

Goes to museum

# 38 year old biscuit returned to Russians

Expectations of 38 years reached a climax for Robert Lowe last Friday when he received a personal interview with Lt. General Georgi Baidukov, and other Russian dignitaries at Vancouver, Wa.

Baidukov was the co-pilot of the Russian plane that made the first historic air crossing of the North Pole. The Russian plane covered 5,288 miles across the polar wastes in 63 hours and 16 minutes to blaze a new air route across the top of the world. They had just 10 1/2 gallons of fuel remaining when they landed, enough for about 15 minutes of flight, when they landed at Pearson Field, June 20, 1937.

Friday, June 20, 1975, 38 years after the historic flight, two of the surviving airmen received the recognition they deserved at the route over the pole dedication of a monument to their milestone flight.

After they landed at Pearson Field in 1937, their plane was dismantled and returned to Russia. While the plane was being dismantled a few items aboard the plane were tossed away as they were thought to have no significance. One of the items discarded was a small packet of hardtack wrapped in parchment paper. It was recovered by Eugene Spencer, Portland, who gave the hardtack to Mrs. Jenny Lowe. Mrs. Lowe removed the parchment paper and wrote the historical events on the parchment. She preserved the hardtack by re-wrapping it and later placed the biscuits in a small plastic bag. The items were placed in her writing desk.

After her death in 1956, her son, Robert Lowe, Heppner, found the hardtack with the parchment paper and thought of ways to return it to the Russian airmen. In November 1974, he read in the newspaper where the Russian airmen planned on retracing their historic flight. He made up his mind he would be in Vancouver, Wa. to witness the dedication ceremonies and if the occasion arose, he would return the hardtack to the Russians.

Lowe left Heppner with Jack Loyd and Ernie Ceresa of the Gazette Times at 3:30 Friday morning. While at the dedication site, he inquired about the possibility of interviewing the Russians. He was told to wait their arrival for lunch after the dedication ceremonies.

As they emerged from the vehicle, Lowe, stopped Georgi

Baidukov and through an interpreter he told of his plans to return the hardtack. Baidukov offered to purchase the hardtack, but Lowe refused, saying, "I would like to return this to you as a token of appreciation." He also presented Baidukov a small postcard showing the three airmen and the plane used in their first flight.

Baidukov was overwhelmed at the thought and told Lowe the hardtack would be returned to Russia to be placed in the museum that houses the aircraft used in the historic flight.

After many thank you's were expressed, Baidukov left to fulfill his luncheon engagement. Lowe was questioned by other Russian dignitaries as to the expressed purpose of his visit. He related his story and they were overwhelmed at his kindness. Meanwhile, Russian members of the news media gathered about. They asked Lowe where he lived and when he answered Heppner, they asked its geographical location and the population. They asked about the main industry in Heppner and Lowe replied, "Heppner and most of Morrow County is a farming and lumbering community."

All of the one-hour interview with the Russians was done through an interpreter, B.G. Strelinikov, a journalist for the Russian newspaper Pravda. Lowe also spoke briefly with V.M. Peskov, journalist, A.M. Troshin, editor and consulate general Yuri Chemohud, San Francisco, Ca.

The Russians wanted to reciprocate Lowe's act of kindness and did so by giving Lowe, Russian money, cigarettes, a bottle of vodka and a hand-painted wooden spoon. Peskov, who made the presentations to Lowe remarked, "Just drink a little vodka at a time, and keep it cold." Ernie Ceresa, Gazette-Times, was also given Russian money, cigarettes and a wooden spoon as a token of appreciation.

Many pictures were taken by the Russian photographers present at the time and a trade agreement reached when the Russians asked Ceresa to send the Gazette-Times to Moscow. They in exchange would send the newspaper Pravda to Heppner along with photographs they had taken.

It was a very eventful day as well as historical for Bob Lowe and the Gazette-Times. It was brought about with the returning of a piece of Russian hardtack, 38 years old.



Bob Lowe, Heppner, center, speaks with Russian interpreter Irina Bastorina, not in picture, as Ambassador Anatoliy, USSR Embassy, Washington, D.C. looks on. Lt. General Georgi Baidukov, co-pilot of the historic flight, studies picture taken in 1937 of the three airmen.



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## Big city girl becomes fair and rodeo princess

How does a girl from the big city become a rodeo princess in a sparsely populated Eastern Oregon county? The thought wouldn't occur to most big-city girls, but if you are a girl with roots established in a place such as Lone and lots of relatives to visit there every summer, and a dislike for city life, then it's possible. Morrow County Fair and

Rodeo Princess, Donna Rea is just such a girl. She moved from Lone at the age of one to Milwaukie, Ore., where her father Richard is a machinist for Omtrak Industries. A few years ago she moved with her mother and sister to San Francisco and later to South San Francisco. But every summer, she and her fourteen year old sister, Darcy, came

back to Lone to visit aunts and uncles and their grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clae Rea. "My sister and I kept trying to persuade our mother to let us go to school in Lone," Donna says. "Last year she finally let us." For Donna attending school and living in South San Francisco involved living around too many people one didn't know. The girls live with the Louis Halvorsens and refer to Mrs. Halvorsen as "Grandmother Dol" although they don't think they are related unless it's "way back."

Tall, dark haired Donna likes sports. In South San Francisco she said one had to try out for everything so she never did participate in the sport's programs there. However, she participated in gymnastics. At Lone last year she played volleyball, basketball and tennis. She is the center for the Lone girls' basketball team. This year she will be a senior at Lone High School.

