

# AROUND ABOUT

with Justine Weatherford

Last week I tried holding this column to a single theme, some thoughts about the future of our community. That somehow got a little muddled and may not have been of much interest. This week's column will be a series of items.

First a little about a relative newcomer with whom I am just now becoming acquainted. Although it was very easy to feel acquainted with the gregarious "Lucky" Felt soon after he took command of the hospital here, I just recently had a pleasant, short visit with Mrs. Felt, Velma.

My visit to the attractive Felt home on Gilmore Street came several weeks ago on the afternoon after Velma had put on an evening program for the Christian Women showing her techniques as the decorator of special-occasion cakes. I caught her busily enhancing a big square cake. She showed me an album of colored pictures of some of the exciting cakes she has decorated. Velma is a real professional, so artistic and clever — a fine addition to the Heppner scene.

As we visited and as I glanced about the Felt home, I was entranced by the display of clear, shining crystal and cut glass pieces. Velma said she had been collecting these lovely pieces for some years. I, too, love glass, but am quick to admit that my glass doesn't glisten like hers does. The pieces I have out in my home are usually rather dust-laden.

Several weeks ago you may read about the possibility of one of the two senior meals being dropped here in Heppner. There was a slight misunderstanding on the part of the writer of that article (me). Soon after the Area Agency on Aging officials in Pendleton perused that story they telephoned me to say that they really didn't expect to cut out that meal if the attendance dropped below an average of 70 diners — what they actually thought might happen is that the Heppner mealists would have its staff cut. It seems that funding is available for a cook and assistant cook only when 70 diners are served. So I now understand that if Tuesday dinner attendance averages less than 70 it is likely that just the chief cook, and no assistant, will be employed on that day.

On Wednesdays when chief cook, Eleanor Gonty, and her assistant, Marilyn Bergstrom, prepare all the food for both the Heppner and Ione mealists, there is less danger that the combined attendance will ever go below 70. Incidentally those who are eligible and who eat regularly at these two mealists are most pleased with the fine meals turned out by their cooks who really do an amazing job, considering that they have only one small stove top and two small ovens with which to work in preparing the meals for the many seniors. Each meal day a number of meals are taken out to homebound seniors in addition to those served at the mealists.

Last week at one of the senior meals I happened to be sitting across the table from Paul Jones. He told me that the county Quintra Bus had only been used for 10 miles in December. Paul said that there is a serious probability that if Morrow people don't schedule more use of the bus that it will be taken away and assigned elsewhere. The only December usage was for a viewing of the Christmas lights one evening when Paul gathered nursing home patients and drove them about. It surely seems that senior citizens and handicapped persons should work out plans for regular use of this bus soon. When trips are scheduled, if those people who have first priority do not fill all the seats, others are welcomed to ride along on a first-come basis. Various county groups have been encouraged to make arrangements with the Senior Transportation Committee if they want to sublet the bus on occasions.

When I was in college and would procrastinate about my studying, I would need to read all night sometimes, especially when some important test loomed. Later as a teacher I tried to discourage such a practice, but could easily understand its development. Well, last week Tuesday I read all night long.

I had been to a Bookworm meeting where Florence Green enthusiastically reviewed a fascinating new historical novel. I had the chance to bring the book home so that I could put together a short written review. However instead of just leafing through it, I let myself read the first few pages, and then I was really hooked. I couldn't put it down — and I knew I wouldn't go to sleep anyway after meeting its exciting characters and getting caught up in their problems.

It is amazing how sleepy I can become when viewing some TV but how wide awake I stayed for more than nine nighttime hours while I was completely engrossed in that 465-page book. I didn't skip even a single word of it, and as I told Florence the next day, I could read it through again soon because it so completely captivated me. Not since I was intrigued by the saga of Sacajawea awhile back have I found such an exciting story. I really think this book, "Children of the Lion," was much harder to put down than the story of Sacajawea which had less constant, violent action and had longer descriptive passages.

