

Ten minutes with...

... Ted Hooley, veteran Takilma cowboy



Are you a native Oregonian?

No. I was born in Canada in 1914. Then I moved to Seattle, then down here. When I first arrived and had been here about 10 years or so, people would ask me if I had been around here very long and I said, "Ten years, and they're just beginning to call me by my first name;" and it was true. The natives didn't accept anybody outside the old-timers in the valley. But it wasn't too many years 'til I became an old-timer.

What were the 1920s like for you?

Well, I was a small-town boy from Yorktown, Saskatchewan. I come into Seattle and here are these cowboys riding horses around the street. There were buggies running up and down the street; lots of buggies with work horses and so on. I thought when you come to the big city, you left that stuff in the country, but in 1923 in that area, there was lots of that.

How did you end up down here in Oregon?

I lived in Fall City, Wash. I worked for a logging outfit that took up contracts with Puget Timber, which was the mill at Kerby at the time. They offered a raise in pay for anyone who would come down and join them, so I packed up my family in my car and came down to take a look. It looked good to me, so I stayed. May the 15th, 1946, I drove into the center of Kerby, and I turned around and stopped my car in the middle of the road and said, "My, what have I done?"

Did you work at the Kerby mill for a while?

No, never did work there. I'm a logger.

What areas did you log in?

You see these bare spots on the hills around here? I helped make most of 'em.

Do you have family in this area?

When the five-year logging contract was up, everyone went back to Washington. I was the only one that stayed here and raised my kids in Kerby and Cave Junction.

So you have a family of your own?

Yes, my wife, Emily, and I were happily married for 69 years. We had three boys. The oldest one has a birthday in May and he will be 70, the middle son is 64, and my youngest is 50. In a couple of days, I'll make 90; I hope. I also have eight grandkids and five great-grandkids.

What major changes have you noticed in Cave Junction since moving here?

The main street was a two-lane highway coming through town, and there was dirt on both sides of the road. You had to park nose into the curb rather than alongside it. There was an elementary school and a high school in Kerby, but no middle school; that came a number of years later. We used to log lots of one-log loads. They came out of this valley, one right after the other. Now when a truck comes through, it is full of little logs with at least 10 on it.

What do you like about living in this valley?

You don't drive on any road around here that there aren't trees on both sides of the road. It's just a beautiful valley. I like the friendliness of the people. When I moved out here 25 years ago or so, they told me that the hippies were going to rob me blind, but I can go away and leave my door unlocked and be safer here than I was in Cave Junction. The hippies haven't bothered me at all, and they have been good close friends, because I accepted them as a friend too; makes a big difference.

Have you worked elsewhere in our community?

For two years in the '60s, I was assistant fire chief for the (Illinois Valley Fire District). I was a volunteer fireman for several years too before that. I stopped volunteering when the chief got fired; so I quit. The chief at the time was a mechanic. They couldn't afford to pay too much money for wages then, so the chief used the fire hall as a garage to do outside mechanical work without permission.

Any hobbies?

When I was getting ready to retire, I had in mind to raise horses, so I started gathering up ponies. Pretty quick I had 17 head down in the pasture. I raised them, babies, mares, geldings; I had 'em all. I rode, trained, and broke them. I've done a lot of riding around here. Sometimes I've looked off into the bush and there would be a rifle pointing at me, but I keep on riding anyway.

One day, I went down to the store in Takilma; kind of a gathering place for the hippies. I went in, and there were about six or seven hippies standing around. I got their attention, and told them, "I'm going to be riding these hills whenever I take a notion. You can point your guns at me or do anything you want." But I said, "I'm gonna' go armed," and I says, "I won't tell on your pot gardens, I'll just ride by 'em, but I'm going to use these hills." I didn't have any more trouble after that. I told them where I stood and they understood that.

Have you always had an interest in horses?

All my life I've been a horse person, but I didn't have any until I retired. I got my first little pony about six months before I retired. I just kept buying and trading and selling horses until I got 17. I used to buck 8,000 bales of hay until I was 85. Because I had so many horses, many people in the Takilma community came to me for answers to horse problems.

What made you decide to stop breaking horses?

One day, it got to be too far to the ground. I fell off and it hurt so darn bad I couldn't get on again.

What's your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Strawberry.

Guardrail 'mystery' revealed

The "mystery crash" at Redwood Hwy. and Lakeshore Drive has been "solved."

According to information from Oregon State Police and Illinois Valley Fire District, two people were transported to Three Rivers Community Hospital (TRCH) in Grants Pass following a crash at the intersection of Redwood Hwy. and Lakeshore Drive Thursday evening, April 1.

Katherine Mantell, 21, of Grants Pass, was driving a Buick Regal north on Redwood Hwy. when she lost control of the vehicle and left the roadway. The vehicle destroyed a section of guardrail at the southeast corner of the intersection before coming to rest in McMullen Creek.

