



**Eilene Lyon**  
*Author, Speaker, Family Historian*

## Good News Network



One of the best things about historic newspapers is the local community items. They can be as simple as who came to town from the farm this week. Sometimes they include death notices, marriages, births, illnesses, celebrations, dances, injuries, and new business enterprises.

They even mention when people left town to visit family and vice versa. All these lovely tidbits were solicited from columnists (often anonymous) from the various small townships and villages surrounding the newspaper's home city.

These "gossip" columns are a highlight for genealogists and writers, but undoubtedly drove paper sales in the time they were new. Don't we all love to clip stories about our family, friends, and neighbors? Unfortunately, this type of "news" is rarely published now, and certainly not for free.

Even an obituary will cost you a pretty penny, as I know from recent experiences.

The past few decades have seen a major decline in the number of local newspapers being published, and some have gone strictly online. *The New York Times* this morning highlighted some of the best [local stories](#) printed this year. They particularly tout investigative journalism that exposes corruption. But you can't go wrong leading with a heartwarming [pet story](#)!

What if local newspapers were to revive the gossip columns of yesteryear? Would that drive fresh interest in reading papers?

Another thought that came to me: Would people like to read more stories that highlight good deeds and happy news? Could we dispel some of the pervasive cynicism infecting society today? Inspire more community-service mindedness?

*USA Weekend* and Points of Light sponsored the National Make a Difference Day every October for 20 years. Some service projects were featured in an annual article in the magazine.

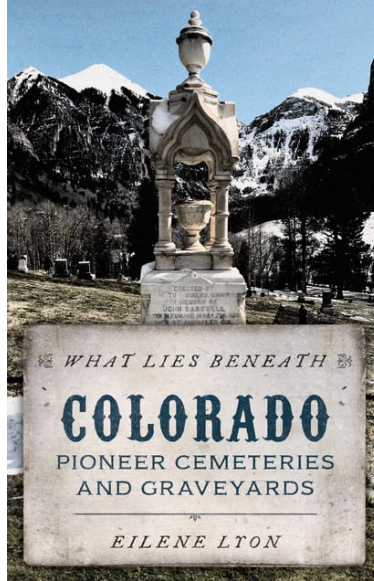
What if there was a service, something like the Associated Press, that became a clearinghouse for good news and community service stories? I'd call it the Good News Network and provide copyright-free stories to all news outlets.

What do you think?

*Eilene*

---

## Reviews and Event News



At the end of October, I submitted the manuscript for my second book, *What Lies Beneath Colorado Pioneer Cemeteries and Graveyards*. It is scheduled for release on September 3, 2024 from TwoDot.

Sometime in early January, the [Boulder Book Store](#) will be featuring an Author Q & A with me on their [YouTube](#) channel. When it's available I'll post in on Facebook.

I will be doing two Zoom presentations on genealogy topics in January and two in February. See my [website](#) for further information. Some of these may be open to the public.

The Durango branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) has selected me for their Book and Author Brunch to be held at Fort Lewis College on April 6. More details to come in my next newsletter (March).

If you've had a chance to read *Fortune's Frenzy* (and especially if you liked it), I hope you will consider leaving a review online at [Goodreads](#), [Amazon](#), your blog, etc. Even a one-sentence review can boost my visibility. Thank you so much!!

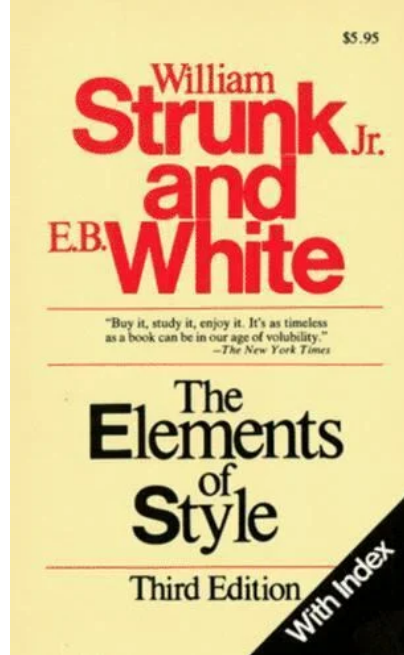
---

Buy a signed copy of *Fortune's Frenzy*

---

---

## Polishing Your Style



Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* is a classic for a reason. My 3rd Edition copy is under a hundred pages, but the information contained within this brief book is priceless. Every writer's library needs a copy. Every writer needs to read it, and review it if they haven't read it recently.

The sections include: Elementary Rules of Usage; Elementary Principles of Composition; Words and Expressions Commonly Misused (who can't use that?!); and An Approach to Style.

The tip I keep top-of-mind is "Omit needless words." Brevity and clarity are keys to good prose. My early drafts are always longer than the finished versions. Editing is an essential task and de-cluttering your sentences is as important as keeping your work organized.

Even if your desk or office is a mess, your writing should not be.

---

## Popular Blog Posts This Quarter on Myricopia.com



**Anacapa Island Conservation**





**The Durango Depot - 479 Main**



**The Slide Years: Christmas Sing-along**

---

## **My Favorite Cookie Recipe**



### **Raspberry Pecan Bars**

(Makes 25 bars)

- 2 c. All-purpose flour
- 3/4 c. Butter, softened
- 1/2 c. Sugar
- 1/2 tsp. Vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. Salt
- 1 c. Chopped Pecans
- 3/4 c. Raspberry preserves

Heat oven to 350. Combine flour, butter, sugar, vanilla and salt in a large mixer bowl. Beat at low speed until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in 1/2 cup

pecans by hand. Reserve 3/4 cup crumb mixture; press remaining crumb mixture onto bottom of 8- or 9-inch square baking pan. Spread preserves to within 1/2 inch of edge; sprinkle with remaining pecans and reserved crumb mixture. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until crumb mixture is lightly browned. Cool completely; cut into bars.

I like this recipe for its simplicity and the fact they are super yummy!

**What is your favorite cookie? Reply to this email and I'll share results next newsletter.**

---

## Share the news

If you enjoy this newsletter, please send it on to a friend. If you've received this from a friend you can [subscribe](#).

---

### Eilene Lyon, Author

730 N. Rainbow Rd.  
Durango, CO 81303



You received this email because you signed up on my website or are one of my personal contacts.

[Unsubscribe](#)

