

AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

This week it is back to public school, off to college, back to evening extension classes and back to daily business as usual. During the last two weeks hasn't it been hard to keep track of the days with two holidays and weekends mixed together?

Although most of us now have installed 1981 calendars around our homes, it is so easy to keep writing 1980. Some of us who have January birthdays really get our new years off to new beginnings. If we believe in annual resolutions, it is fitting to make these at the time of our doubled, changing of the years.

One very nice January birthday was celebrated in this community last Saturday in St. Patrick's Parish hall where Martha Van Schoiack's proud children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many friends gathered to wish her a happy 85th birthday.

The lovely weather here has really made some of us wonder about friends and family who have gone south seeking sunshine. We have been so delighted with the sunshine right here in Heppner. How good it has been to have safe road conditions prevailing while so many folks have traveled about for Christmas and New Year's visits, and when so many young people have made their journeys back to colleges.

Putting up holiday decorations, enjoying special musical programs and various holiday parties, receiving yuletide greetings, and enjoying extra visiting with friends and family is so joyful that many of us are reluctant to see the holidays end. I think it took me about twice as long to regretfully take down my tinsel and lights as it did to put them out in happy anticipations. The legion of lovely greeting cards is still lining my bookshelves, propped in front of my books. I shall slowly read the cards and letters over again and get a few letters written to send before tucking them away.

As I am thinking over some of the events of last year, I recall a few unhappy occasions and many good things that happened in our community. First of all, last year began poorly when the Kinzua Mill needed to release many employees about Christmas 1979. This meant that many families left town and many children changed to schools elsewhere. I believe that this last year is the first year since I have lived in this county that one could find an assortment of available unoccupied housing.

During 1980 many good things happened. The wheat crop was exceptionally good; the schools' academic and athletic programs were successful; Del Piper remodeled and enlarged his Lexington store; the fair and rodeo went well; a new recreational vehicle park was built and began functioning in Heppner.

Unfortunately the West of Willow Restaurant and Kroll's Department Store ceased business on Heppner's main street in 1980. Several other businesses changed hands, such as the Chevrolet dealership, the Thomson Grocery, and Samples' Mobile and Mini Mart and the Gazette Times. I know that my listing is very incomplete, but these things came quickly to my mind.

In Nov. 1980 the county got its first elected judge since Paul W. Jones was elected in 1974. During that six-year term Judge Jones resigned, and Governor Straub appointed D. O. Nelson to the office. Then Judge Nelson surprised many by resigning himself, and Governor Atiyeh appointed Don McElligott to carry on. Now Judge McElligott, who was duly elected last Nov. is into his own six-year term.

The Pioneer Memorial Hospital has been expanded and has gained a new administrator and now a new resident physician. It is good to learn that a doctor has moved into the north county area, too.

Everyone is pleased that Kinzua is re-hiring and expanding again.

When I began writing this column quite a few years back, my late husband, Bill, was such a help to me. He so loved having coffee several times each day at that round table in a Heppner restaurant or in the local drive-in. Then at lunch or supper he would tell me a little about community activities that I didn't come in contact with.

Everyday when Bill picked up our mail at the post office he would usually stop in at a local insurance office to share his wisdom with other local wisem n who chatted there.

Now I know that the wisdom table is long gone, and I am hearing that the wisdom-sharing center seems to be moving somewhat from the insurance office to another spot where the owner presides over the coffee pot and where some of Heppner's present-day wisemen now gather to sip coffee and to exchange views and to talk over interesting local and world-wide problems.

How good it is to have these gentlemen keeping up their watchful exchanges of knowledge. Here's hoping they gather someplace for many years to come and keep working out succeeding community problems.

Gathering around hearth from p. 4

ignites creosote already formed.

Burn only dry, well-seasoned hardwood. (Green wood produces large amounts of creosote and is especially dangerous in an "air-tight" stove; trash is highly flammable and will produce a sudden, hot fire.)

Above all, never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene or other flammable liquids. And don't use artificial logs in your stove. The gases generated could cause an explosion.

To melt small amounts of creosote on your flue lining, burn your stove hot once a day, for about 30 minutes. Don't make this your first fire of the day—the sudden heat could crack your stove or ignite the creosote residue.

However conscientious you are in day-to-day habits, it's still necessary to have your chimney inspected each fall

for creosote. Inspections should be more frequent—as often as once a month—if you have been burning green wood or suspect a creosote build-up.

Safe—And Sensible

Although the precaution may seem obvious, Fuller said many people fail to keep clothing, log hoops and other combustible materials at least three feet away from the stove. Parents should also remember that a wood-burning stove does not look "hot" to a small child. Mark off an area surrounding the stove which is "off limits" to small fry.

"A wood-burning stove is an excellent way to save on your fuel bills," Mann concluded. "My family has one and we get a lot of pleasure out of it. But we realize it's not a toy—it has to be treated with respect."

