

McDonald's Farm is alive and well with Irene

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the Fair. Other animals collected by Irene include Polish Rabbits, Fantail Pigeons, Golden Pheasants, Guinea Hens, Banties, Silkies, Araucanas and West of England Pigeons. A special resident is Routy, a three-year-old Raccoon that Irene raised on a bottle.

Irene started her menagerie through her activities as a 4-H leader in Jackson City. The collection grew over the next 22 years into what was known as "McDonald's Farm"—named after a couple of her 4-H members. When Irene decided to move to Heppner last year, many of the animals came with her.

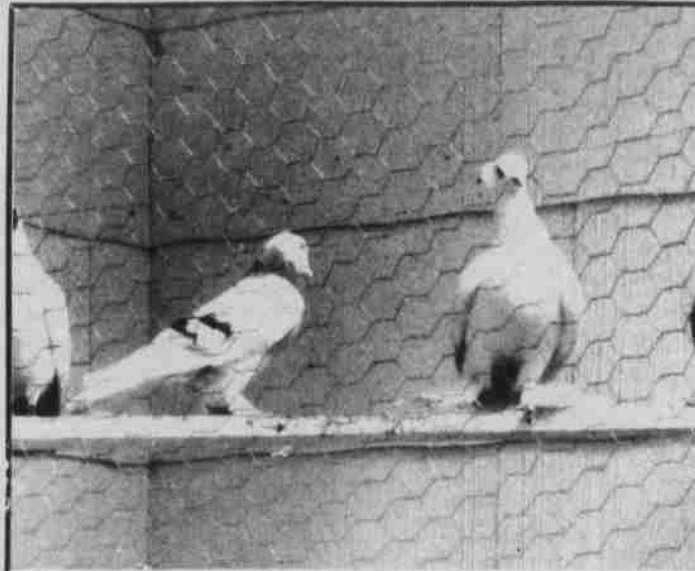
She is still planning new cages and shed space for more residents. Although she doesn't have any specific additions in mind, she says she just wants more space "in case something comes along." Some of the animals were given to her—such as the Frizzles from someone in Oregon City—others came from her 4-H'ers and some Irene finds on her own.

To keep her friends active between blue ribbon sessions at the Fair, Irene takes some of them to visit the elementary school kids and others are kept busy producing the green, brown, speckled and white eggs that her family enjoys for breakfast.

Having four different types

of eggs to choose from is only one of the benefits that Irene derives from her unique collection. It is a learning

experience and visitors to the poultry and rabbit exhibits at the Fair this year are sure to see what it's all about.



All kinds of pigeons call Irene's house home

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