



Flood-displaced Methodist Church, 1903. Parsonage in background was floated across the street to its present location. Henry Scherzinger (father of museum curator, Rachel Harnett) and his team and others are shown cleaning up the debris around the church. —Courtesy Morrow County Museum

Methodist Church washed away in big flood of 1903

The Heppner United Methodist Church approaches the celebration of its centennial on October 16 and 17.

Many descendants of one of the principal founders of the church still live in the county. In 1853, Albert Wright started across the plains to Oregon with his family. Their traveling companion was the Rev. H.K. Hines, an illustrious Methodist missionary. The two churchmen were staunch, life-long friends.

After Albert Wright brought his family to Umatilla County from their first Oregon location in the Willamette valley, they settled above Rhea Creek near where some of the fifth and sixth generation still live. The Albert Wright family arrived here in 1872, the year of Heppner's birth.

As more people began to come here, several joined together for church meetings and to offer their children religious education. Through his friendship with Rev. Hines, a state leader of the Methodist Church, Albert Wright and others encouraged the founding of a Methodist Episcopal Church in Heppner. Mr. Wright long held many offices in the early church. Along with Julius Keithly, C.E. Fell and A. Mallory, he served on the first board of trustees.

Records show that in 1876 J.C. Kirkman was in charge of a circuit that included Heppner, where he preached regularly. From that date the record of continuous service has been preserved. Rev. Kirkman served here until 1879 when he was succeeded by Samuel Hope who was followed by H.B. Lane, and in 1882, Dr. N.W. Skipworth came to preach here. After him came George C. Roe and Henry C. Moys who were followed in 1886 by Dr. Henry I. Rasmus who served here four years.

In 1888 Dr. Rasmus supervised the building of the structure still being used by the Methodists. The building was dedicated that November. There were six other pastors assigned to Heppner between Dr. Rasmus and Rev. H.L. Beightol, who came in the fall of 1900. The church was growing and functioning very well, when according to church writing, "On Sunday evening, the 14th of June, Heppner was visited by one of the most awful disasters

"With no warning other than the rain that had preceded, a resistless avalanche of water swept through the town, carrying everything in its path, and leaving in its track, waste, ruin and desolation. Scores of homes were carried away and demolished and many of our friends were rushed into eternity by the irresistible waters."

The church building was carried north of its rightful location and was turned sideways by the flood. It was dragged back into position by hard-working men and their teams of horses. The old parsonage was positioned at

the west of the church on the N.W. corner of Gale and Church Streets where it still stands and is presently used as a residence.

After the community and the church recovered from the flood, they both continued to grow. Three pastors came between Rev. Beightol and Rev. Walter L. Airheart, who arrived in September 1908.

In 1909 the entire church building was raised four feet above its old foundation and "an addition was built to provide the choir loft, classrooms and the pastor's study, and the interior of the entire building was remodeled. A

important factor in our material progress; the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Standard Bearers are making a splendid record in their work for foreign peoples, and the extensive improvements made on the church give us room to carry forward our work systematically and effectively."

Some very interesting pictures and mementos have been promised for the centennial exhibit in the church basement on October 16 and 17. One of the special, original treasures of the church, its fine, old, cast-iron bell will not be on exhibit as it hangs in the

bring their items to the church before Thursday afternoon, October 14.

Around the pot belly stove

By Julie Nelson

Gary Morgan and Mrs. Keith Peck of Portland visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Morgan and attended the Fairview School dedication. Also visiting the Morgans were Mrs. John Armington and Marti Armington of Hollywood, CA and Mr. and Mrs. Claude Brashers of Lyle, WA.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pettyjohn had guests for the weekend of their grandson's rodeo benefit. They were Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pettyjohn from Gresham and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Anderson and daughter Mandy from John Day.

Mrs. Lowell Ernst of Longview, WN spent Friday night with her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Ernst. The previous weekend Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Ernst and children spent visiting her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Alexander in Madras and her parents in Summer Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Foster.

