

Boy Lost in the Heppner Hills

(Ed. note — After Josie Jones died, this story was found among her things. Typewritten and the paper had yellowed with age. It was given to Rachel Harnett, curator of the Morchel County Museum. She says she had heard Josie tell this story many times as well as Earl Gilliam, too. It is a delightful story and we pass it on for you to enjoy too.)

One day in the long ago year of 1893 several of us town boys including Len Gilliam, Ralph Thompson and others decided we would go over to Dutton's Canyon to drown out some squirrels. Some times we would snare them with a long string looped over their holes. But this time we decided to get our victims by the use of water, which we would pour down their holes. Out would come little Mr. or Mrs. Squirrel like a drowned rat. This was late in August. We were all about 12 or 13 years old at that time, but we always had to take the little Gilliam boy, Earl, along with us and he was only 3 years old and always in the way. Along about 4 o'clock, we decided to send him home after a pail of water to get rid of him. We thought we would play for a little while yet and still beat him home.

When we got back over the hill to the Gilliam home, Mrs. Gilliam asked us where Earl was and we said we had sent him home hours ago. It was beginning to get dark by this time and Earl's folks began to be very much worried about him. They spread the word around that Earl was lost over the hills west of Heppner and maybe was eaten up by the coyotes by this time. I remember so well the flashes of the old coal oil lanterns and torches as the men of the town searched the hills and canyons back of town. They searched all night long but did not find him, so they knew the coyotes had got him.

Here is the story of what really happened in the western hills that night, as told me by Mrs. Josie Jones of Heppner. "Newt and I were going home to the Cunningham ranch that evening after a day spent in town shopping. Unknown to me, Newt was breaking a very mean horse that day and didn't want me to know just how mean he was, so he was giving most of his attention to his driving. The other horse was a good tame one. It was beginning to get dark by this time, but I happened to be looking out over the sage brush and bunch grass and told Newt that I saw a coyote about a quarter of a mile west of us. He stopped the horses and gave me the reins and got out of the backboard and took his high powered rifle he always had with him. He took careful aim and was about to pull the trigger when I screamed and said it looked like a child of some sort. Good thing too, as Newt was a dead shot with any kind of gun. He got back in the hack and circled around down to where he could get a good look at what ever it was. It was a little boy about 3 years old. Newt couldn't get very close on account of the horse began to rear and buck so he told me to go over and get the child. When I got there the child was almost frozen as the nights in this country get cool even when the days are hot. He was barefooted. He had on a little dress all torn and his little pants were hanging down in the back. I couldn't get him to say a word and we didn't know whose boy he was, or where or how he had got out there in the wild hills miles from nowhere. I had on one of those old fashioned blue lined linen duster coats we used to wear in those far off days. I wrapped him in this coat and tied a bandana handkerchief over his head and took him back to the hack. We didn't know what to do with him, and then Newt told me about the mean horse he was using, so we decided to take him to the John Woodward ranch about a half mile away. Newt thought he might be one of the Woodward boys, but didn't know for sure. Newt asked Mr. Woodward if any of his kids were missing but he said they were all there when he went to bed. Just then, Jack, their oldest boy came out and looked at the child and said that is one of the Gilliam kids". Mrs. Woodward wrapped a blanket around him and then put him to bed. She fed him before putting him to bed but he wouldn't even try to talk. She

put him to bed with Fanny, their 7 year old girl, as that was the only place for him. We went on home and decided to send our hired man, George Means, right to town to tell the Gilliams their boy was safe and sound and the Woodwards would bring him home in the morning. But Mr. Means was not at home. Early the next morning Newt hitched up the team to the hack so we could go to town but the horse kicked the hack all to pieces and our trip was off, but Newt saddled up his saddle horse and headed for town. Sometime during the night when the whole town was out looking for the boy, Frank Roberts found him at the Woodward home.

Monday morning we came in to town and about the first man I saw was George Conser, the banker, and he gave me the dickens for not bringing the boy in that night but I told him we didn't know who the boy was and that the team was so vicious that Newt was afraid to drive it with the child along.

This is the end of the story as told me by Josie Jones but Leslie Matlock told me that he and some other men were on Heppner flat looking for the boy, when Frank Roberts came and told them he had already found Earl and that he was safe and sound. Leslie said they raced their saddle horses all the way back, down the Frisco hill clean into town down Main street.

That small boy of three years, Earl Gilliam, is still living in Heppner and is our master plumber and partner of Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware Store. He is now a grandfather. The day they brought him to town, the business men passed the hat around and took up a collection of about \$10.00. Earl's wife told me last night that Earl's father invested that \$10.00 in an insurance policy and they never drew out any of the money till she and Earl were married and they used the money with accrued interest to make the down payment on their home on Baltimore Street where they still reside.

