

## America celebrated its 100th birthday

While bicentennial committees everywhere are working on a year events leading to 1976, it is interesting to look back at America's 100th birthday celebration.

In 1876 the country was suffering from a severe depression that followed the civil war. Ulysses S. Grant was president. More and more people were moving into cities because it was a period of great industrial growth.

The United States had become the world's leading technological nation; it led all other countries in the number of patents issued. Rapid changes were taking place in every aspect of living. A New York Times reporter had just traveled coast-to-coast by train in less than four days' time and wrote, "Seven years ago there hadn't even been a transcontinental railroad."

Farmers were impressed by a steam-powered threshing separator that could thresh and clean from 800 to 1,000 bushels of wheat per day. Typewriters and Singer sewing machines sat on metal stands and foot-treadle powered the sewing and returned the carriage on the early writing machines. The Otis elevator was frightening to most people. Bell's telephone was a curiosity.

On May 10, 1876, the first World's Fair held on this side of the Atlantic was opened by President Grant in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park before 150,000 men in top hats and Prince Albert coats and women in bustles and bonnets. This Centennial Fair had been 10 years in the planning and its four great halls, 24 state buildings and many foreign pavilions covered 336 acres. It ran for 150 days—May 10 to Nov. 10, with Sunday closings.

One out of every five Americans paid 50 cents to view its marvels. The displays of machines of every kind were most exciting. The greatest of these was the mighty, 700-ton, 2,500-horsepower Corliss steam engine, the world's biggest and most powerful, which drove all the other 8,000 mechanical marvels on display with 40-odd miles of slapping belts and 23 miles of shafting and a great assortment of pulleys.

The committee had planned on having the Prince of Wales as honored guest at the grand opening of the expedition, but he chose to go tiger-hunting in India. Emperor Dom Pedro of Brazil was chosen to be honored. He threw the switch to activate the huge engine.

Hundreds of thousands gawked at the machines ranging from the Corliss, 40 feet high, to a great assortment of smaller, powered equipment which could lift, crush, spin and weave, make assorted articles, saw logs, pump water or stitch shoes. Most of the viewers did not realize they were seeing the passing of the era of individual handicrafts. William Dean Howells, editor of the Atlantic Monthly, wrote, "Surely here, and not in literature and art, is the evidence of man's creative power. Here is Prometheus unbound."

A pleased young writer, Mark Twain, bought one of the first models of the typewriter for \$125 and used it to copy his draft of "Tom Sawyer."

Visitors to the 1876 fair could ride a narrow-gauge railroad around the grounds for 5 cents or could hire liveried attendants to push them in rolling chairs for 60 cents an hour or \$4.50 per day. The great masses walked the crowded grounds. Many complained of the high prices. They resented some restaurants charging for bread, butter and service for which they were accustomed to paying nothing.

The centennial fair ended with great ceremony. A choir sang "America" and a 150-piece orchestra played "Centennial March" composed especially for the event by German composer Richard Wagner, for a fee of \$5,000. A 47-gun salute, one for each state and territory, echoed from George's Hill and from

the steamer "Plymouth" in Philadelphia harbor. President Grant said 16 words, "Ladies and gentlemen, I have now the honor to declare the International Exposition of 1876 closed."

The \$3,813,749.75 collected made the fair a financial success. After it closed, 21 freight cars of exhibits went to the young Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Historians agreed that the centennial celebration reunited the diverse population and helped lead into a great period of growth and prosperity. Perhaps between July 4, 1875 and July 4, 1876, the bicentennial celebrations in every American community will also have strengthening effects as citizens feel pride in their country's past achievements and dedicate themselves to greater understanding and growth in the years ahead.

Facts for this article came from a June 1975 Elks Magazine, story by L.M. Rhodes and from the World Book Encyclopedia.

### GRADUATES AS MORTICIAN

The spring class of the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science held their Graduation Banquet at A. Sebella's Restaurant in San Francisco on Thursday evening, June 12, 1975. The class consisted of 25 students.

