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the changes he experienced were just a natural part of getting older. When he turned 76, he went in for an eye exam at Ridge Eye Care and Dr. DiPietro found that he had cataracts, a gradual clouding of the eye’s natural lens that lies behind the iris and pupil. Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss in people over the age of 40 and, untreated, are the main cause of blindness worldwide. Luckily for Monty, the disorder was discovered early, saving his vision from meeting an untimely fate.

Though cataracts are best treated by removal, there are certain conditions necessary to guarantee the best possible results after surgery. For Monty, this meant waiting a few years after the initial diagnosis and having his vision carefully monitored. In November of 2017, he was given the green light and underwent surgery to remove his cataracts—first in his right eye, and later his left. The experience gave him his first real opportunity to compare the eyesight he had been living with to the eyesight he had as a young man. The difference between his right and left eye after the first surgery was night and day. He recalls noticing the brilliant red color and sharp lines of the digital readout on his alarm clock on the first night of his surgery, a significant change to the blurred numbers seen in his left eye. The next morning, he realized how different everything else was. Color, clarity, and sharpness were immediately increased in his right eye. As he put it, “It was like seeing a dimly lit room in my left eye and a room lit with bright LED bulbs in my right!”

In December, Monty received the second surgery on his left eye and cannot imagine seeing the world any other way than he does now. Both surgeries were quick and painless; the only discomfort he remembers from either was from the eye drops he had to use before and after the surgeries. “It was truly amazing,” Monty said, “It was so easy, really, the easiest thing I’ve ever done. I was apprehensive beforehand but it was a cakewalk, and everything is just so clear now!”

Asked about his experience with North Valley Eye Care, Monty lit up and said, “Dr. Barthelow is a great man and an excellent doctor; he sure knows what he’s doing. They have a real swell bunch of people working over there. Their surgical coordinator was such a sweetheart, and made sure that everything worked with my schedule. They’re all wonderful people and provide great care. I would most definitely recommend them.” When asked for his advice to others experiencing changes in vision, he replied, “Go see your doctor now and take care of it as soon as you can. The sooner, the better!”

Monty turned 80 on February 4th and does not look a day over 60. His eyesight is that of a 20 year old and he couldn’t be happier with the change.

IF YOU’RE LIKE MONTY AND HAVE EXPERIENCED CHANGES IN YOUR VISION, CALL NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE TODAY AT (530) 891-1900. AS HE’LL BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU, IT’LL BE THE BEST DECISION YOU’LL EVER MAKE.

Monty Niles

OF NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE

There are a number of things that get better with age, but eyesight is rarely considered one of them. For Monty Niles, turning 80 brought a fair number of changes to his life; surprisingly, having 20/20 vision was one of them. Thanks to the team at North Valley Eye Care, Monty’s vision is back to that of his youth, and he could not imagine a better way to take on a new decade.

Originally from Livingston, Montana, Monty grew up on the Yellowstone River just north of Yellowstone National Park. Graced from birth with one of the most picturesque landscapes in the United States, Monty developed an early appreciation for the beauty around him and the vision that let him take it all in. That acute vision served him well over the years and allowed a certain level of attention to detail that helped make a name for himself in Montana’s construction industry. Though you may not know him personally, you may already be acquainted with his work, as he helped build the highly sought after cabins at Yellowstone National Park.

Monty eventually moved to Paradise in 1960 to be near his father and began working as a painting contractor. The years passed by and with each passing year his vision began to fade. Though his once perfect eyesight had considerably degraded, the change over time was so gradual that he had barely noticed it himself. Monty assumed that