

Little Butter Creek

# Swaggart Ranch has new owners

JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

Gerald and Violet Swaggart are leaving Little Butter Creek and the 5,200 acres on which three generations of hard-riding Swaggarts have worked cattle and harvested alfalfa and wheat.

The new owners, Ron and Beverly Lewis, are also acquiring the Swaggart's 13,000 acres of leased Boise-Cascade land in the Meacham area which the Swaggart's cattle have grazed since 1969. The Lewises are cattle ranchers from Enterprise who will soon be bringing their grade school age son and daughter with them to get settled in the attractive home the Swaggarts built a few years ago.

The Swaggarts have purchased a place five miles east-by-north from Pendleton where they will live just across the Umatilla River from their daughter, Geraldine Shroll, and her three sons. The Swaggart's other daughters, Loraine and Christine, are each the mother of a son and a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are also buying the Swaggart cows that are now summering on the leased mountain pastures. Gerald and Violet are retaining their calves. The Lewises will be moving their cattle from Wallowa County to Morrow this fall.

Both Gerald and Violet are from "crossed-the-plains" pioneer families. Gerald was born at Enterprise and came to Butter Creek as a five-year-old when his father, Frank

Swaggart, purchased the nucleus of the present ranch in 1916. Gerald went to closely Pleasant Point School and to Heppner High School.

Violet Hinton's family moved from Ukiah to the place just north of Heppner where the Norman Clows now live when she was in high school. Her father, Will Hinton, made his home with Violet and Gerald on Butter Creek until his death at Christmas, 1972.

All the Swaggart were skilled horsemen. Their three daughters were princesses and queens of several rodeos. Gerald enjoys recalling the old every-other-weekend Lena Rodeos which pre-dated Heppner's fair and rodeo.

The Swaggarts have enjoyed several interesting trips in the last few years. They saw much of Mexico with their travel trailer; Gerald flew to Taiwan with a load of cattle last fall; they recently traveled about the San Juan Islands and British Columbia waters, boating and fishing and watching white salmon being caught.

Three generations of Swaggarts have gathered an unusual assortment of bone and stone Indian artifacts from their acres. Little Butter Creek must have delighted the native Americans as it still pleases its present-day residents. The little old cemetery north of the Swaggart-Lewis place that joins the shell of the old Pleasant Point Grade School contains several graves of white men who were

killed in battle by the Indians. Several old letters give interesting facts about the six generations of Swaggarts who have lived in Oregon. Gerald's great-grandparents, the Nelson Swaggarts, were pioneers in the Athena area, and the home place there is still in the family. His aunt, Blanche Flews of Astoria, and uncle, Wayne Swaggart of Bellevue, Wn., own it.

One letter relates how his maternal great-great-grandfather, George Washington Harper, was "a school-mate of Abraham Lincoln's in Illinois."

Gerald's great-grandparents crossed the plains in 1853 to the Willamette Valley. They left the valley in 1878 and settled on government land two and one-half miles north of Athena, where they had a family of 16 children, each of whom they named after a famous person they admired. Their son, Abraham Lincoln (called "Linc") Swaggart, was the father of Frank and

INVITATION TO A WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Shuman and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Johns are inviting their friends and relatives to attend the wedding of the Shumans' daughter, Marie, to Tim Corwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johns.

The wedding will take place at the Nazarene Church in Heppner, Aug. 4, at 10 a.m. A reception will follow at the Shuman residence.

the brother of Gerald's great uncle, Benjamin Franklin Swaggart, who settled at Swaggart's Butte east of Lexington where he became noted as the breeder of unusual horses and Kentucky Jack mules. His Cremoline horses were outstanding and won many prizes.

Two of Gerald's great aunts married prominent Pendleton men. Louisiana became Mrs. William Matlock and Rosetta

married Carl Wheeler.

Gerald and Violet have been "involved" citizens of this county. Gerald served for many years on the rodeo board; he has been active in both county and state cattlemen's associations; and as a member of the Heppner Elks Lodge.

Violet, an always busy ranchwife and mother, is a past-president of the Morrow County CowBelles Club.

## Along Butter Creek

A very special day along the creek is Aug. 4, the birthday of Phebe Thomson Bartholomew.