This summer she is teaching swimming at the Lone pool. When she isn't doing that she finds someone to clean house for or helps out on the Halvorsen ranch. Much of her summer will be taken up with the activities of being a rodeo princess. She says she is really enjoying the experience because she has the opportunity to meet many new people.

Princess Donna is one of those gals who has definite ideas about what she wants to do. When she finishes high school she wants to attend Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton and become a dental assistant. When asked if she would like to return to the big city, she replied that she preferred very small towns.

Donna will be riding a horse belonging to a former Morrow County Rodeo queen, Dimples Munkers, for the summer's court events. She encourages everyone to come to Saturday night's dance and dance to the music of the Depot II.



PRINCESS DONNA REA

## Death claims Tiny Sweeney

The community was saddened by the death of Olive "Tiny" Sweeney, Morrow County Public Health Nurse and wife of Mayor Jerry Sweeney, who died Saturday, June 21, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

She was born July 26, 1926, at Butte, Montana. She and Mr. Sweeney were married at Helena, Montana, September 20, 1948.

She attended Carroll College at Helena and was a graduate of St. James School of Nursing at Butte. Besides being a registered nurse, she was a licensed funeral director. She and her husband operated Sweeney Mortuary.

Mrs. Sweeney had been on leave of absence as Morrow County Public Health Nurse for several months because of illness.

She was the first recipient of the Heppner Soroptimist Club's Dignity of Service Award in 1971 for her assistance to flood victims. She was



TINY SWEENEY

active at the time in Red Cross disaster services.

Mrs. Sweeney was a member of St. Patrick's Church and Altar Society, The Heppner Morrow County Chamber of Commerce, the Oregon Funeral Director's Association, and the National Funeral Director's Association.

Survivors besides the widower are a daughter, Kathleen Sunseri, Portland; sons, Michael J., Daniel J., Brian C. and Gregory R., all of Heppner, and Patrick W. of

Oregon City, brothers, William Harris, Palmetto, Florida, Edgel Harris, Butte, Montana and Howard Lyons of Federal Way, Washington; one grandson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Recitation of the rosary was held Monday evening at St. Patrick's Church.

A funeral mass was held Tuesday, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Officiating were The Rev. John O'Brien and The Rev. Raymond Beard. Sacred selections were sung by William Kenny, accompanied by Rikka Teus on the organ.

Casket bearers were Paul Jones, Larry Pruck, Ralph Edman, Everett Browning, William Kilkenny and Marvin Albee.

Concluding services and vault interment were at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Fund.

## Tri-County health services receive \$91,303 grant

Morrow County Judge, Paul Jones, was informed late last week in separate calls from the offices of Senators Hatfield and Packwood and Rep. Al Ullman, that the Rural Health Initiative 314(e) grant application made by the Tri-County Health Services Commission has been approved. The commission will receive \$91,303 for the 1975-76 fiscal year to begin its project. The nine-member commission was established by the County Courts of Gilliam, Morrow and Wheeler counties in February to coordinate and increase health care in the three counties. Members of the commission include Judge Jones, current project director; Liz Curtis, chairman and

Hazel Mahoney from Morrow County; Judge Barnett, Marvin Albee and Father Charles Driesbach from Gilliam County and Judge Leckie, Keena Shean and Clarence Asher from Wheeler County. The objectives of the project encompass such areas as providing sufficient primary care through nurse practitioners in Fossil and Condon under the preceptorship of Heppner based doctors, extension of health services through the use of out-reach workers, improved emergency communications, identification of health problems in the project area, linkage with the University of Oregon Medical School and the equipping of a drug and alcohol

detoxification room in Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

The first function of the commission will be to hire a coordinator for the project. Also in the first year \$10,000 has been budgeted for the addition to and updating of laboratory equipment in the lab at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

The commission is the result of the cooperation between the three counties since 1970 to bring doctors and later nurse practitioners into Fossil, Condon and Heppner. The project is considered unique in the United States in that there is cooperation across county lines to improve health care in rural areas.

## Mickey Hoskins crowned Queen

At the coronation ceremony Saturday night at the Morrow County Fair grounds, Mickey Hoskins became the first queen in the county's history to be crowned by her mother, Darlene Hoskins, a former Morrow County Rodeo queen placed the crown upon her daughter's head after Queen Sherry Kemp asked her to do so.

Following the coronation Queen Mickey introduced members of her court, princesses Mary Ann Proctor, Donna Rea, June McLean and Barbara Palmer.

Each of the princesses spoke briefly to the audience and invited them to attend the rodeo Aug. 21-23.

Master of ceremonies Harold Kerr, introduced the following Morrow County

Rodeo Queens to the audience and gave the year each served as queen: Eva Padberg, 1929; Dimples Munkers, 1934; Cecilia Healy, 1935; Darlene Hoskins, 1946; Merlin Robinson, 1947; Katie Van Schoiack, 1952; Pat Doherty, 1958; Sharon Stookey, 1957; Verena Schiller, 1967; Michelle Burns, 1971; Susie French, 1972; Jeannie Grant, 1973; Sherry Kemp, 1974; and Mickey Hoskins, 1975.

Kerr also introduced the Boardman Harvest Court, and the Round-Up Court from Pendleton.

Music by the Depot II entertained the audience during the coronation ceremonies. Following the coronation a dance was held in the queen's honor with music by the Country Revue.



Three queens, former Fair and Rodeo Queen Darlene Hoskins, 1974 Rodeo Queen Sherry Kemp and 1975 Fair and Rodeo Queen Mickey Hoskins.