

Laughter. It is the Best Medicine

By Gina Perkins

Jo Gardner Snook Dickison was part of the first nursing graduating class of 1941 in Baker City. Her memories, although slightly dimmed by a recent stroke, span several decades and include familiar names like Dr. Menzie McKim who took the blame for red ink the young woman spilled in the chart room, saving her from the wrath of a taskmaster nun. She remembers working at Doembecher and how children—and she—would become so attached.

She remembers getting "in so much trouble at school" that she considered quitting. An instructor who saw beyond the slight rebellion apparently got a glimpse of the nurse she believed the young woman could become. She gave her a chance to cover for a nurse in La Grande who needed to be absent and Dickison gleamed as she recalled how wonderfully they treated

her and how much she enjoyed working there.

She remembers a young boy from a prominent ranching family (now a grandpa himself with the initials of "G.C.") who came in for a vaccination and earned two pieces of candy because as she put it, "He put on the best show of the day, having thrown the best fit."

She shared how she'd been "campused" (grounded apparently in early 1940s jargon) for daring to walk around the school without stockings and for climbing out the window to take a motorcycle ride with her boyfriend (Dean Snook, her future husband). Her daughter, Peggy Pearson, remembers how her mom would be away sometimes for a couple of weeks at a time, coming home briefly as she stayed with people, caring for them in their home as they recovered from surgery or as they faced the end of their life.

All of the memories that Dickison shared, however, had one common thread. The feisty look in her eye which brought humor to those for whom she had cared. Her zest for life and spunky nature was reflected at her 80th birthday which had a Harley Davidson motorcycle theme. Dickison, of course, jumped on a motorcycle herself. Her 90th was a barn dance at the Thomas Ranch "Party Barn." She'll be 95 in August, but said in a firm voice in a way that only a mother can, "Peggy, no birthday parties this year."

The twinkle in both the eye of coming 95 year old and her daughter makes me wonder if special plans, although perhaps a bit quieter, just might be in the works.



Jo Gardner Snook Dickison wearing the cape and nurses hat she wore during her graduation from Nursing School in 1941. Dickison, 94, currently resides at Meadowbrook Place.

Memorial Day Events

Visit the Heritage Museum on May 25

The Baker County Museum Commission and Baker Heritage Museum Staff invite you to attend a celebration to honor those who have served on Monday May 25, 2015 from 2 - 3:30 p.m. at the Baker Heritage Museum.

Donors will share the stories behind several artifacts in our current central gallery exhibit and light snacks will be served. Free admission for everyone on Monday May 25 in honor of those who have served.

Memorial Day Services in Richland and Halfway

The Halfway Post #7847 will be doing Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 25, 2015 at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Valley Cemetery in Richland, and at 12 p.m. at the Pine Valley Cemetery in Halfway. Please join the VFW and the Auxiliary to honor our veterans.

Sumpter Activities

Excursion trains will be using the Major Holiday Weekend schedule on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Round trips will depart from the McEwen Depot at 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 3 p.m.. Round trips will depart from the Sumpter Station at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., with a one-way trip from Sumpter to McEwen at 4:30 p.m..

Memorial Day Weekend also marks the first of three large Flea Markets held every summer in Sumpter.

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1941 nursing graduating class. From left: Sister Colma, Susan Kirk, Lavelle Bennett, Leah McNeil, Jo Gardner, May Lasiter, Mildren Shafer, Dorothy Ferney, Sister Antonia

Local Students to Present Information on Brownfield Cleanup

By Emily Braswell

In 1994 the cleanup of brownfield sites was made possible through the DEQ's Environmental Cleanup program. Today, with assistance and funding available from grant and loan funding provided through the Environmental Protection Agency, the Oregon Business Development Department and a number of other programs and services, finance and labor related hurdles implicated with a brownfield property can easily be averted.

In Baker County alone, 24 specific brownfield sites have been recognized and have completed all cleanup efforts through the Oregon DEQ Voluntary Cleanup Program. The first of these was identified in the fall of 1998 after a large amount of diesel was spilled after an accident on I-84 at Milepost 289. In addition to the completed sites, two other Baker County properties are currently undergoing the Cleanup Pathways: the former Baker Sanitary Landfill on east Campbell and the former Ostwald Machine Shop at 2430 Balm Street.

