

# Graingrowers build new elevator in Wallowa

## OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Paul Wahl

### 100 YEARS AGO July 5, 1917

Rising consumption rates for gasoline are believed to be the culprit causing a shortage in Wallowa County. The supply at Standard Oil's station was exhausted recently and it was not known when the next delivery would be made. Sales of gasoline have doubled year over year for the past two years.

Mrs. Jones won the "fat ladies" race and W. S. Strickler won the "fat mans" race at festivities held at Enterprise's new city park July 4. Everywhere the day was observed in a quieter mood than most years because of the war.

Dr. J. E. Woodell of La Grande, a chiropractor, has been in Enterprise and is thinking of coming here to locate. He has been looking over the town with W. A. Dunn.

Three teachers have been hired by the Flora School District for the

coming school year — Miss Bessie Conley, Mrs. N. Lines and Mrs. Marion Eddlemon. A new principal will be moving here from Missouri.

### 70 YEARS AGO July 3, 1947

Wallowa County Graingrowers has begun construction on a new 70,000 bushel grain elevator in Wallowa. According to manager W. S. Strickler, the facility will go a long way toward relieving pressure on the Joseph and Enterprise locations.

A. O. Dalgleish has been named president of the Lions Club. Morris Knapp will serve as Vice President. The club purchased an incubator for the hospital in the past year.

Former resident Weldon R. Ralls, now of Walla Walla, Wash., was beaten and robbed in Portland. He lost \$120.

### 50 YEARS AGO July 4, 1957

On invitation from the Young Oregonians group in Portland, Lawrence Rowe took two of his accom-



Chieftain file photo

The Cow Belles were a fixture in summer parades around Wallowa County in years past as this undated photo demonstrates.

dion pupils, Ricky Catheart and Tommy Strickler, to Portland where they appeared on a television show.

Wallowa Lake Lodge is hosting concerts by Winnie Mac on the Hammond Console organ Wednes-

day and Saturday evenings. Great for dancing!

Joseph Theater will be showing Walter Brennan's movie, "Tammy and the Bachelor" with Debby Reynolds. In 1940, Brennan pur-

chased the 12,000-acre Lightning Creek Ranch, 20 miles south of Joseph. He built the Indian Lodge Motel, a movie theater and a variety store in Joseph, and visits regularly between film roles.

### 25 YEARS AGO July 2, 1992

A missing signature on the application for the planned fireworks display on Wallowa Lake almost resulted in the cancellation of the Fourth of July event this year. Parking will be at a premium, so carpooling is recommended.

The opening of Jerry's Main Street Market in Joseph by the time Chief Joseph Days Rodeo arrives is very much in doubt. The store was devastated by fire, which began in a deep fat fryer in March.

Performances of the melodrama "Heaven Will Protect the Working Girl" began on an outdoor stage in Joseph. The audience voluntarily sat through a rain storm to find out who-dunit. Brandon Powers, Stuart Vencill and Dayne Terry played the lead roles.

# 'Tough Enough'

## Latest book chronicling Hells Canyon released

By Paul Wahl  
Wallowa County Chieftain

When Congress created the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in 1975, the lives of a number of ranchers in eastern Wallowa County changed forever.

The roughly 215,000-acre area, which spreads across the Snake River into Idaho, meant the end of a way of life for many.

Among them was the Wilson family. A couple books about their experience have been written, the most recent tome "Tough Enough: 25 Years in Hells Canyon" by Virginia Woods Meyer.

Published in March, it focuses on the post-World War II years when changing public attitudes turned the canyon from a little known subsistence level ranching community to that of the nationally recognized recreation site.

Written as creative nonfiction, the book chronicles the tales of the Lem Wilson family

who moved to the remote Oregon side of the Snake River in 1951. There they succeeded in establishing a large sheep ranch. They expected to spend the rest of life ranching with their three sons.

Twenty-five years later, they had been forced from their home and privately owned land. For the first time in U.S. history, the U.S. Forest Service employed the law of eminent domain to take privately owned land to be preserved in its natural state for public recreational use.

Based on anecdotal memories recorded by Doris Wilson, the family's story personalizes a tale of change and the part new federal legislation, rules and regulations played in shaping the past 60-plus years.

The book has been published in paperback and spans 252 pages. It is divided into three chronological sections spanning the years 1950 through the mid-70s.

She explores with great detail the challenges presented to those living in a remote wilderness. Four pages are devoted to images of the early days of sheep shearing.

The final chapters provide

insight into the last hurrah for the Wilsons and the final reconciliation of their fate.

Lem and Doris Wilson were the parents of Ray Wilson of Ray Wilson Saddlery in Joseph. Ray says he's read the book and it was "fine," but he prefers the more detailed stories of the books his mother published, "Life in Hells Canyon: A Private View."

