

# Pioneer Picnic plans made by Bergstrom descendants

## Forest still dry despite heavy rains

**By Justine Weatherford**  
This year's Morrow County Pioneer Picnic is being arranged by the descendants of Olaf and Erik Bergstrom. By noon, Sunday, May 29, a great many third and fourth generation, as well as a few second generation, Bergstroms will be at the Morrow County Fair Pavilion to greet visitors and to mingle with friends.

The Bergstroms plan to furnish scalloped potatoes, ham, rolls and butter, coffee and punch and Dixie cups. They will set the tables and the Heppner Garden Club members will decorate the tables, as they have each year.

Those attending the picnic are asked to bring along pot-luck food—a hot dish, a salad or a dessert. There will be some special prizes awarded.

The Bergstroms were originally named Jonson. The family name was changed to Bergstrom when the first family member, Olaf, settled in this country and found there was already an Olaf Jonson living here. Their mail was continually getting mixed up, so Olaf and his brother Erik decided to change their name to Bergstrom, which was their mother's maiden name.

### Olaf's family takes roots

Family history tells that Olaf Jonson was born in Vermland, Grammark, Sweden in 1853. He died on April 16, 1936, at Eight Mile, Ore., and is buried in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery. His wife was the former Korallina Olson.

Their children included: Hilma, born in 1888, died in 1927, who married Frank Anderson, and their children, Frank Anderson and Louise Farley (Mrs. Jim); both still live here, Frank farms west of Ruggs; Hannah, born in 1894, who married Benjamin Oscar Anderson; Emma, who married Charles Long, both deceased; Ellen, who married Carl Allyn, both deceased, who have a daughter, Maxine Gower, at Woodland Hills, Calif.; and the two Bergstrom daughters, who survive.

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This year's Pioneer Picnic, scheduled for May 28, will be hosted by members of the Olaf and Erik Bergstrom families. Pictured here is Olaf's family "way back when." Front, l. to r., Hilma, Olaf, Ellen, Florence, Emma, and Mrs. Bergstrom. Back row, l. to r., Hanna, Alfred, John, Carl, Edwin and Esther.

Esther lives alone in Heppner; Florence is married to Laurence Becket, and they still farm in the Eight Mile District. The Becket children are Ron and Molly Anne, both of Heppner.

In addition to their six daughters, the Olaf Bergstroms had four sons, Carl, Alfred, Edwin and John. Carl, deceased, married Mildred Hanna (now Mrs. Albert Connor, Heppner) and their sons are Elwayne and Bob. Alfred lives in Portland. His wife, the former Elvida Snipes, is deceased. Their daughter, Lyn Iverson, resides in Portland.

Edwin Bergstrom married Mary Jackson. They live at Jone and their son, Arthur Olaf, lives at Echo. John married Ruth Babcock, who survives him. Their children are Carolyn, Gerald and Marilyn.

Olaf was one of the founders and one of the first communicants of the Valby Lutheran Church.

He served on the church's cemetery-location committee, and he and his bride became charter members of the church, according to Oscar Peterson's "Seventy-Five Year History of Valby Church." In 1896, Olaf worked with A. Carlson to gather funds to build the church, and his home was one of the homes which housed the first ministers. By 1900, Olaf was chairman of the church board.

Oscar Peterson also states that in 1902, Olaf Bergstrom was elected deacon for three years and Erik Bergstrom was chosen trustee for three years.

### Erik arrives in Oregon

Erik Bergstrom was two years younger than his brother Olaf. He was born in Sweden in 1855 and came to America when he was 22 years

old. He first lived in Vermont, where he worked in a stone quarry. He saved his money and paid for his passage from Sweden to New York and had almost enough to come to Oregon in 1887.

His brother Olaf loaned him \$21 to bring him to Arlington, where Olaf met him with his buckboard. Arlington was then still known as Alkali.

The two brothers camped overnight as they journeyed to the Gooseberry and Eight Mile area. Several times later, they walked from their new homes there back to Arlington, between 40 and 50 miles.

Erik established his homestead in the Dry Fork, where the Dalzells are now. In 1889, he married Kajsa (Carrie) Olson and their four children are William, Carl, Ellen and Oscar.

William married Anna K. Peterson and Rudy is their son. Carl married Esther Anderson and their children are Arthur, Norman, Roland, Dorothy and Walter.

Ellen married Archie Cochran; both are now deceased. Their son, Robert Cochran, lives at Yakima. Oscar married Olga Johnson, and along with their three sons, Donald, Wayne and Bill, they live in Portland.

