November 20, 2026

Roxsand

Keeping Our Balance When Things Go Sideways

Before the holiday rush officially kicks off next week, it's worth taking a quick pause to appreciate one of the best traits in American history—and right here at L. G. Everist: knowing how to stay steady when plans take an unexpected turn.

Back in the 1940s, a naval engineer named Richard James was working on a very serious problem: designing tension springs to keep sensitive ship instruments balanced and steady in rough seas. One day, he accidentally knocked one of his prototype springs off a shelf. Instead of crashing to the floor, the spring gracefully "walked" end-over-end down a stack of books, onto a tabletop, and down to the floor.
His original plan had literally fallen off the table. But instead of tossing it out, James and his wife, Betty, saw the potential in that unexpected bounce. They named it the Slinky, secured a $500 loan, and turned an engineering "mistake" into one of America's most iconic toys.

150 Years of Finding Steady Ground
In the aggregates, rail, concrete, and paving business, we know a thing or two about heavy lifting, rough terrain, and the occasional curveball. Whether it's unpredictable Midwest and Mountain weather, shifting project timelines, or logistical hurdles on the tracks and roads, things don't always go strictly according to the blueprint.

As we celebrate 150 years of L. G. Everist this year, that ability to pivot is really the secret behind how we've lasted a century and a half. You don't stay strong across eight states—from Sioux Falls to Colorado and everywhere in between—without a team that knows how to adapt, troubleshoot on the fly, and keep things moving safely when conditions change.

Shout-Outs from the Field & Office

Just like Richard James found a win when his spring went sideways, our crews and support teams find smart ways to keep projects on track every single day. A few recent wins worth celebrating:

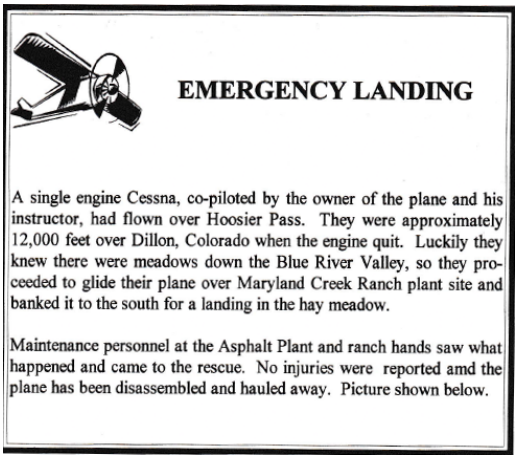
- **D & I Railroad:** navigating around the federal funding schedule to be able to start a rail relay project this year with completion slated for 2027.
- **Portable Crew:** switching from 1 ½" down to a special Spalls Material on a dime.
- **Horse Creek Quarry**: monitoring changing wind speeds to work safely and efficiently.

Here's to 150 years of solid foundations, steady hands, and a team that knows how to roll with whatever comes next. Have a great, safe weekend ahead!

Written by Rick Everist III, Family Office President

Birthdays This Week

Jordan VanWesten - Dell Rapids West | Gaylord Clark - Dell Rapids Shop
Elijah Triplett - Dell Rapids East | Richard Wallen - Hawarden | Ryan Pounds - Myrl & Roy's
Lyle Woods - Myrl & Roy's | Jayson Kriz - Nelson
Josue Ramirez - Firestone | Anthony Cottrell - West Farm Shop



EMERGENCY LANDING

A single engine Cessna, co-piloted by the owner of the plane and his instructor, had flown over Hoosier Pass. They were approximately 12,000 feet over Dillon, Colorado when the engine quit. Luckily they knew there were meadows down the Blue River Valley, so they proceeded to glide their plane over Maryland Creek Ranch plant site and banked it to the south for a landing in the hay meadow.

Maintenance personnel at the Asphalt Plant and ranch hands saw what happened and came to the rescue. No injuries were reported amd the plane has been disassembled and hauled away. Picture shown below.



Maryland Creek Ranch in Summit County, CO, was a site developed and operated by L. G. Everist, Inc. in 1965. It shifted ownership to Everist Materials in the 2000s. The summer of 1998 was quite exciting, according the article above for this week's *Weekly Throwback.*

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