

# AROUND

with Justine Weatherford

# ABOUT

Ah, 'twas a fine evening and the food, the entertainment and the company couldn't be topped. Of course I'm referring to last Friday's Irish Stew fiesta put on by the Altar Society of St. Patrick's with the aid of the delightful, musical Lindsays.

So now we've moved into Easter Week which also happens to be clean-up, beautify your community week, too. Two days ago, on Monday, March 20, spring officially arrived in this northern hemisphere of which Morrow County is a small, but important, part.

Last week several persons in the Heppner Library checked up on the reason for the changing date of Easter. They learned that Easter, one of the movable feasts of the Christian religion, varies in its date because it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after March 21. It cannot come before March 22 or after April 25. The first Nicene Council in A.D. 325 set the method of determining the date of Easter.

Incidentally some of you may not be aware that your telephone directory (near the front of the yellow-page section) has a calendar which gives the dates of each day of all months from 1776 to the year 2000. It does not, however, indicate the dates for Easter. Another source tells me that from now until the year 2000 Easter will come in March only in 1986, 1989, 1991 and 1997, and these dates will vary, once more it will come on March 26, twice on March 30 and once on March 31. Next year Easter Sunday comes on April 15, and in 1980 on April 6.

It thrills me to know how dependable the moon, the sun and our earth perform and how long and how well astronomers have charted their regular movements.

Now, about the changing of the seasons and the official arrival of spring. (Weren't we lucky to have a few days beautiful preview here?) There are some years when spring doesn't officially arrive until March 21, but usually its arrival comes on March 20.

Seasonal changes are caused by the changing position of the earth in relation to the sun. Astronomers can tell exactly, from the earth's motion around the sun, when one season ends and the next begins. The relative position of the earth and sun, and therefore the seasons, change because the tilt of the earth's axis never changes while the earth makes its great circle. Spring begins when the north pole starts to slant toward the sun, and autumn begins when the pole starts to slant away again.

The vernal equinox marking the beginning of spring and the autumnal equinox which hails autumn come on the days when the center of the sun appears directly above the equator for precisely 12 hours.

We all had this explained to us during our school years—but I forget so easily and need review. Now I am going to review some of the facts and symbolism of Easter, which is rated the most important holy day of the Christian religion.

Its name may have come from Eastre, a Teutonic goddess of spring, or from the Teutonic festival of spring called Eostur. The story of Easter comes from the Bible. The Gospels tell that the body of Jesus disappeared from His

tomb on the third day after His crucifixion. An angel appeared to His followers and announced, "He is risen."

Much symbolism has developed through the years as people rejoice during this great springtime celebration.

The Cross has special meaning to Christians as a symbol of Christ's victory over death. It appears often as an Easter symbol. People in many parts of the world eat special cakes and hot cross buns. Greeks and Portuguese eat a specially baked, round, flat Easter loaf marked with a cross and decorated with Easter eggs.

Lamb is one of the traditional Easter foods, and cookies and cakes shaped like lambs decorate many tables at Easter time. This symbol comes from the Jewish Passover. The Jews sacrificed a lamb, called a paschal lamb, during their traditional passover ceremony in the Temple in Jerusalem. Early Christians interpreted the sacrifice of the paschal lamb as a forecast of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Eggs represent the new life that returns to nature about Easter. The custom of exchanging eggs began in ancient times when Egyptians and Persians often dyed eggs in spring colors and gave them to their friends as gifts. The Persians believed that the earth had hatched from a giant egg.

In England, friends began to write messages and dates on the eggs they exchanged. Elaborate candy eggs with a window in one end and tiny scenes inside were popular gifts in the 1800's. Russian royalty had gorgeous jeweled Easter eggs.

Many children believe that an Easter bunny brings their Easter eggs. This belief probably comes from Germany. One legend says that a poor woman dyed some eggs and hid them in a nest as an Easter gift for her children. Just as the children discovered the nest, a big rabbit leaped away. The story spread that the rabbit had brought the Easter eggs.

I notice now that TV is bringing new symbolism, for example, an Easter beagle, Snoopy style.

In ancient Egypt, the rabbit symbolized birth and new life. Some ancient peoples considered it a symbol of the moon. It may later have become an Easter symbol because the moon determines the date of Easter.

The Easter season begins on Ash Wednesday when some Christians start a 40-day period of fasting and prayer called Lent. This recalls Christ's 40-day fast in the wilderness. The last week of Lent, called Holy Week, honors the events of the last week of Christ's life on earth, beginning with Palm Sunday, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and finally Easter Sunday.

