

Eruption exciting—but delays highway travel

By Steven A. Powell
Being a spectator to an historical event like the results of the eruption of Mt. St. Helens last Sunday was exciting—but it had its drawbacks. My family went to Puyallup, Wash. last Thursday to witness my younger brother's wedding.

When we were ready to leave at noon Sunday, we heard that Mt. St. Helens had erupted. We turned on the television and watched many specials on the volcano. News-men said that the Interstate from Ellensburg east to Spokane was closed and the road south from Ellensburg to Yakima was also closed because of ash that had been blown by wind east of the

mountain as far as Butte, Mont.

So I knew I could not come home to Heppner that way.

The news also said that Interstate 5 was closed around Chehalis because ash, mud and lava pouring into the Toutle River had caused it to rise and flood in some areas and there was also a fear that the bridge on I-5 across the river would be washed out.

So we sat and waited. At 3 p.m., I-5 opened up after being closed for three hours and building up miles of traffic. We decided to wait until the traffic flow was less congested.

We left at 6 p.m. and traffic was thin and everything was going smoothly for 1½ hours, until about 20 miles past Chehalis, Washington State

Patrol closed I-5 again about two minutes before we got there. The river was rising fast and trees were smashing into the bridge and again they feared the bridge was going to go.

After waiting 1½ hours to see if they would open it up again, a voice on the patrolman's intercom system said the river was within two feet of the bridge "and it looks like it will go any minute." He said to start rerouting the traffic.

We went back to Chehalis hoping the bridge would not wash out so it would be open Monday morning. If it did wash out, we would have to go four hours out of our way to the Washington coast to get past the Toutle River. The state patrolman said the bridge going over the river on

the coast could be washed out too, however.

We stayed at a motel and the clerk, taking advantage of the many who were stranded, must have raised his rates because it was \$28 for one small room for the night.

The next morning, I called the state police and asked if I-5 was open. It was.

Upon arriving at the bridge site, we saw snow plows scraping the overflowing mud and ash off the bridge.

I quickly got out of the car to snap a few shots of the steaming river when a state patrolman told me to move along.

While crossing the bridge, we saw where the river had overflowed along the banks destroying all the trees in the way. A railroad bridge downstream from the I-5 bridge was burnt and hanging just

ready to fall into the mucky waters.

I was a little irritated to see a two-mile long backup of cars traveling northbound across the river. Snow plows were still scraping mud off that road causing the backup. I did not tell the state patrol when I called that morning which direction I was traveling.

We traveled on and saw more ash, mud, wood chips, and logs in the river and along its banks where it had flooded as the clogged river crept toward Longview.

But that is all we saw of the volcano. We drove by it three times on the highway but could not see Mt. St. Helens because of the clouds. The hassle might have been worth it if we could have seen the volcano and the massive amounts of ash blowing from it.



Frank Johnston, director of nurses at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, was caught in the shower of volcanic ash from Mt. St. Helens while traveling west through Ritzville, Wash., Sunday. He said the ash was so thick on the highway he had to take refuge at a farm house, where he stayed overnight. Here, on his arrival in Heppner, he scrapes the ash that still adhered to his machine. Johnston had been visiting in his former hometown of Superior, Mont.



The Toutle River along Interstate 5 near Longview, Wash. was steaming because of the molten ash from Mt. St. Helens.

Orville Cutsforth, area rancher, to be toasted at Elks Club dinner

Orville Cutsforth, widely known in Morrow County as a rancher, will be honored at a "roast and toast" program sponsored by the Lexington Grange on Saturday, May 24, at the Heppner Elks Club. A potluck dinner will be served starting at 6:30 p.m.

In recent years, Cutsforth has devoted much of his time to the founding and development of recreational areas near his mountain cabin, in the upper Willow Creek area,

and at Lake Penland. He also has been concerned with the permanent care facility at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Cutsforth, now 78 years old, was born in Gervais, Ore., in 1902, and was brought by his family to Morrow County in 1906. In 1910 the family moved

to Canada to farm but returned here 10 years later. Cutsforth has been ranching on his own since 1930. He is a charter member of the Lex-

ington Grange, and a member described him as "always a bundle of energy, who directed his energy toward making Morrow County a better place in which to live."

He is now retired from most committee work "unless it is a case of 'a committee of ONE' to get accomplished what has to be done." Grange members say.

The public is invited to the "roast and toast" dinner.

Ione church gets ready for sale

Plans are currently being completed for the 17th annual Ione United Church of Christ Auction and Barbecue scheduled for June 7 at the Willows Grange Hall on Main Street in Ione.

The barbecue will consist of "All You Can Eat" barbecue beef and special sauce, assorted salads, baked beans, garlic bread, punch and coffee. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children six to 12 and pre-schoolers eat free. About 500 persons are expected.

A Country Store will open at 10 a.m. At the store will be a Kiddy Korner with a fish pond, a snack shack, arts and crafts and homemade foods. Used merchandise will be sold and there will be a Grandma's Corner for Christmas in June gifts.

Antiques will be sold at a silent auction in the hall. There will be a general auction outside the hall for items that have been donated for the sale. That auction will begin at 10:45.

The auction will shut down for lunch at 12:30 and will start up again at 1:15 p.m. until it is completed.

A swimming pool has been donated by a former Morrow

County resident who now lives in Federal Way, Wash.

