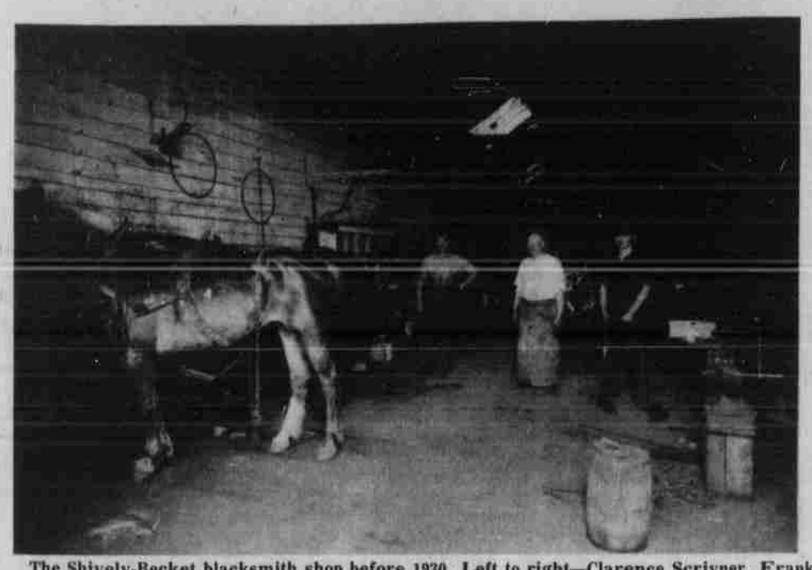

The Shively-Becket blacksmith shop before 1930. Left to right—Clarence Scrivner, Frank Shively and Harold Becket. The wool rings hanging on the wall were used to hold wool sacks open when they were being filled.

Becket Equipment Co. covers 52 year saga in Heppner

By Justine Weatherford

Harold Becket says that Thomson's, Peterson's, and Gonty's stores were here when he started in business, but they were each operated by an older generation. He believes his business life has been the longest here, with Lois Reid Winchester's beauty-care business close in age. Lois began working in 1926, she pleasantly admits.

Harold was graduated by Heppner High School in 1925. He had been working with his stepfather, Frank Shively, during his school years, and that summer he joined as a partner in Shively's old-fashioned blacksmith shop. Harold's mother was Daisy.

'We shod horses for stockmen and farmers and pack-string horses for sheepmen.'

Most people were still using horses then. Much of the work on ranches and in the woods was still done with horses. "We shod horses for stockmen and farmers and pack-string horses for sheepmen. We also did lots of wagon repair and plowshare work," Becket said.

"We often made whole wheels from scratch (all the wood and iron parts except the hubs). With lots of wheels, all we had to do was to shrink the iron tires for better fitting—because if the tire wasn't tight, the wheel might break. Do you know what a felloe is? Well, a felloe is part of the wagon wheel. Hind wheels have seven felloes with two spokes to the felloe, and front wheels have six felloes to 12 spokes."

Harold Rents the Herald shop

In 1935, Harold moved into a shop of his own. He rented the small building that was behind the Rosewall Ford Garage where the Heppner Herald used to be published under Editor Pattison.

'Do you know what a felloe is?'

He married the former Ruby Thornburg. She helped with the business for many years, working in the shop and keeping the books. Needing a larger shop and wanting to own their own building, they bought a nearby lot and put up a sheet-metal building. During WW II, they sold that lot to the Elks' Club and it is now used as the club parking lot.

After World War II began, the Beckets went to Alliance, Neb., where he worked at the Alliance Air Base one summer. Then they moved to Portland for several war years while Harold worked at the Willamette Iron and Steel Shipyard. They kept their home and shop here and the Millard Nolan family took care of them "as the Nolan war effort."

'We also did lots of wagon repair and plow share work.'

New building and home fire

Right after the war, the Beckets returned, and soon their large home was destroyed by fire. About then, Harold built the present Becket Equipment Co. building on N. Linden Way. He also rebuilt a smaller home on the same property where the old house had stood.

The Beckets continued to operate the machinery repair, blacksmithing and welding business in the "new" concrete building until this year, although Harold "retired" in 1970. He recalls repairing over 2,000 plowshares in one year. He was the only local blacksmith for many years and was the last blacksmith in Morrow County.

After retiring, he cut down his work hours. He says he still has a few small, unfinished jobs. He did several truckbed jobs and a big tank job this last year.

Becket served on the school board for six years and was president of the P.T.A. He has been a member of the Heppner Lodge A.F. & A.M. for 32 years and also of Ruth Chapter No. 32 O.E.S. He belongs to other Masonic bodies and has held many offices in these orders—all the local offices and some state offices. He was secretary of the Blue Lodge here for nearly 20 years. Becket was founding vice-president of the Morrow County Historical Society and

(Continued on page 5)

Ruby and Harold Becket.

Navy 'holding up' range - Kennedy

Rupert Kennedy, commission chairman for the Port of Morrow, suggested to Heppner Chamber of Commerce Monday that citizens immediately seek action from Congressional delegates to move the Navy from its 50,000 acre bombing range in Morrow County.

"The Navy is holding it up," Kennedy said. He said action was needed before water to develop the bombing range for irrigation was lost to prior use.

Kennedy said that efforts to have the Navy relocate were started as early as 1969. That the Navy should move has been the intent of Congress, Kennedy added.

Unless the Navy moves soon, Kennedy forecast that Pacific Gas and Electric will develop Pebble Springs. He said there must be an intention to move before any power plant work could proceed.

