

Sale of Gilliam-Bisbee building recalls its past

By Justine Weatherford

The sale of the Gilliam-Bisbee Building by Claude Buschke to Larry Prock of Lone last week is causing "old timers" to recall some history.

In the folders full of clippings and notes that Rachel Harnett has collected at the Morrow County Museum, one is able to find a great amount of material on the two families, Bisbee and Gilliam, and facts concerning the building bearing their names.

The firm of Gilliam and Bisbee was formerly Gilliam and Coffey and was begun by Frank Gilliam and a man named Coffey in 1887. After a few years Gilliam's brother-in-law, Timothy Bisbee, bought Coffey's interest. The firm grew and prospered in the location where the Degree of Honor Building now stands, just north of the First National Bank.

An old Heppner newspaper states that in the late summer of 1918, "Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware purchased the Vic Groshen's corner (at South Main and West May Streets) where they contemplate the erection of a modern business building. They will begin construction next spring." Groshen operated a "pastime" his son, Vic, became Heppner city engineer, and his grandson Vic is a state policeman in this area.

An Aug. 7, 1919 paper reports, "The new two-story building which is being constructed for the pioneer firm of Gilliam and Bisbee on the southeast corner of Main and May streets is rising rapidly under the supervision of contractor T. G. Denisse. The new building, when completed, will be one of the most thoroughly modern in the city. The estimated cost is in the neighborhood of \$50,000. The entire building will be given over to a general line of hardware, every inch of floor space being occupied by the owners. It will be one of the largest stores of its kind in Eastern Oregon."

Another mention of the building that year states, "The Wells Barber Shop is temporarily located in the front of the Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware Store. Its former quarters in the Morrow Block will give way soon to a new concrete structure which Patterson and Son will start building."

The sons of Frank Gilliam and Timothy Bisbee came into the store beginning in 1900 with Lou Bisbee, then Leonard Gilliam and next Clinton Gilliam. Earl Gilliam joined the firm around 1909. These Bisbee-Gilliam men were cou-

sins and were related to many "first families." Clinton left about 1918 and Leonard, Earl and Lou continued their partnership with the only change in ownership before they sold out being that Mrs. Earl Gilliam (Mae) joined them as a partner about 1918. Earl devoted most of his time to the plumbing department and the shop; Lou was pretty much in charge of the store; Leonard devoted his time to bookkeeping; when Mae entered the firm she kept books and acted as a clerk.

In 1955 Claude Buschke bought the firm's inventory and leased the building. In 1960 he bought the building, Claude and his first wife, Margaret, operated the hardware business until 1965 when they auctioned the inventory and quit business. They also remodeled it to house state and federal offices. John Key had been associated with Claude before Mrs. Buschke bought his interest, making it a husband and wife partnership.

The 1965 auction sale disposed of the firm's stock and many of the fixtures. The auction was managed by Donald Kennedy, Portland auctioneer. In 1967 Case Furniture Co. moved to the first floor location.

Mrs. Harnett has gotten together folders of facts on the Bisbee and Gilliam families. She has preserved copies of Timothy Bisbee's diary which chronicles happenings from 1875 through 1878, and a day-by-day diary written by Frank Gilliam for the complete year of 1884.

Timothy was the first Bisbee in the area. He married Julia Wright, daughter of pioneer Albert Wright. His son, Louis Evans Bisbee, was associated with the firm of Gilliam and Bisbee for more than 50 years. Kay Bisbee, Lou's daughter, is a teacher at Waldport, Or., and often visits friends here. She has contributed much to the museum and public library.

Some notes published after Lou Bisbee's death tell, "Gilliam and Bisbee pumped the first gasoline in Heppner. Lou

Bisbee stayed with the firm as it weathered fire, flood and the depression to help serve this community. He served on the city council under three mayors. The horror of the aftermath of the Heppner Flood was a vivid memory to him, but he spoke of it rarely. He knew the original citizen, Henry Heppner, and most of the pioneers. With his passing the trout at Bull Prairie could rest a little easier."

The first Gilliam in area history was Colonel Cornelius Gilliam whose historic journeys crossed the north country. He came to Oregon from North Carolina in 1884. In 1847, just after the Whitman Massacre, Territorial Governor Abernathy organized a regiment of 500 men to wage an aggressive war against the Indians. Cornelius was chosen as leader. The regimental motto was "If our Colonel can stand it, we can." The Colonel was known as a democratic leader who shared every hardship with "his boys."

