

Labo students teach chamber manners

"Do you have to eat your potatoes with 'em?" Your potatoes, your gravy, your beans and your salad. It was tough, but most of the people at the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce enjoyed eating their Monday lunch with chopsticks.

A chaperone and two Japanese, 4-H Labo exchange students were the featured guests Monday, entertaining a large chamber audience with their music, art and just plain friendliness.

Yoko Miyakawa, the groups chaperone, was joined by Noriko Mizugaki and Mayumi Hosaka at the chamber meeting.

The lunch started out with the use of chopsticks. Many native Americans couldn't quite get the touch of the sticks and before the meal was over, had retreated to the use of knife and fork.

The Japanese students used both chopsticks and American utensils in between visits to tables and instruction on how to

use the oriental sticks.

After the meal, Burdine Tullis, spokesperson for the 4-H exchange introduced Noriko, who played brilliantly on the piano. Noriko is staying with the Vern Evans family in Irrigon.

Mayumi is staying with the John Gochnauer family here in Heppner. And, Yoko stays with the Don Bennett family in Heppner.

The Japanese girls, Mayumi and Noriko, spoke to the chamber in their native Japanese tongue. Although none but Yoko could understand their lingo, many smiling faces greeted the youngsters thoughts.

Yoko interpreted the girls speech.

Speaking in broken English, still very understandable, Yoko said the girls were very "shocked at the largeness" of the country. She said that they had found the people "very friendly and cheerful."

Yoko said the girls said they "dreamed of visiting the United States" and "envy your big country."

"Everything is so fresh for the girls," Yoko said. She praised "your country's greatness."

Yoko herself, read a letter from a Japanese girl that stayed with the Laughlin family in Heppner two years ago.

Yoko said "it is a nice experience for the girls . . . and me too."

The exchange program is very popular in Japan, according to Mrs. Tullis, who said that some parents have already filed to send their small babies to American when they are old enough.

Families that are keeping Mayumi and Noriko related some experiences also.

John Gochnauer told the chamber that Mayumi "immediately became part of the family." Gochnauer said she actually caused the family to "come closer" and said he treats her like his own daughter.

Mayumi, who calls her foster parents mom and daddy, presented Gochnauer with some knee length pants but he said he didn't feel they were appropriate for chamber dress.

Mrs. Gochnauer said Mayumi takes everything seriously. She said that Mayumi is "very helpful", and "more help than my American children." She said Mayumi does the dishes every night, taking that chore on as her own.

One night, Mrs. Gochnauer told Mayumi she could go write letters and she would do the dishes.

