

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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Merry month of May, the heart of spring and gateway to summer on the northern Earth. While the air stays full with the scent of flowers, ROARSHOCK PAGE recalls late May camping trips, and the legendary Wilson Family Memorial Day Horseshoe Tournaments.



SILVER CREEK MEMORIAL DAY HORSESHOE CLASSIC

It was long our family habit to gather and camp in the high altitudes of the mountains over the end of May. In 1980, a set of horseshoes were discovered, and it was not many years after that before the Silver Creek Memorial Day Horseshoe Classic was established in legend and lore. These camping trips explored the mountains and forests during the heart of spring, though there were years when it was still the end of winter, and occasions when it snowed. Spring rain and thunderstorms were often a thrill. From snow flowers beneath the trees to meadows full of wild flowers, boggy meadows most years, but spongy dry in drought years. Even in those years, we knew of springs fed by mountain depths. Our camp was on the eastern slope of the mountains, drier than the west side, it merged with the vast Great Basin

of hot dry air and winds. All of the East in history and possibility rushed up about us as we sat on the mountainside looking out, pondering, meditating and dreaming. A large and shifting variety of friends and family made the journey over decades. The clang of the old horseshoes became familiar like birds and squirrels, water running down the mountain, wind through the pines and the laughter of children and adults. So when Daniel Patrick Wilson made, with his own hands, the Silver Creek Cup, and John O. Wilson designed tee-shirts, the tradition was established firmly, and even if it did not go back generations, it did go forward generations. In fact, it became another marker of cycles, of the passage of years through time. We always sang the National Anthem before we commenced. The tournaments were playful and lighthearted, and the years long competition for the Cup between Daniel and John O never displayed the slightest hint of pressure. Those two traded the Cup back and forth over many years, and no one else ever even got close to winning it, but the matches were all sincerely hard fought and seldom easily won. The hearty communal dinners feasting on Helga's stews with dumplings, and all kinds of salads and sides, or steaks, chops and chicken on the grill. The year Tom Phipps brought a pot of his famous gumbo will never, ever, be forgotten. Always plenty to drink in addition to coffee and tea; beer and wine, and all manner of strong spirits from aged single malt whisky to pure grain liquor. One night Daniel danced on the coals of the fire in his mighty enthusiasm. Other party favors and mood elevators passed among some of the adventurous folk. Inevitably, at some point, most all of us, young and old, had too much, a little, or a lot. But it was all in good clean fun, and educational too, and a few hours staring up at the stars, or a good snore in the tent, and all was well again. We remember just some of the whimsical names from a few of the tours...

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Select Silver Creek Tours Through The Decades:

Three Days In The Tent Without Batteries Tour (Helga Kicks Cliff Through The Tent, Cliff Nearly Kills Dan)
*Dudley Do-right and the Meat-Cutters Convention,**EverclearTour**Wall of Gumbo Tour * (not to be confused with the) *Break Like The Wind Tour: Stinking Up The Great Outdoors* *Special Bacon Tour*
*Termites Will Eat You If You Are Made OF Wood Tour (What Do Sharkies Look Like, Look Like?) *No Rain, No Mittens, No Jacksons Tour.* *Five Or Four Times Tour* *Cup-Holder Ballet Tour: We Are All Just Visitors In Juliette’s World* *We Are Still Here Tour*

Now everything has changed and transformed, over many ages, many friends and loved ones scattered, and some of our dear ones now with the dead. Cycles turning around, just like they always will. The new generation comes on the scene, and we shall see how they throw the shoes.

— D. A. Wilson



“If he wins, John O set us up.”

— D. P. Wilson

MAY ALMANAC

- 05/01 1894 MAY DAY—BELTANE
Coxey's Army protest march arrived in Washington, D.C.
- 1941 “Citizen Kane” premiered in New York.
- 05/03 1959 Daniel Nelson James, The Founder of the Troll Empire, was born.
- 05/04 1970 Four unarmed students killed by Ohio National Guard at Kent State University.
- 05/06 1915 Intelligence agent Orson Welles born.
- 05/08 2012 Cryptographer Maurice Sendak died.
- 05/09 NEW MOON
- 05/10 1962 The Incredible Hulk #1 published by Marvel Comics.
- 05/12 1937 George Carlin was born.
- 05/14 1973 First US space station, Skylab, launched.
- 05/18 1948 Chip Roberts was born.
- 05/22 1915 Julius Stürmer was born in Karansebesch, Banat, Österreich-Ungarn.
- 05/23 1981 Jerry Garcia Band, Keystone Berkeley.
- 05/24 1941 Bob Dylan was born.
- 05/25 FULL FLOWER MOON
- 05/29 1903 Bob Hope was born.
- 2012 Doc Watson died.
- 05/31-1279 Rameses II became pharaoh of Egypt.

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Calling for Contributions! ROARSHOCK PAGE invites submissions of art, photographs, poetry, and micro-prose, to be considered for inclusion in future issues.

Limited copies of D. A. Wilson’s chapbook, *First Hours of a Rainy Day and Other Poems*, can be acquired, by inquiry, as can original printings of some ROARSHOCK PAGE issues from the turn of the century.

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