

Bicentennial Forum

BROSNAN FAMILY

By Justine Weatherford

Jeremiah Brosnan and his bride Mary Gafney founded one of the county's leading ranching families after their marriage in 1881. Their son John and their grandson Jerry along with their great-grandson Eddie also have become well-established livestock growers along upper Little Butter Creek since the 1870s. Surely, the Brosnan Ranch qualifies as a Century Farm.

Jeremiah Brosnan was born in Ireland's County Cork. Along with others who left that famine-poor island, he came to the U.S. to seek his fortune. He was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad on its westward expansion and worked his way west to Promotory, Utah by 1869 where he stood by as the officials of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific drove the "golden spike."

After his time with the railroad he made his way to this area where other Irish were doing well with livestock. In due time he met Mary Gafney from County Leitrim who had come around the Horn with a cousin Mike Kenny. His first work in Morrow was at the stagecoach stop at the foot of Franklin Hill.

Mary and Mike had come by boat up to Umatilla Landing where her sister and husband, the Felix Johnsons, met them. Jeremiah Brosnan was raising horses on his place at Lena when he married, and he and Mary had their first home across from where their daughter-in-law Zetta lives today. This is the mouth of a canyon and their early home was washed away by a water spout in 1882. They built a larger home on the location where Jerry and Marian live today. They lived there until 1910 when they moved to Heppner. Although the ranch founder began his livestock enterprise with horses, he went into sheep and also cattle ranching. Judge Kilkenny writes "He was one of the outstanding characters of his time, a wit, a satirist and a great cattleman."

Jeremiah and Mary had a son John and daughters Katie and Mary. John carried on the ranch. Katie married Hugh Curran and their family also flourishes along Little Butter Creek. Mary married Umatilla County rancher Sam Nelson. John, affectionately called "Jack", married Zetta Hager of Heppner in St. Patrick's Church in 1908 and took her to the ranch at Lena where she rules a cozy trailer home today. At 88, Zetta remembers her early days very clearly.

Zetta was the first child baptized in St. Patrick's Church when it was where the Legion Hall is today. She completed grade school in Heppner, then attended a convent high school in Walla Walla, graduating in 1906 and attended Washington State College at Pullman. On leaving Pullman she worked as a telephone operator in Weiser, ID before returning to Heppner and employment in Jim Hart's Confectionary Store and in the post office under Postmaster W.W. Smead until her marriage.

At Lena the Brosnans lived near the Franklin family who kept a stage station where passengers stayed overnight and horses were exchanged for a fresh team. The hill east of Lena is named after this family. For awhile Zetta kept the Lena post office on her front porch. She recalls the first store at Lena was just north where the Eddie Brosnans live now. A later store was built in 1914 north of there about where the Hughes barn stands along the road. It had the post office with the store downstairs and had a hall upstairs that was used for parties and dances. Later lumber from this store was used to build a shed now standing on the Merlin Hughes place. Zetta's husband died in 1952 about ten years after they had built a new home which the Eddie Brosnan family has today. He had raised sheep and cattle.

The old house, the second home of Jeremiah and Mary, was lived in by John and Zetta and Jerry and his wife Marian (Good) and their first three children until it was destroyed by fire in April 1942. Jerry and Marian rebuilt on the same spot and live there today. Marian Good came from the Willamette Valley to this county as a young school teacher. The Jerry Brosnans have four married children and fourteen grandchildren.

Jerry went out of the sheep business in 1956 continuing with cattle alone. He was actively involved with early area rodeos—old films show him as an efficient pickup man. He was on the Lena School Board (was a former student of that school). He also was kept busy helping build and maintain the district's telephone lines. He and Marian have continued the family's support of St. Patrick's Church. In 1963 he and son Eddie were County Cattlemen of the Year. Marian has been Altar Society president, Bookworm president and CowBelle president.

Marian and Jerry's oldest son John married a Eugene girl. They live at Hubbard where he works for Trustee Steel Construction Co. and she teaches. They have three daughters and one son.

In 1959 the Brosnan daughter Joan was a county Rodeo princess in the court of Queen Pat Steagall. She is now Mrs. Norman Weister and is employed by Fred Meyer Inc. in their Portland accounting office. Her children Craig Robison 15, Susan Robison 12 and Shawn Robison 9 often visit their grandparents on Butter Creek.

