Nobody likes to hear bad news, but sometimes the good news that comes with it can be a huge inspiration.

Dorothy Ortner recently ran into her own share of bad news, but fortunately it was coupled with not only good, but with great news.

On a trip to the Front Range, Ortner experienced a misfortune many can relate to; she lost a holder containing her picture ID, two insurance cards and some emergency cash. Anyone who has misplaced a wallet or pocketbook knows the frustration Ortner must have felt.

Accompanying the irritation is often a very small hope that the belongings might be returned. Dorothy noted she strongly hoped for the return of her belongings, yet prepared herself for the worst. She began taking all the necessary measures to prevent an identity theft.

Despite what may have been expected, when Ortner returned home, waiting for her was a post-card from the Denver Police Department. The postcard informed her that her possessions had been turned in and she could come claim them.

News stories of crime and theft have taught many to expect the worst in these situations. Even Ortner thought certainly the money wouldn't still be there, it must have been stolen. Encouragement can, however, be found in the fact that Ortner's story has a different ending.

Not only were her ID and insurance cards returned, but the cash was included. "It would have been so easy for the person to say 'this is my reward' and take the money, but they didn't," noted an astounded Ortner.

In Ortner's opinion, she could not keep this experience to herself. She believes the story could have a widespread impact even though it was a tiny incident. To her, this experience serves as a reminder that "people are basically good, and it is the work of each of us to continue to bring that good out in each other."

She doesn't know what the person had to go through to return her belongings, but she does know those who helped her with the fraud alert process put in a lot of time and effort, and she is thankful for both.

Ortner describes this simple little incident as a chance to encourage people to do what they are capable of doing, to treat others fairly and justly, to be honest and to pay it forward.