

# AROUND ABOUT

With Justine Weatherford

Wasn't our pre-spring great? Really spring arrives next Sunday, March 22, and how we hope it will measure up to last week. Many of the public schools of the state are having their spring vacations this week, but Morrow County schools will coordinate their vacation with college vacations from Friday, Mar. 20, until Monday, March 30. We will have to wait to see which vacation schedule the weatherman favors - maybe the sun will shine both weeks!

Haven't the lovely pink apricot blossoms around town been spirit lifting? America's beloved and prolific poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, expressed his feeling about the glory of springtime thus: "If Spring came but once in a century, instead of once a year, or burst forth with the sound of an earthquake, and not in silence, what wonder and expectation there would be in all hearts to behold the miraculous change."

As I read over some of my sentences and then Longfellow's thoughts-what a contrast. He was a master of language while most of us are such amateurs; we repeatedly use such simple word arrangements. Stuart Flexner, author of "I Hear America Talking" states that 50 simple words account for about 60 percent of our speech and writing. "Between 1500 and 2000 words make up about 99 percent of everything we say or write, and most of these frequently used words are monosyllables, none having more than four letters." According to the language expert, the most frequently used word is "I"; the second most common word is "you" followed by "the" and "a". The other 16 words that make the "top twenty" linguistic chart (in alphabetical order) are: and, be, for, get, have, he, in, is, it, of, on, she, that, to, was, will.

So even if you keep trying to build your vocabulary, you'll still lean on those hard-working words for the bulk of your communication-if you expect the rest of our world to understand you.

Perhaps you are all as pleased with the Blue Mountain Community College Spring Calendar as I am. What a fine variety of classes to choose from-and what a good group of teachers. Many of the classes being offered here begin the last days of March or in early April, and they will meet weekly. In spite of the need to spend many hours on my yard and garden, I am eager to enroll in two classes. One of them begins on April 7 and will run 10 weeks; the other will meet three hours weekly for 4 weeks beginning May 7 and will include two field trips. So especially during the 4 weeks when I am attending two classes, I am expecting to stay at home and to be well occupied.

Every few weeks I spend some time in the newspaper office going through file copies of old issues and selecting items for the "Sifting Through The Times" feature. I really enjoy this effort-reviewing local history of fifty, twenty-five and five years ago is great fun for me.

Sometimes I have trouble remembering what happened a few hours or days ago - yet I find that some of the items, especially stories about happenings of five years ago, seem very clear to me. Of course, I have only lived in this county 15 years, but I see many references to older citizens and to present day families in the older papers.

Just five years ago this spring, many of us were caught up in preparations for the U.S. Bicentennial. Our community now has several good things which resulted from that celebration. Hager Park was dedicated then as a gift from the Hager Family to Heppner. Winn Crist and the city crew and others, too, worked at getting the park in shape. Barbara and O.W. Cutsforth and others moved the little, one-room Democrat Gulch Schoolhouse into the Library-Museum Park. High School students, my husband, Bill, Albert Connor and others worked at the restoration of this delightful, historic building which is now part of the county museum.

Although Jean Gillian's article in the March "Ruralite" was good and correctly acknowledged Rachel Harnett's fine work there, it left much about the museum unsaid. One omission was mention of the little schoolhouse which everyone should be sure to visit. When Francis Nickerson (who has lived away from Heppner for many years) was visiting here recently, I heard him say that he was about to visit the museum for the first time because he wished to find some background material for a novel he is writing. This reminded me again that many people living here have not taken the time to really visit the museum and the little schoolhouse. Maybe more parents will take their children through these interesting and educational places during the coming spring vacation.

Every mid-March since I have written this column, I have included a few Irish jokes. This week they are a wee bit late-and in writing Irish jokes are not nearly as much fun as a real son of Eire, like St. Patrick's Father John O'Brien who makes frequent trips to the Emerald Isle, would make them if he told them in his super brogue.

As the years pass I find Irish jokes harder to locate-and these may not win prizes:

Teacher: "Pat, this composition of yours about a pig is exactly the same as your friend Mike's."

Pat: "Of course, it's about the same pig."

Two Irish cattle ranchers met for the first time. After a "Howdy, podner," the first one asked, "What's the name of your spread?"

"It's the JFK Double Shamrock Bar-J Happy Hill Rocking K Ranch" the second Hibernian replied.

"How many head of cattle do you have?" asked the first man.

"Very few," replied the second Irishman. "Most of them don't survive the branding."

"I'm not wealthy," young Michael confessed to his true love, "and I don't have a new car and a yacht like Danny Doherty, but I love you with all my heart."

"I love you, too," replied blushing Bridget, "but tell me more about Danny Doherty."

Mrs. O'Brien, excitedly on the phone: "Come quickly! Our house is on fire!"

Chief Burkenbine: "How do we get there?"

