

Albert Wright, Livestock Grower of the Year

Albert Wright, 1972 Cattleman of the Year for Morrow County, is the 4th generation of Wrights to be on the land on upper Rhea Creek.

The ranch remains as it always has a family operation. There have been changes and most notable is the move to cross breeding. A Hereford and Charolais cross that produces a meat type animal, lean and longer. Albert has taken the short course from American Breeders in artificial insemination. Using artificial insemination has cut down on the number of bulls he maintains and produces good breeding stock of high quality. He uses this method of insemination on about 50 cows a year. It involves extensive record keeping.

More Changes

For many years there was no dry land farming done on the ranch, but now they have about 700 acres of wheat and barley. The 120 acres of alfalfa produces enough hay for the 150 cow-calf operation. A deep well is supplemental to creek irrigation.

The hired man situation has changed with the coming of the machine age. Albert can remember when his grandfather had 40 head of horses on the ranch. They were used mostly for riding, making hay and riding with the sheep. They had from 7 to 10 hired men the year round, more during haying.

His mother, Mrs. Pearl Wright, remembers baking bread twice a week, 5 loaves at a baking. She baked lots of sour dough biscuits and lots of pies, all on a wood stove. Luckier than some, she had a pitcher pump in the kitchen as well as one on the porch.

"There was a great change in the old house when electricity came in 1964. It changed the world," Mrs. Wright recalls the first things she got was an electric fry pan, followed by a washing machine, stove and hot water heater.

They had a smoke house and sawdust house on the ranch. They cut alder from the ranch up at Spring Hollow for smoking their meats. They very seldom cut ice in the winter time to store in the sawdust house but they kept their meat in there in barrels of brine.

"When they remodeled and built the new house the dining room and part of the hallway was the smoke house.

Pearl Wright remembers the Indians as they went back and forth from the Columbia River to the mountains by way of Rhea Creek. They often camped in the poplar trees down by the creek. They picked wool from the fences. She gave them salt and sugar. "They were very good and very honest".

The Wrights have a large collection of Indian artifacts that they have found on their own land.

There have been changes in the creek channel. They had a bad flood in 1934 when a drift formed against the poplars and shoved the water over to the house. When Pearl went there as a bride in 1917, they didn't need a bridge, they forded the creek. Albert estimates the channel is about 10 feet lower now than when he could first remember the creek.

100 Years Ago

It was about 100 year ago that the present Albert Wright's great-grandfather, also Albert Wright, came into the area. They first settled at Oregon City in 1853 after leaving Indiana. Albert and Julia Wright had three children when they started west. Silas Albert was born in Nebraska territory on the way out. George, Anson and Effie were born in Clackamas County. The family came to eastern Oregon and spent the winter of 1872 where Anson Wright Park is now. The next year they moved to Rhea Creek. Silas Albert was the grand-



A VIEW OF THE CR RANCH FROM THE ROAD.

father of this year's Cattleman of the Year.

Silas Albert Wrights had Alonzo, Guy, Nancy Pearl, Moses Albert, Sydna Del, Orian Elmer and Silas Delbert.

Orian E. married Pearl LaTrace. They had four

children. Clayton Wright at Hermiston, Joan, deceased, Bob at Umatilla and Orian ALBERT who is on the home ranch. Sheep were run on the ranch until 1948-49. They bought cattle and the CR brand at that time.

In the summer they ran their cattle in the foothills near Camas Prairie on what was formerly the George Wright homestead.

Albert married the former Beverly Marie Maness. They have three children, David

stationed at Wichita, Kansas; Dean employed at Kinzua and Diana now Mrs. John Currin. The Currins live in Pendleton where John is attending BMCC. They have a daughter, Angela Marie.

Everybody helps when it's time to move cattle and make hay. Beverly and Albert pretty much handle affairs during the winter feeding and calving. They keep the heifers close to the house where they watch them carefully.

Believe in Vo Ed

Albert, through necessity is pretty much his own mechanic and handy man. He received basic welding, plumbing and electrical training in the Ag shop at Heppner High. Although he hadn't quite finished high school when he left for the Navy, he completed his high school training while in the service.

While serving on the Advisory committee and Budget Committee for the School District, he always supported proposals for a new Ag shop and Industrial Art Shop for the High School. He has also served as a supervisor for the Soil Conservation District.



