



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

Story ID: 51

Source: "Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19," a project initiated at Western Washington University by Western Libraries Heritage Resources division. Originally published online at: <https://mabel.wwu.edu/islandora/object/wwu:37686>

Story date 03/12/2021

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Story contribution

When the pandemic began, it took some time to realize that where others were suffering from the loss of frequent interactions with others and the ability to go out and socialize, not much had changed for me. Before the shelter orders I had occasionally visited those who were close to me, or I would sometimes go out to get away from home and to see new things. But these events were few and far between for the most part. It was with the admonishment for the continued shelter orders online that I had realized where others were suffering from this isolation, I not only wasn't suffering any more than usual, but in fact had grown to enjoy the quiet solitude. This has given me some anxiety about my personal habits and how I miss out on a lot of time outdoors, doing activities, or socializing. Not because I am missing out, but because I've become worried about being abnormal in some way. I'm realizing that though this has always been comfortable to me, maybe the way I isolate myself from others and my community might not be the healthiest way to live. With these realizations I have begun thinking of ways to create outdoor or social hobbies for myself (for once it is safe to frequently be outside, of course). But, what if I begin these activities and realize that I have missed out on so much? Alternatively what if I go through with these plans and realize that those activities make me miserable, then making me feel even more like an outsider or a weirdo? I feel like I have given myself even more hurdles to jump through as people begin to come together and out of their homes due to progress with vaccines. I hope to find a way out of this, a better person than I was before the pandemic, but I worry about the habits I'll both need to break and form for that to happen.

End of contributed text from Story ID: 51 - Anonymous