Many Americans attend outdoor sunrise services on Easter morning. Masses of white lilies, symbolizing purity, decorate church altars and homes. People traditionally wear new spring clothes to church. Special services and beautiful music are always featured.

I hope this review has interested you—it has been pleasing for me to write it. Thus I close this week's column with a sincere wish that each reader has a lovely Easter, surrounded with family and friends in blessed sunshine.



Pamela Morin, Robert Worden

## Worden-Morin to exchange May vows

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Morin, Portland, announce the engagement of their daughter, Pamela Marie Morin, to Robert Floyd Worden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Worden, Heppner.

The bride-elect is a graduate of St. Mary's Academy in Portland and Oregon State University. Worden graduated from Heppner High School and Oregon State University. He is currently associated with his father in ranching.

The wedding is planned May 13 at St. Stephen's Church in Portland.

## Bookworms review "The Thorn Birds"

Lorena Jones presented a review of the 1977 novel "The Thorn Birds" at the March 14 meeting of the Bookworm Club hosted by Inez Erwin. Written by 39-year-old Colleen McCullough, the story is of family life in the Australian outback and is now available at the Heppner library.

After the conclusion of the review, Mrs. Erwin showed the ladies her collection of South American articles which she gathered, mostly in Argentina, last fall. Madge Thomson brought a new book on the King Tut exhibit which will come to Seattle, Wash. this summer.



Denise Glasgow, Ed Martin

## Condon couple plans June 3rd wedding

Mrs. Margaret Glasgow of Condon has announced the engagement of her daughter, Denise, to Ed Martin, son of Mrs. Wilma Martin of Condon. Denise is also the daughter of the late Wayburn "Scotty" Glasgow.

The couple has planned a double ring ceremony for June 3 in Condon. No local invitations will be sent.

The bride-to-be is employed as program assistant at the Gilliam-Wheeler ASCS office in Condon and the groom-to-be works on the Ladd Martin Farm 16 miles east of Condon.

## Two take oil heating class

Two leaders from the Heppner Neighborhood Center spent five days in Portland recently learning about oil heating equipment.

Pat Brindle and Jere Le-doux participated in a special training session conducted by Glenn Hardy from the Oil Heat Institute of Oregon and learned to adjust oil heating

equipment for most efficient operation. They also were shown how to test equipment to be sure that it is adjusted to the best advantage.

This knowledge will be put to work—probably next fall and winter in helping older and needy folks in the county with heating problems.

## Ansel Adams photographs displayed at BMCC

A collection of 40 photographs by internationally famous photographer, Ansel Adams, will be on display in the Blue Mountain Community College Library April 3-30.

Adams is recognized as one of America's greatest photographers. His career spans more than a half-century and is highlighted by major exhibitions in virtually every prominent museum in the country as well as Europe and the Orient.

Adams is a member of the Sierra Club's Board of Directors and has authored many books on photography along with seven portfolios reflecting a love of the natural environment. He has received numerous awards including three Guggenheim fellowships.

With photographs reflecting unexcelled craftsmanship, Adams utilizes an exposure method, the Zone System, which he devised to accurately duplicate nature's tones.

The exhibit was obtained from the University of Arizona's Center of Creative Photography, through cooperation with BMCC's Applied Photography Department.

## Correction

A story in last week's Gazette-Times concerning Justice Court Judge Dee Gribble's warning to litterers, incorrectly termed offensive littering as a Class B felony when actually it is a Class B misdemeanor. The offense is still punishable by a \$500 fine or a six months jail term, or both.

## Spring Update

Casual components make for a fashion right wardrobe. Choose your "basics" here... slacks, sport shirts, sweaters!

### Spring & Summer T-Shirts....

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### 3-Button Pullovers By Arrow, Jockey & Kennington

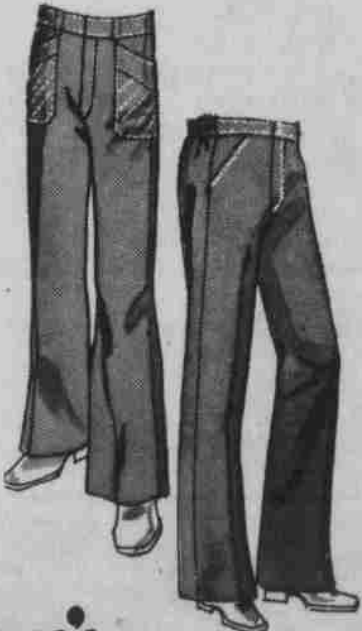
Prices Start \$11



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