



Bob Cannon looks over a couple of the premade mantles on display at Trestlewood.

PHOTOS BY DOUG LINDLEY

# Hardwood with history

Reclaimed wood is hot right now, and for a lot of different reasons — some like the character, some the idea of reusing materials, and for others, it's all about the stories. The Cannon family, owners of Trestlewood in Blackfoot, makes a business out of all three

**L**ooking for wood with substance doesn't require a trip far from home.

Trestlewood, a division of Cannon Structures, operates its headquarters in Blackfoot, and its 22 acres are stacked with reclaimed wood from across the country. The bulk of the wood comes from trestle of railroad lines that crossed the Great Salt Lake.

In 1902 Union Pacific began building a line crossing the Great Salt Lake; two years after

construction began, the Lucin Cutoff connecting Ogden and Lucin and traversing the water was completed. The project required millions of board feet of Douglas fir timbers and redwood decking. When a solid-fill causeway was built parallel to the trestle decades later, the trestle was available for another use.

Incorporated in Ohio in 1973 as a construction company, the owners of Cannon Structures established their headquarters in Blackfoot in 1976, after purchasing the salvage rights to the Great Salt Lake trestle in 1993 and adding the Trestlewood

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Bob Cannon and his mom Alice look at wood that was salvaged from a dry dock in Portland, Ore., that is now part of their conference area at Trestlewood.

division to their company. Founder John Cannon heard about the wood being taken down, and since he loved wood, he wanted to take a look. "It was a terrible-looking thing, but he had the vision to see this wood was beautiful wood," his wife and corporate secretary Alice Cannon said. "He fell in love with the wood."

And so have buyers across the U.S., who are willing to pay the extra price for pieces with character. Trestlewood has filled orders for large national corporations, celebrities, professional basketball stars and entertainers; it's also popular in resort areas like Park City, Utah; Big Sky, Mont.; and Jackson Hole, Wyo., because the people who build lodges like the rustic look, Alice said.

But locals buy the wood too, and what they get is wood with "wonderful texture," since it's had longer to develop than the newer wood out there, Alice said. Since the trestle was built in 1902, it had years and years to stabilize, making it

straight and true. The green movement has boosted sales and interest, but maybe one of the big draws is the history.

"Some people love reclaimed wood because of the wonderful stories that go with it. A lot of the times they'll ask us specifically, 'Well, what is the story behind it?'" Alice said.

Douglas fir is Trestlewood's specialty, and most of their stock comes from the trestle, but they also offer oak and do a mixed hardwood that makes a pretty hardwood floor.

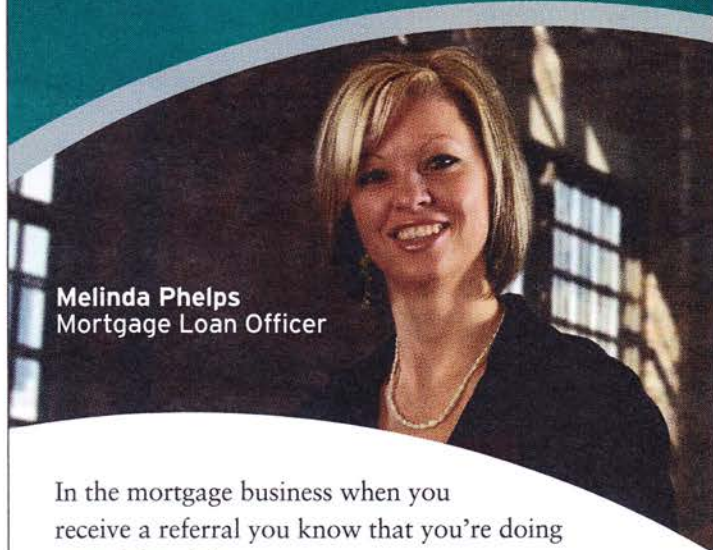
Some use the big beams for interior or exterior use, whether structural or aesthetic, and many customers use the wood for flooring, siding or outdoor projects like small pavilions.

