

# AROUND ABOUT

With Justine Weatherford

Right now, Heppner, is as flower-pretty as Echo was about three weeks ago, when I went through the historic Fort Henrietta town on the way to and from Pendleton. The blossoming trees, the masses of forsythia and the blooming daffodils along the banks of the Umatilla were so exciting. Now they are here, in all their glory! Lena Kelly is worrying about there being too much sunshine and warmth. She says her yard is already very dry. We hope this isn't going to be a winter-summer, two-season year.

On an early evening trip to Fossil last Thursday, I viewed masses of blooming wild flowers near Ruggs, many sheared sheep browsing with their lambs, a good crop of calves mingling with the cows grazing on the hillsides, and the interesting llamas in the pastures at the Harold Wright Ranch.

The five llamas are rare livestock in Morrow County. The South American animals used to be available for about \$300 a pair, now they have a value of nearly 10 times that, each. Gentle, camel-family creatures, llamas stand about 4 feet high and weigh about 450 pounds when full grown. They chew one strand of hay at a time, hence are very dainty eaters. The five llamas can be fed for a little less than the cost of feeding one horse, Kenneth Wright told me.

It is unknown just why these animals have become so valuable. There is a market for them among zoos, animal parks and people who like exotic pets.

Last Friday afternoon the census taker came to my home. She was well identified by a large name badge and a clearly marked, official briefcase. However, the name of my enumerator, Barbara Pike, became familiar to me long before I met its owner. Barbara was the Kinzua correspondent for the Heppner Gazette-Times before Kinzua ceased to be a community, and the Pike family moved close to the mill at Heppner where Barbara's husband and son were transferred.

As one member of the south Morrow census crew, working under their fine crew leader, Linda Jones, of Lexington, Barbara efficiently and pleasantly discharged her responsibility. She explained that my home was a "long form" home, as is every other house in rural and small-town areas; although, in metropolitan communities only every 6th household has long form excitement. I had filled in the short form which I had received in the mail, but it was put aside as more detailed information was required on the long form.

Just as we came close to the final questions all about my finances and living arrangements, fortunately, Lela Breidenbach, who is temporarily sharing my home, came in from high school. She supplied answers to questions about her finances and her living arrangements. Barbara and I laughingly considered how Lela's life might change before she becomes 28 and is counted again in 1990.

Have you been out to the roller rink at the Morrow County Fairgrounds? A quick look-in on Friday evening showed me that is where there is lots of action. Folks of all ages are rolling along there every weekend.

It is good to report that old friends and neighbors, Mary Nikander and Rachel Harnett, are out and about again. Mary still has an immobilized right arm, but ventures forth with friends. Rachel's injury has healed, and she is back at work supervising the museum. She is expecting many school groups to come on annual field trips soon. In the last five or six weeks of each school year, quite a few out-of-town school busloads come to get visual history lessons. The children and teachers always are interested in the museum's collections. Also, they are fascinated that the little Democrat Gulch Schoolhouse was actually used—and that it housed all eight grades. They marvel at the quaint outside lavatory.

Just a year ago, Inez Erwin and I were so excitedly packing for our European jaunt. How lucky we were with all our arrangements—especially our super stay in London with our former Heppner student Marsha Lovgren (now Mrs. Bill Shannon of Florida.) Last week I received word from the Kleinsorge cousins I visited in Bielefeld, West Germany, that they will come to Heppner next year when they make their first visit to the Pacific Northwest.

I could not correspond with these relatives without the kind and competent help of Irene Samples. She generously translates the letters I receive. Then when I get at writing my replies she writes in a between-the-lines translation of my English which the Kleinsorges say is a tremendous help to them. My cousin Erich Kleinsorge's frau is also named Irene—and by the time she gets to Heppner, Irene Samples will feel as if they are old friends because of her help with our correspondence for several years now. The visiting Kleinsorges will probably be so delighted to find a real German-speaking friend here.

Is your calendar marked up with these coming events? On Saturday, April 26, the Garden Clubs of District No. 10 will meet at Echo. Saturday, May 3, much is planned, such as, the big Methodist Church Yard Sale, the Morrow County Historical Society bus trip to Walla Walla, an art display and sale by county artists. The following Saturday, May 11, the Heppner High School National Honor Society will be sponsoring a March-of-Dimes Mothers' Day Superwalk between Heppner and Lexington, and the Frankenstein Follies will be staged at the high school on Thursday and Friday, May 1 and 2.

Don't ever think there isn't lots of activity around here—especially as the school year draws to a close.

## Program prepares youngsters to become ready for school

Parents of pre-school aged children in south Morrow County will have the opportunity this spring and summer to learn how they can help their children become more ready to begin school.

Three teachers have been working on a program, funded by a grant from the Northwest Foundation, designed to provide suggestions and materials for use at home with children age two to five. Pat Edmundson (first grade in Heppner), Betty Rietmann

(first grade in Ione), and Linda Shaw (reading specialist in Heppner) began work last fall planning a program for parents to use at home to help children in the areas necessary for success in a school setting.

The Northwest Foundation, a program which provides grant money for projects designed to improve education in rural schools, provided a \$1,400 grant which is administered by Eastern Oregon State College.

The first activity will be an

## Heppner pianist receives music grant

Heppner pianist, Jojean Stevens auditioned at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton April 12 for consideration as piano accompanist in the college vocal music department.

At the conclusion of the tryouts, she was named as one of the two official accompanists by the department.

Besides the two grants for pianists, the department offers 12 grants for vocal soloists.

She was accompanied to the audition by her mother, Mrs. Robert Stevens of Hardman, her piano teacher, Ola Mae Groshens of Heppner, and Kitty Coon, the vocal music teacher in the Heppner schools. She has been the pianist for the music department for four years at Heppner High School.

