

AROUND

with Justine Weatherford

ABOUT

C.P.O. Bill Weatherford, his wife Teresa (Wright) and their eighteen-month-old son Billy Eugene are now visiting in Heppner before assuming their Navy reassignment at San Diego where Bill will be attached to the U.S.S. Ranger, C.V. 61.

The young Weatherford parents, who both grew up here and had all of their public schooling here, have just completed three years of duty in Japan. They were headquartered at Yokosuka. Bill spent much of the three years out at sea on the U.S.S. Lockwood, a F.F. 10-64. Tess and little Billy kept the homefires burning in a sixth-floor Navy apartment at the base—after she had resigned from her work as a radioman 2nd class when she reached the last three months of her pregnancy.

The threesome left Yokosuka on Feb. 9 at 9:30 p.m. and flew east to San Francisco where they arrived just four hours earlier than they departed, at 5:30 p.m. that afternoon. After a quick flight to Portland, where they spent the night, they came on to Pendleton on Friday where Teresa's mother and stepfather, Adelle and Ed LaTrace, met their afternoon plane and brought them to Heppner.

Now I am enjoying catching up on some interesting details of their Japanese tour of duty. One of their rather exciting experiences last month was a significant earthquake on Jan. 14. Its epicenter was just 60 miles from them on an island in Tokyo Bay. The quake really shook their apartment, jarring dishes, tilting hanging pictures and setting Billy's rocking horse rocking. Tess says that friends who arrived for a visit just after the quake said that they hadn't even noticed the shaking as they traveled in their car.

In July 1976, the month that Billy was born, there was a more severe quake which made a deep, rumbling noise; this recent quake didn't rumble.

The large Navy Base which they just left houses between 6,000 and 8,000 service persons and their families. It has a large American grade school for grades 1 through 6 and a high school for dependents in grades 7 through 12. There is a hospital, an officers club, a C.P.O. Club and two Enlisted Men's Clubs, 4 exchanges (stores), a library, several churches, a movie theater, two bowling alleys and a new Teen Center. A variety of classes are offered in various crafts and in university correspondence credit.

The Weatherfords tell me that recent regulations only allow Navy folks five years of oversea duty. Some on that base had been there from 10 to 17 years—but they must now have a U.S. tour of duty before they can return overseas. Many of the Navy men they lived near have Japanese or Phillipino wives.

The Navy has certainly helped this couple see quite a bit of the world. They have traveled across the U.S. several times. They were married at Bainbridge, Maryland in 1970. Now they have had a good look at Japan and Hawaii, and Bill has seen much of the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas. He has visited Australia several times and was in Iran last fall.

Quizzing them about Japanese life, I learned that they found the great, modern cities were quite crowded, but that the agricultural areas were very beautiful and always green. They report that most Japanese hold family life very dear. It seems that their little children are spoiled, but that discipline begins with schooling. In the public schools children are quite regimented, wear uniforms, take learning very seriously.

Other facts I gleaned are that competition for starting jobs is rough—but after they are employed most Japanese stay with their first employer for many years. The big factories build loyalty in their employees by giving them many extras.

Americans marvel at the fine train system; they observe that precise timing is stressed and if a train is more than one

minute late in arriving or departing there is a real fuss. In fact there was a big lawsuit because one train arrived in Tokyo more than two minutes late and some important men aboard were so distressed that they were late for important meetings that they sued.

During their three years in Japan the Weatherfords constantly watched Japanese T.V. Only two American programs were offered—Sesame Street came in daily and the Hallmark Specials were weekly events. Some other U.S. shows were aired with Japanese audio. So Bill and Tess are now happy to be catching up with our regular T.V. shows that they had only read about.

They say that food prices on the base are comparable to prices here. Clothing is somewhat lower. Children's clothing is better made and better priced off-base.

Not too many Japanese women pursue careers—especially after marriage. Americans found household help was available on the base at \$12.25 per day.

Next week I shall return to writing around and about our county scene—but I hope you have enjoyed learning a little about modern Japan, as I have.