Of course, hearing a good review of a book wets one's appetite. For many years the skilled reviewers of the Bookworm Club have reviewed fifteen or more books for one another each year. Some reviewers instill tremendous excitement in some of their listeners. I have only belonged to this venerable literary club less than 15 years, but I want to mention one member whose reviews always especially thrilled me.

Whenever Gene Starks told us about a book she enjoyed, her eyes lit up, her low, flexible voice vibrated, and her intent listeners breathed more rapidly. If Gene Stark's enthusiastic reviews could have been televised, we, who admired her skill so much, can't imagine anyone sleeping through them. She was often quick to report although this book delighted me — there were things I did not like about it, and then Gene would make positive criticisms.

Before last week's Garden Club meeting, I had an inspiration for a possible club booth for next year's fair. I tried my idea out on my neighbor, the master booth builder, Jane Rawlins, and she said it sounded OK. Then instead of mentioning my idea at the Garden Club meeting, I forgot about it as we all became so interested in the final program that Harold Kerr presented to the group. We, along with everyone, will surely miss him and wish him and his family much happiness in the new assignment.

This week is so filled with emotion-shaking events with the releasing of the Iranian-held American hostages after 444 days and with the installing of our nation's 40th president, Ronald Reagan, that it is difficult to tear one's attention away from TV reports and to carry on mundane daily affairs.

## Lutheran lay people begin Bible group

The two Southern Morrow County Lutheran congregations are beginning home Bible studies led by lay members of the congregations.

The studies focus on the centers of Christian belief. But the program, called COME (Congregations Organizing for Mission Endeavor), is more than Bible study. The groups meet in a setting of fellowship. Opening devotions are an integral part of the meetings.

One of the goals of the home study is for groups to form their own identities as they study Scripture and share their beliefs. The leaders think everyone in their group is important. They believe too many members per group make it hard for everyone to be visible, so they're hoping

for groups of about 8 to 12 people.

The leaders will be starting study groups in different areas of the South Morrow region: Don Peterson in the Valby area on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Valby Church Parish Hall; Jane Rawlins in Heppner also on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the Hope Lutheran Church downstairs; and Annetta Klinger in Lexington, meeting in her home on Thursday, Jan. 29. All the groups will begin at 7:30 and all area residents are welcome.

Pastor John Maas of the parish spent a week in a training seminar last summer. The leaders have been through an intensive three-month training period with him. They will continue to meet and train with him while leading their own groups.

## Bookworms review new Peter Danielson novel

by Justine Weatherford

Florence Green reviewed the Dec. 1980, Peter Danielson historical novel "Children of the Lion" for members of the Bookworm Club during their meeting at Madge Thomson's home Tuesday afternoon, January 13. The members were especially pleased that Ella Smith was able to meet with them after being unable to attend for many months.

Danielson's novel, a magnificent saga of romance and adventure in times long ago, is closely related to Biblical accounts of the movement of the early Hebrew people into the land of Canaan under the leadership of the patriarch, Abraham.

Although the book is based on the story of the movement of the great caravan of Abraham and his nephew, Lot, their families, their soldiers, their many slaves and large herds, it's title comes from several outstanding characters who are metal workers. Those individuals

are called children of the lion because they bear an inherited birthmark in the shape of a lion's paw. Every page of the novel is filled with vivid action. Its characters are well drawn. Their interactions are intense. The pictures Danielson's words paint of life and death, of masters and slaves, of political intrigue and of wars which took place in the Biblical lands so many centuries ago surely grip one's interest.

The final pages of this paperback published by Bantam Books promise that a continuation of the Children of the Lion saga entitled "The Shepherd Kings" will be published in June 1981. If this second volume is as fascinating, as action-packed with such remarkable characters as the first volume, it will draw more readers.

The Bookworm will meet next on Tuesday afternoon, January 28, at Ruby Beckett's home where Madge Thomson will present the book review.