Albert Wright with Mrs. Wright on the right and his daughter Diane Currin and the family dog with part of the herd in the background.



The youngest addition to the Wright family, granddaughter, Angela Currin.



Mail Call, The Wrights and Dudley stop for the mail.

Malamud Masterpiece Reviewed

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

Mrs. James Thomson selected THE ASSISTANT for her book review at the November 14 meeting of the Bookworm Club. Mrs. Ted Smith was hostess for the meeting.

Pointing out Bernard Malamud's high ranking as a contemporary American writer, Mrs. Thomson enumerated his prizewinning works: THE NATURAL, THE MAGIC BARREL, THE NEW LIFE, IDIOTS FIRST, THE ASSISTANT, THE FIXER and most recently THE TENANTS. She stated that many critics hail him as a great novelist and style. Mr. Malamud has won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for literature with his remarkable novels and short stories.

THE ASSISTANT is another of his Jewish stories, and it is written with genuine insight. Its principal characters are a discouraged grocer, Morris Bober, his generous and attractive daughter, Helen, and a young Gentle, Frank Alpine, who after participating in a robbery of the rundown little family grocery, comes back to the scene of his crime and becomes intensely involved with the grocer and his voluptuous daughter.

Author Malamud's father operated a grocery in New York's Brooklyn Borough.

Bernard was graduated from the public schools there and from the College of the City of New York. He gained an M.A. from Columbia University. He taught at Oregon State for some time and has since been on the faculties of several Ivy League schools.

THE ASSISTANT was published in 1957 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Inc. N.Y. Several paperback editions have come out in many printings.

"There is a binding theme throughout the book, a search for fundamental truths through the study of ordinary people, their everyday ups and downs, their mundane pleasures and pains. The vision, style and world of Malamud are distinctively original," states the San Francisco Chronicle's review. The Associated Press declares, "Malamud is a major talent and a most exciting one, too, with many facets. He knows the way to the funny bone as well as to the heart."

The Bookworm review was so skillfully presented and so interesting that Mrs. Thomson's listeners are eager to read or re-read the book. She stressed the compelling qualities of the novel, its honesty, its perception of human frailties, its faithful mirroring of life situations that Bernard Malamud truly understands and is so able to picture with simple yet dramatic intensity.