Second son Eddie ranches with his Dad. He and his wife Lorraine (Harnden) have Mike 10, Dyann 8, twins Jerry and James 5 and Mark 4. Like his brothers and sister Eddie was educated through high school in the county. Lorraine lived in Mitchell through high school, then went to business college in Boise. She came to Heppner to work as a legal secretary.

Eddie was president of the Morrow County Cattlemen's Association in 1974 and in 1975. Lorraine is an active CowBelle and works as needed at the county courthouse helping in the assessor's or clerk's office.

The youngest Brosnan son, Dan and his wife Doris (Morris), Heppner, live at Gilchrist where he is employed by the Oregon State Police, and she does substitute teaching. They have a son and a daughter.

And so with fourteen great-great-grandchildren to carry on the family enterprise, Jeremiah and Mary's beginnings on Little Butter Creek may last forever.

Scholarship nominee



SKYE KREBS

Two young people with outstanding records in the 4-H sheep project have been nominated for consideration for the \$1,000 Harold A. Cohn scholarship in the Oregon State University animal science department.

They are Skye Krebs, Ione, and Rosemarie Booze, Salem.

They are two of the four candidates nominated by 4-H and Future Farmers of America for the scholarship which is given by Superior Packing Co. and CZL Inc., of Ellensburg, WA. Objective of the award is to encourage the sheep industry in the Northwest, explains Mike Howell, Morrow County Extension Agent. The final selection will be made by the department.

Krebs, 18, a senior at Ione High School, plans to attend OSU and hopes to follow a career in sheep production with the Krebs Brothers operations. He has been a 4-H member for nine years, raising bumper lambs and also participating in the Ione Livestock and Tractor Club.

In addition, he has been active in high school sports and is ending his term as high school student body president. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Krebs.

Miss Booze, currently a freshman in pre-veterinary medicine at OSU, has been in 4-H since 1966, carrying pro-

jects in sheep and beef. She started her 4-H career with sheep and then switched to beef when her first 4-H club disbanded. Later, she served as junior leader of her 4-H club and then as teen leader for nine members interested in raising sheep.

The Cascade High School graduate is also an officer in the Oregon Junior Polled Hereford Association and served as a member of the state 4-H animal science project development committee and on a Marion County 4-H advisory committee.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Booze.

The Grand Squares Dance Club of Ione held their 8th anniversary dance Saturday night, May 1, at the Willows Grange Hall, Ione. It was well attended with six squares on the floor at a time. There were guest dancers from the Square Knots, Hermiston and the Rocket Squares, Pendleton joining them.

The hall and dining tables were decorated with the bicentennial year in mind featuring the "Spirit of '76." Some of the dancers wore bicentennial gowns and outfits.

In recognition of the club's past history, President Ron Davis introduced Lee Palmer who was the club's first president.

Home made ice cream by Lorene Griffith, Suzanne Jepson and Shirley McNary was enjoyed.

After refreshments door prizes were given to those whose bicentennial printed paper plates had the date 1776 on the under side.

Caller was Darrel Wilson, Ione but the group also enjoyed dancing to the guest callers from the Square Knots Club, Hermiston.

Members on the committee who did an extraordinary job hosting and decorating the dance were: Bill and Daisy Collins, Dan and Barbara James and Suzanne Jepson, Randall and Marlene Peterson, and John and Linda Breidenbach.

SAMPLE BALLOT

STUB NO. _____

OFFICIAL BALLOT

CITY OF HEPPNER, OREGON TAX LEVY
OUTSIDE THE CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS

Monday, May 17, 1976, Polls open 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
To be held at Heppner City Hall

The voter shall place an (X) or check mark (✓) in the voting square before the word YES or the word NO, whichever indicates his choice.

PROPOSAL

Shall the City of Heppner, Oregon be authorized to levy for the fiscal year 1976-77, the sum of \$93,866.00 outside the 6% limitation set forth in Section 2, Article 11 of the Oregon Constitution.

EXPLANATION OF BALLOT QUESTION

Without the approval of the voters, the City of Heppner has authority to levy only the tax base of the City, which is \$39,137.00. This sum, together with available non-tax revenues, is not adequate to meet the operating needs of the City.