Mrs. O'Brien: "Don't you have your red truck any more?"

## Movies postponed

The Ackley Teen Center has postponed its Sunday community movies until April 5 because of spring vacation.



DeRina Reed (left) and Michele Saling help Barbara Bloodworth with a purchase at a bake sale last Friday. \$227 was raised for the Ackley Teen Club

## Bookworms review book on stockmarket crash

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

At the first twice-monthly meeting of the Bookworms on March 10, in the Weatherford home, Pauline Hughes presented a review of the national best-seller by Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts which gives the social history of the Wall Street crash of 1929. This book, "The Day the Bubble Burst" was released in its hardback form in 1979 on the fiftieth anniversary of the Oct. 29 crash that some persons say was more disturbing world-wide than a big war. The paperback edition which Mrs. Hughes used, came out in 1980.

Well-established authors Thomas and Morgan-Witts have done a tremendous amount of research in pulling together their account of the facts leading to the crash, of the crash itself and of the after effects of this disaster. The book's large lists of sources, its bibliography and its close to 20-page index are very valuable.

The bookcover states that "The authors recreate the mad, chaotic, tragic years before, during and after the crash. A time when thousands of investors, large and small, followed the bullish money

barons, pouring their dimes and dollars into Wall Street with intoxicating abandon."

Reviewer Hughes rightly judged that her listeners would be especially interested in the vibrant personalities involved, such as Joseph P. Kennedy, Jesse Livermore, Richard Whitney, Charles Stewart Mott, Henry Ford, John Pierpont Morgan and Amadeo Peter Giannini, to name a few.

She personally was particularly interested in California's Giannini, who in 1904 at the age of 34 had quit the produce business in order to found the first "people's bank" in America. Giannini's rise from a peddler of grapefruit in San Francisco where he was disparagingly called the "Dago Banker" during the early years of his small Bank of Italy, changed enormously as he rose to a position of international respect during the development of his huge Bank of America. His fascinating story is just one of the many exciting personality stories within this fact-filled, modern historic book.

Mary Goheen was a special guest at the meeting. The Bookworms next meeting will be at Lorena Jones' home on Tuesday, March 24, when Ruby Becket will present the day's review.

## Soroptimists informed on school budget

On March 12 guests at Soroptimist Club's meeting were Matthew Doherty, Superintendent of Morrow County School District and Pauline Winter, District School Board Member. Mr. Doherty outlined the importance in understanding the "A" Ballot and "B" Ballot when voting in the school election March 31. Winter distributed copies of the School District Budget and explained in detail the requested increases, computation of tax on proposed requests and comparative tax rates for the school districts in Umatilla

and Morrow Counties. Reed Ringer, Manager of the Heppner Branch of Western Heritage Savings & Loan, spoke on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Mr. Ringer is Chairman of the Cancer Crusade this year for Morrow County.

At the next meeting, March 19, club member Mary Goheen will show slides on Japan, including the World's Fair in Osaka.

Soroptimist meetings are held the first, second and third Thursdays each month at noon at the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

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## Sifting through the TIMES

**FIFTY YEARS AGO**  
Lions stage party honoring their charter; district governor cites progress and compliments club. Eighty Lions and ladies met at the IOOF hall to celebrate the first birthday of the Heppner Lions Club.

Jack Ferris, district governor from La Grande, officiated at the cutting of the birthday cake at the dinner dessert, and later in a short address told of the phenomenal growth of Lions International in which the Oregon district is setting the pace with a .08 percent gain in membership this year. Forty-seven clubs are now active in the district with the goal of fifty by June 1 a certainty. Ferris expressed more than ordinary affection for the Heppner club as he was president of its "daddy" club, LaGrande, when the organization was sponsored. Accomplishments of the Heppner Lions gave him a feeling of pride, he said, and he has used the club as an example in talks all over the state.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**  
The complete list of fillings for county offices shows: clerk, Bruce Lindsay, Dem.; Sadie Parrish, Rep.; treasurer, Sylvia McDaniel, Rep.; sheriff, C.J.D. Bauman, Rep.; county commissioner, Russell Miller, Boardman, Rep.; Coroner, Oliver Creswick, Rep.; Justice of the peace, J.O. Hager.

Democratic committeemen and committeewomen: Al Lamb, Bruce Lindsay, Lloyd Howton, C.N. Jones, Newt O'Harra and Barbara Cutsforth.

## BMCC classes filling rapidly

BMCC Continuing Education classes in south Morrow County are filling rapidly, says Nancy Brownfield, area coordinator. There are several classes with limited enrollment. Anyone who is interested in a class and is not pre-registered should check with Nancy Brownfield at 676-5039 to see if there is space available. Pre-registration will end March 25. Registration can still be done on the first class night provided there is space available. Most classes begin the week of March 30.

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