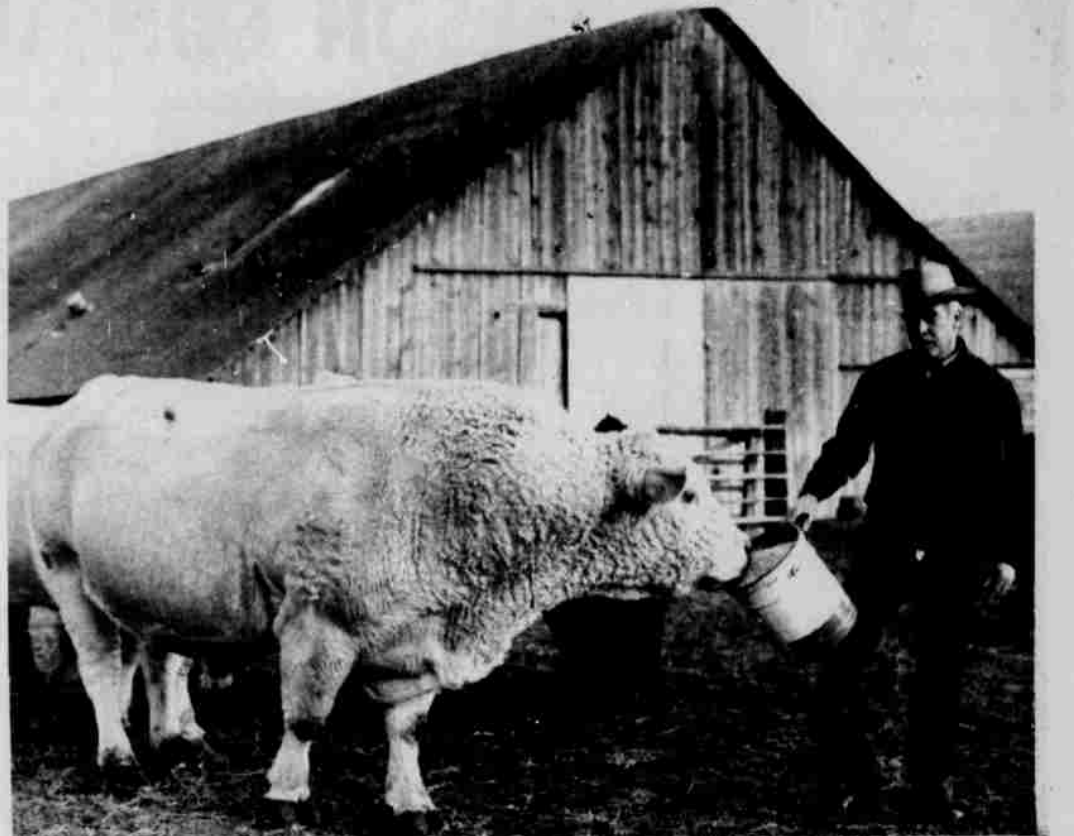
Boardman Avoids Snow

By MARY LEE MARLOW

Boardman has so far escaped the snow that other communities have had, but the main topic of conversation is cold and more cold, and frozen water pipes, not to mention one flooded basement from a pipe that froze and burst. The coldest below zero temperature registered at city hall was 9 below Sunday morning. It was 4 below Monday morning, and maximum Monday was 11 above. The other below zero readings were 9 below last Friday and 5 below Saturday morning.

The house occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Oren Freeman on Wilson Road was gutted by fire last Thursday just before noon. The fire was started when Freeman was thawing frozen water pipes. The Freemans saved some of their belongings, but many things were water soaked that were saved. A shower was to be held for them Monday night at the Greenfield grange hall.

The Boardman Garden Club will meet Monday, Dec. 18, at the home of Mrs. Rollin Bishop at 1:30 p.m. An exchange of gifts will be held at a Christmas party.



Mr. Wright entices Sir Snomo with a bucket of oats.

You'd Be Surprised What The Heart Does!

He follows soil conservation guide lines on the ranch. He's done some land leveling, seeded steep ground to grass, put in diversion ditches, stock ponds and has cross fencing for rotation of pastures.

His hobby when he has time, is wood working. Remodeling on the house has been a family project. Beverly likes to sew when ranch duties permit.

Since Albert's heart attack last Friday at the Farm-City banquet, Dean Wright has gone to the ranch to help and their son-in-law, John Currin is helping weekends and during vacation from BMCC.

Do you feel tired? If so, it's not because you worked your normal eight hours, or entertained out-of-town folks over the weekend. You're tired because if you are an adult of average height this is what you accomplish every 24 hours:
Your heart beats 103,689 times,
You breathe 23,040 times,
You eat 3 1/2 pounds of food -- make that 5 1/2 pounds of special holidays.

Your hair grows .01714 inches.
Your blood travels 168,000,000 miles.
You inhale 438 cubic feet of air.
You drink 2 quarts of liquid.
You speak 4,800 words.
Your nails grow .00046 inches -- and break off at .5 inches.
You exercise 7,000,000 brain cells.
Whew! You probably never realized how much you exert each day. No wonder you are so tired at the end of the day.

serial levy guarantees:

2nd Year 4 New Classrooms at A.C. Houghton

Increased activity in sprinkler irrigation in North Morrow County has resulted in a considerable growth in student enrollment. A.C. Houghton Elementary has increased in enrollment by over 30 students in less than one year. This growth has resulted in classes in excess of thirty students in some classrooms.

Present facilities at A.C. Houghton consist of an old building constructed in 1921 and a new building, part of which was built in 1952, with a new addition in 1963.

The state fire marshal closed all the upstairs part of the old building several years ago. We have, however, been permitted to use two large classrooms on the ground level floor and the gym facility. Use of these facilities has been permitted for an indefinite period of time. Indications from recent fire marshal reports are that we will either be faced with vacating this building in the near future or required to make extensive changes to improve the fire hazard in this facility.

We are currently using this building for music, art, physical education, special education and Kindergarten.

