

Wife a working partner

Engineer-turned-farmer heads Wheat League

"It's a lot nicer to grow things for people to eat than to build lunar orbiters or short range attack missiles." That is the philosophy of an engineer turned farmer who heads up the activities of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League this year.

The quiet manner and easy ways of Brok Tucker may deceive you, but while you talk and he listens with a look of wonder, his mind is going miles a minute projecting ahead to things that concern and interest him. He's thinking of this county's agriculture, technology, pesticides, prices, new wheat varieties, alcohol production, energy, conserving the soils—the people and the problems of farming today, the many challenges faced by all who gain their living from the land.

When he accepted the presidency of the Morrow Wheat League, he took the responsibility of the position seriously, and immediately launched programs to inform the public and the wives of wheat growers of the challenges for survival facing farmers. He is dedicated to giving the time required to do the job.

Working at his side is his wife, Janet, chairperson for the Morrow Wheathearts. She took the Wheathearts position reluctantly; now finds it interesting and is glad she accepted. Her interests have been home and family, as well as creative projects she wishes she had more time to do. Right now, the farm operation and wheat league are high on her priority list.

His interests are many but he doesn't have time for all of them. Right now on the top of his list are alcohol production, chemical fallow, energy, pesticides, conforming to the regulations in terms of conservation, and the price of wheat, as well as spring farm work. On his farm this year is a chemical summerfallow experimental plot, which he, and other farmers will watch with interest. Way up there on the list is the need to make city people aware of the problem and understand that it has been used by farmers for years with no proven damage to their families.

Both Tuckers agree that women on the farms need to be knowledgeable of all things



Brok Tucker, left, president Morrow Wheat Grower's League, shows a sample of alcohol produced on his farm in a small still which utilizes wheat.

related to farming, to take care of business when the husband is out in the fields and for public relations. Janet knows about their operation. She says she has been a secretary for Brok ever since they were married, when he bought her an electric typewriter.

The couple met in Seattle when Brok was employed as an engineer for Boeing working on projects such as lunar orbiters and short range attack missiles. Janet was born at a relocation center in Utah for Japanese Americans during World War II.

Their three children, Kevin, Nina, and Bryce enjoy growing things, too. They have a garden near their home on the Wagontrail Farm. Kevin, a second grader, and Nina, kindergarten age, attend school in Heppner. Bryce, the youngest, tags at Janet's heels as she works in the farm office, a mobile home near their house.

Out in the shop is the small alcohol still where Brok is experimenting on the production of alcohol from wheat. He believes in taking advantage of modern technology and is actively utilizing a computer service to tell him all kinds of things related to his farming operation.

Born in Seattle, Brok Tucker spent the first six years of his life on the Tucker Echo Ranch on Butter Creek and then his teenage years in Milton-Freewater where he attended school at Mac High. At Oregon State University he earned a degree in engineering and electronics. He brought his family to their Morrow County home in 1974, the Wagon Trail Farm near Butter Creek.

He calls himself a dry land farmer with a little irrigation, although the spread includes 130 acres of intensive irrigation. He calls himself a small farmer, although the farm encompasses 5,500 cultivated acres divided between crops and summerfallow.

Wheat is his main crop but he was the only farmer in Morrow County growing Austrian winter peas last year.

"Dry land farming is more difficult than irrigated—it takes a lot more experience for dry land. With irrigated crops you get a quicker feed back, so you see your mistakes quicker."

Concerns extend beyond his own front door. He is concerned about the roads in the county and the expenses to farmers and other residents to maintain and repair vehicles



Janet Tucker cuddles son Bryce.

traveling over poor roads. Education is important to the Tuckers. Brok serves on the Heppner School Advisory Board. He is chairman of the Oregon Wheat Growers Wheat Use and Research Committee. Referring to that committee,

he feels it is important to evaluate present and future wheat varieties in terms of alcohol yield per acre and nutritive value of distiller type grains. Again he reiterates the need for the public to be informed that risks from

2,4-D are not as great as they will be led to believe.

Under the leadership of the Tuckers, the Morrow County Wheathearts have taken on a new image. Now the wives of wheat growers are encouraged to attend informative meetings with their husbands, and to take an active part in the meetings. They are becoming informed and ready to answer the challenges of those who do not understand the economics or the personal side of the farmer's story. New committees are headed up by volunteers working to provide topics of interest and need. Already the education committee, chaired by Laura Broderick with assistance from Janet, has gone to the schools to tell and show the elementary grades about growing wheat.

