

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

October, the tenth month of the year, has arrived. Perhaps your reason or understanding of word meanings tells you this should be the eighth month, and so it was until the calendar-reforming Romans made it number ten. They tried to rename it, but the people continued to call it October. From the time of Julius Caesar, October has had 31 days.

This year the sunny autumn days are bringing hope to some gardeners who still want more of their green tomatoes to turn red. Those of us who watch the hundreds of loads of firewood being hauled in from the mountains feel certain that many families should be cozy this winter. As in pioneer times, we will be able to tell if folks are at home by the smoke rising from their chimneys.

Last week several former Morrow County residents received much news media attention. On Tuesday, Sept. 23, when President Carter made a two-and-one-half-hour campaign stop in Portland, he inspected a group of energy-efficient row houses and conducted a backyard discussion on housing and energy. It was arranged that the husband and wife team of Portland architects, James and Martha Andrews, met the president when he arrived at the southeast Portland site, walked with him along the row of houses and participated in the backyard discussion.

Some of us were so pleased to realize that Martha Andrews, formerly Peck, is the daughter of Lucile and Kenneth Peck and the sister of Steve, all of Lexington. Martha was graduated with honors from Heppner High in 1967 and then studied architecture at the University of Oregon where she met her husband. They are now the parents of two children. The architects were shown on TV with President Carter, who, Martha told her mother, was very cordial and very easy to visit with. He was besieged by reporters wanting to know about the Iraq-Iran crisis.

News reports tell that the Andrews-designed houses harmonize with the 19th century character of the old Buckman neighborhood. "They were built on one of the last large vacant lots in the area after the property was bought by neighborhood residents for that purpose. The architects state that the cost of the condominium units range from \$52,000 to \$65,000 including land."

The Friday, Sept. 26, East Oregonian carried two front page pictures, one of Ronald Reagan and one of Charles Driscoll. Driscoll isn't running for any office but was simply enjoying the autumn sunshine. He is a brother of Bill and of former postmaster Jim, all Heppner natives. Charles Driscoll has visited Bill and other friends here frequently recently and often dines with the Senior Citizen crowd.

That same paper carried another picture of a former county resident, the Rev. Renne Harris. Father Harris, now the rector of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Portland, grew up in Heppner and had his public schooling here. His grandparents are Lena and the late Edward Kelly and the late Mellie and Tom Harris. His father was the late Renn Harris. His mother, Eileen Saling, is an employee of this newspaper.

The story, along with the picture of Father Harris and his attendant, tells of his blessing a new enterprise which deals with the grazing of wild pigs on Wallace Island in the lower Columbia River. The three-month-old pigs, released to live and multiply naturally on the island, weighed around 60 pounds and were a Berkshire and Yorkshire mix developed at Oregon State University. They were raised by Tillamook pig farmer, Richard Wright, who helped set them loose.

Pat McCoy, a vintner, started this venture and expects to sell the 200-pound hogs as gourmet roasting pigs after one year's growth. He said he wanted to get his venture off to a good start and asked the robed priest, Father Harris, to stand on the prow of the boat and bless the young pigs and the new business venture.

Last weekend, so pleasant and shiney, saw several interesting events in our area. Along with Ida Farra and Martha King, I traveled to Arlington on Saturday morning to attend the community auction sponsored by the Arlington United Methodist Church. We saw several other friends from our county there considering the bargains offered for sale.

After several hours of sale shopping and visiting, we three left Arlington soon after 11 a.m. to drive to Boardman to take a look about and to have a Chinese meal which had been highly recommended. We relished the good Chinese food so nicely prepared and served at Dodge City's cafe. We drove by the new Sentry Market and were surprised to find signs there saying "Open 6 p.m. to 9 p.m." After a drive along streets lined with new homes and a brief stop at one having a Saturday yard sale, we started toward Ione via Wilson Road, the Bombing Range Road and Juniper Canyon Road. There surely needs to be a better route between Boardman and Ione.

As we drove through the countryside, I was fascinated by the abundant growth of wild, lavender-colored Michaelmas daisies in the north county. We talked of the coal-fired plant which we could see in the distance. Along Juniper Canyon Road we found mostly "vacant lots" amid many acres of wheat land. We noted to our right the Irvin Rauch home, the Eric Anderson's Earth Carpet enterprise and a sign indicating the John Proudfoot Ranch before we drove down into Ione.

At the United Church of Christ we three enjoyed being guests of the Topic Club at its lovely golden anniversary celebration.

On Sunday, after attending a very special church service at Heppner's Methodist Church which commemorated the 200th anniversary of the beginning of Sunday schools, we gathered our potluck offerings and drove to the Lexington Grange Hall to join with other members of the Morrow County Historical Society at its annual meeting.

After a more than ample dinner in the grange dining area, the society members enjoyed a very interesting program and a short business session under the leadership of society President Delpha Jones and Secretary-treasurer Ruth McCabe in the meeting room upstairs. The attendance, dinner, program and the many doorprizes were all outstanding.