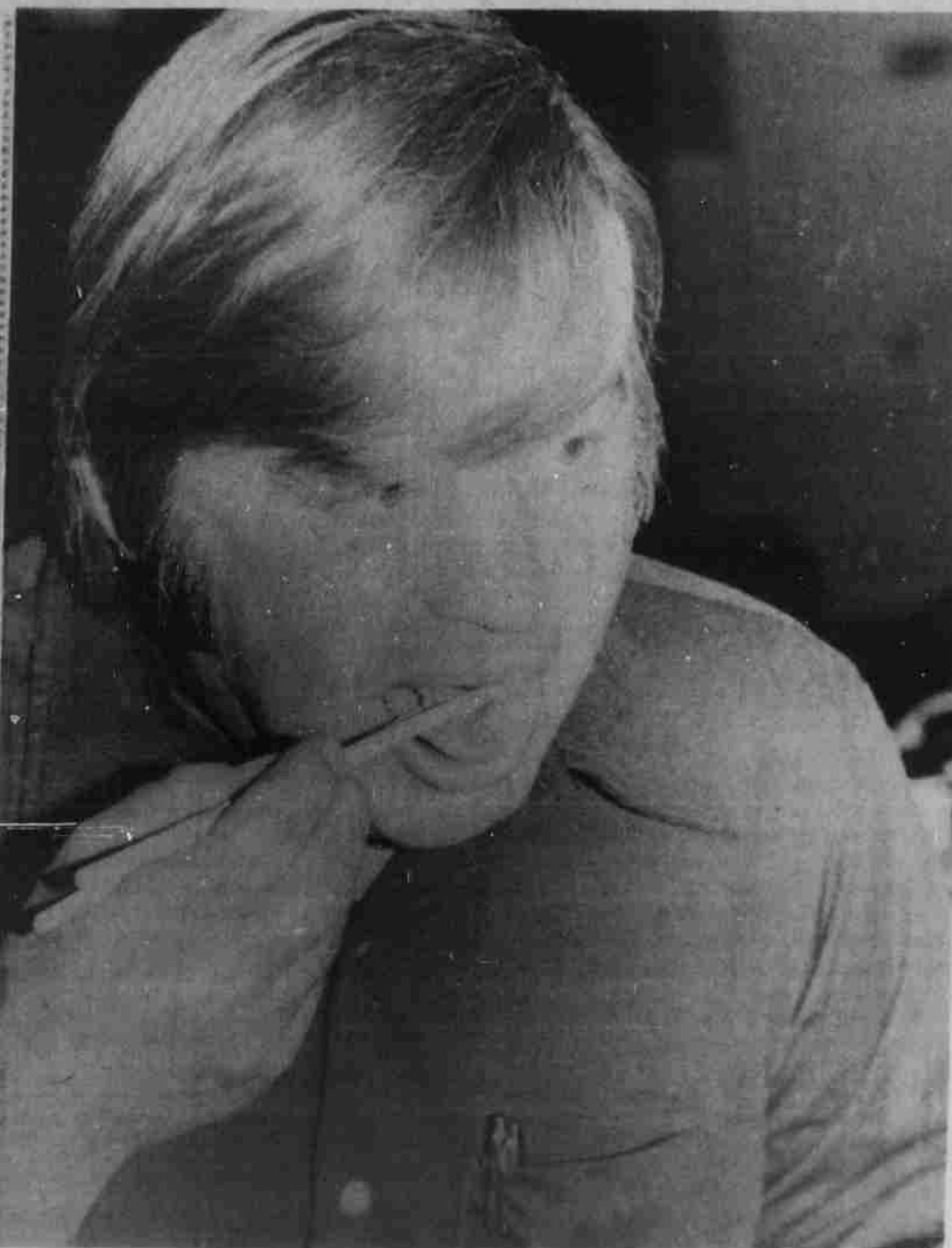
About 12:30 a.m., Mrs. Gochnauer found Mayumi completing her 18th post card. She thought Mrs. Gochnauer had told her to write the letters.

"She is very willing to please," Mrs. Gochnauer added.

Noriko, staying with the Evans family in Irrigon, taught the family how to make paper art work, which decorated the tables Monday at the luncheon.

The Japanese girls go to school 11 months out of the year, six days a week. This month, is their month off, but it too is full of homework.

The large audience seemed to enjoy using chopsticks for a change of pace and enjoyed even more, just visiting with our foreign friends.



John Gochnauer, U.S. parent of Mayumi Hosaka, had little trouble with his chopstick (G-T Photo)

Pre-school reminder

Parents of all pre-kindergarten and pre-first grade students are reminded that a call to Pat Wright, county health nurse, phone 989-8256, or Mike Tolar, principal, A.C. Houghton School, Irrigon, phone 922-3321, is all that is needed to register their children for free pre-school health examina-

tions. Clinics will be held in Irrigon on Aug. 19 and in Heppner Aug. 20 sponsored by Extension Service and County Health

Departments. Appointments will be made on a first come, first serve basis, so call soon to assure the time most convenient.

Coop to pay credits

The Board of Directors of Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative has authorized payment of the 1964 patronage credits to the present "active

members" who had accounts with the Cooperative in 1964. It is expected that the payments will be issued in late October of this year.

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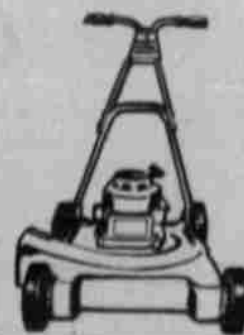
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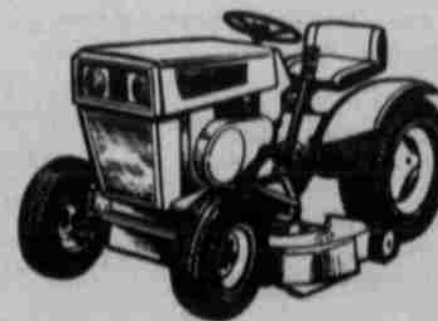
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