



HOOD RIVER NEWS ad from 1910: Don't be a potato.

Photos by Trisha Walker

# History is falling apart

By **TRISHA WALKER**  
News staff writer

With the beginning of the new year, my thoughts turn to one specific task: Rounding up archive books for my weekly Yesteryears column.

I started collecting the '00 years in November — I learned the hard way a few years ago that some books are missing from our shelves and I may need to borrow a volume or two from the Hood River County Library, which has a second collection and is conveniently located across the street from the News' office.

Um, no, the library archives are not available for checkout, even to me. When I discovered 1917 was missing from our shelves, I was thrilled to find it at the library — and grateful that Executive Director Rachael Fox let me touch it. I did the whole of that year in two days, sitting at one of the computer stations there at the library.

We do what we must. Also, that was before I made the excellent investment in a laptop.

Luck was on my side this time, however, because I found everything I was looking for in one afternoon, aside from 1920



AN EXAMPLE of a past Yesteryear's column — from 1950.

and 1930. (I was originally looking for 1900, too, until I realized I wasn't finding it because it didn't exist. We turned 114 this year. Still amazing.) Fast-forward a few weeks, when, having an unexpected opening in my schedule, I delved back into the archives to look one more time.

The 1930s were hidden in plain sight, as they say — its cover bore no markings of the year inside. It wasn't until I went shelf by shelf, opening any unknown volumes, that I found it. Buoyed by my success, I went back to look for the 1920s. Again, I went shelf by shelf. And what I noticed, near the bottom of one of the racks, was a small stack of loose pages.

Huh. So that's what happened to the 1920s.

A few shelves later, I found another small stack of loose pages. Yep, more of the 1920s.

This posed a bit of a problem. I took the first small stack up to the front office — I needed some serious counterspace not available in my cubical — and then went back for the second stack. I noticed crumpled pages and more than a few barely holding themselves together. They were mostly out of order.

They were so delicate that I felt bad touching them for fear they'd disintegrate under my fingertips.

I got them into reasonable order — no help for the pages that are missing — and then went into the warehouse in search for a piece of cardboard large enough to form a temporary cover. I found just the thing on top of a pallet of phone books, way too big to reasonably work in the long term — it won't fit on the archive shelf — but one that's fine until I can find a more lasting solution.

In all my years of compiling Yesteryears, I have never, EVER come across a book in such terrible condition as 1920 (although you could argue it's not a book, what with that stack of loose pages and all), although I have seen quite a few books in less than stellar shape. There are people in the past who apparently thought it was perfectly okay to cut out a story or ad from the middle of a page in one of our bound copies. There are books missing entire sections, or have pages that have been folded, torn or otherwise mishandled. It mystifies me why some books are in better shape than others: Why was 1910 so well preserved when 1940 was not? Why is the cover of 1970 ripped? Why is 1950 still technically "bound," even if it's sitting loose inside its cover? And why are 1960s pages so much more yellowed than the others?

I don't know, but it's rather distressing. I'm doing what I can to hold them together.

## A brief history

Yesteryears looks back at Hood River County history — but what's the history of Yesteryears?

As far as I can tell, sometime in the 1930s, a column, titled "Yesteryears — From Our Files," started appearing in the Hood River News. (Or I should say, they were definitely a thing by

See HISTORY, page B3

## YESTERYEARS

# Sleet causes problems in 1950

### 1910 — 110 YEARS AGO

After a successful career of 17 years, the Hood River Fruit Growers' Union was dissolved Saturday. The defunct organization originally handled all the fruit at Hood River, but for several years has shipped the strawberries and small fruits exclusively. It was the oldest on the Pacific Coast. Its dissolution was brought about in order to turn all the fruit business handled by organized growers over to its sister union conducted by the apple growers.

### 1920 — 100 YEARS AGO

A meeting of the teachers of the Hood River High and public schools was called on Monday to complete the organization for the local teachers' association. Various phases of the schoolwork were discussed, but the topic of interest was the matter of increasing teachers' salaries. Miss Wilkinson explained a careful compilation of expenditure, and was able to prove that, with a salary of \$900 for 12 months, a teacher, after her board and room are paid for, has but \$120 left to pay for clothing, books and recreation.

### 1930 — 90 YEARS AGO

Our little feathered friends are facing a serious problem of obtaining a livelihood since all natural feed is buried deep under snow. Both in town and country, every resident can do a kindness every day by putting out feed and water for the birds. When feeding the birds, residents should place the food where the birds can eat in safety, for the sleek, well-fed housecat is ever on the prowl to strike down any bird within reach, and the snow is now becoming firm enough to permit cats to carry on their campaign of destruction of bird life.

### 1940 — 80 YEARS AGO

Taking full advantage of fine, almost spring-like weather, many orchardists are now busy pruning, not only pear but, in the lower valley, apple trees. Even an east wind and a prospect of change in temperature yesterday did not hinder growers in their efforts to get as much of their pre-spring work completed before the many other chores commence to pile up and make it impractical for one man to do the work.

