

Cattleman, grassman of the year chosen

OUT OF THE PAST

Compiled by Cheryl Jenkins

100 YEARS AGO Aug. 17, 1917

There has never been a season when so many vegetables have been canned by Enterprise housekeepers.

There was considerable delay in the receipt of the canning apparatus ordered for the school and the town, and now that it has come, there is one part missing so that it is impossible to use it. Next winter will find canned goods of all descriptions scarce and expensive.

Young women of Flora sent to the Enterprise auxiliary \$41 Red Cross money this week, representing chiefly the proceeds of a refreshment stand. The Flora girls asked that work be assigned them, for they are anxious to do their bit to help the soldiers.

A carload of grain sacks was distributed last Saturday at Enterprise to members

of the Farmers Union. All the afternoon a string of teams and autos stood in line to get to the freight car. There were not quite enough sacks to go around, and some farmers had to accept reduced quantities.

70 YEARS AGO Aug. 14, 1947

Raymond Kooch has received six sorrel registered Belgian mares, which he is proudly displaying at his ranch. Mr. Kooch has long had an ambition to work with fine draft horses and expects to make working with the horses his hobby.

The CJD celebration showed a net profit of approximately \$6,500. About 8,000 people saw the rodeo on the two days.

Workmen are pouring concrete foundations this week for the new diesel electric generating plant being erected by the Pacific Power & Light company between the railroad and the mill south of the Grain Growers plant. The new plant is being constructed to take



Chieftain archive photo

Mystery solved: Several people contacted us to identify the gentleman in this picture. Kermit Wilson was named Father of the Year in 1960. His wife, Inez, joined him. At far left is Rita Reavis and at far right is Marine Huffman. The Wilsons are the parents of Nancy Wilson Waters and the grandparents of Diane Witherrite and have other descendants in the county.

care of the increased demand in the county for electric services..

50 YEARS AGO Aug. 17, 1967

The members of the Wal-

lowa County Stockgrowers roared their approval Saturday night at the announcement of the "Cattleman of the Year" and "Grassman of the Year." Chosen as "Cattleman of the Year" was Hank Bird of

Joseph, and "Grassman" was Ed Blockland, Lostine.

Extensive damage was done over the weekend to a county road grader, which was parked on Crow Creek Road between the Dave Young and

Orville Makin places. Two or more gunmen worked the vehicle over quite thoroughly, shooting out most windows, flattening two of the large tires and shooting off the warning lights. Damages will run at least \$500.

25 YEARS AGO Aug. 13, 1992

News from Wallowa: One morning last week, Shari Doud had a great surprise when she went to water her flowers and discovered a rattlesnake in the flower bed. Needless to say, she did not finish watering.

Mrs. Doud lives on the edge of town and some people think snakes are coming down into town because it is so dry out in the hills.

Shawna Rahn and Laina Stitzel were pictured showing off the reserve champion and champion ribbons they won in the very competitive Junior Division Western Equitation class of the 4-H Horse Show at the Wallowa County Fair in Enterprise.

3.2 earthquake near Joseph

A 3.2 earthquake outside of Joseph failed to shake anyone up Sunday morning. Both Wallowa County Dispatch and Joseph Fire Department reported there had been no citizen calls to their offices.

The Pacific Northwest Seismic Network reported the quake occurred at 7:20 a.m. SundaY, Aug. 13, approximately 21 miles south-south east of Joseph. The earthquake is considered minor.

Fees for parks pass going up

Wallowa County residents and the rest of the country will pay a higher price for America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass Aug. 28. The price will increase from \$10 to \$80 as result of the National Park Service Centennial Act.

It is a one-time cost to individuals 62 and older, not an annual cost. The Act also authorizes a \$20 annual pass for senior citizens.

Senior passes purchased before Aug. 28 are still good for life. The current \$10 Senior Pass will continue to be sold until the \$80 senior pass is implemented.

IN BRIEF

The Senior Pass, along with five passes included in the America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass program provides access to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by six Federal agencies. The Senior Pass covers all entrance fees and standard amenity (day use) fees. The pass also waives the entrance fee for traveling companions.

Changes set for Oregon Promise

Wallowa County applicants entering community college this fall will see changes to eligibility requirements for the Oregon Promise program.

Established through legislation in 2015, the Oregon Promise grant helps pay for tuition expenses at Oregon's 17 community colleges for recent high school graduates and qualified GED recipients.

The new rules will exclude students with the highest expected family contribution to their college expenses from receiving Oregon Promise grant funding.

These changes will not impact students who first received the grant in 2016-17 and are continuing in college this fall.

Irrigation district gets green light

By Kathleen Ellyn
Wallowa County Chieftain

The good news is in for the Associated Ditch Companies of Joseph — not to mention everyone downstream from the 100-year-old Wallowa Lake Dam.

Wallowa County Commissioners informed ditch company president Dan Butterfield that the votes from the entire membership of ADC had been counted and the majority (85-10) approved changing the ditch company structure to an irrigation district Aug. 7.

The Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, which becomes effective Jan. 9, 2018, will be composed of five newly drawn subdivisions with a director of the district coming from each subdivision.

The five separate ditch

companies that will be folded into the district are Dobbins, Big Bend, Farmers, Silver Lake and Creighton. "This will be brand new to us," Butterfield said.

"After 100 years, five ditch boards will be replaced by a five-member district board — so the number of people operating the company got condensed radically. I think we're going to be more efficient."

A new study of what will be required to repair or replace the dam and fresh estimates of cost are being drafted by former Enterprise resident and engineer Mort McMillen at McMillen Jacobs Associates Inc., water resources and hydrology specialists from Boise, Idaho. McMillen, who has been working with ADC for many years, previously assessed the replacement cost at \$15 million.

Although the ditch company is commissioning a repair study, a new dam is their vision.

"We might be able to repair it, so we have to look at that — but that's just a maybe," Butterfield said.

"I think we're sticking to our guns to find \$15 million to build a new dam. We'll be looking for that money. We'll have the opportunity to consider grants we didn't have access to before."

Due to the age of the dam, the company has been forced to hold water storage to 72 percent (eight feet below maximum) for nearly 40 years. As a result, during drought years, water restrictions have become necessary.

"We'd like to store our full allotment of water," Butterfield said. "We had dry years the last two years and

water-users got restricted toward the end of the summer. It's never fun if you're at the end of one of those water restrictions."

Moving to a water district was an idea presented to the company in 2016, and a committee to seek new avenues of funding formed.

The committee sought the advice of Nate James, Natural Resources Conservation Service agent with Wallowa Resources.

Through James, they were put in touch with Farmers Conservation Alliance and learned that if they reformed the five companies into a water district, they would be eligible for state funding and grants.

The district is continuing to work in coordination with the Farmers Conservation Alliance.

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Wallowa County

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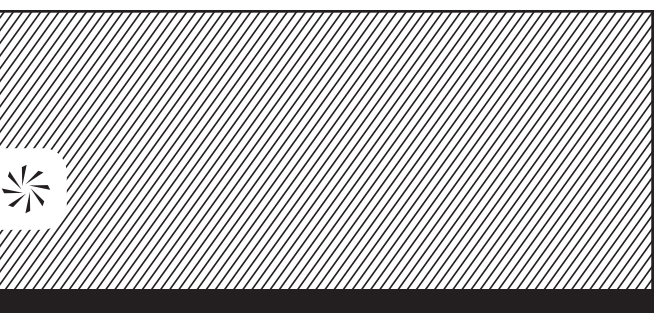
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