise and the roughed in plumbing stage is complete!

Dick McPeak, construction supervisor, makes certain that all work passes code, and even then some, since his code is higher than most. The house is like a rock.

Still needing to be done and volunteers needed to do so:

- Interior doors need to be installed, & hardware needs to be put in the exterior doors.
- The furnace system needs to be installed.
- The soffits, under the eaves, need to be put up.
- Siding has to be finished.
- Sheetrock is stacked in the middle of the living room, ready to be put on the ceiling and walls (4x8's for the ceiling, 4x12's for the walls) after the electrical rough in is complete.
- And, of course, the insulation has to be installed *before* the sheetrock.
- Jeff Dunn of Pinehurst has volunteered to do the drywall finish work. A crew will be needed to paint after that.
- Then, of course, the tough job of the flooring and the built-ins.

Thanks go to Dusty at Ace Hardware for fulfilling his generous Radiothon pledge and for selling other materials at a substantial discount. Thank you, also, CDA Builders Supply for discounting the trusses.

By and large, the house is a little ahead of last year's, thanks to the diligent and steady work of Verne Blalack, Dick McPeak, Al Groller, the Duncan clan (Casey, Anne and their relatives and friends Sally & Mary Davis, Drago Duncan, John Sutton and Dan Davis).

\*\*\*\*\*



**November Update:** Early in November the outside construction was complete except for building the porches, clearing the area, and hauling in gravel. Greg Edmonds, who is constructing his own home down the road, used his loader to move gravel.

Grant Johnson of G & S Quality Plumbing installed a toilet inside so the outside porta-potty could be winterized and closed.

Jeff Dunn, professional sheetrock taper and Joe Wolford of Placer Cr. Dry Wall worked inside taping, mudding and sanding the walls, and teaching Casey to help them.

When the walls were dry, Casey & Anne Duncan, John Sutton, and Janice Groller began painting. In addition to fulfilling their radio-thon pledge, Dusty & Sue Griffith of

Ace Hardware donated 15 gallons of primer. Al & Verne worked on the porches while the others painted.

Shown above left are Al Groller, Casey, Verne Blalack, and Janice Groller

*We thank these businesses for supporting our newsletter.*

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**A Very Happy New Year**  
**for All of 2020**  
  
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**We are honored to receive these memorials.**

*Barb & Gordon Canterbury  
In Memory of Don Taylor*

*Robert and Carol Helmick,  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*Intermountain Logging Conf. Inc.  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Mike & Dan Reasor of Cannon Hill Industries Inc.  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten*

*From Arliss & Suzy Blalack,  
In Memory of Terry Sverdsten  
And of Dave Whiteman*

**Greater Blessings Fund**

Judy & Verne Blalack, Arliss & Suzy Blalack,  
Diana Burbridge, and Josh & Christina Mace

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Don Taylor, past president of SVFCH. He was an excellent chef and prepared the meat for our Pig Roast for several years.

**Coming Events**

Jan 12—Board and Committee meetings, 6 PM, Mountain View Congregational Church  
*Board Elections*

Hello and Merry Christmas to all at Silver Valley Fuller Center!

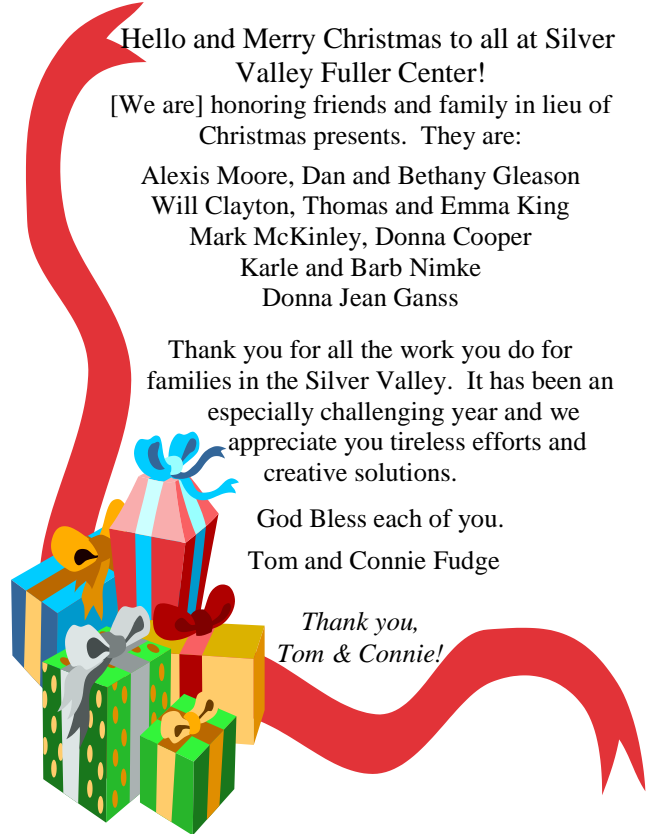
[We are] honoring friends and family in lieu of Christmas presents. They are:

Alexis Moore, Dan and Bethany Gleason  
Will Clayton, Thomas and Emma King  
Mark McKinley, Donna Cooper  
Karle and Barb Nimke  
Donna Jean Ganss

Thank you for all the work you do for families in the Silver Valley. It has been an especially challenging year and we appreciate you tireless efforts and creative solutions.

God Bless each of you.  
Tom and Connie Fudge

*Thank you,  
Tom & Connie!*



To all of you who sent Christmas cards and encouraging messages—THANK YOU!



Homeowners, Shawn White & John Boy Delaney help fold the newsletters to be ready for the mailing workshop. Shawn had been severely injured months ago when a huge tire fell on him. After numerous operations, he has recovered well, but has one operation left. He planned to help with this newsletter but he & Deann are in quarantine.

**Here's Help for SVFCH . . .**

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

- I do not wish to be on your mailing list.  
 I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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### We are featuring the Duncan Family in this issue.

**From the Home Front--1997** by Verne Blalack

The work pattern since early July has been that the Duncan Clan (Casey, Drago, the three boys, Michael, Kyle, and Jesse) and often Ann along with John Sutton and Dan Davis meet me at the site around 8 AM Monday through Saturday. We take a short break at 10 AM, lunch break at noon, 2 PM water break, and go home at 4 PM. (The clan often hits the Elk Creek Pond on the way home.) Al Groller often helps us until around 3 PM. Dick McPeak, construction supervisor, usually consults with me, site framing supervisor, every day to help line out future work and to give advice on the construction process. During the past month, we were also blessed with having Chris Marthaller, a super carpenter, help us for two weeks. He single handedly placed our mudsill in place accurately upon which the rest of the structure is built. If the mudsill is constructed poorly, nothing fits right after that.

While Chris was mudsilling, the rest of us were moving drain rock and soil around with shovels and wheelbarrows. The drainage system catches water from the surface to the footing and routes it around the house and dumps it behind the house in the woods. Sunny Slopes has a lot of clay, making good drainage highly desirable. Later we were blessed with Randy Seaton loaning us his Bob Cat which George Wild operated one evening. The Bob Cat did as much work in one evening as we could have done in a week. The word is that Mark Schram will come back again with his large front end loader and help some more along these lines. Mark prepared the site for us originally prior to Concrete Unlimited and us pouring the concrete.

On Saturday, July 26, the walls were raised. Besides the regular crew, the following people were of great help: Ron Boothe, Jim & Chris Campbell, Mary Davis, Wayne McPeak, Sally Davis, and Mike Spencer.

Our trusses arrived on Friday, August 1. As I was otherwise occupied with a Rails-Trails trip and was helping to raise \$ at the Dena Mora Rest Stop on the weekend, we never got them raised until Monday. We will probably get the roof sheathing on this first week of August. Ed Stice of Life Time Roofing is donating a metal roof which we will install. (Bless you, Ed, for helping again—he donated the Dodge roof in Woodland Park in 1995.)

We'll soon be wrapping the home and installing the windows that the Andersen Window Co. gave us. So it looks as though we'll have the home pretty well closed in this month.

Oh yes, I promised "Bones" Davis (Anne's Dad) that I would give him an update on Michael's (age 9) work habits—good or bad in this newsletter. Usually in the morning he tells me that he is going to work all day. Then he starts and is playing within a few minutes. The present work record is 20 minutes straight! However, old friend—he is getting better. This morning he never told me he was going to work. So although he still isn't working much—he's quit exaggerating! (I wonder how he got started telling tall tales? You haven't been telling him about your fishing trips have you?)

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The unusual dedication is featured in February's issue. ©