Meyer had known Doris for many years.

"When I first read Doris Wilson's memoir, I was intrigued by the picture she portrayed of a time and location, which had been a part of both her life and mine," said Meyer, who lives in Meridian, Idaho. "She and I lived in the same community; our sons were school classmates and friends."

Meyer said that in writing her life story, Doris skimmed lightly over a fascinating series of events and anecdotes.

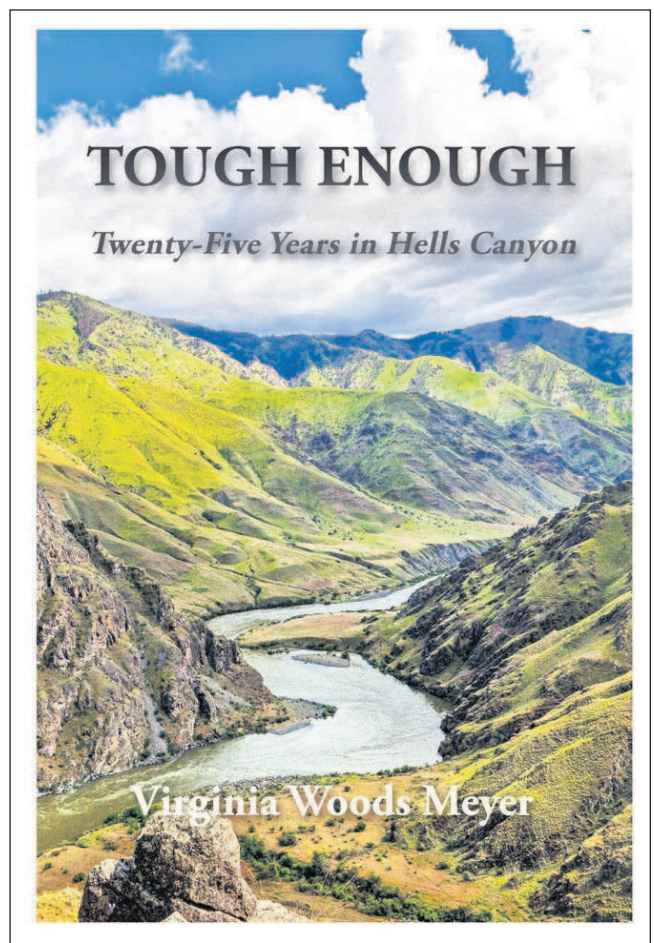
"Those tales stirred my imagination," Meyer said. "As a writer, could I take this background material, embellish her stories and turn them into a book that would inform, entertain and encourage readers to carefully contemplate the changes that swept through the West in the past 65 years?"

Meyer said her interest also was spurred by an editorial that appeared in the Chieftain.

"It seemed to me this editorial, 'The Valuable Snake River,' summarized in an amusing bit of satire the controversial nature and political ramifications of public opinion that raged through the canyon during this post-World War II era," she said.

The editorial is reproduced in its entirety on Page 178 of the book.

The book was published by Gray Dog Press in Spokane, Wash.



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<b>TUESDAY</b>	1:30pm	Bucking Horse Stampede — Main Street
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:00am	Little Buckaroo Special Needs Rodeo
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	Family Fun at the Thunder Room
<b>THURSDAY</b>	9:00am	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Walk
	9:00am	Steer Tripping, Three Rounds
	10:00am	Vendors off Main Street
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	6:00pm	Craft Beer Tasting at Thunder Room—til 9:00pm
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	Tough Enough to Wear Pink — Support Cancer Screening
	9:00pm	Barrel Racing Slack — After the Rodeo
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9:00pm	Golf Tournament — Alpine Meadows Golf Course
	7:00am	Chief Joseph Junior Parade — Main Street
	10:00am	Slack — Arena
	2:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	7:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
<b>SATURDAY</b>	6:00am	Shrine Breakfast begins
	10:00am	Grand Parade — Main Street
	12:00pm	Nez Perce Friendship Feast — Encampment Pavilion
	2:00pm	Slack — Arena
	3:00pm	Traditional Indian Dance Contest — Encampment Pavilion
	7:00pm	PRCA RODEO — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena
	9:00pm	All Teen Dance — Joseph Community Center
	9:00pm	Music and Dancing at Thunder Room
	After Rodeo	Cowboy Breakfast — Rodeo Grounds — Until 3:00am
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6:00am	Cowboy Breakfast—Rodeo Grounds — til 10:00am
	9:00am	Cowboy Church Service with Soul Renovation — Harley Tucker Memorial Arena

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