Wheat growers' problems focus of AAUW meeting

Wheat was the focus at the February meeting of the Heppner AAUW Branch, held in the Tollefson home.

Tad Miller, Lexington, past-president of the Wheat League of Oregon presented a few facts about U.S. wheat production and marketing problems. Among the areas included were the set-aside program, President Carter's cheap-food policy, the massive Washington bureaucracy and Public Law 480. He concluded that agriculture would remain in the doldrums until prices improve.

The second speaker, Don Peterson, Ione, an Oregon leader in the National Farmers Organization, continued to educate the women about the wheat growers situation. Although few presently live directly from wheat income, everyone is affected by the income of agriculture, Peterson said. He stressed that only about 40 per cent of the high prices that consumers complain about actually reach the farmers—the rest being distributed among processors, transporters, storage and marketing concerns and various levels of labor.

Anne Doherty, Branch president chaired the meeting; June O'Connor, program chairman, introduced the two speakers. Chloe Pearson announced the beginning of a

new book review group which had its first meeting in her home Monday.

Hostess Vicki Tollefson was assisted by Sandy Holtz and Monica Jones.

Heart disease subject of Alpha Theta program

Pat Wright, Morrow County Health Nurse, presented a program on heart disease and high blood pressure at Alpha Theta's business meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the home of Bebe Munkers.

The Ways and Means chairman reported that \$55 profit was realized in the group's recent doll project. The doll was won by Wayne Rollis of Heppner.

Valentine gifts were prepared by the Philanthropic committee for senior citizens. The committee announced plans for a Scotch Doubles Tournament to be held March 4 with proceeds earmarked for the Easter Seal School and Treatment Center.

Alpha Theta plans to pre-

sent the program at the Eastern Oregon District Council meeting to be held in LaGrande April 2.

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CENTER & MAIN—HEPPNER

Ione Garden Club learns about herbs

Herbs, how they grow, recognition contests and a luncheon of dishes flavored with herbs and spices made up the program prepared by Delpha Jones for the Ione Garden Club's Feb. 8 gathering at Delta Huber's home.

Mrs. Jones showed that meals are more interesting and more fun to prepare if cooks learn to use a variety of seasonings. For people on restricted diets, herbs can make bland dishes quite tasty and flavorful.

"Flavor Magic, Growing and Using Seasonings" is a bulletin now available at the County Extension Office. It is an excellent guide for the novice.

Many familiar herbs are

easy to grow and do quite well in this county's soil and climate. Their propagation is relatively carefree; most of them are perennials and are hardy enough to winter over with little protection. Several of the popular annual herbs re-seed themselves naturally.

Herbs offer an organic way to deter insect pests from flowers and vegetables in gardens. Chives, garlic, basil and nasturtiums are some of the culinary herbs that will keep aphids, cabbage moths

and Japanese beetles at a distance. While not edible, marigolds, tansy and southernwood are also insect repellents and when used as foundation plantings or near doors and windows, help keep down fly invasions.

Several Ione Garden Club members have a variety of herbs in their gardens and gladly offer to share cuttings, seeds and growing tips to anyone interested. They plan to offer many herb plants at their annual garden sale

which will be held April 25 in Ione.

Right now, prior to the annual sale, members are offering to sell dormant trees, tubers and plants that need to be transplanted immediately. A list of plants available now and the people who are offering them is being posted at Bristow's Market in Ione.

For further information about the plant sales call Nancy Miller at 422-7239.

Senior Menu

Tuesday, Feb. 21
Tomato juice
Stew with vegetables
Pear and cheese salad on lettuce
Corn bread and cheese sticks
Pumpkin squares with topping

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Liver and onions
Parslied potatoes
Buttered carrots
Molded apple and crushed pineapple molded salad
Bisquits Deep dish cherry pie

Willows Grange to meet Sunday

The next meeting of Willows Grange will be Sunday, Feb. 19, with a pot luck dinner beginning at 12:30 p.m. and the business portion to follow at 2 p.m.

Harley Young returns home

Harley Young, Heppner, returned home Friday for convalescence following his hospitalization. His wife, Helen, is expected to return home Tuesday.



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