

## Fond memories of the Prom

By Sid Miller  
Spilyay Publisher Emeritus

This is an event all high school kids will always remember, a formal school dance held during the spring term. Everyone looks forward to the Prom.

The boys dress up in tuxedos or their best suit and the girls dress in formals and gowns, and they look like they just stepped out of a fairytale book. The only way to describe them is "beautiful."

I can remember my Junior Prom very well, because my high school sweetheart and I were chosen to represent our class as Prince and Princess. To me it was a great honor to be chosen to represent my class and also one of the highlights of my high school days.

My parents took me out and fitted me with a new suit just for the occasion, and my girlfriend wore a gown and she looked beautiful.

The Prom brings back a lot of memories of those good ole days in high school. Everyone looks nice and dressed to a "T". I felt great but very nervous and shy, because I was not used to being seen with a girl. Even though she was my high school sweetheart, I felt uneasy being in public with a girl. It was because we were popular with the rest of our classmates, they sort of put us together as boy and girlfriend. In a way that made things easier for me because I liked her and I didn't have to

chase after her. It was like out of the world just to hold hands with her, because at that time I would rather hold a football, or basketball or something in sports.

Yes, it was a good feeling to come marching in followed by the sophomore and freshmen representatives. Everyone anxiously waiting to see who would be crowned King and Queen for the Prom. Even though we didn't make King and Queen it was just exciting to be class representative and it didn't matter.

That was one of the best school dances I had attended, and we danced the night away. I was sorry it all came to an end.

As time passes on, things change, people change and new people come into your life. My girlfriend's parents came from a different part of the country and they moved back to where they came from.

After that I never had a high school girlfriend like she was, but the memories are still there. Even today I think of those moments of my Junior Prom, very happy moments of my high school days.

"And that's all I have to say about that."

### Toe Ness

*As the ball flew off the sand lot baseball diamond one kid yelled, "Jeppers, it's a run home!" The batter yelled, "You mean a home run!"*

*"No, a run home! You smashed someone's windshield!" Yikes.*

## Pollution may be factor in sturgeon decline, studies say

(AP) - Chemical pollution may be a factor in the decline of Columbia River white sturgeon, researchers say.

The chemicals include the insecticide DDT and polychlorinated biphenyls - or PCBs, according to Oregon State University scientists.

Their studies have shown that white sturgeon living in the Columbia River in some areas above Bonneville Dam have high amounts of toxic contaminants in their livers, sex organs and muscle tissue.

"We don't know the exact source of contamination," said Carl Schreck, an OSU biologist. "The fish move, the stuff they eat moves and the water and sediments bearing the contaminants moves."

In the past, such decreases were thought to be linked to Columbia River dams. Despite fish ladders for salmon, the bottom-dwelling white sturgeon rarely navigate dams, making it difficult for them to expand their habitat.

Schreck and fellow biologist Grant Feist studied white sturgeon from three reservoirs along the Columbia River and from areas downstream of Bonneville Dam, the first one

encountered by fish swimming upriver.

The researchers found some of the fish in reservoirs behind the dams had concentrations of chemicals up to 20 times higher than the fish below Bonneville.

"We believe that some contaminants are accumulating behind the dams by settling out in the sediment as the water slows," Feist said.

During the last 25 years, white sturgeon have experienced a sharp drop in population in the upper reaches of the Columbia River. In 1990, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada designated the white sturgeon as "vulnerable," only to reclassify it as "critically imperiled" in 1994.

Sturgeon are the largest freshwater fish in North America. They can grow to 20 feet in length, weigh more than 1,500 pounds and live for more than a century.

As salmon runs decline, sturgeon are an increasingly important food source for American Indian tribes. But because of their potentially high contaminant levels, researchers warn against making the fish a regular part of the diet. The sturgeon research has been pub-

lished in the journals Environmental Health Perspectives and Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology.

Next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, April 21.

### Little League season beginning soon

The Little League Jamboree is on Saturday, April 22. The Little League Season begins on Monday, April 24. Other upcoming youth events include:

The Lil' Springers Heart Youth Basketball Tourna-

ment and Health Education at the Community Center.

The Early Childhood Education Center Parade is at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 28. For a full schedule events, see the KWSO Community Calendar on page 14.

### Memorial Contest

Men's Traditional 18 and Over

In Honor of the Late Harvey Paul

April 21 and 22 at the Toppenish Longhouse

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