Details of the campaign against the Indians have been published in several history books. Colonel Gilliam was accidentally killed near Well Springs, east and north of Lone, on March 20, 1884 as he and his men were returning to Oregon City to report to Governor Abernathy after their work near Walla Walla.

In 1926 a thousand persons went to Wells Springs to dedicate a plaque to Colonel Gilliam. Leslie Scott, editor and publisher of The Oregonian, was the principal speaker. Wells Springs was the main claim to fame this area had in the days of the Oregon Trail, and it has been neglected since the 1926 ceremony.

The next Gilliam, Frank, a grand-nephew of the Colonel, contributed a great deal to the growth of Heppner. He was born on a donated land claim near Damascus in Clackamas County in 1854. He was 16 when he came to this county with his Uncle William Gilliam. Frank married Effie J. Wright in 1882.

Three of their children, Miss Ona Gilliam, Mrs. Charles Vaughn (Hazel) and Earl

Gilliam are presently patients at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Frank Gilliam was the mayor of Heppner at the time of the 1903 flood and for many years following. He was the local weather observer from 1911 to 1923. Then, his son Leonard took the responsibility, which is now being discharged by Leonard's son, Don, an employee of the Morrow County Grain Growers. The Gilliam men have been active in the Masonic orders for generations and concerned and involved in community projects.

Two of Heppner's historic homes were occupied by the Bisbee and Gilliam families. The old Bisbee home is now owned by the Durwood Tashes. It is on the road below the Heppner-Ruggs highway south of town. The old Frank Gilliam home was until recently occupied by Miss Ona Gilliam. It stands on a large lot at the corner of Church and Jones Streets.

LONE GRAND SQUARES

Willows Grange Hall was filled with square dancers Friday night. It was the Lone Grand Squares' annual Valentine's Dance. Seven squares and several on-lookers joined in the fun. Dancers came from Richland, Pendleton, Hermiston and Condon. Guest caller, Phil Jamison of Pendleton, joined local caller Darrell Wilson in calling the squares.



TWO SURPRISED PARENTS were Mr. and Mrs. Orville Shorts, Star Route, Spray, Ore., when Mrs. Shorts gave birth to twin sons at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Feb. 12. Nobody suspected twins! The first son, Jason Lee, was born at 9:16 a.m.; Jimmy Lee at 9:34. They weighed 3 lbs., 12 ozs., and 4 lbs., 4 ozs., respectively. They join a sister, Crystal Dawn, 5 years old. This is the first set of twins born in the Shorts family, also the first sons. The parents are ranchers near Mitchell. The father, noting the boys were born on Lincoln's Birthday, was elated: "Great! We now have a future president and a future vice-president!"

VISIT PARENTS

Visitors in the Cutsforth home last week included their daughter Donna who was home from the Opportunity School at Redmond, and son Gene Heliker who flew home from Redding, Pa. Gene is visiting his father, Don Heliker, who is hospitalized in Pendleton.

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BEGINS SUNDAY FEB. 23

Remember to turn your clocks ahead so you won't be late for church or other appointments. Not the usual time of year for this event but like holidays, nothing is as usual.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS NAMED

The county court announced that eight new members have been appointed to serve on the Morrow County Mental Health Advisory Board.

Appointees are: Heppner teachers Ken Lemley and Duane Neiffer; registered nurses Sue Ellen Greenup and Sheridan Tarnasky; labor representatives Dean Connor and Dallas Harsin of Kinzua Corporation; Rev. Neil King, Boardman; Jim Frazier of Sabre Farms and Carlene West, Lone.

Warning

1975 Personal Property Returns are due prior to March 3, 1975. There is a penalty for late filing.

No second reminders will be sent out by the Morrow County Assessor's Office.

Everett Harshman,
Assessor.



