

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

Top o' the morning—here it is almost St. Patrick's Day. It was celebrated in Condon last weekend, but in the home of the real, true, fighting Irish it will, and rightly so, be observed day after tomorrow.

I've been told that time was when Heppner really went green—even had the flag of the Emerald Isle flying on Main Street. Though the Irish blood is generally more diluted now, many a present-day lad and lassie recalls with pride those early shepherd ancestors who came here to New Ireland around 100 years ago.

Each year I take Judge John F. Kilkenny's great book "Shamrocks and Shepherds" off the shelf and read over most of it. I particularly love this paragraph from his page 7:

"Rumor has it that the reason the experts have had so much difficulty in tracing the origin of the name 'Oregon' is that the area was discovered, long before the advent of the Indian, by a wandering group of Celts under the command of one Michael Patrick O'Regon. Doubters have failed to disprove this most plausible suggestion, and theirs, I feel, is the burden of proof."

A column of Irish jokes is an annual treat which I enjoy writing and do hope you like reading. Seems there is an inexhaustible supply of Irish humor hiding in books and magazines and even in old Heppner Gazette-Times.

A census-taker working through South Ireland came to a cottage that was literally over-run with children. He observed a rosy-faced woman bending over a washtub.

"Madam, I am the census-taker; how many children have you?"

"Well, lemme see," she replied as she straightened up and wiped her hands on her apron. "There's Mary and Eileen and Delia and Susie and Bridget and Tommy and Mike and Eddie and Charlie and Denny and—"

"Well," interrupted the census man, "if you could just give the number—"

"Number!" she exclaimed, indignantly. "I want you to understand that we hain't got to numberin' 'em yet. We hain't run out o' names!"

Then there's an Irish couple who go away for holidays every third year. When asked what they do the other years, they declared, "The first one we talk of last year's holiday, then the next year we discuss plans for the following year's holiday." (What a thrifty system!)

Young Barney—"I don't know how to fill out this question." Priest—"What is it?"

Barney—"It asks, 'Who was your mother before she was married?' I didn't have any mother before she was married."

There was a miserly Irishman whose friend was doing his best to persuade him to dress more in accordance with his station in life. "I'm surprised," said the friend, "that you should allow yourself to become shabby."

"But I'm not shabby," responded the miser.

"Oh, but you are," continued his friend. "Remember your father. He was always neatly dressed. His clothes were always well tailored and of the best material."

"Well!" shouted the other, triumphantly, "these clothes I'm wearing were my father's!"

(So—a true candidate for Gardner's Men's Wear.)

Two lively lads were in earnest conversation on matters regarding the fair sex. "How could you be so deceitful as to tell Coleen O'Hara she is pretty?" asked Pat.

"I wasn't deceitful at all," replied Mike.

"But" asked Pat, "You don't mean to say you think she is actually pretty?"

"Oh of course not," replied honest Mike, "What I told her was that she is as pretty as she can be."

Now if you can stop laughing, temporarily, let's look at a few facts about Eire. The Republic of Ireland is less than one per cent as large as the United States, not counting Alaska and Hawaii. The Irish Coat of Arms pictures a traditional harp which has been a favorite musical instrument for hundreds of years. The republic's flag, which dates from the 1800's, has a green stripe nearest the staff which represents the country's Roman Catholics, then a white stripe representing unity and a third stripe of orange, representing the Protestants of Ulster.

There are two official languages: English and Gaelic. The head of the government is the Prime Minister, and the parliament has 144 members in the House of Deputies who serve 5-year terms and 60 members in the Senate who also serve 5-year terms.

I better close this with a few more facts about the Land of the Celts. Its highest point is Carrantouhill at 3,414 feet above sea level. Its chief agricultural products are barley, cabbages, dairy products, livestock, oats, potatoes, poultry, sugar beets and wheat. The top manufactured products are alcoholic beverages, clothing, cured tobacco, paper, processed foods and textiles. (And I think the fact book should add—a great number of lovely Irish persons.)

I'll be seeing you all at St. Patrick's Church on Saturday eve, March 17.



Five generations

Five generations of Morrow County Pioneer stock, ranging in age from 95 to six months, assembled this week in Heppner. Matriarch of the clan, Letha (Smith) Archer, bottom right, hosted the gathering. Mrs. Archer's son, Austin Smith, a 1925 HHS grad, stands behind her. Smith's daughter, Dorothy Vendhus, admires new granddaughter, Mary Anne Palmer, held by daughter Victoria Palmer. All but Mrs. Archer now live in Portland.

Heppner child care needs discussed

A meeting to determine the level of child care wanted by Heppner residents was held last week under the sponsorship of the Blue Mountain Community Coordinated Child Care Council (4-C).

Results of the session pointed to the need for a resident pre-school or child care program and facility with a reasonable tuition.