Being chosen as accompanist means that Stevens will earn a one-half tuition grant at the school and will also be given further musical education there. She is planning to take business courses. She understands that the school will allow her as an official accompanist to take some musical work out in the community when not needed at the college.

Groshens announced that she will present her pupil in a public recital in Heppner at 2 p.m. May 18. The place for the recital will be announced later.

## Heppner counselor meets with parents

Heppner High School counselor Michelle Portmann will meet with eighth grade students and their parents April 22 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria to discuss pre-registration for students entering high school.

Of special concern to these students, Portmann said, is the new graduation requirements passed by the legislature this year that will be in effect for the 1984 graduates.

## Heppner Degree of Honor Lodge group at confab

Four members of Heppner's Kate J. Young Lodge No. 29 of the Degree of Honor Protective Association attended the Oregon State Convention, April 11 and 12 at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Portland.

They were Ida Farra, past state president; Shirley Connor, State Usher; Bernice Nash and Delsie Reid.

Members from the 20 lodges in Oregon elected Shirley Connor to serve as state vice-president. During the installation ceremony for the new state officers, she was escorted by her mother Bernice Nash. The official Heppner



Choir director Arnie Hedman conducts a song at the Easter concert.

## Ione Garden Club sale April 24

The annual spring plant sale of the Ione Garden Club will be April 24 at the Ione Legion Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Club members sponsor this sale each year to raise funds

for projects and to share excess garden plants with neighbors.

There will not be bedding plants. There will be an abundance of old fashioned flowers such as day lilies, chrysanthemums, phlox, coral bells, Esther Reed daisies and others.

There also will be flowering shrubs, herbs, berries, perennials, annuals, succulent and sedums, ground covers and house plants.

The country store will present other items and homemade pie and coffee will be served all day.

Orders for special plants may be made by contacting Delta Huber, Helen Martin or any garden club member.

The Ione Garden Club met at the home of Edith Nicholson April 9 to prepare plants for the plant sale. Her 88th birthday was celebrated.

Plans were made for attendance at the Blue Mountain District meeting at Echo April 26.

Officers for 1980-81 were elected as follows: president, Delta Huber; vice-president, Pat Pettyjohn; secretary, Joyce Buchanan and treasurer, Helen Martin.

## Prison term given for bad checks

Norman Dale Jones, Jr. has received a two-year prison sentence in the Morrow County Circuit Court, according to District Attorney Dennis Doherty.

Doherty said Jones was prosecuted in 1977 for a series of bad-check transactions. He served some time in the county jail and then was released on probation. In August of 1978 he absconded from his probation. Doherty said. He was not located until February of 1980, when he was arrested in Florida.

Jones was returned to Morrow County by Sheriff Larry Fetsch to face probation violation charges. Before sentencing Jones to prison, Circuit Court Judge Jack Olsen found that he had violated his probation by leaving the state without permission, failing to make required restitution payments for victims and failing to pay his fine.



The Rev. Michael Sheridan blows his trumpet while the Rev. Cathy Barker strums her guitar at the Easter concert.

## DMV office to be closed on May 21

Gene Murty, manager of the Heppner field office of the Oregon Motor Vehicles Division, said the office will be closed May 21, when the license examiner goes to Fossil; May 26, for a legal holiday, and June 18, when the examiner will be in Condon.

The examiner also will be in Salem between June 2 and June 6. An adjustment of office hours will be announced.

Murty also said the new edition of the state law book containing, in particular, revisions of the state Motor Vehicles Code, is being received from the printer. The public, police, courts and others may order copies from Salem, he said.

Happy  
21st  
Birthday  
**MARK**  
From  
Mom and Dad  
Rhonda and Dave

## Choir receives standing ovation at second annual Easter Concert

The conclusion of the 1980 Easter season observance in south Morrow County, which officially began with the courtroom drama "The Trial of Jesus of Nazareth" on Good Friday, was the music concert presented at the Heppner United Methodist Church the evening of April 12.

Choir director Arnie Hedman said he was pleased to direct the more than 30 "outstanding vocalists of Ione, Lexington and Heppner who had been practicing together for six weeks in preparation for this appearance."

The Second Annual Easter Concert, a cooperative effort of south Morrow churches, was arranged in three segments. The Rev. John Maas greeted the audience and served as the reader who introduced each segment.

The first third of the program followed a reading from "Pieta." It included the selections by the ensemble "God So Loved the World," "Lamb of God" and "Christ Arose." Soloist Rick Drake sang "Because He Lived" as its concluding number.

The second segment of the concert, introduced by a reading from "Free Among the Dead," included the choir numbers "Christ is Risen," "Send Out Thy Light" and "The Lord's Prayer." Its final number "Go Up to the Mountain" was a duet by the Rev. Cathy Barker and the Rev. Mike Sheridan. Barker played her guitar and sang

while Sheridan performed on the trumpet.

The final third of the concert was introduced with a reading from "In Due Season." It included the entire company performing "You Light Up My Life," "The Holy City" and "Hallelujah Chorus."

Along with enthusiastic applause after each number, the capacity audience gave the performers a standing ovation after their final number.

Director Hedman lauded the "long hours of hard work" by the accompanists, Carley Drake at the organ and Judy Maas at the piano. Betty Marquardt, pianist, accompanied soloist Rick Drake.

After the concert, people gathered in the downstairs social rooms for refreshments and fellowship. The refreshment table was centered with a flower-decorated sheetcake and presented by the performers which proclaimed in blue frosting, "Thanks, Arnie. It's been fun."

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