Fire season for Eastern Oregon went into effect May 1 and Forestry Department Rangers warn that the much needed rains of early May should not lull residents into thinking the fire danger is over.

Rangers say the moisture is only temporary and after a few warm days, the area will again experience high fire danger conditions. Burning permits are required for all open burning in Fire Protection Districts in the eastern part of the state. This includes the burning of debris in barrels.

Additional forest use restrictions may be put into effect as fire danger increases.

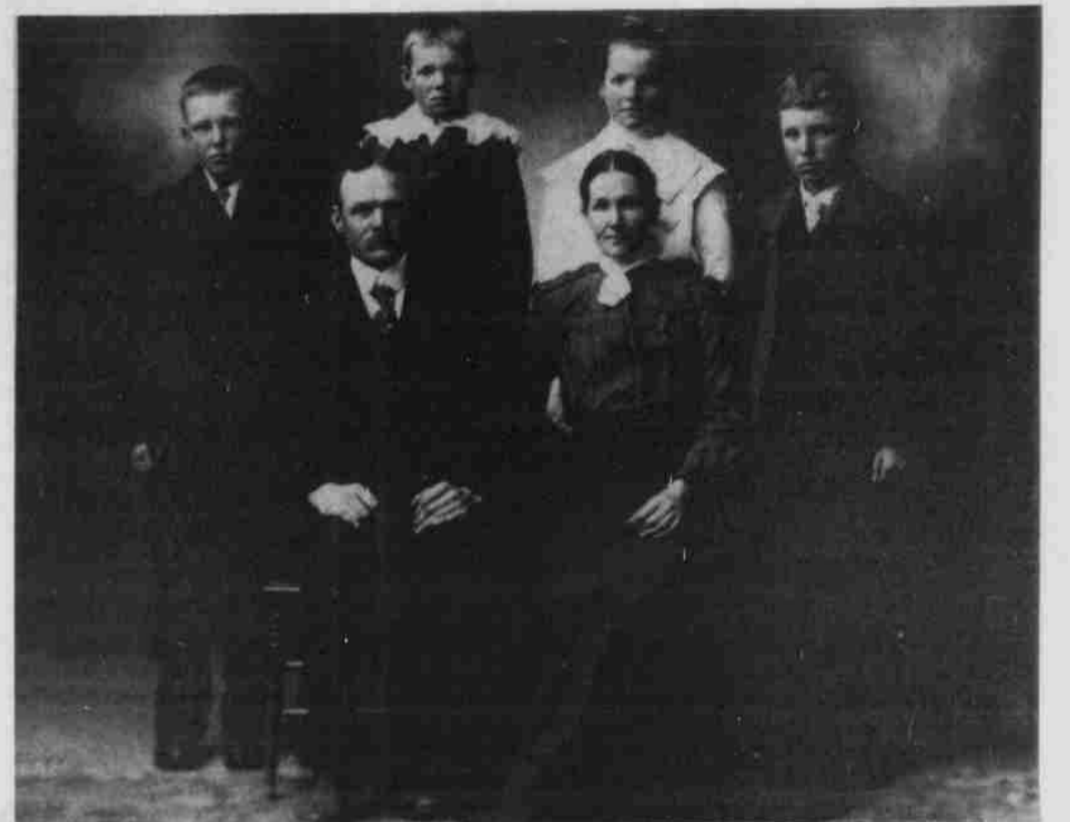
The Forestry Department urges residents who are not sure if they are included in a Fire Protection District to phone the Oregon Department of Forestry at Fossil (763-2575) or the Hardman Guard Station for the Heppner area (676-5351). These numbers can also be used to report fires in the area.

Forestry officials ask that farmers and ranchers check hay trucks, hay balers and tractors for fire-safe exhaust systems before the time comes to bale the hay. Residents and visitors to Eastern Oregon should use care in the operation of all power driven equipment for either work or recreation.

The impact of the drought on forest areas is still too early to assess, rangers say. Recent rains and mountain snows were a big help, but were still short of the moisture and water needed to carry the areas through the summer.

Last year, many of the 1,133 man-caused forest fires in the state were the unintentional result of carelessness by recreational users. According to the Forestry Department, the majority of them didn't realize what they had done.

A neglected campfire, a burning match or even the heat from a car muffler or catalytic converter is enough to catch dry foliage on fire, resulting in needless destruction, rangers say.



Erik Bergstrom, a pioneer of the Heppner area, sits for a portrait with his wife and four children, standing l. to r., Carl, Oscar, Ellen and Lillian.

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