"The level of child day care will be a community decision with the 4-C council assisting in fulfilling the needs," said Carol Dungan, 4-C family day care home consultant. "Support from the community is necessary to meet local day care need for children," she continued. Persons wanting more information, or who would like to express their

views and are unable to attend the meeting, should call Ms. Dungan or Bonnie Fish, 4-C director, at 276-4240. Collect calls are welcome.

Participating in the last meeting were 4-C officials, Rev. Ed Sikes, Mayor Jerry Sweeney, school administrators and staff and social service workers from the Childrens Services Division.

State IOOF leader here Wednesday

The state leader of the Oregon Oddfellows Lodge will be the featured guest next Wednesday, March 21, at a no-host dinner at the West of Willow in Heppner.

George Sheppard, Grand

Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon Oddfellows, will attend a lodge meeting following the 6:30 p.m. dinner. The

lodge meeting will be held in Willows Lodge No. 66. All area Oddfellows and Rebekahs are invited.

Willows Grange slates Friday for luncheon meeting

Willows Grange ladies C.W.A. will attend a luncheon meeting at the home of Dot Halvorsen Friday, March 16, at 12:30. The main dish will be provided by the hostess;

guests are to bring salad or dessert.

The next regular meeting of the lone Willows Grange will be held Saturday, March 17, at 8 p.m. at the hall.

Drug talk set for Lexington Grange

A program on drug use and youth discipline will be featured during a Monday night meeting of Lexington Grange.

Main speakers will be Morrow County Judge D.O. Nelson, Sheriff Larry Fetsch, and County Juvenile Director Caroline Holt.

The public is invited to attend the meeting.

All Friends & Relatives Are Cordially Invited To A 25th Wedding Reception
For
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Steers
March 17 at 2:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall Heppner

Pops Concert tonight

Budding Heppner musicians will have a chance to show their stuff tonight in the Heppner High School gym, during the annual spring Pops Concert.

The show starts at 8 p.m., and is free of charge and open to the public. However, donations will be accepted from

persons interested in aiding band programs in local schools.

Tonight's Pops Concert will feature the efforts of the High School Band, High School Chorus, with several small ensemble groups, plus the Junior High Band and Stage Band.

Senior Citizen News

By Justine Weatherford

Next week there will be three free Blood Pressure Clinics in this county. On Monday, Mar. 19, at 2:30 at Irrigon; in Heppner on Tuesday, March 20 at 2:30 and in Ione on Wednesday, March 21 at 3:30.

You need to plan ahead to attend the Morrow County Senior Citizen Advisory Council meeting at 1:30, Monday, March 26, in Irrigon. All attending will stay there for dinner with the Irrigon seniors.

John Pasek, the area Social Security representative, who comes here and who will continue to come although most outreach services are to be curtailed, left cards at the Neighborhood Center which give the toll free number for seniors to call for help with medicare problems.

Pat Brindle reports that new Senior Citizen Identification Cards from the State of Oregon are now available. She has application forms for them. These new cards will cost \$2 each.

Because of inflation many retirees are unable to afford some of life's basic necessities. In response to a question on a recent survey which asked what they would do if they had additional money coming in each month—18 per cent said they would buy food, 12 per cent would buy clothes, 14 per cent would pay off debts, and 7 per cent would go to a doctor or dentist.

Senior diners will share these meals in Morrow County next week. At Irrigon on Monday, March 19, tomato juice, meat pie with biscuits.

Health dept. closes Mar. 19

The Morrow County Health Department will be closed from March 19 to 23 and all regularly scheduled clinics will be canceled.

cottage cheese and peach salad, relish tray, deep-dish cherry pie with topping.

In Heppner, Tuesday, March 20, stew with vegetables, molded cottage cheese and pineapple salad, hot French bread with plain and

garlic butter, chocolate pudding with topping.

At Ione and Heppner on Wednesday, March 21, braised tips and noodles, green beans, lime jello with grapefruit salad, biscuits and jelly, Angelfood cake and topping.

Rietmann to wed Blackmer on Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. David Rietmann, Ione, announce the marriage of their son, Harold, to Sharon Blackmer of Finly, Washington.

All friends and relatives are cordially invited to attend a reception honoring the couple, on Sunday March 18. It will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Ione United Church of Christ.

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St. Patrick's Day



Special Entertainment

IRISH STEW DINNER

Saturday, March 17

5-7:30 p.m. Parish Hall

Adults.....\$2.50
Children.....75¢

The Lindsay Family

NOTICE: St. Patrick's Saturday Evening Mass Will Be At 7:30 p.m., Because Of Dinner

Appearing in person **GEORGE E. VANDEMAN AND THE ALL-NEW IT IS WRITTEN SEMINAR**
A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF

George Vandeman with IT IS WRITTEN Seminar

Will Be In Pasco Red Lion Motor Inn
Saturday, March 17
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
For information as to Rides, Registration Fee, Etc.
Call 676-5270 or 676-9449

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