At the ceremony, Patrick William Sweeney of Heppner received a Funeral Director, Embalmer and an Associate in Arts degree.

Patrick is the son of Mr. Jerry Sweeney and the late Mrs. Sweeney, Heppner. He is now associated with the Holman-Hankins Funeral Home in Oregon City.

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Emile Groshens, Heppner, first spotted Donna Bird on Butter Creek last week. He stopped his car and chatted with her and found she needed food rather than money. Groshens estimated her travel and found her camp on the Ruhl property near Lexington. The following day he brought her some provisions for her journey.

### Stolen vehicle brings charges

Two juveniles were apprehended by City Police early Saturday morning, when officers discovered they were driving a vehicle believed to be stolen in John Day.

The car was spotted on May 31, and police officers stopped the youths on No. Court St. The youths surrendered and one of the youths admitted to police officers he had stolen the vehicle in John Day.

The youths, one 16, Pendleton, and the other, 17 from Hermiston were taken by city and county officers to the Juvenile Detention Center, Pendleton on charges of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

According to reports both of the juveniles are on probation stemming from a similar charge.

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### Irrigon man river victim

Lance Lockhart, 26, Irrigon was lost and presumed drowned in the Grande Ronde River, June 19, the result of a canoeing accident.

The accident occurred three miles west of Bogans Oasis when Lockhart and his companion Kent Kelley, Philomath, launched their canoe near Troy.

According to reports the canoe capsized, but the two men managed to climb aboard. Kelley decided to swim ashore and Lockhart floated downstream. The canoe was recovered two miles downstream according to the Asotin County, Wa. Sheriff's department.

Lockhart was manager of Sabre Farms, Boardman. He was a graduate of LaGrande High School, class of 1966, and received his degree in general agriculture from Oregon State University in 1973.

He was the son of Ray and Louise Lockhart, LaGrande.

### Rock club holds picnic

Twelve members were present at the June meeting of the Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society, held in the conference room of the First National Bank.

Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Babb, who are in Heppner for the summer from their home in Heppner from the summer from their home in Apache Junction, Arizona. Mr. Babb and Mr. Pete McMurtry showed several cobs and items made of stone and petrified wood. Most unusual was a pair of boots Mr. Babb had fashioned from petrified wood.

The door prize was a booklet, "Oregon Underfoot". It was won by Mrs. McMurtry.

On Sunday, June 22, the Society met at Anson Wright Park, then went to Sunflower Flat for a thunder egg hunt. A picnic was held later in the day.

The next meeting will be September 15.



Discussing the concept of pressure man-to-man defense with Coach Gay Dacus, Head Coach, Hudson's Bay High School, Vancouver, Wa. and Coach Marv Ainsworth, Head Basketball Coach, University High School, Spokane, (State AAA runnersup) are local area cagers from Heppner and Pilot Rock, Or. Kneeling: (L-R) Randy MacLean (PR), Coach Ainsworth, Jeff Lavender (PR) Tom Cutsforth (Hep), Ken Grieb (Hep), Tim Rasmussen (PR), Frank Webb (PR), Mark Piper (Hep), Mark Lavender (PR), Gary Hemenway (PR), and Jim Kindhead (PR).

### Posse members session

The 1975 Pacific Northwest Search and Rescue Conference was held June 14 and 15 at Prairie Campground near Bend.

Instruction was received in Outdoor Survival, crime scene protection & search, helicopter safety, first aid and basic styles and patterns of searches. Numerous displays were used in the courses, i.e.,

helicopters, snocats and various climbing equipment. Those attending from the Morrow County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Posse were: Don Strober, Ed Yeoman, Benham Malcom, Richard Olsen, Fred Breeding and Ed Olsen of Heppner; Ken Nelson and Simon Winters of Lexington and Rod Flug of Boardman.

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