## Agent Kerr delights Heppner Garden Club

by Justine Weatherford

The Heppner Garden Club members were delighted that their program planners had booked county agent Harold Kerr well in advance for their January meeting. No one realized many months ago that this popular and helpful gentleman would be leaving this community.

On Monday evening, January 12, Harold entertained and informed members of the garden club at the home of Jane and Bill Rawlins. He showed the film "Agriculture in Oregon" which was made through a grant by the E.R. Jackman Trust and which most of the members had not viewed. After the screening and discussion of the excellent

film, Harold talked with members informally about the control of garden pests. He fielded assorted questions about various gardening problems.

Julia Hill, the club president who presided at the brief business meeting following the Kerr program, and the club membership presented Harold with a small farewell gift from this group which has enjoyed his help through the years that he has been county agent.

A final report was given about the club's Greens Workshop held along with the AAUW Artifactory last Dec. 6. The membership determined to make a few changes in their plans for next year's workshop.

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## Ione Garden Clubbers brave ice to discuss yard

In spite of icy roads, nine members of Ione Garden Club met at the home of Helen Martin to make plans for a "Yard-of-the-Month" beautification project to be conducted in the city of Ione, beginning with the month of March.

One yard to be honored each month will be selected on the basis of appeal to the passerby and general neatness. A sign made by Pat Pettyjohn will be posted at the honored yard. Helen Martin is chairman of the committee and will be assisted by Loree Hubbard and Lorraine Ladd.

Norma Rae reported for the Twelfth-night committee a record attendance at the Jan. 6 "Burning of the Greens." At the "burning," children of grades one to six and citizens of the Ione area gathered on

Rietmann's lot to sing carols under direction of Jean Nelson while the Christmas trees burned, officially ending the holiday season. Pastor Cathy Barker offered a prayer of thanks for the blessings of the season before the bonfire was ignited. Hot chocolate and cupcakes were served to approximately one hundred people.

Pat Pettyjohn reported that 70 children from kindergarten to grade five participated in the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest in cooperation with the Forest Service.

Delta Hubar presented a program on day lilies (Hemerocallis), the "most self-sufficient easy-care specie of flowers that can be invited into the garden." Mrs. Huber described many ways day lilies can be used in landscaping and showed pictures of

some of the vast array of colors, blends and flower forms that have been hybridized from grandmother's lemon-lily and the common orange variety which has escaped to a semi-wild state.

Though each "Hem" blossom lasts for only one day, each scape contains from ten to fifty buds that open in sequence, providing perfect flowers for up to six weeks, some varieties starting in March, others lasting into October.

Lorraine Ladd, co-hostess, served homemade ice cream with a birthday cake honoring Helen Martin. The next meeting of Ione Garden Club will be Feb. 11 at the ranch home of Delta Huber. A program on Aloe vera and its relatives will be given by Alberta Johannes of the Heppner Garden Club. Guests will be welcome. Anyone interested in being a member of a daytime Garden Club may contact any member.

## Area students named to honor roll

A total of 156 Oregon College of Education students, including Sharon Anne McCarl of Lexington, were named to the president's list fall term for having earned perfect grades (4.0) while completing at least 12 credit hours of graded courses.

A total of 271 others were named to the honor roll for having a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.99. Area students on the honor roll include Kristin L. Edmondson, Heppner, and Anita Eileen Rogers and Lorinda Ann Schnell of Irrigon.

## Arts group plans cartoon demo

The Morrow County Creative Arts group held their January meeting at the home of Gayle Elliott.

A business meeting and viewing of each member's latest work filled the afternoon. Gayle served coffee and dessert which was enjoyed by all.

The February 11 meeting will be a cartoon demonstration and sketching by artist Tom Simonton, held at the Wayne Wheel restaurant in Heppner.

Anyone wanting more information on joining the group may contact Betty Mills or Val Jean Forrester.

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