

# AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

If you've driven out of town you know how sad the roads are everywhere. My only look around was a quick trip to Pendleton and back on Saturday morning with Inez Erwin who is home again after visiting in the winter-cooled, southwestern, sunbelt states.

We were told that the Sand Hollow route was best, but we came back over a better Pilot Rock-Franklin Hill Road. Now I hear that trucks are being routed over that road which should help it break up more.

We only spotted one warning flare between Heppner and Pendleton. Pretty soon some Heppner streets will need warning flares as they are breaking up, too.

The great eclipse of last Monday made February 1979 very special. I hope that it taught us a little more about our universe.

Today we have begun March, the month which brings in spring and ends winter. Of course March 21 is the day of the vernal equinox, when the sun will rise directly in the east and set directly in the west so that the length of the day is exactly equal to the length of the night.

It seems there are many old superstitions about March. We often hear that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb," meaning that the first day of March is often stormy and the last day is mild and warm.

Another saying is "April borrowed from March three days, and they were ill." This refers to the first three days of April, which are often rough and blustery like March.

A third saying calls the first three days of March "blind days" which are considered unlucky. If rain falls on these days, farmers supposedly will have poor harvests. Some farmers were so superstitious about the three unlucky days that they would not plant seed until March 4.

William Cullen Bryant, the American poet wrote:

The stormy March has come at last,  
With wind, and cloud, and changing skies;

I hear the rushing of the blast  
That through the snowy valley flies.

When I wrote to Ellis Thomson I sent along several clippings from this paper. His reactions are interesting. "I'll be darned if I know what a flood plain is. I keep telling myself that they aren't going to bury Heppner under water as they did Arlington."

When he was writing "New York City is hovering around eight degrees, which is about as cold as it ever gets here. It must be 15 years since it went below zero. I remember Heppner can get very cold, although I recall I was unable to find enough ice on Willow Creek to hold me so I could try out the ice skates I got in the 8th grade."

Ellis continued his latest letter with assorted remarks, "That trouble there with juveniles is something new and sad. In the old days most kids didn't get into very serious trouble. Heppner lived through an invasion of CCC boys living in their tent city on the rodeo grounds, so it should survive the influx of dam workers. I am so sorry to hear that the hospital is having problems. It is such a nice-looking place."

Another friend enclosed a little City of Newport news bulletin in her recent letter. It deals with the Newport Library which I have enjoyed visiting several times, and which "has the highest volume of circulation of any library of its size in the state (83,570 books were checked out during the year ending June 30, 1978.) That is not a record. Circulation started on a downward trend a couple of years ago when a \$1 per month fee for out-of-city residents began. At that time circulation was topping 100,000 books annually."

Newport's year-round population is about three times Heppner's and the current city budget for the library is \$42,555, which is approximately \$7 per year for every resident. "In addition to that the city has budgeted \$8,500 in state revenue-sharing funds for the purchase of books."

The Newport Library is open every afternoon and evening, Monday through Saturday, as well as Sunday afternoons. Many volunteers regularly supplement the small paid staff. Library policy is determined by a five-member advisory board appointed by the city council, just as it is here.

Have you been watching the slow changes taking place in the world's population? Next to a nuclear holocaust, none of the horrors forecast by contemporary doomsdayers have seemed more threatening than the population bomb. As this bomb ticked away and the world's population mushroomed, so the prediction went, an explosion would be inevitable. Resources would be depleted, agricultural lands overtaxed, fuel reserves exhausted, and soon—some Cassandras said by as early as the mid-21st century—global calamity would occur.

The U.S. Census Bureau's latest report shows that now this gloomy prospect seems less likely. In what is apparently the first such reversal since the Industrial Revolution, there has been a slight yet important decline in the rate of the world's population growth. Said Samuel Baum, the chief demographic statistician, "This is really a major turning point in world history."

The bureau estimates that the overall rate by which world population has been increasing annually declined by about 5 per cent in the past decade, from an average hike of 1.98 per cent in the 1963-70 period to 1.88 per cent in the 1975-77 interval. Significantly, there were slowdowns not only in the Western countries, where birth rates have long been declining, but also in such third world countries as Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea and apparently China. Even India seems to have achieved a slight slowdown. By contrast, Kenya, Algeria, Tanzania and Nigeria had increased growth rates.

"Even if the trend continues, zero population growth cannot be achieved for decades. World population is still increasing by about 80 million people a year, and the Census Bureau estimates that the family of man, some 4.25 billion strong in 1977, will double again in only 30 years."

So, maybe the oil and gasoline isn't the greatest of problems. With so many people, so little food and water, who will be able to drive cars anyway?