### 1950 — 70 YEARS AGO

Sleet — and a lot of it — spanked down on a heavy snowpack throughout Hood River County on Wednesday and Thursday, capping a winter's storm that ranks as the worst in this area in at least 20 years. By official count, there was a snowfall during the past week of 64.4 inches in the lower Hood River Valley. Upper valley reports showed about the same snowfall during the period and depth on the ground at Parkdale of better than 60 inches. The



Hood River News archives

## JANUARY 17, 1980

Heavy equipment moves in to clear tons of snow from Oak Street Jan. 12, easing congestion that had choked the downtown for days. Official measurement at the experiment station indicated there was 47 inches on the ground at one time there, one of the highest totals since measurements were being recorded. Some parts of the valley reported totals as deep as five and six feet. It was enough to collapse several roofs, including Wy'east gym, a segment of Stadelman Fruit storage and a Cascade Locks Lumber Co. building.

coldest day thus far came early Tuesday morning. W.A. Meyle, weather observer at the Hood River Experiment Station farm, reported a low of 5 degrees.

### 1960 — 60 YEARS AGO

The final step to completion of the four-lane highway between Hood River and The Dalles will be open for bids today by the State Highway Commission. A paved connection to Koberg beach, a provision gained by the local chamber of commerce and Port of Hood River Commission in hearings with the commission, will be included in this project. The Koberg connection opens from the westbound lane only. Thus Hood River drivers will have to travel to Mosier in order to utilize that entrance to the beach.

### 1970 — 50 YEARS AGO

Parkdale was a gloomy sight. But not really a shocking one. Not after we had seen Dee. We drove through the valley on Tuesday, in the aftermath of the storm. We went first up the hill to Dee Flat. The word which everyone seems to be using about Dee, unbelievable, is the one which came to our mind, too. Unbelievable to see whole orchards with their sturdy young trees lying down in the snow like forsythia bushes. Incredible to see giant power poles broken in half by ice. An eerie cold had settled over the area, narrowing visibility and giving the whole scene a still more chilling aspect. The fog seemed to enclose us, and the only sounds we could hear were ominous ones: Ice falling heavily and the snap of branches cracking.

### 1980 — 40 YEARS AGO

A long-awaited new post office opened its doors for business here Monday, the culmination of years of planning — and occasional controversy. Located immediately west of McIsaac's Store, the new

## VERBATIM

### Says Unlighted Bikes Are Hazard

A new traffic hazard, unlighted bicycles on county roads at night, has been reported the past few days by motorists, who have requested the News bring this hazard to the attention of parents whose sons or daughters own bicycles.

Last week, it is asserted, two motorists narrowly avoided running down bicycle riders of youthful age, on the pavement of the West side, and say that, owing to rain on the windshield of the car, it was impossible to see

the unlighted bicycles in the darkness.

Under Oregon law, every vehicle, bicycle or wagon, as well as cars and trucks, must carry suitable lights between sunset and dawn. But aside from this, say these motorists, the hazard is not only to the bicycle rider, who may not be injured, but also to the motorist, who may chance to have heart trouble.

— Hood River News, January 19, 1940

facility is a one-level, frame building with a rustic exterior. Name of the building will be Mt. Hood-Parkdale, and mail going out carries the Mt. Hood postmark. This system represented a compromise to keep the Mt. Hood Post Office name alive, even though the merger moved the office away from the community about a mile east to Parkdale.

### 1990 — 30 YEARS AGO

Proper signing on the interstate bridge has long been a puzzlement for the Port of Hood River. Faced with a plethora of information that needs to be posted, the port fears a distracting "Burma Shave" effect that could draw attention of motorists who need to concentrate on maneuvering the narrow span. Signs are being prepared, however, to conform with recommendations of bridge engineers who conducted an in-depth inspection of the Oregon approach in October 1989.

### 2000 — 20 YEARS AGO

An advisory committee is recommending several changes in the way tourism is promoted in Hood River County in a list of proposals that includes

criticism of operations at the Hood River Visitor Center. In a series of recommendations presented to the county board of commissioners Tuesday, the county Transient Room Tax Committee proposes the county increase spending for tourism promotion, but also exercise more oversight over promotional programs, which are largely led by the Hood River County Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor's Council.

### 2010 — 10 YEARS AGO

On Sunday evening, an "R4, D4" avalanche tore down Mount Hood, collecting thousands of tons of snow, ice, rocks and trees on its way down three different drainages on the south and east sides of the mountain. The event was triggered when a slab almost a mile wide broke free from about the 10,650-foot level on what is known as the Wy'east face. The slab avalanche triggered slides into White River Canyon, Newton Canyon and Clark Canyon.

Compiled by Trisha Walker and Emily Fitzgerald, News staff writers

# Solve the problem of 'from small to big'

The Hood River Art Club welcomes artist Nancy Houfek-Brown for a workshop on Thursday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the FISH Food Bank, 1130 Tucker Road.

Houfek-Brown will demonstrate different techniques and materials on the use of an overlay grid, how to measure for the transfer and how to make the new drawing come to life on a larger surface, said a press release.

Participants are welcome to bring a small image and drawing/painting materials

that will allow for practicing the techniques taught by Houfek-Brown to translate the small image to a large surface. Please include a ruler and extra-fine point sharpie.

For more information, see the Hood River Art Club Facebook page. There is a participant fee of \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The Hood River Art Club meets each Thursday, September to May, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the FISH Food Bank. Meetings are open to the public.

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## Birth Announcement

### Jade Guardado Ruiz

A daughter, Jade Ameri Guardado Ruiz, was born on Nov. 6, 2019, at Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital to Lorena and Gerardo

Guardado of Hood River. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches long. She joins siblings Jennifer (15), Ceasar (14) and Jailah (6). Grandparents are Maria and Jose Ruiz of Mosier and Delia and Serafin of Tangamandapio, Michoacan, Mexico.

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