Experimental farm tests impact of acid rain on agriculture

At an experimental farm just north of Corvallis in the heart of western Oregon's fertile Willamette Valley, Oregon State University researchers are conducting what may be the country's largest study of the potential impact of "acid rain" on U.S. agriculture.

OSU researchers say the manmade "rain" laced with acid they sprinkled on major field crops in the study damaged some, boosted the yields of some and had no effect at all on others. But they cannot draw general conclusions from the testing, which started last year.

"The studies are in an early phase and we really don't know if the overall effect will turn out to be positive or negative," said Cynthia Cohen, OSU crop scientist. "Some think acid rain will help meet plant nutrient requirements. Others think it will be damaging. From a scientific point of view, it's too early to generalize. What happens one year with spinach, or corn, can be misleading."

Acid rain, produced when industrial and automobile pollutants combine with moisture in the atmosphere, is falling with increasing frequency—and acidity—in several parts of the United States, including northeastern states and parts of the Southeast, the Midwest, the Rocky Mountain area and California.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is funding the project at OSU's experimental Schmidt Farm as part of an attempt to assess all potential hazards of the phenomenon, according to Jeff Lee, a biologist at EPA's Corvallis Environmental Research Laboratory. He is coordinating the Schmidt Farm study along with EPA agronomist Gladly Neely.

"Two years ago, President Carter identified acid rain, along with the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as a major environmental threat," said Lee. "But it's hard to unscramble the effects of acid rain from those of other types of pollution."

The government scientist said research dealing with acid rain's impact on crops is underway at several other sites, including the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island and the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Cornell University. But he said the OSU crop study is the largest EPA is funding and "probably the largest in the country."

Why did the agency pick Oregon as the site of its major crop study?

EPA wanted the experiments done in an area generally unexposed to acid rain so controlled testing would not be influenced by naturally occurring acid showers, explained Cohen, who is directing the OSU effort along with fellow crop science researchers Shelton Perrigan and Lou Grothaus.

Oregon fit the bill, although there have been reports of mild acid showers just east of Portland, Oregon's biggest city, and although acid rain has fallen on the state a couple of times in isolated incidents caused by volcanic fallout from southwestern Washington's Mount St. Helens.

Also steering the federal agency toward Oregon as the project site were studies OSU crop scientists had conducted for EPA concerning how gaseous pollutants affect crops, Lee said.

When the acid rain work got underway, Schmidt Farm, set in gently rolling valley country, took on the look of a science fiction "moon colony," with transparent plastic bubbles dotting the landscape. The bubbles are "rain chambers." Some are stationary and used to grow pots full

of lettuce, onions, alfalfa and other crops which are sprinkled regularly with acid rain. Mobile chambers are lifted over field stands of corn and other crops regularly during simulated acid rain showers.

Source of the manmade rain is a small combination pump-house-chemistry lab. From there, technicians direct various mixtures of acids and water to sprinklers in the chambers.

In last year's initial tests, three strengths of sulfuric acid rain (which is not "terribly realistic," said Cohen, because most acid rain contains both sulfuric and nitric acid) were applied to about 20 crops.

Some plants, such as spinach and radishes, were damaged by the acid, some were not affected and some, including tomatoes, actually produced bigger yields. In each case, the researchers are not sure why plants reacted as they did.

Cohen explained that a pH of about 7.0 is considered neutral on the scale used by rank acidity and alkalinity. When damage occurred in the testing, it usually was in chambers sprinkling acid rain with a pH of 3.0—about the acidity of vinegar.

How does that compare to "real" acid rain's strength?

Some studies have suggested acid rain was falling in a large part of the northeastern United States as early as the

mid-1960s and the average pH of precipitation in the area already was at or below 5.0. Today, the average pH of precipitation there is thought to range from 4.5 to 4.0.

The OSU researchers haven't analyzed this years experiments, where they tried to inject more realism into the crop testing by using combinations of sulfuric and nitric acid rain and testing crops in the field (using the mobile chambers), as well as conducting a second year of stationary chamber tests with sulfuric acid rain.

They expect the work to continue for several years, even though a two-year contract with EPA, providing total funding of about \$440,000, runs out in December.

"There are a lot of questions to be answered. When we find out how acid rain affects crop yields, then we probably will begin to ask why it does," said EPA's Lee, adding that he expects a longterm cooperative research agreement with OSU to be signed soon. It would call for about the same funding level.

He said the project will help EPA decide what emission standards are needed for automobiles, for power plants (such as coal-burning plants) and for other industrial facilities that spew sulfur dioxides and nitrogen oxides—the major pollutants that create acid rain—into the air.

Update on current market values

Velma Seat, food marketing specialist, OSU Extension Service

Meat prices are expected to trend upward after the first of the year—although the changes may not be significant until February. In the meantime, it pays to follow the food ads and buy cuts featured at special prices to put into the freezer.