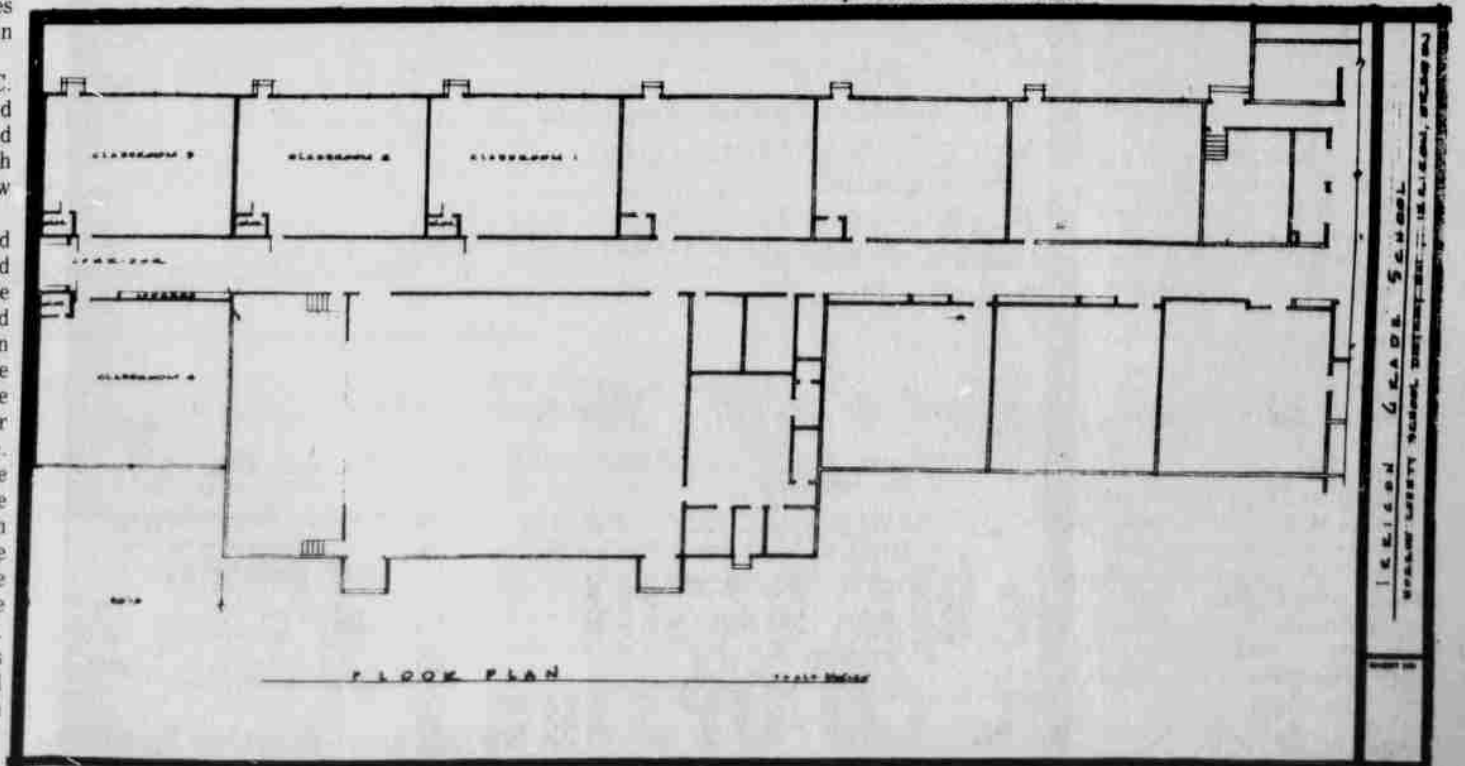
The new building contains eight classrooms, a cafeteria and a library. All eight classrooms are currently in use by grades 1 to 6. Several of the classrooms with one teacher. As a matter of fact, this year's first grade has

twenty seven students housed in one classroom with one teacher. All indications are that additional land will come under sprinkler irrigation in the next few years and the enrollment will continue to increase.

A very slight increase in enrollment will necessitate splitting all grades into two sections. This will require twelve classrooms or an additional four classrooms.

The intent of this proposed program is to provide the four classrooms that are needed now. Replacement of the facilities being used in the old building is contained in the second phase of the long range plan.

Vote on the proposed 3-year serial levy in the amount of \$150,000 each year will be next Tuesday, Dec. 19.



The architect's drawing of floor plans for the four class rooms at A.C. Houghton School, Irrigon.

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