WHO DOES IT? HAS IT?
Service Directory

Automotive	Funeral Home	Optometrist
<p>SHERRELL CHEVROLET, INC.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Complete Sales & Service 3rd & Main - Hermiston</p>	<p>SWEENEY FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Pre-arrangements, distant removals, serving lone, Heppner, Lexington. Licensed funeral directors</p> <p>676-9600 Heppner</p>	<p>DR. E. K. SCHAFFITZ Optometrist Next to Hotel Heppner entrance.</p> <p>676-9165 Heppner</p>
<p>Building Supplies</p> <p>SEE US FOR ALL YOUR BUILDING SUPPLIES. We feature Boyesen Paints</p> <p>TUM-A-LUM LUMBER CO. Tim Moore, Mgr. 432 SE Dorion 276-6221 PENDLETON</p>	<p>Furniture</p> <p>See us before you buy your color TV or stereo system. WILCOX FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES</p> <p>254 W. Hermiston Ave. 567-2201 Hermiston</p>	<p>Physicians-Surgeons</p> <p>DR. L. D. TIBBLES</p> <p>Osteopath physician and surgeon 1st National Bank Bldg. Res. 676-9210 Off. 676-9616</p> <p>GERALD A. JONES, M. D. Physician and Surgeon 116 E. Hurlbut. Hours: Mon. thru Thurs., 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m.; Fri., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Hermiston, Ore. 97838</p>
<p>Cafes Lounges</p> <p>CAL'S LOUNGE & CAFE</p> <p>Specialist in mixed drinks and fine foods, soft drink</p> <p>676-5015 Heppner</p>	<p>Construction</p> <p>RIVERBEND CONSTRUCTION CO.</p> <p>Concrete Aggregate Crushed Rock Drain Rock asphalt Paving Excavating and Grading</p> <p>Hermiston, Oregon Phone 567-2124</p>	<p>Printing</p> <p>ALL TYPE OF PRINTING</p> <p>MANILA ENVELOPES MOST SIZES</p> <p>GAZETTE-TIMES</p>
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<p>Floor Covering</p> <p>M&R FLOOR COVERING</p> <p>Carpet, Linoleum, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Cabinets Free Estimates</p> <p>All Work Guaranteed</p> <p>Matt Hughes 422 Linden Way 676-9418 Heppner</p>	<p>Furnace Service</p> <p>Dick's FURNACE SERVICE</p> <p>We service nearly all types of furnaces; also sales and service on new heating & air conditioning units.</p> <p>Phone 276-7174 DICK HASBROUCK 303 SW 13th Pendleton</p>	<p>Sewing Machines</p> <p>SINGER Sales & Service</p> <p>We repair all makes and models</p> <p>GROGANS</p> <p>Approved Singer Dealer 243 S. Main Pendleton 276-2352</p>
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HEPPNER ELKS B.P.O.E. No. 358

79th ANNUAL February 22, 1975

Registration at the Old Ford Garage beginning at 11 A.M.
Ladies Champagne Tea (St. Patrick's Parish Hall) at 1:30 p.m.
Lodge and Initiation of New Members at 2 p.m.

Seafood Smorgasbord

5:30 to 8 p.m.

music by



MELINDA ANN and THE LEONNIG FAMILY

(Roger, Lorraine & Ron)

9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

\$8 per person

Breakfast will be served at 2 a.m.—\$2 per person

ELK AND OUT OF TOWN GUESTS ONLY!
(Membership Cards Will Be Checked At the Door)

Church Directory

- METHODIST**
SS 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
- LUTHERAN**
SS 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Children Choir, 9:30 a.m.
- CHRISTIAN**
SS 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Even. Serv. 7:30 p.m.
- NAZARENE**
SS 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Even. Serv. 6 p.m.
- EPISCOPAL**
Communion 8 a.m.
SS 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Adult Ed. 10 a.m.
- ASSEMBLY OF GOD**
SS 9:45 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Sun. Eve. service 7:00
Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**
Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
- CATHOLIC**
Catechism Mon. & Wed.
Worship:
Heppner, Sun. 11 a.m.
Saturday 6:30 p.m.
Lone, Sun. 8:45 a.m.
Saturday worship, 6:30 p.m.,
St. Patricks
- CHURCH OF CHRIST, Lex- ington**
SS 9:45
Church 11:00
Sun. Eve. 7:30
Bible Study, Wed. 7:30
- INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP**
Bible Study, Wed., 10 a.m.
340 Baratt Blvd.

Sponsored as a community service by
LEBUSH SHOP