Alice and four of her sons operate Trestlewood today. After John purchased the salvage rights, he died in a truck accident, so the Cannons had a family meeting and decided they "maybe had the courage to keep the company going — and we did," Alice said.

See our story on [athome.idahostatejournal.com](http://athome.idahostatejournal.com) about choosing the right hardwood for your home.

**Trestlewood is located at 933 Frontage Road in Blackfoot. You can also visit them online at [trestlewood.com](http://trestlewood.com).**

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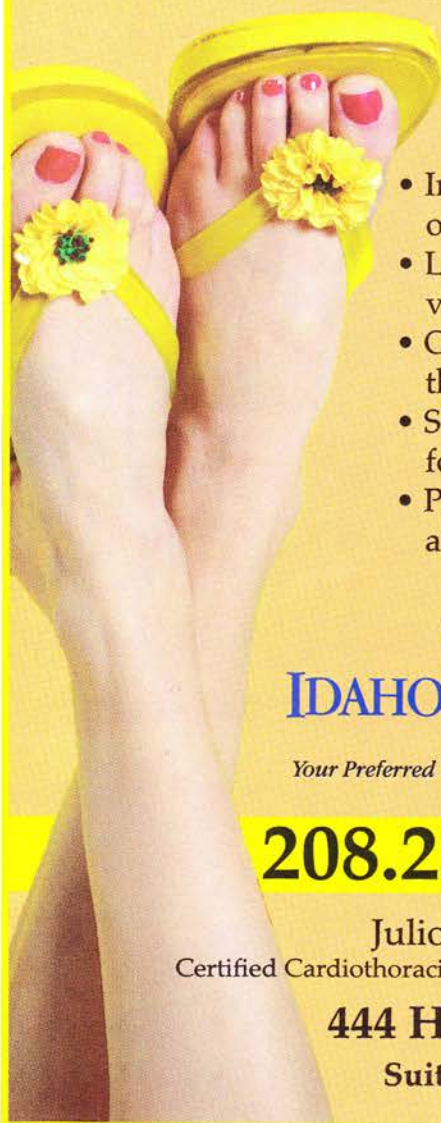


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## FROM THE EDITOR

### Why I love Trestlewood

I love salvaged and reclaimed stuff, but it's not easy to find in southeast Idaho (and for anyone who disagrees, please send me your contacts). That's why I was intrigued a few years ago when I heard about Trestlewood in Blackfoot. I'd seen the lumber stacked along the freeway, seen their business sign, but never knew what they do: scour the states for wood with great stories and texture, then resell it.

But I was even more intrigued after calling Trestlewood's administrative office in Utah, where a company exec deferred to a 74-year-old Blackfoot woman as the company expert.

Bonnie Cannon and her boys have been running the business for 17 years. In 1993 Bonnie's husband John died in a truck accident, just after acquiring the salvage rights for the Great Salt Lake trestle constituting much of Trestlewood's inventory. It wouldn't be easy to forge ahead without their husband and dad at the helm, but they did. And Bonnie's still spry and working in the Blackfoot office; read the Trestlewood story on page 6.

Stick-to-itiveness was also a must for artist Stan Gates,



who held onto his dream of sculpting until he had time to really dive in — 35 years later (page 26). For Jay and Mindy Rawlings, persistence meant hanging onto the hope that they'd eventually have the home of their dreams — the home where Jay's grandma grew up. Five years and one phone call later, they jumped at the chance to buy (page 22).

Make sure to tear out the tips for spring cleaning — you'll want them for reference once you've committed to the chores (page 30). And don't overlook both the recipes from RaNae's Rolls because you'll be hankering for a treat after you read the article about owner Alan Crandall and his cinnamon rolls (page 10). I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together. It's chuck-full of good stuff.

REBECCA LONG PYPER

Editor, At Home