BMCC Instructors Selected

Four BMCC instructors have been selected to participate in an eight-week summer project devoted to the improvement of mathematics curricula in community colleges. All are members of the BMCC mathematics department. They are: Lawrence Mitchell, Ronald Waite, Mickey McClendon and Edward Wright. Sponsored by the University of Oregon, the project will be divided into three coordinated seminars dealing with pre-calculus mathematics, calculus, and computer science. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Winners in the first two days of competition at the Oregon Wheat Growers League Junior Livestock Show held at Seufert's Park, The Dalles included: Rene Monahan, 13, of Condon had the Reserve Grand Champion 4-H steer, a Hereford. County 4-H beef herds consisting of five head placed Gilliam County 1st, Morrow County 2nd, Sherman County 3rd, Wasco County 4th and Wheeler County 5th.



FUN TIME at Ione's Auction. The kids had more fun riding in this old Ford belonging to Norman Nelson than if it had been a Rolls Royce.

Jack Sumner Again Chairmans School Board

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meetings of these groups to discuss mutual problems.

The Heppner Elementary building has been inspected by a new fire marshal. He has returned 10 recommendations with the notation that they were to be completed in 90 days. Some of the recommendations were of such magnitude that it would be necessary to include them in the budget. He has agreed to make another tour of the building in company with the Superintendent as well as several members of the school board.

Teacherage Visitation
After examining the lone teacherage, it was the recommendation of the committee that two sections of fence be erected. The old teacherage while sound and on a good foundation is poorly laid out and is badly in need of paint.

The teacherage at Boardman is in need of minor repairs: re-nailing the siding, calking around the windows and a paint job. These repairs will be made. The Irrigon teacherage was not visited.

Financial Report

In his financial report to the board, Mr. Daniels said that the district was short in tax collections by about \$130,000 and ac-

Gun Group to Meet

The Hermiston arm of the Association to Preserve Our Right To Keep and Bear Arms will meet at the Legion Hall at 8 p.m., Wednesday, June 24. All gun owners are invited to attend.

Cool Weather Helps

Ranchers say these cool days we've had is almost as good as rain. Every day of the cool weather was a bonus day for a better crop. Ranchers are not sure how much damage those few very hot days amounted to but there was damage. They are still hopeful for a good crop but hope the hot weather will come on gradually this time.

Can you believe it? Walter Jepsen sold his two Home Comfort wood ranges with his ad in last week's Gazette-Times.

Too Late to Classify

NOTICE — Royal Arch Masons stated Convocation Wednesday evening June 24 at 8 p.m. Howard Bryant E.H.P. 25c

DOT'S JOTS

Too Bad! Al Martin didn't get pictures taken of the "before" in the boys' dressing room in the Heppner Elementary School and McCormack Construction has started the remodeling.

Al's picture of other before and after improvement projects at the elementary school are well worth seeing. They are good program material for any group interested in seeing "where their tax dollar goes".

A few years ago church women hesitated over Ecumenical. Then a much used word was integration now it's Ecology and that-hard-to-pronounce-word, Biodegradable except for Virginia Whitaker who peels it out like easy. She sells the stuff that is Biodegradable and will break down in the treatment plant and doesn't leave foam . . . I think! Fight litter . . . use the re-usable!

It will be Her Honor instead of Hizzoner for a couple of months as Dee Gribble has been appointed by the County Court as Justice of the Peace. She's taking the place of husband, Lowell Gribble who heads an interesting new business, Ultrasonic Predictable Maintenance Inc. Lowell is getting this new firm underway and is doing a

Heppner Bowlers Bring Back Over \$1100

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man, 552 for \$15.75.
234th place to Marie Kircher for \$5.00.

D-Class
Anne Schwarz for 49th with 510 for \$10.67. 52nd place Alvina Padberg, 509 for \$10. 62nd place Floss Watkins, 504 for \$8.00. 80th place Marlys Phegley, 496 for \$7.00. 83rd place Mabel Heath, 495 for \$7.00. 91st place Loy Harsin, 493 for \$7.00.

E-Class
77th place, Joyce Ritch, 430 for \$3.00. 80th place Harriet Evans, 427 for \$3.00.

All Events—C-Class
8th place to Marie Kircher, 1622 for \$50. 9th place Marj Eckman, 1616 for \$40. 18th place Yvonne Lovgren, 1586 for \$13.

B-Class
Of all the women bowling in this class, Floss Watkins won first place with 1584 for \$110. Besides her money and a beautiful trophy, she may get \$50 entry fees paid in to the WIBC Queen's tournament, plus

transportation expenses as determined by the OSWBA executive board. The tournament will be either in Oklahoma or New Orleans.

11th place Mabel Heath with 1498 for \$14. 14th place went to Alvina Padberg, 1493 for \$11. 86th to Marlys Phegley, 1405 for \$2.00.

E-Class
LaVonne Bloodsworth 39th place with 1289 for \$1.00. The lovely town of Heppner brought home \$1167.02 not included are Floss' \$50 entry fee or expenses.

200 Pins
Receiving 200 pins: Marj Eckman 201, Alvina Padberg 211, Yvonne Lovgren 235, Floss Watkins 245 and rolled 7 strikes in a row for this game and Marie Kircher 247 and her first 600 series with 634.

Salvation Army Mail Appeal

The Salvation Army annual Mail Appeal is in its final stages. All who have not sent in their contributions are urged to please do so as soon as possible in order to maintain all the various 23 services provided by the Salvation Army.

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