Timely topics are attracting larger than usual crowds to programs offered by the Wheat League. There's a new breath of life and activity in the wheat growing community of Morrow County.

So, as you drive by the Wagon Trail Farm out near Butter Creek, look toward the Tucker home and feel good that there is a modern young wheat farmer and his family who are struggling to succeed and working toward a future on a productive farm.



Fred and Helen Nelson, Lexington, demonstrate grinding grains they grow on their farm. (See story on page 4.)

Aglow unit sets meeting

Several women interested in getting a local Aglow Chapter started in Heppner have planned a public meeting March 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served for \$2 a person.

The meeting will be at the Episcopal Parish Hall and several of the area board from Aglow will conduct the meeting.

Aglow is an interdenominational women's fellowship.

PIZZA Made by Jim
West of Willow

Large Combination	\$6.75
Large Ham & Pineapple	\$6.25
Large Beef & Onion	\$6.25
Wednesday & Saturday Evenings Only	
New York Special Saturdays	4.95
Seafood Buffet Fridays, 6:00-8:30	4.95

Scholarship applications being taken

The Morrow County Education Association will be taking applications from students and any former students from Morrow County Schools for the Morrow County Education

Association Scholarship beginning March 24.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is going into the education pro-

feSSION. The value of the scholarship is \$500.

Applications may be obtained from any counselors office at any of the district high schools.

It pays to bring this coupon to us, your local Behlen builder.

20 BEHLEN DOLLARS WORTH TWENTY DOLLARS 20

MAIL TO: Behlen Manufacturing Company, Box 569, Dept. 73, Columbus, NE 68601

My Behlen builder gave me a price quote on a Behlen

Farmhouse LP building Carver building grain dryer grain tanks

grain vests other: _____

Please mail my check for \$20 to:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: (____) _____

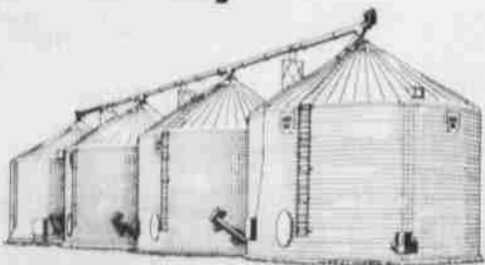
City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

BEHLEN

"We have \$20 that says Behlen quality makes the difference between a 'bargain' grain tank and one that saves you money."

We wouldn't make that kind of an offer if we weren't certain about the superiority of Behlen grain tanks. We build them right... strong and right... for better performance, longer life, and little maintenance.

Stop in for all the facts and a price quote. And bring the coupon to us to sign. Behlen will mail a \$20 check to the first 50 farmers we give a quote on any Behlen product(s) with a \$10,000 or more list price. There's no obligation to buy—only to learn the difference between a "bargain" grain tank and one that saves you money.



- Heavy gauge steel, weather-tight construction with locked rave design, 3" bolts, nylon washers.
- Large oval-shaped walk-in door.
- Angle-iron base ring for better seal.
- Exclusive "waffle" panels.
- Quality accessories, equipment.

Behlen builders do it right.

BI-COUNTY CHEMICAL CO.
P.O. Box 87 Ione, Ore. 97843
Phone: 422-7582

Spring

SPECIALS

 Kraft Parkay Margarine lb. 59¢	 Bisquick Baking Mix 40 oz. 99¢	 Crackers 1 lb. 79¢
 Country Style Spareribs 1 ²⁹ lb.	 Western Family Strawberry Preserves 18 oz. 89¢	 Kraft Macaroni & Cheese Dinners 7 1/4 oz. 3/1⁰⁰
 Family Pak Pork Chops 1 ³⁹ lb.	 Western Family Pear Halves 16 oz. 49¢	 U.S. No. 2 Potatoes 20 lbs. 99¢ sack
 Western Family Bacon 1 ⁰⁹ lb.	 Hi-Dri Paper Towels 85 sq. ft. 2/99¢	 Sunkist Oranges 4 lbs. For 88¢

Prices Effective March 20-21-22

Central

MARKET

Grocery Dept. 676-9614

Meat Dept. 676-9288