For the entertainment of visitors, activities will interest people of all age groups. The Kiddie Korner will offer games as well as merchandise for sale, including toys, puzzles, sporting equipment, books and stuffed animals, all at a fraction of their original cost, according to Jean Jepsen, publicity chairman.

Antiques will be on display prior to a silent auction. The items will include old trunks, dressers, library desk (complete with ink well), wooden floor bins, kerosene lamps, irons and picture frames, as well as other articles of interest.

The Country Store will feature handmade articles, such as embroidered pillowcases and dish towels, infant wear, aprons and many arts and crafts goods.

Foods to be sold include breads, sweet rolls, jams (gooseberry) and jellies, pickles, pies and cakes.

"We also plan to have small sacks of homeground flour this year," said Mrs. Jepsen. "The opportunity of a real bargain always exists at the auction."

Jury finds Boardman man guilty

Convicted in a jury trial in Circuit Court last Friday, John Akers, now of Boardman, faces sentencing on a charge of theft by receiving, according to Ann Spicer, deputy district attorney for Morrow County.

She said the jury deliberated for four hours before returning a guilty verdict. She said the defendant had concealed and disposed of an RCA radio belonging to KIRO-TV in Seattle. "He received it from 'distant relatives' under such circumstances that he would have known it was stolen," she said. Akers was released on his own recognizance pending the determination of a sentence.

Spicer prosecuted the case. Herman Winter was the attorney for the defense.

Senior Citizen Council to meet

The Morrow County Senior Citizen Advisory Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 27, in the board room of the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative.

OBITUARY

Lee Guild burial set in Heppner

Committal services for Le Grand (Lee) Guild, who died in Snohomish, Wash., will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday in the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Mr. Guild, who was 73, had resided in Snohomish for 42 years, having gone there from Heppner. He retired in 1968 after serving for 33 years in the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Burial will take place beside the graves of his wife's parents, Clare and Blanche Patterson.

He was born May 13, 1907, Lyman, Wyoming. He graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1935 with a bachelor of arts degree in agronomy. He later did graduate work at Washington State University in Pullman.

Mr. Guild was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Snohomish, Snohomish Lions Club and the Port Orchard Grange.

Survivors include his wife, the former Mary Patterson; son, Robert Guild of Snohomish; daughter, Mrs. James (Mary Lee) Tucker of Everett, Wash.; brother, Loren Guild of Wheatland, Wyo.; sisters, Katie Walker, Lyman, Wyo.; Mrs. Paul (La Rue) Slette of Barstow, Calif., and Olive Barber of Los Angeles, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials are asked for the American Diabetes Association or St. John's Episcopal Church.

Arrangements were by Purdy & Dawson Funeral Home in Snohomish.

Kinzua outbid in salvage timber sale

Harris Pine Mills of Pendleton was the successful bidder for almost 20 million board feet of Ponderosa pine in a salvage timber sale in the Heppner Ranger District of Umatilla National Forest last week.

The Pendleton firm edged out the Kinzua Corporation of Heppner for the timber that has been hit by the mountain pine beetle.

A timber management officer in the forest supervisor's office in Pendleton said the Harris bid was \$97.25 per thousand board feet for the Ponderosa pine and other species, largely lodgepole pine. Kinzua's bid was \$97. The Blue Mountain Forest Products Co. of Pendleton submitted the minimum acceptable bid of \$37.98.

The timber covers 36,000 acres. Sale conditions stipulate that logging operations must be completed by March 31, 1982.

The advertised sale also invited bids on 200,000 board feet of Douglas fir and other species. All three firms submitted offers at the minimum acceptable price of \$22.54 per thousand board feet.

No Oregon crops reported damaged by fallout

Oregon farmers have been advised that ash fallout from Mt. St. Helens has not damaged crops in this state as yet.

The volcano about 45 miles northeast of Portland erupted shortly after 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Its ash fallout spread mainly eastward, across eastern Washington, northern Idaho and into Montana and Wyoming.

Traffic on silt-laden highways was impeded. Shipments out of such centers as Spokane, Yakima and Walla Walla were delayed, as the highways were covered inches

deep, some Heppner stores had not received on Monday or Tuesday, the grocery, dairy or produce supplies that normally would be dispatched from Spokane.

A bulletin from the Oregon Wheat Growers League in Pendleton points out that ash fallout would damage plants by covering them, "and that is the obvious damage of adding anything to the top of the plant."

"However," the bulletin added, "volcanic ash is composed of glass-like crystals and these small, sometimes microscopic, particles interfere with the normal develop-

ment of the growing plants. "No ash has fallen on Oregon as of this morning (Monday). Meteorological data say that high level winds will keep the material to the

north of Oregon, and geologists state that other major eruptions have dumped the largest amount of ash material in the first day of the eruption."

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Large Ham & Pineapple	\$6.25	Fridays, 6:00-8:30	
Large Beef & Onion	\$6.25	New York Special	4.95
Wednesday & Saturday		Saturdays	
Evenings Only			
Food Is Our Only Specialty			
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Kraft Miracle Whip 32 oz. Salad Dressing 1.29	Western Family 15.5 oz. Pork & beans 3/1.00
Heinz 32 oz. Keg-O Ketchup 97¢	Bumble Bee 6 1/2 oz. Tuna 89¢
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Central MARKET

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