The Eagle Cap Innovative High School, has a mission to "provide opportunities for students to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens and embrace lifelong learning in a safe and positive environment." So in 2010, when soil and water tests of the district's newly acquired Ostwald Machine Shop property came back positive for contaminants, the opportunity was seized to teach hands-on, industry focused and service based education to local students.

The class is called Environmental Science: Brownfield in Baker. Since the property is owned by the School District, the educational possibilities are endless. The main focus of the project has been to restore the property to a usable and salable condition and to educate participating high school students and community stakeholders about the brownfield process, impacts

and solutions.

Through the Oregon Business Development Department the project was awarded \$200,000 in grant money from the US EPA Oregon Coalition Brownfields Cleanup Fund and the Ostwald Site Committee selected AMEC Foster Wheeler to be the project's Environmental Consultant. Cleanup of the site will be paused over the summer break, then resume in Sept. to be completed by Dec. The grant won't expire until Aug. of 2016, which will allow the school to sustain community outreach and educational courses through the end of the next school year.

Course instructor Megan Alameda is already planning and looking for another brownfield site so she can continue offering the course to students. She says the students really enjoy the class. When describing how well the kids have taken to the educational aspect of the course she said, "They talk about how much the class has opened their eyes to look at their community differently, especially when it comes to the role they take in it. They keep stability in mind when working on projects."

The class will host an open house on the site at the 5-J District Office (2090 Fourth Street) on June 1, 2015 from 5-7 p.m. The community is invited to the event, enjoy appetizers provided by Eagle Cap Culinary Arts students, and hear about the "knowledge of brownfields and local environmental issues, designed and presented by Eagle Cap and BHS students, as well as the class's consulting firm."

For more information, contact Megan Alameda: malameda@baker.k12.or.us. To attain brownfield assistance, contact DEQ Brownfields Coordinator Gil Wistar by calling 503-229-5512 or visit their website at www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/brownfields/index.htm.

Baker School District 5J:

Ostwald Former Machine Shop Brownfield Site Project PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE*

June 1, 2015 | 5 - 7 pm

Baker School District Office 2090 Fourth Street

*Created & presented by: High School students in Environmental Science Class & Environmental Consultants from Amec Foster Wheeler

What is happening at the Old Ostwald Machine Shop?
What are brownfields? Why are there 80 in Baker City?
What are students at our high schools doing for our community?
Answers to these questions and more (plus appetizers!)

Open House Agenda:

5 - 6 pm	OPEN HOUSE MEET & GREET: Meet with students from the high school Environmental Science Class. They will present the different pieces of the Ostwald brownfield project that have been happening in your backyard. **Appetizers available, made by Eagle Cap Culinary Arts.
6 - 6:30 pm	OSTWALD PROJECT OVERVIEW PRESENTATION & PANEL: Presentation and opportunity to ask questions about the Ostwald project or brownfields in general.
6:30 - 7 pm	OPEN HOUSE CONTINUES

To RSVP or for Questions:
contact Megan Alameda • 971-340-0718 • malameda@baker.k12.or.us

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May 22-28

TOMORROWLAND pg

A teen and a former boy-genius inventor embark on a mission to unearth the secrets of a place somewhere in time and space that exists in their collective memory.

FRI-SUN (3:45) 6:45 9:30
MONDAY (3:45) 6:45
TUES-THURS 6:45

PITCH PERFECT 2 PG-13

After a humiliating performance, the Barden Bellas enter an international competition to regain their status.

FRI-SUN (4:10) 7:10 9:40
MONDAY (4:10) 7:10
TUES-THURS 7:10

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD R

In a stark desert landscape where humanity is broken, two rebels just might be able to restore order.

FRI-SUN (4:00) 7:00 9:35
MONDAY (4:00) 7:00
TUES & WED 7:00

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Gina Perkins, Editor - Publisher
news@therconline.com

Hayden Perkins,
Reporter/Web Designer
hayden@therconline.com

Emily Braswell, Baker Correspondent
emily@therconline.com

Heather Honeywell,
Double H Productions
Graphic Design/Production
heather@therconline.com

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