

Saudi life "totally fascinating" to Heppner woman

Being an expatriate in Saudi Arabia isn't bad...as long as you don't expect too much, according to Nona Grace who returned to Heppner recently.

Mrs. Grace is spending two years in Saudi Arabia with her husband Ray, who is employed in the construction business by an SA firm. The couple has been living in Al Khobar for the past year and despite the inconveniences, they find it exciting.

With the mighty petro-dollar in good supply the Saudis are virtually building cities to cure many of the social ills

prevalent in the country. At sea level there's a problem with sewage and back streets are filled with rubbish. Hospital care is inadequate and surgery takes place in Athens or London when required.

"Women are very much second-class citizens," intones Mrs. Grace, pointing out that women are not allowed to work in public, nor are they allowed to drive automobiles. All women must conform to the Moslem tradition of keeping arms, legs and shoulders covered whenever in public.

"We can wear slacks and

blouses as long as they cover most of the skin," said Mrs. Grace, "while the Saudi women must wear the traditional 'abiyah'—a long, black robe affair that covers head, face and all."

How does one cope with such attire in a country known for 125-degree weather from July to October?

"You stay inside a lot," said Mrs. Grace. "We have three air conditioners in our apartment and of course the cars are air conditioned."

"The cost of living is amazing, but wages are commensurate. A small apartment runs about \$650 per month with a villa costing up to \$4,000 per month," said Mrs. Grace. "Food is also expensive but the produce is fantastic—fresh pears, mangoes and the finest of apples from the Columbia Basin."

Social life is limited to dinner out at restaurants as there are no public recreation facilities, no night spots, no theatres. Liquor is strictly illegal and on the black

market a bottle of Black Velvet brings \$50-\$60. "There's lots of beer and wine made in private homes," said Mrs. Grace.

Crime is something the Saudi government doesn't take lightly. Mrs. Grace said jails are antiquated and rumors persist that flogging still takes place. That probably wouldn't be out of line for a country that cuts off the right hand of a thief. Major crimes are punishable by stoning or decapitation.

"I find it totally fascinating," said Mrs. Grace, "it's a whole new world of living, shopping and meeting people from all over the world."

Rietmann is cum laude grad at EWU

John Rietmann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rietmann, Ione, graduated cum laude from Eastern Washington University at commencement exercises held at the Eastern Washington University Pavilion at Cheney on June 9.

Rietmann received a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from the College of Letters and Sciences. He will be teaching industrial arts at Lake Oswego Junior High School this fall.

Family from this area attending commencement were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rietmann and family, Mrs. Victor Rietmann, Mrs. Walt Roberts and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rietmann and Jerry.

WEDDING & SOCIAL STATIONERY
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First National low bidder on bonds

First National Bank of Oregon was low bidder on the Morrow County School Board's \$4.8 million school improvement bond issue approved by voters earlier this year.

First National's low bid of 5.4761 per cent interest on the issue was revealed during a special meeting of the school board on Tuesday. All bids received by the school board were lower than bids received for a construction bond issue two years ago, board of education officials said.

Under the current school improvement program, a new elementary school will be built at Boardman and a new junior

high school constructed at Irrigon. A new shop will be built in Boardman, and a new multipurpose elementary classroom built at Irrigon.

The Heppner junior high shop and home economics rooms will be revamped, and remodeling will take place at Heppner High School's library. Repairs recently made to a boiler at Ione School were also included in the program.

An architect has made preliminary drawings on the new structures, which are currently being scaled down in order to keep construction within budget, and to incorporate building recommendations from board members and citizens.

Boardman property value nears that of Heppner

Real property value totals for the city of Boardman are expected to reach \$16.2 million for the coming fiscal year, nearly reaching the \$16.8 million estimated for Heppner, according to computations by County Assessor Everett Harshman.

Boardman's property value nearly doubled during the current fiscal year, from \$6.5

million in 1976-77 to \$12 million in 1977-78.

At the same time, the city's tax rate has remained well below Heppner's, with Boardman residents paying a millage rate of \$3.28 per thousand for services during the current fiscal year, compared with \$7.20 paid by Heppner residents.

Kilkenny U of O graduate in management

Kelly Kilkenny, daughter of Robert Kilkenny, Lexington and Vesta Kilkenny, Portland, graduated last Sunday with a Bachelor's degree in management from the school of business administration at the University of Oregon. The ceremony was held at Hayward Field, Eugene. Her parents and family attended.

Vacation Bible School enrollment at 85

The corner of Church and Gale Streets is a busy spot just before 9 a.m. and at noon each day as parents and grandparents deposit or pick up youngsters.

The 10-day Vacation Bible School has 85 enrollees from

three-year-olds through sixth graders. About 30 adults are involved.

Next week Wednesday, the final day, an evening program is planned to which everyone is invited at 7:30 p.m. in the Methodist Church.

Methodist youths to discuss camping trip

The Methodist Youth Fellowship will meet tonight, June 15, at the church at 7:30 p.m.

The group will work on planning a camping outing, their advisor Vicki Tollefson states.

STRAWBERRIES!

WE PICK
\$6

PER FLAT
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449-3366

U-PICK
35¢

PER POUND
Bring Containers
U-Pick Hours
6-Noon & 5-8p.m.

NO SUNDAYS
Two Miles On E. Highland Rd.,
Hermiston

Zimmerly Farms

ATTENTION WATER USERS

Due to heavy usage of water during the irrigating season, the City of Heppner suggests alternating days for sprinkling yards. Those living on the East side of Main Street water on even days. Those living on the West side of Main Street water on odd days. With your cooperation we will be able to have a constant supply of water in the reservoirs in case of fire.

Remember EAST is EVEN

Randolph Krueger
City Foreman

Gift Ideas FOR DAD

Gardner's MEN'S WEAR

It's Here!



The Annual Elks'

PICNIC

ALL DAY SUNDAY

JUNE 18

11 A.M. CUTSFORTH PARK

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BEVERAGES AND HOT DOGS ARE PROVIDED
PLEASE BRING SALADS AND/OR DESERT FOR POTLUCK PICNIC

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