Because the tax base is inadequate, it is necessary to submit to the voters for the fiscal year 1976-77, a tax levy request in excess of the tax base. If approved, the operating budget to be financed by local taxes for the years 1976-77 will be \$93,866.00 greater than for the preceding year. This constitutes a rate of levy increase over the preceding year in the amount of \$8.08 per thousand of true cash value of taxable property.

The reasons for increasing the levy are: Loss of Federal Revenue Sharing money, plus increases in cost of equipment and supplies, contracted services and materials, employment salaries, social security, workman's compensation, all necessary for the operation and maintenance of the City of Heppner.

Yes, I vote for the tax levy

No, I vote against the tax levy

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a special election of the City of Heppner, Oregon, will be held in such City and State on the 17th day of May, 1976, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. PDT, at the following voting place:

CITY HALL, HEPPNER, MORROW COUNTY, OREGON

At this time there will be submitted to the legal voters of the City of Heppner, the question of establishing a tax levy for the fiscal year 1976-77 for the sum of \$93,866.00 as submitted by Section 2, Article 11, of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, which fiscal period commences on July 1, 1976, and ends June 30, 1977. Said levy shall be placed upon the 1976-77 assessment rolls and the taxes will be due and payable on November 15, 1976, February 15, 1977, May 15, 1977, and August 15, 1977. The reasons for establishing this tax levy are for the payment of increases in equipment and supplies, in employees' salaries, social security, workman's compensation, contracted services and materials necessary for the operation and maintenance of the City of Heppner, all as required by the laws of the state of Oregon, plus the loss of federal revenue sharing money.

The votes will be by ballot upon which will be marked (Yes, I vote for the tax levy) and (No, I vote against the tax levy,) and the voters shall cross the parenthesis with an X by the word "Yes, I vote for the tax levy" or by the word "No, I vote against the tax levy", whichever indicates his choice. All voters will vote at the Heppner City Hall, Heppner, Oregon. By the Order of the Common Council of the City of Heppner.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 1976.

ATTESTED TO: s/J. F. Sweeney
J. F. Sweeney, Mayor

s/Marshall Lovgren
Marshall Lovgren
City Recorder

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Golden Age Club, Elks Lodge, Potluck dinner 1st Tues of mo., 6:30
- Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge Mon. noon
- Heppner Lions Club, 1st & 3rd Tues., Wagon Wheel 6:45 a.m.
- Boardman Lions Club, 1st & 3rd Thurs., Grange Hall 8 p.m.
- Senior Citizens Dinner, Elks Lodge, Tues & Wed 4:30 p.m.
- San Souci Rebekah Lodge, Heppner 1st & 3rd Fridays
- Social Sec. Rep., Neighborhood Center 2nd Fri. of mo, 10-noon
- Newcomers Club, Wagon Wheel 1st Mon., noon
- Legal Aid, Bank of EO Board Rm. 2nd & 4th Tues., 1:30-5 p.m.
- City Council, City Hall 1st Mon., 8 p.m.
- Boy Scouts, Elks Wed., 7:30 p.m.
- Ione Lions Club, Beechers Cafe May 11 & 25, 7 p.m.
- County Fair Board, Fair Dorm Bldg. 2nd Mon., 7:30 p.m.
- Library Board, Columbia Basin Conf. Rm. 4th Thurs., 8 p.m.
- Girls Softball, Fairgrounds Sat, May 8, 2:30 p.m.

Sale 6.40
Reg. \$8. Lace yoked sleeveless long gown of easy-care nylon tricot in pastels. S.M.L.

Sale 5.60
Reg. \$7. Lace yoked sleeveless waltz gown of nylon tricot in pastels. S.M.L. Two-piece pajamas, 32-40, reg. \$10. Sale \$8.

JCPenney
124 S. Main 276-3821
Pendleton

LUBE SPECIAL \$14.

Due to the good response to my \$14 lube special where I furnish oil, filter, and give a complete lube job, I have decided to continue it indefinitely. The only change will be \$15 for 4-wheel drives. Also see me for new or used tires and recaps, exhaust system work, shocks, sport wheels, batteries, wheel packs, etc. Competitive prices.

VERN'S UNION STATION
Heppner, OR. 676-5184