How we hope this great sunshine holds on as we all march into October which looks well filled with an assortment of activities during this exciting national election year.

Topic Club celebrates anniversary

by Justine Weatherford

More than 50 years ago, eight farm women north of Ione formed the "North Side Women's Improvement Association." They soon included other women of the Ione area, limited the membership to 24 and changed their group's name to the Ione Women's Topic Club. Since then the group name has become simply the Topic Club.

During its 50 years, about 115 women have enjoyed membership; presently there are 13 active and 3 honorary members. Saturday afternoon, Sept. 27, former members, honorary members and guests came from Portland, Pendleton, Hermiston, Echo and Heppner to join the active members in celebrating the organization's golden anniversary.

Katherine Lindstrom and Margaret Morgan were co-chairmen for the celebration. Vera Rietmann, the only charter member attending, was presented with a corsage. Sylva Gorgor, one of the eight founders, is presently a patient in the Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

On display in the social rooms of the Ione United Church of Christ where the party and program took place were scrapbooks showing the fifty years of monthly programs and reports of many other activities of the Topic Club. Also posted were the names of the club officers through the years.

Topic Club members have been the founders and main sponsors of the Ione Public Library since 1933. They contributed \$1,000 toward the installation of the swimming pool adjacent to the high school. Each year they ar-



Guests and members of the Topic Club enjoy refreshments at the anniversary celebration.

range a spring tea for the Ione High girl graduates and their mothers.

In recent years exchange meetings with the Bookworms of Heppner have been held. The present officers of the Topic Club are: President, Loree Hubbard; Vice-president, Katherine Lindstrom; Secretary-treasurer, Frances Carlson and Librarian, Lorraine Ladd.

The afternoon's program began with a welcome by President Loree, followed by selected folk songs by the Rev. Cathy Barker who accompanied herself on the guitar. Helen Proudfoot read two selections from the writings of humorist Erma Bombeck. Frances Smouse presented several violin numbers accompanied by pianist Marilyn Rietmann.

Each active member, former member, honorary member and guest in attendance introduced herself. Many spoke about the value of their membership in the Topic Club



Topic Club co-chairperson Margaret Morgan (left), charter member Vera Rietmann, and co-chairperson Katherine Lindstrom are honored at the club's 50th anniversary celebration.

and the value of that group to the Ione community.

The refreshment table was centered with a decorated anniversary cake. Margaret Troedson, Pendleton, and

Margaret Morgan, Ione, both past presidents, served. Members and guests sat at small tables centered with candles and flowers to enjoy the program, dessert and visiting.

Eastern Star plans activities

Ruth Locust Chapter No. 32, Order of Eastern Star (OES), held its first slated meeting on Sept. 8. After a short business meeting the session was turned over to Patsy Taylor, associated grand conductress from Grants Pass, who conducted the school of instruction. Patricia Hyatt and Cista Venard served as courtesy candidates.

On Sept. 17, a district meeting was held in Heppner with OES chapters from Hermiston and Umatilla participating. Several guests were present from different chapter areas of the state. These included Worthy Grand Matron Charlotte Pawleski, Newberg; Worthy Grand Pa-

tron Bob Meyer, Canby; Associate Grand Patron Earl Spencer, Grants Pass; Grand Sentinel Hilmer Horn, Pilot Rock and several other grand officers, committee members and representatives. A potluck dinner preceded the meeting.

Worthy Matron Louise Wood announced that the next slated meeting will be Monday, Oct. 13, with visitations planned by Harriet HasBrouck of Pendleton of the Cancer Research Fund Committee and by Lois Peterson of Hermiston, chairman of the Estarl Fund Committee which assists students who are entering the field of religious service.

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Gardeners gather for Pendleton fall meeting

Nearly 100 garden club members of the clubs of Blue Mountain district No. 10 of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., attended a fall workshop on September 25, in the Peace Lutheran Church in Pendleton.

Rachel Jackson, Hermiston, district director, presided during the opening and the business sessions. Three helpful workshops were presented before the luncheon break. Pat Pettyjohn and Delta Huber of the Ione Club gave instructions on the use of dried materials; Helen McCoard, Echo, told how to care for houseplants; Gladys Pryse, Prairie City, offered information about birds.

State, regional and district officers were introduced after the formal opening which included the repetition by all present of the "Conservation Pledge": "I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully to defend from waste the natural resources of my country—its air, soil and

minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife." During this year in which the U. S. Forest Service is observing its 75th anniversary, gardeners are urged to plant more trees.

Following the luncheon a rollcall of clubs showed that there were members from 11 area clubs attending, including eight members from Ione and four from Heppner. The Heppner members assisted with the morning coffee, and the Ione members took part in a musical skit. Edith Nicholson, Ione, who is almost 89, was given a prize as the oldest club member attending. All who attended and some who did not attend furnished items for the "Country Store" sale which provides funds for district expenses.

On Monday evening, Oct. 13, Rachel Jackson will visit the Heppner Garden Club. Members and prospective members are invited to a 6:30 potluck dinner meeting at the Weatherford home at 280 South Court St.

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