

AROUND

with Justine Weatherford

Last Friday two football teams from Morrow County, Ione High and Heppner High, defeated two teams from Gilliam County schools when Ione swamped Arlington in their eight-man contest and Heppner overcame Condon 14 to 12 in what was probably Condon's last 11-man game due to the diminishing enrollment there.

Just for fun I did a little research (in the Oregon Blue Book) to compare a few facts about these two neighboring counties. Maybe you don't know that:

Morrow County with Heppner as its county seat was formed by the state legislature on Feb. 16, 1885, on land formerly part of Umatilla County. Gilliam County was formed by the same legislature just a little over one week later on Feb. 25, 1885, on land that formerly was part of Wasco County.

Morrow has an area of 2,065 square miles, while Gilliam's area is 1,218 square miles. Heppner's elevation is 1,955 feet; Condon's is 2,844 feet. Morrow's temperature averages a little warmer in the summer but not quite as cold in the winter as Gilliam's. The summer precipitation is a bit higher in Gilliam, but Morrow is listed as getting more winter rainfall.

You historians know that Morrow was named after J.L. Morrow, a leading early resident and legislator, while Gilliam was named after Col. Cornelius Gilliam, a veteran of the Cayuse War. In Morrow, Lexington and Heppner really fought quite a battle over which would become the county seat. In Gilliam, Alkali, now Arlington, was the original county seat.

Both counties have Columbia River frontage and both have mountains; however, Morrow is fortunate in having part of the Umatilla National Forest in part of its Blue Mountain area. Morrow's population is almost double Gilliam's and its rapidly escalating assessed value is climbing much faster and much higher than Gilliam's.

The Blue Book doesn't mention that Gilliam has a county library system with good libraries at Condon and Arlington, while Morrow has only local public libraries at Heppner and Ione. However, Morrow County has the best historic museum in all of central and eastern Oregon according to many travelers. Enough of comparison—I happen to consider these two counties tops—and think that some of the world's greatest folks live in them.

Just now there are plenty of elk hunters in the highlands trying so hard to capture the not too plentiful elk. I've only seen one trophy on one pickup—but know that there have been more taken.

While visiting with Ella Smith last Sunday, I learned that her nephew, Lt. Col. Bruce Smith, an Ione High and OSU grad, who is now associated with a charter flying service at Riverside, California, was amused this fall when a party came in requesting a flight to Heppner, Oregon to go elk hunting. "If there is such a place—and if you have any idea where it is."

These last few weeks the most studied publication in many local homes has been the state voter's pamphlet. I must turn this column in to the paper before the big election. How I hope that our county has a better per cent of registered voters and that each of them voted last Tuesday.

My last week's writing was done before Halloween evening. What excitement took place at my house that night! Puppy Tip helped me greet visitors at our door, and he and I were both delighted with the little children and their masks

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and costumes. I was charmed by a pretty Gypsy girl and especially liked a little Fred Flintstone, whose nice big sister explained that she would sure like to take "Fred" to my bathroom. They were occupied in that room for some time, and when they emerged sister explained that the Flintstone costume and had complicated the maneuver.

Another group of costumed kids came up on my little porch with bulging bags of goodies. I remarked, "you have certainly collected lots." One of the older ones replied, "You ought to see what we have in the car—lots more than this." Just about nine o'clock, as I was getting ready to close the laundromat, I talked with neighbor Jane Rawlins. She agreed that we had many more trickers and treaters than in previous years—and said that she, too, was about out of treats.

When I left to go downtown, I turned off my lights and thought I would thus signal that there was no one to give out treats—and I was completely out of goodies. Nevertheless, when I got home about 9:45 p.m. there were two late rounders who found their way to my door. I was a bit curt with them as I thought it was too late, they were too big, and my treats were too exhausted.

A big change in my front window vista took place last week when Harold and Ruby Beckett gave up that white Rambler with the spare tire on top that they have traveled in so far and so long. I see they have a new, smaller, brown car which I hope will be as satisfactory as their old white station wagon was.

Well, don't forget to be getting a date lined up for the annual Soroptimist "Turkey Trot" dance at the Fairground Pavilion during the Thanksgiving weekend. It is always a dandy reunion time for away-from-home students and holiday visitors, and it benefits the Soroptimist scholarship fund.

Life in Dominican Republic outlined by Jerry Healy, former Peace Corpsman

Jerry Healy, former Peace Corps worker in the Dominican Republic, informed Morrow County Chamber of Commerce members about that country, at the Chamber's regular meeting on Monday.

He explained that the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds and Haiti the western one-third of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. The Republic's biggest product is sugar, which is the basis of its economy, with coffee a slow second in importance and mining of gold, nickel and some aluminum a growing third.

Healy said that about one in five Dominicans own a car (mostly ancient and small) and practically each car owner is a taxi driver who loads his vehicle for loosely scheduled trips about.

Healy pointed out that the Dominicans highly regard education, feeling that it is the key to their advancement. Many schools are open for three shifts and people of all ages are eager to keep learning. The country has

competency exams for those who progress upward from grade to grade.

"The big problems are lack of enough good schools, not enough prepared teachers and, of course, money. A great airborne educational system, Radio Santa Marie, put on the air by priests from Canada and West Germany offers a variety of classes. The radio students usually rate higher than the public school stu-

dents. " There are three or four universities in the country—many of their students want to become engineers.

Healy reviewed the political situation there, which has been a ruthless dictatorship for long periods, but which is, hopefully, improving since last spring's election.

He said that there are 17 racial classifications, with the blackest people rated the

lowest. A new possibility for wealth may develop from the exploratory drilling for oil which has just begun there.

Jerry and his Dominican wife, Carmen, have been back in Heppner, his hometown, for several years now where he is employed by the Morrow County Abstract and Title Company, Inc. The last two years they have returned to Carmen's home for their vacations.

Dec. 3 wedding set for Gayle McNary and Kim Gutierrez

Lloyd and Shirley McNary of Ione announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Gayle Lorene, to Kim Michael Gutierrez, son of George Gutierrez of Ione and Helen Drake of Gresham.

The wedding will be Sunday, Dec. 3 at 3:30 p.m. at Saint Williams Catholic Church in Ione.

Both the bride and groom-to-be graduated from Ione High School and Blue Mountain Community College.

VFW to hold initiations on Nov. 14

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold an initiation of new members Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Columbia Basin Electric conference room.

All members are encouraged to attend to welcome the new members.

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New books at Heppner Library are listed

A new selection of novels expected to arrive soon at the Heppner Public Library includes "Chesapeake" by James Michener; "Oyster-ville" by Willard Espy; "Gnomes" by Wil Huygen; "Second Generation" by Howard Fast; "Wife" by Judy Blume; and "Pulling Your Own Strings" by Dr. Wayne Dyer.

Persons interested in reading the new arrivals are urged to enter their names on the library's waiting list. Evening hours at the library for working people are from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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