## Equal Rights Amendment is topic of AAUW meeting

BMCC Librarian Mary Bates was unable to reach Heppner in early February because of travel problems. She snow re-scheduled to talk with AAUW branch members on the Equal Rights Amend-

ment at their Tuesday, March 6 meeting which will be held at Mirium Munck's residence. OSU Professor of Agronomy, Dr. Warren E. Kronstadt, who had been set to come here in March will now

come on Tuesday, April 3. Branch President Liz Curtis announces that he will speak at an open meeting in the Heppner High Cafeterium that evening on "World Hunger." The Morrow County Extension Office will assist AAUW with the plans for Dr. Kronstadt's appearance here.

## Christian Women set house plants program

"Flyin' Hi" will be the theme for the March meeting of the Heppner Christian Women's Club.

The meeting gets underway at 6:45 p.m. on March 5 at the West of Willow. Speaker will be Marian Bush of Hood River, with music provided by Phil Marquardt of Lexington. A special feature will be a talk on house plant care by

Barbara James, owner and operator of Barb's Plant Seller in Heppner.

All women in the area are invited to attend. Reservations may be made by calling Charlotte Botts at

676-5089. Baby sitting is available by calling Joyce Hughes at 989-8412 or Mary Nikander at 676-5571.

## Edna Mulkins of Irrigon married

Edna Mulkins of Irrigon was married to William F. Ludwig of Walla Walla at the C.R.C. Hall in Hermiston on Feb. 18.

The bride's son, Elmer Mulkins, gave the bride away. The Rev. William Hueer of Yakima solemnized the ceremony.

The bride wore a blue dress of soft polyester, with full sleeves and gathered in front and held by a large crystal pin. She wore pearls and carried a bouquet of pink rosebuds and daisies.

The matron of honor was a long time friend of the bride, Lela Blankenship of College Place. The bride's daughter, Loretta Town, of Tacoma, was her maid of honor. The groom's best man was his son, Kirt Ludwig. Serving as

ushers were Richard Scarlett and a father and son team, Jim and Jess Likes, who are the bride's grandson and great-grandson.

Mrs. Sharpe, pianist and Andrew Stewart, violinist, accompanied Bob Murphy as he sang "I Love You Truly."

At the reception, Mrs. Clara Likes served the wedding cake. Opal Creamer served coffee. Marge Shade served at the punch bowl. The bride's granddaughter, Jill Likes, was in charge of the guest book and the gifts.

The bride and groom will live in Irrigon. They plan a trip to Denver in March and later in the spring they plan to attend the wedding of a grandchild in Redmond, Wash.

## Hospital Notes

Patients admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital the past week and still receiving treatment are Robert Powers, Fossil; Nora Peterson, Condon, and Edna Bailey, Heppner.

Patients admitted and later discharged were Christopher Vose, Bend, and Tony Burt, Heppner.

Esther Peterson, Ione, was transferred to a Portland hospital and Raymond Banka, also of Ione was transferred to Good Shepherd Hospital, Hermiston.

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## FFA SLAVE AUCTION

Thurs., March 8 at 7 p.m.

HHS Cafeterium

More than three dozen FFA boys and girls go on the block for eight hours of toil to the highest bidder.

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Bert Cason, Theresa Lindsay and Sophie Struthers proudly display Mork, Mindy and Hector—three chicks hatched by Andy Clark's fourth grade class at Heppner Elementary. Bert brought the eggs to school in sub-zero weather and the class members took turns watching the incubator temperature and turning the eggs.

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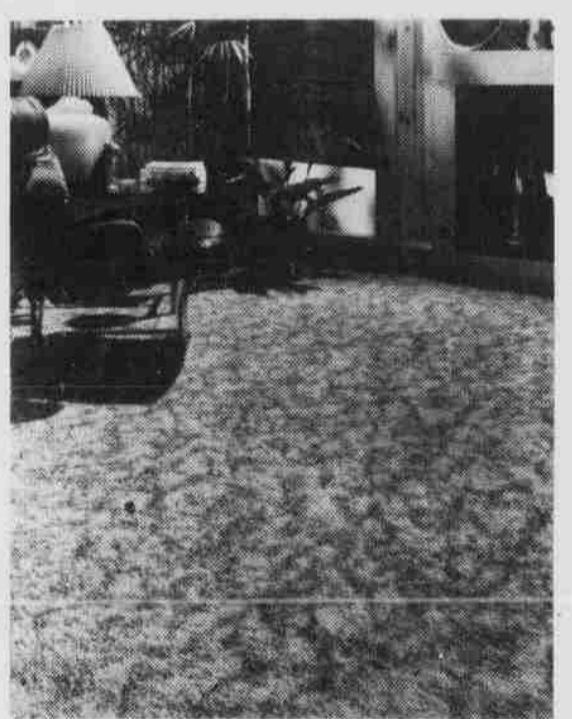
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### Notice To Taxpayers

Residents are reminded that personal property tax returns must be filed by March 15, 1979.

Everett Harshman  
Assessor