The home of Ida Coleman was the meeting place for the Bunchgrass Rebekah Lodge on September 16. The order of business was conducted and plans for an October 21 card party and food sale was discussed. A letter from Vida Heliker was read. Refreshments were served to the eleven who were present. Mrs.

Beri Akers will host next month's meeting.

Cassy Chapel has returned to LaGrande's EOSC for her third year.

An evening of "What is Evil" was given by Linda LaRue at Beta Omega's social. Dreams were analyzed, an ESP test was taken and the Ouija Board was made use of. It was held at the home of Judy Osmin with two guests, Christy Crowell and Lisa Nelson in attendance.

Mr. and Mrs. Del LaRue, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Nelson and Judy Osmin traveled to Eugene this weekend where the three ladies attended an E.S.A. Leadership Seminar. Judy was able to visit with her brother, David Taylor, and returned home with the Heppner Sorority ladies. The LaRues and the Nelsons took the occasion to dine out and dance Saturday night in Portland and returned home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bristow have returned home from a week's trip to Lincoln City. While there they were visited by Mr. and Mrs. Ernie McCabe of Heppner, Pam Doherty and Laurie McCabe from Portland, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bristow and family (Continued on Page 10)

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

PEOPLE

Lexington News

Amicitia club meets

The Amicitia Club met at the home of Mrs. Bob Davidson on Wednesday for their regular meeting. Those playing were Annetta Klinger, Phyllis Piper, Vonnie Lovegren, Marjory Wright, Linda Padberg, Eileen Padberg, Delpha Jones and the hostess. Winning prizes were traveling, Eileen Padberg; low, Annetta Klinger; and high, Delpha Jones.

Catie Padberg has been visiting with a daughter and family, Mr. and L.D. Vinson of Monument. Mrs. Vinson motored over after her mother one day last week.

Carolyn Howard is a patient in Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Wm. J. VanWinkle has returned home after a few days' stay in Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Johnson and children were Portland callers over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Breeding and children of Gresham were Lexington and Heppner visitors over the

weekend. They attended the Ayres Anniversary party Saturday in Heppner. Lydia Wilson, mother of Mrs. Breeding, returned to Heppner with them after a visit in Gresham and Portland with relatives. Lola Breeding of Irrigon, mother of Mr. Breeding, returned with them from Hood River where she is staying with a granddaughter for a few weeks. A daughter, Mrs. Floyd Smith, motored to Lexington to get Mrs. Breeding, taking her Saturday to Irrigon where she spent the night. She returned to Hood River on Sunday with her son and family.

Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Jones were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Eckles in Pendleton on Sunday and visited with Mrs. Eckles' daughter, Dixie Streeter, and two children from San Francisco. Earlier in the week another daughter, Joyce Wojack, and daughter Tanya had been there but were called home on Saturday as her husband had been

injured in a car accident and was hospitalized. Mrs. Wojack and Mrs. Streeter were former Lexington residents, attending school here.

Maureen Davis is employed in Boardman in the potato processing plant.

Irrigon visitors

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cook of York, Pennsylvania, were visitors in Irrigon Saturday. They were looking for information of the Cabbage family who lived here between 1910 and 1915 on the Guy Riddle farm.

They called at the home of Mayor Chester Wilson who referred them to Batie Rand, 73, who has lived here continuously since 1906. He was personally acquainted with the Cabbage family, who were Mrs. Cook's aunt and uncle.



Heppner

ELKS CALENDAR

Wed. Oct. 6
Pinochle Tournament
Begins 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. Oct. 7
Ladies Nite
Dinner 6: p.m.

Barbe-que Chicken
Cards 8:00 p.m.
Lodge 8:00 p.m.

Friday Oct. 8
Happy Hour 5-7 p.m.
Dinner by Jim 6-8 p.m.

B.P.O.E.

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