HAMS are in good supply. Read the label to find out what kind of ham you are buying. If the label says "water added," it means the ham contains up to 10 percent added moisture—this moisture is part of the curing solution. If the label says "fully cooked," you can eat it as is, although some people think the flavor is better if the ham is heated through. If the label does not say that the ham is fully cooked, assume that it should be cooked before eating.

This is the season for FRESH CRAB and OYSTERS. Quality is excellent and prices are probably about as low as they will get.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH
JIM McCABE



Jim, the son of Alvin and DeAnna McCabe of Ione, is a senior at IHS with a grade point average of 3.15. He played end on the Cardinal football team and was chosen 2nd team offensive end on the All Star team. He currently plays forward on the Ione basketball team. Upon graduation, Jim plans to enroll in the University of Idaho. He is doing an outstanding job in Advanced Accounting this year.

This Ad Sponsored By
Ron McDonald 676-9921
Chevrolet Inc.

Farmers—and energy

Farmers know better than most people how important it is to save energy these days.

They know it takes huge amounts of power to raise the food the expanding world population needs...power for machines...power for fertilizers...power for water, power for controlling the environment of animals inside buildings and hundreds of other jobs.

Yet the word "scarcity" comes up a lot when people talk about supplies of energy to do all this work. This means available energy must be burned more wisely than before. Success, say scientists that has barely been dreamed of in the past.

Raising hogs poses a rough example of the problems farmers face in growing food.

Charles M. Stanislaw, swine specialist, and L. Bynum Driggers, biological and agricultural engineer, both of North Carolina State University, tell how to solve some energy problems hog farmers face in a chapter of the 1980 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Cutting Energy Costs," published today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To some, conserving energy on the farm may seem easy. Simply lower the heat in the pig nursery. Surely that would save energy.

Be careful caution Stanislaw and Driggers. Drop the temperature too much and the pigs skimp on changing the feed they eat to pork chops and bacon. The animals become chilled and develop diarrhea.

They grow less meat. In the end, there's a net loss of energy.

Stanislaw and Driggers

show how farmers can save energy by scientifically insulating the walls, ceilings and roofs of hog buildings. Also, they advise, be sure to make the necessary adjustments to allow for the healthy ventilation of gas created by pig wastes.

They say the wide variety of pork-growing equipment requires less energy when correctly used and maintained. Air filters in hot air heating systems should be kept clean and checked daily. This is especially important in the winter, a time when hog buildings tend to be dusty.

Efficient farmers are picky about animal housing for sound reasons. They've learned that a comfortable hog yields more meat than a hog that doesn't feel well. Hence, prudent use of energy resources and other precise management practices translate into higher profits and more pork per unit of energy burned—a good deal for farmers and consumers alike.

When pigs are uncomfortable, they let you know it.

Let their housing get too cool and they'll pile up against each other or bunch up at the heat source to keep warm. They also may stay along the wall of a pen to avoid cold drafts. Comfortable pigs spread out uniformly.

To get a copy of the 1980 Yearbook, send a check or money order for \$9.50 to Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402, or at a U.S. Government book store in some cities. Members of Congress have limited allotments of copies for free distribution to constituents. USDA has no copies for distribution to the public.

Rexall
ECONOMY SIZED SAVINGS

Rexall
VITAMIN C
Get your Vitamin C every day with Rexall Vitamin C. In the economy 500 tablet size.
500 mg.
Reg. 2.99
\$1.49

Rexall
VITAMIN E CAPSULES
Vitamin E helps in the formation of red blood cells. Get yours daily from Rexall.
400 I.U.
Reg. 6.39
\$2.99
100's

Rexall
CHEWABLE VITAMIN C TABLETS
Get your Vitamin C everyday in a delicious orange-flavored, chewable tablet.
250 mg., 100's
Reg. 2.59
\$1.49

Murray's Drug
HEPPNER ARLINGTON
CONDON

Inventory Sale

Gardner's MEN'S WEAR

Sale Prices Effective Jan. 9-17

<p>KENNINGTON Sweaters 50% OFF</p>	<p>COLUMBIA KNIT Cardigan Reg. 42.50 Sweaters Sale Price 25.00</p>
<p>PENDLETON Bathrobes Reg. 50.00 Sale Price 35.00</p>	<p>KENNINGTON Flannel Shirts 8.00</p>
<p>BOY'S Shirts 50% OFF</p>	<p>CORDUROY RED OR NAVY BLUE Bibs Reg. 27.00 Sale Price 17.00</p>
<p>Sport Coats Suits Shoes Leisure Suits GREAT SALE PRICES</p>	<p>Special DOUBLE LAYER 2 PIECE WINTERWEIGHT UNDERWEAR 1/2 Price</p>