

Retired lawman comes home to his roots

People featured in this column have been selected randomly from the telephone book.

With more than 42 years of law enforcement experience, Steve Englehorn hesitates just long enough for his wife, Sandi, to answer the question of what makes a good cop?

"A good wife."

"Well, there's merit to that," Steve confirms.

But before offering his own answer, it seems appropriate to look back on a career that started with Steve, now 66, piloting a cruiser for the Washington State Patrol and ending with him being bailiff of the Washington State Supreme Court.

"Truthfully, my career, and I don't want to sound syrupy, but I was really blessed because of all the different things that I had



**EVERYONE
HAS A STORY**

**David
Johnson**

bags last summer, moved away from their home of 33 years in Olympia and now live within a distant gaze of Asotin, where Steve's family roots are spread wide and deep.

an opportunity to do," Steve said. "I miss some things about my past experiences and my career. But at this time, it's time for younger, newer individuals to come in and continue, hopefully, to sustain the same desire and drive to make a contribution in a positive way."

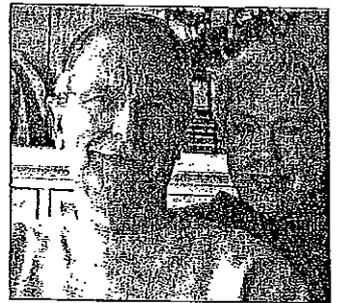
On that note, he and Sandi packed their retirement

"My family history goes way back in Asotin, on both my parents' sides."

While living their married life away from the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley, the Englehorns say they've already re-embraced the community, thanks to Steve always yearning to come home for good.

"We never took our kids to Disneyland," Sandi recalls. "We took our vacations to Clarkston."

The parents of two sons and a daughter, the Englehorns have three grandsons and another grandchild on the way. From their vantage point atop the Snake River breaks at the southern edge of Clarkston, Steve said he's not only able to see his grandparents' home in the distance, but also look back with fresh perspective on his 30 years with the state patrol and 12 years with the state's



Tribune/David Johnson
Steve and Sandy Englehorn

Supreme Court justices. "I started in King County, where I was a trooper," Steve recalls. "It was an experience that was really special, but it took about seven months for me to get acclimated." As a 23-year

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EVERYONE: Accident injuries turned his career in new directions

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old working the busy highways around Seattle, Steve says he graduated from the police academy and literally hit the ground driving.

"The potential is always there, the element of danger," Steve says of patrolling the highways. "I confronted individuals out there on the highway and made arrests, and it was dicey. The one thing I really appreciate is the training I received."

Somewhat ironically, Steve and Sandi were involved in an auto accident that afforded Steve a new opportunity. After mending from injuries, he recalls, a new career route opened for him. He received training and became a fatal accident investigator.

"When the phone rang, it meant somebody had died," Sandi recalls.

Eventually, Steve moved to the police academy at Shelton, Wash., where he taught for a number of years before the agency sent him to Northwestern University in Illinois, where he received a degree in police administration and management. He came back to Washington to continue climbing the career ladder as an instructor at the academy, an administrative assistant to a deputy chief, head of the agency's chemical testing program, commander of the safety-education program, and finally commander of the auto theft and vehicle identification program.

He retired at age 53

with the rank of lieutenant, spent a year working around the house and within a year or so decided to seek the open position as bailiff of the supreme court. A total of 147 people applied. Steve was selected.

"He's a glorified servant to the court," Steve jests about the demanding position. "You have nine justices and you provide, No. 1, security for them and the building. I did that 12 years after 30 years as an officer of the Washington State Patrol."

As for what makes a good cop, Steve said the answer isn't anything new, but he offers it against a contemporary law enforcement backdrop that's become increasingly dangerous. "It seems like it's accelerated. There's more danger than when I started."

Nonetheless, Steve said, being a police officer always has and always will be steeped in a pretty simple notion. "What makes a good cop," he said, "is a person who can be as sensitive as a lamb, and as strong and voracious as a lion, and knowing when each extreme is appropriate. You have to have compassion for people, and treat them with dignity and respect, but never lose your guard. Never become complacent."

Drawing on her own experience as a good cop's good wife, Sandi nods approval.

Johnson may be contacted at djohnson@intribune.com or (208) 883-0564.