I.V. Volunteer Firefighter Waylon Sherman was apparently headed home for the evening when he noticed the damaged guardrail in passing. He located two of the vehicle's occupants walking down the street not far from the scene and stopped to offer assistance.

Mantel and one of her passengers, Richard Harris, 32, no address listed, were transported to TRCH and released. Mantel was cited for driving uninsured. Her other passengers, Aaron W. Delgado and Amber D. Monger, refused transport.

American Medical Response and OSP responded.

(Editor's Note: The reason for the "mystery" is that information initially was difficult to come by, and there was some misunderstanding on the part of the "News" because I.V. Fire District was not asked to respond.)

Vandals hit 26 roadway signs in I.V.

By MICHELLE BINKER
Staff Writer

Energetic vandals with apparently too much time on their hands went on a demolition spree during the Easter Sunday weekend, wrecking traffic signs at several valley locations.

A total of 26 warning and directional signs were pulled down on county roads Saturday night, April 10, said Brad Wittler, traffic control coordinator for the Josephine County Public Works Dept.

Wittler, who responded to make the repairs the next morning, Easter Sunday, said most of the signs were undamaged and simply needed to be reset. But five posts were broken, requiring replacement.

"Fortunately, the call came just before I sat down to Easter brunch," said Wittler.

The work took 16 man-hours to complete, eight of which were counted at time-and-a-half, as it was Sunday.

According to Wittler, the vandals tackled signs on Laurel Road, Caves Hwy., Holland Loop, and Dick George Road. Wittler also noted at least four signs down on Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT)-maintained roads.

An ODOT employee contacted for this story had no information about the incidents.

Setbacks changed for development on Laurel Road by CJ City Council

Commercial rezoning OK'd for new business at Hwy. 199 and Laurel

By MICHELLE BINKER
Staff Writer

Zoning issues, annexation, and an amendment to a planned unit development's (PUD) approval conditions dominated the Cave Junction City Council's meeting Monday night, April 12 in city hall.

The council acted on a zone change request on behalf of Fields Living Trust for property on N. Redwood Hwy.

The property, identified as Tax Lot 807, had been zoned single residential, but was changed to commercial, as the owners plan to locate a home improvement store there.

Informal announcement of the new store, which has a facility in the Grants Pass area, was made recently by Jim Frick of Century 21 Harris & Taylor.

For the sake of consistency, the property was rezoned on the Cave Junction Comprehensive plan, from multifamily residential to commercial.

The N. Redwood Hwy. area, which appears to be on the verge of becoming a busy commercial district, is of particular concern to the Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT).

Improving Hwy. 199 to provide safe ingress and egress from commercial sites is a significant issue. As such, ODOT has requested a meeting with affected property owners, city staff, ODOT officials and interested parties regarding development of refuge lanes or a safety corridor in the area. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 1 p.m. in city hall.

In a 4-0 decision, the council agreed to annex a property at 295 Hanby Lane. The 5.31-acre piece, previously zoned county rural residential-5, was designated single residential upon annexation.

Lots of books will be part of a yard sale Saturday, April 17 at the corner of E. River Street and Shadowbrook Drive from 8 to 11 a.m.

Councilman Sandi Lund was absent.

The council heard from Larry Osborn, representing the group developing Sunny Brook Manor

'Cedar Brook Manor' planned as new name for Cave Junction development

Estates at 497 Laurel Road.

He asked for an amendment to setback requirements in order to accommodate the largest possible housing unit in the development.

The council approved the request, after ensuring that an 18-foot minimum driveway length was maintained to accommodate

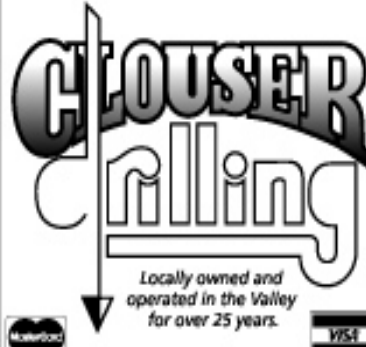
resident parking.

"Because this is a PUD, and not a typical subdivision, the developers have greater flexibility within the development" regarding setback requirements, explained Councilman Tony Paulson.

Osborn also indicated that a name change was in the offing for the development.

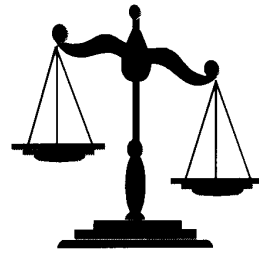
"Sunny Brook Farm," he explained, "is the name of a mental institution." Therefore, to avoid confusion, the Sunny Brook PUD is being rechristened "Cedar Brook Manor."

Street names will also be changed to reflect the new name.



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Birds of a feather...



...should stay together

If you see a baby bird on the ground, put it back in the nest or on a nearby branch. Babies taken from their mothers almost always die. If you love baby wildlife, leave them alone.



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A 90th birthday party for Ted Hooley will be held on Saturday, April 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Wild River Brewing in C.J. Friends and family are welcome.