

Enlistment forces schools to cancel events

OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Sheryl Watson

100 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1917

• Thirty-two more recruits for the army and navy left Enterprise this week, bringing the total to 71. The generous response of this county to the call for volunteers has given rise to the feeling that it should receive special consideration when conscription is put into effect.

• Wallowa County farmers are fully alive to the need of the hour — that of planting every available acre to crops. The farmers will put in all the grain they can, seeding well into June. They also will plant many times more potatoes than ever before in the history of the county.

• High schools in the county have been sorely disorganized by the enlistment of many of the boys. Practically all the larger boys in the schools at Joseph, Enterprise, Lostine and Wallowa have gone into one branch of the service or another, and many girls have quit, in sympathy with them.

The absence of the boys has forced new arrangements in school activities for the remainder of the year. The county athletic meet has been called off, as have the state meets.

Several of the boys who have gone into the navy have written home in a vein showing they like the service. Wendell Burleigh wrote: “I love the cows and chickens but this is the life for me.”

70 YEARS AGO

May 8, 1947

• Graduation exercises for the Lostine High School graduating class will be held Wednesday evening, May 14. Graduates are Carmen Armon and Arlyne Caudle.

• Thirty-two senior girls from the Joseph, Lostine, Wallowa and Enterprise schools were entertained at the lovely home of Mrs. C. N. Miller at the annual tea sponsored by the AAUW. The house was tastefully decorated with spring flowers and Mrs. C.C. Jacobs played incidental music.

• Alder Slope: Members of the Lucky Six breakfast club received 4-H beanies as May Day gifts from their lead-



Fishing camp back in the day.

er Mrs. Louis Johnson. The Knit & Stitch 4-H clothing club met Sunday afternoon at the home of their leader, Mrs. Barbara McCormack. 14 were present. The girls are learning to make pin cushions.

• Paradise: The Deer Creek school will have its picnic and closing day program Friday.

• The Joseph sophomore class, accompanied by class adviser Maida Estes and Supt. Gould, enjoyed a hamburger feed at the foot of the lake last Thursday evening, then all of them went to the show in Enterprise.

50 YEARS AGO

May 4, 1967

• Five candidates have entered for Queen of the 1967

Chief Joseph Days Court: Susan Benson, Barbara Pace, Darlene Van Arsdale, Donna Tippet and Lynn Grote.

• Janet Oveson has been announced as the valedictorian of the WHS 1967 graduating class and Mary Clark will be salutatorian.

• Joan Kennedy and Sheila McCain have compiled the highest cumulative grade point averages in four years of high school work while at Joseph High School.

• More than 100 attended the charter banquet of the new Joseph Lions club, which was held Saturday evening at the Chief Joseph hotel. The meeting was called to order by Don Swart, president of the Enterprise Lions club.

• Photo: The ladies’ Monday night bowling league held their annual banquet Monday evening at the Chief Joseph Hotel. Trophies were presented to the top three teams in league play and to the top team in the tournament. The officers for the 1967-68 season are president, Judi Holbrook; vice president, Laura Jean Locke; secretary-treasurer, Betty Shelton; and sergeant-at-arms, Ethel Crow.

25 YEARS AGO

May 7, 1992

• The entire interior of Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise will be transformed this weekend into a paradise for potential buyers interested in everything from bathrooms to boats at the 1992 Wallowa County Home & Recreational Show.

• Photo: Dancing the Maypole Dance at Enterprise City Park at the May Day festivities were 10 Enterprise students – Heather Butler, Camryn Conrad, Amber Diedrich, Ravin Doud, Lynna Fischer, Heather Locke, Misty McNall, Katie Ritter, Tara Rysett and Orianna Smith.

• Four Wallowa County students have been select-

ed as winners in the annual DeWuhs-Keckritz scholarship competition for high school graduates in Baker, Union and Wallowa counties. They are Ryan Sheehy, Leah Salmon, Rob Duncan and Mark Haines.

• More than 150 entrants from Oregon, Washington and Idaho turned out for the Joseph Junior Rodeo, making it the “biggest ever.” Amy Williams of Joseph won the senior girls all-around award, while David Temple of Wallowa captured the all-around junior boys title.

• New Joseph High School FFA officers: Zack Tippet, ShanRae Hook, Darla Marks, Jake Roberts, Jesse Shirley and Katy Bothum.

Photo identifications provided

Mary Ann Burrows sent in the identification for the five-generation photo published as part of the “Out of the Past” column April 19: Back row, from left, Winifred Bookout Eads, Mary S. Knight Ownby and Ora Ownby Bookout; front, from left, Lavera Eads Best and Joseph A. Knight.

Imnaha postmaster retires after 28 years on the job

By Paul Wahl
Wallowa County Chieftain

Bonnie Marks spent her last day as Imnaha postmaster April 28 enjoying a cup of coffee and cake with dozens of friends.

After 28 years with U.S. Postal Service — 24 as postmaster — there was no shortage of well-wishers who gathered at the Imnaha Store.

Marks moved up to the lead spot in 1993 when previous postmaster Naomi Doss retired. The Hermiston native moved to the area in 1974 after marrying Don Marks, a native.

Most of her memories were pleasant. There was that time in 2012 when it looked as if Imnaha would lose its post office, which opened in 1885.

USPS was facing huge deficits and looking at ways to cut costs.

“I was told that our representatives received more



Bonnie Marks leaves behind a 28-year career working for the United States Postal Service, 24 of those as postmaster.

letters about this post office than any of the 41 post offices in Oregon that were originally to be closed,” Marks said. “They even had letters from as far away as Pennsylvania that said ‘close ours and leave theirs open.’”

Eventually, it was decreed that post offices more than 25 miles from the nearest post office would remain open. Joseph is 30 miles away.

Among those gathered to congratulate Marks were John and Eleen Williams. John, who serves with the Oregon State University Extension Service, recalled when officials sent Marks a thick set of forms on which to record the inventory for the post office.

“She had to send it back several times before they’d accept that what she put down was all she had,” Williams said laughing.

Marks said she was down to listing the light bulbs in an effort to satisfy the requirements.

Williams said Marks has also served in a variety of capacities with 4-H and other extension programs over the years.

So what will she do in retirement?

“Anything I want,” she replied.

An avid quilter, she hopes to spend more time stitching. She plans to spend some time visiting her daughter in Virginia, who recently came into possession of 10 quilt kits.

And there’s always yard work.

Marks’ farewell tour began April 25 when more than 80 guests gathered at the



store for a good-bye. It was supposed to have been a surprise.

“I had to act surprised anyway,” Marks said.

Postal employees Robin Fabricius and Bertie LaChance will be running the post office until a new postmaster is hired.

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