Kennedy also reported that persons seeking terms on the Port of Morrow commission must file with the county clerk by Mar. 15.

The regular meeting of the Port of Morrow is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m., Feb. 10, in the Port Office at Boardman.

The agenda includes an operational budget change, a matter of the select bond counsel and signing of an agreement with the Union Pacific.

SWCD plans meeting

The annual meeting of the Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be held Feb. 28, 1977, beginning with a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m., with a short meeting to follow. It will be held this year in the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church, 800 S.E. Court Avenue, Pendleton, Mrs. Jeanne Gilbert, of the Umatilla SWCD, said.

Ben Mouchett, Soil Conservation Service, The Dalles, will explain and show slides on the 208 Water Quality Planning Program. This program involves everyone. Also, Dale Boner, district conservationist, will show slides of his trip he and his family took to England and Scotland this past summer.

All farmers, advertisers in the newsletter and anyone interested in agriculture, and anyone who works with the District are invited to attend.

City hires officer

Jack Campbell is taking up duty this month as night patrolman for the City of Heppner, according to Dean Gilman, chief of police.

Campbell returns to Oregon from Kansas where he was employed with a city police department. He is a former Morrow County deputy sheriff. He was based with the sheriff's office in the northern part of Morrow County about three years ago.

Gilman said Campbell brings both previous law enforcement experience and a military background to the job of night patrolman.

Campbell is among a number of other newcomers to Heppner who are seeking living accommodations in a highly compacted housing and apartment market.

The legal beat

Girly magazines taken from shop

A person or persons unknown broke into Jerry's Barber Shop in Heppner late Sunday night or early Monday morning and removed all the copies of Playboy and Stag magazines from the business, Heppner police said.

Access to the barber shop was gained by breaking a window with a two by four, police said.

The Morrow County Sheriff's Department has arrested two Ione residents in connection with an investigation into worthless checks in circulation in Morrow and Umatilla counties.

Norman Jones, Jr., and Debra Jones, both of Ione, were arrested and charged respectively with theft in the second degree by deception and negotiating a bad check. Bail for each was set at $1,005. Norman Jones, Jr., was being held in Pendleton Tuesday. Debra Jones has been released, authorities said.

Trial ends

A jury in Pendleton Thursday, Feb. 3, found Viola Jay Jackson, 42, of Gervais, Ore., innocent of arson following nearly three hours of deliberation.

She had been charged in connection with the mid-September, 1976, blaze that destroyed her property known as the Old Swanson Home in Ione.

Keith Alexander, 19, of Aurora, Ore., pleaded guilty to second degree arson last year. His testimony as a state witness was suppressed by the court following earlier suppression of both written and oral statements made to State Police by the defendant, Dennis Doherty, district attorney, said.

The court cited Oregon law which says that testimony of an accomplice cannot be had without corroboration by other evidence that tends to connect the defendant with commission of the offense in question.

Alexander was sentenced in December to three years of formal probation, $750 fine, and restitution to the Ione fire department and Albert Akers, a land owner next to the burned house.

EPA gains Benlate approval

Approval has been given by the Environmental Protection Agency for the use in Morrow and seven other Eastern Oregon counties of Benlate (Benomyl) for control of Cercosporella foot rot, a fungus that affects wheat.

State Director of Agriculture Leonard Kunzman was informed by mailgram of the granting of the department's request for the exemption to use the chemical.

The exemption, granted under Section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, specifies the counties where the chemical may be used. They are: Baker, Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Wasco. The exemption expires Apr. 30, 1977.

It is estimated that some 200,000 acres of winter wheat may be affected by the disease. Without control measures, the yields could be greatly reduced.

Lindstrom on PLU honor

Christina Lindstrom of Ione has been named to the honor roll at Pacific Lutheran University at Tacoma.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Lindstrom, Ione.

A senior in communication arts, Miss Lindstrom was among students who attained a 3.5 grade point average or above to gain the honor roll.

The Earth Stove

Tired of wasting wood in inefficient stoves & fireplaces?

- The Earth Stove burns 1/3 the fuel of many stoves because pre-heating draft manifold promotes efficient and complete combustion like solid fuel power plants. Super-heated air prevents "cooling" of fire unlike manual "hole" drafts do. Even large chunks burn slowly and completely—eliminates frequent ash removal.
- Wood gases not wasted Secondary drafts introduce oxygen above primary fire zone to burn volatile gases such as methanol, pyroligneous acid, etc.
- Converts to open fire instantly

"The Earth Stove makes use of modern Technology to improve the great institution of Wood Heat."

Come in and see it burning and cooking at

Mentzer & Elliott

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"Heading for Beecher's"

IONE, OREGON

LIVE MUSIC

Saturday, Feb. 12

Beecher is happy to announce the *Road Runners* from Arlington are back with us again. The group will feature the lovely *Caroline* as vocalist.

Dancing from 9-2

Saturday Special: Dinner steak $3.75 from 6-9

Always a Sunday special, featuring the best salad bar in the west.

(Salad bar open six days a week.)

Heppner Elk's

81ST ANNUAL

B.P.O.E. No. 358

Feb. 26, 1977

Celebration Saturday

★ Registration begins 10 a.m.

★ Lodge activities 2 p.m.

★ 'Ritual' by Condon Officers

tea and card party for the ladies-1:30p.m.

Dinner at lodge 6 - 8 p.m.,

Dancing to follow 9-1:30a.m.

Special Entertainment Set