This year she is 99 years old. She is the oldest graduate of Oregon College of Education, and is a real pioneer heroine. She was born along lower Butter Creek in 1874 and was one of the boatload of women and children who were sent to The Dalles during the Indian scare of 1878.

Since 1971 Mrs. Bartholomew has lived at the Good Samaritan Center in Hermiston. She frequently visits at the Jasper Myer Ranch which she and her husband, Judge Charles Bartholomew, founded and built up.

She enjoys her daughter, Lila Myers, grandson Jerry and her great-grandchildren who live on the place. Her other children are Mary (Mrs. Arthur Sether), Faye (Mrs. Marion Finch) and Oscar F. Bartholomew.

Kamloops, B.C. Daughter Jenifer stayed with Grandma and Grandpa, the George Currins, but will probably want to go along next vacation.

The Brosnan Ranch above Lena has had many visitors recently. Mrs. Brosnan's brother, Larry Good, and Mrs. Good came from California; son Dan Brosnan and wife Doris and children, Damon and Darci, came from Golchrist; and daughter Joann Robison's three children, Craig, Susie and Shawn from Portland, have had good visits with their great-grandmother Zeta Brosnan, and grandparents, Jerry and Marian. This week lucky Craig has accompanied his grandparents up to their summer pasture where they will trailer camp until next week.

MARQUARDT, OWEN

Friends are invited to the wedding of Billee Marquardt and Ira Owen on Aug. 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the garden of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Truman E. Messenger, in Lexington.

The reception will follow in the garden also. Billee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marquardt of Lexington and Ira is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Owen of Eagletown, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Heard, accompanied by their grandsons, Gard and Chris Becker of Gold Beach, were in Joseph over the weekend. They enjoyed the gondola ride to the top of Mr. Howard.

The Golden Age annual picnic will be held Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library City Park. The picnic will be potluck but coffee and punch will be furnished.

Ron and Judy Currin and their sons Ron, Tony, Mike and Steve, recently returned from a 10-day Canadian vacation. They all enjoyed the Calgary Stampede, and had a visit with Ron's Heppner schoolday friend, Larry Lovgren, and his family at

## Barratts here from Arizona

Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Barratt of Mesa, Ariz., are in Heppner this week on their annual summer visit.

The Barratts have extensive land and property holdings here. He was county judge of Morrow County from 1949 to 1958, and before that was a county commissioner for two and a half years. He is also a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, and once served in the Oregon Legislature.

The Barratts will be here until Friday. They left here for Mesa, Ariz., in 1961.



Front view of the Swaggart home showing the chimney with their brand, the utility S, or Bent Bar S.



Violet and Gerald Swaggart trace their most recent travels to Canada on a map at their home on Butter Creek.

## Localites at Chief Joseph Days

Morrow County Rodeo Queen Jeanne Daly and her Court attended Chief Joseph Days, Joseph, Ore., July 25-26.

Some of the local people were among the winners. Cliff Adair, Pendleton, and Roicie Fullerton, Heppner, teamed up

to win first place in the team roping event, in the second go-round.

This year the queen and her court were not judged, as they

have been in past years. Floats and other parade units, however, were judged.

Patti McCoin, Ione, was also a contestant in the barrel race.



Mr. and Mrs. David Paul Denning are at home in Ashland following their marriage there on July 7. Mrs. Denning is the former Judith Dee Jones, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Jones.

## Lively Story Time

1-1:30 p.m. at the Library

Every Monday

thru July and August

Children 4-8 years

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## You're invited to welcome members of the Japan-Oregon Teen Exchange

at a Potluck Dinner

Friday, Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m.

At the Morrow County Court House

This is a get-together to afford residents of Morrow County to meet and welcome 12 young Japanese students who are in the area to further their language education and promote international understanding through the home-stay experience.

Bring a dish of food and meet the Japanese students.

Host families for the students in this area, and who will be present, are:

- Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bennett, Heppner; The Swansons, Ione;
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davidson, Lexington; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Palmer, Heppner; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Toll, Heppner; Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Piper, Lexington;
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sargent, Heppner; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Meyers, Heppner; Mr. and Mrs. Del Larue, Ione;
- Mr. and Mrs. Roland Bergstrom, Ione; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laughlin, Heppner; Mr. and Mrs. C.R. McElligott, Ione.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon presents this invitation as a public service.

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