



Steve Tool/Chieftain

These antique farm implements and more inside the building are waiting for those who enjoy a trip back in time. Erl McLaughlin, owner/proprietor of Sunrise Iron LLC is holding an open exhibition of his collection on Aug. 1 at 65708 Sunrise Road in rural Enterprise.

Annual tractor show approaching

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

Winters can get long if you're a farmer who doesn't watch a lot of television. To alleviate the boredom, local wheat rancher, Erl McLaughlin, took up a hobby that turned into more than a hobby. McLaughlin collects and restores antique tractors and other farm equipment, which he calls Sunrise Iron LLC.

Being the type of man who likes sharing his finds and works with the world, McLaughlin is holding the 20th annual open viewing of his collection, as well as a number of his artworks in the form of wagon wheel tables, lithographs on Aug. 1 at his ranch located at 65708 Sunrise Road just outside of Enterprise.

McLaughlin recently added a 100 X 40-foot addition to the previous 120 X 40-foot facility in addition to his showcase building to keep up with newly

restored works of art.

"I've been collecting this stuff since about 1983, just for the sheer fun of it. I don't have any livestock, and winters are long in Enterprise. I'm trying to widen my horizons with new items, so families with a wide variety of interests can visit," McLaughlin said.

Along with tractors and farm equipment, the facility holds such antique items as clothes wringers, wood cook stoves, a door knob collection and even a restored vintage chuck wagon that looks stout enough to hitch up a team of horses and hit the trail.

When McLaughlin buys a piece with restoration in mind, he restores it to like-new appearance as well as working condition. Although many of the tractors are in the neighborhood of 100 years old, all but one are in operating condition. "I've tried to paint them all original colors and apply original decals. In fact, all

my horse-drawn stuff is also in working condition," McLaughlin said.

The oldest tractor in the collection is a 1915 Model 10-20 Case, one of only two left in existence. Some of the horse-drawn equipment dates back to the Civil War era while the newest piece of equipment is a 1936 tractor. His favorite piece is the one he's working on now. "You've really got to like this stuff, including the dirty work to get something presentable, which can take from 50 to 500 hours. Pretty near every piece on the equipment is either broke, gone or needs attention," McLaughlin said. He isn't afraid to put in some travel time to get a desired piece, traveling as far as Saskatchewan, Canada, to obtain a John Deere tractor.

McLaughlin isn't even sure how many pieces he has in his collection although he numbers the collection in his showcase facility at over 100. "I've got



Steve Tool/Chieftain

This old M.Rumley Co. tractor must have done its share of work back in the day. The patent for this tractor was recorded in 1887. This tractor and other items are available for viewing at Sunrise Iron LLC on Sunrise Road just outside of Enterprise.

more than that at other facilities elsewhere in the county," McLaughlin said.

"I encourage people to come visit all days of the year, but for one-on-one time, don't come

on tour days. That's how I learn things and get ideas for new projects," McLaughlin said.

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RULE: True-crime writer with ties to area dies

Continued from Page A1

Rule said she was fascinat-

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BIRTH

A daughter,
Hendrix Ellen Pace,
was born July 13, 2015
in Walla Walla to David
and Brooke Pace of Enterprise.
Grandparents are Doris
and Scott Noland, Lyle and
Heidi Follett and Debbie
and Swede (deceased) Pace.
Great-grandparents are
Jack and Dorothy Pace, Dallas
Eckstein and Norma Follett.

ed by killers' lives, going back to their childhood to find clues about why they did what they did.

After attending numerous workshops on crime topics from DNA to arson, local law enforcement, the FBI and the Justice Department started turning to Rule for her expertise on serial murders.

She aided the Green River Task Force as that group sought another Seattle-area serial killer, passing along tips that her readers shared. She wrote a book about the case, "Green River, Running Red."

Rule is known to Wallowa County residents as the crime writer who penned the 2003 best-seller "Heart Full of Lies," an investigation of the

2000 killing of Chris Northon by his wife Liysa while the couple was on a camping trip in the area.

Liysa Northon pleaded guilty in July 2001, in Enterprise, to first-degree manslaughter and asserted that she was a victim of domestic abuse and acted in self-defense when she killed her husband. She was sentenced to 12 years in the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville.

When Rule's book came out, Liysa Northon sued Rule for defamation. The case was dismissed.

In 2011, the story caught fire again when Rick Swart, the former owner/editor/publisher of The Wallowa County Chieftain, published a story in the Seattle Weekly magazine in which he criticized Rule's version of the story, saying the book "better describes the author than her subject." Swart's account went on to detail numerous incidents of assault as reported by Northon.

The Seattle Weekly didn't back off the story, but printed an editor's comment making numerous corrections, after discovering Swart was in love with Liysa Northon. Nevertheless, Rule sued the Weekly, its editor Caleb Hannan and Rick Swart for defamation. In February 2014, a King County Superior Court judge dismissed Rule's suit, agreeing with the defense that it violat-

ed Washington's Anti-SLAPP law, which protects individuals from "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" — suits that essentially silence critics and penalize free speech in the public arena.

In May 2015 the Washington (state) Supreme Court struck down the state's anti-SLAPP law, however, and in June a three-judge panel in Washington's Court of Appeals remanded Rule's defamation case to trial court for further proceedings.

Swart and Northon married while Northon was still in prison two months after the publication of Swart's 2011 story.

Northon was paroled in 2012 and joined Swart and her children in Eagle Creek in Clackamas County.

Rule was born in 1931 in Lowell, Michigan, to a schoolteacher and a football, basketball and track coach. They moved around a lot when she was a kid, traveling from Michigan, to Pennsylvania, Oregon and California because of her father's coaching career.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in creative writing, with minors in psychology, criminology and penology.

In April, prosecutors filed charges against two of her sons, alleging they took thousands of dollars from her.

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Rabbits, Ribbons & Roses

Live Music By K.C. KUNKLE Fri. Aug. 7 at 5pm

Live Music By OLIVIA Wed. Aug. 5 at 6pm

5K RUN WALK Sat. Aug. 1st 8am

Schedule of Selected Events

SAT. AUGUST 1
▶ 9am 4-H Dog Show

SUN-TUES AUGUST 2-4
▶ 8am Sun-Tues 4-H Horse Show

MON. AUGUST 3
▶ 4-H Exhibits to Cloverleaf
▶ Open Class Non-Perishable to Cloverleaf

TUES. AUGUST 4
▶ Open Class Perishable to Cloverleaf

WED.-SAT. AUGUST 5-8
▶ 10 am Cloverleaf Hall Opens

WED. AUGUST 5
▶ 2-6 pm 4-H/FFA Livestock Entries

THURS.-FRI. AUGUST 6-7
▶ 8:30 am 4-H/FFA Livestock Show
▶ 7 pm Grand Champion Classes

SAT. AUGUST 8
▶ 8 am Small Animal Show

Special Events

WED. AUGUST 5
▶ 9am Planter Contest Entries

THURS. AUG 6
▶ 1 pm Grange Pie, Ice Cream & Entertainment

FRI. AUG 7
▶ 5-7 pm K.C. Kunkle LIVE
▶ 8-10 pm Teen Dance

SAT. AUG 8
▶ 10 am Pee Wee Showmanship
▶ 11 am Games on the grass

4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK SALE 6PM

For a full schedule call 541-426-4097 or go to extension.oregonstate.edu/wallowa