

A family affair



Dorothy and Steve Estburg

Maintaining the Morrow County Fair grounds and looking after the many events held there is a family affair in Heppner.

For the past three years Dorothy Estberg and her husband, Steve, have been combining their talents to make sure that when fair time rolls around the grounds will be ready for the many visitors who will come through the gates.

While Dorothy is the secretary of the fair board, which oversees activities at the grounds, her husband is the maintenance man who sees that buildings are kept up and

necessary repairs made.

"It's gotten to be a big thing," Dorothy says of the annual Fair and Rodeo. "It's getting better each year, and also more complicated." She says it's necessary to begin planning right after one fair for the next year's. "It's not all put together in one month," adds Steve.

Actually the Fair and Rodeo is only one of the many uses the grounds have during the year. "Right now we are using the grounds 330 days out of the year," says Dorothy of a job which is keeping this husband and wife a busy couple.

Grain Exhibit competition hot

By BIRDINE TULLIS

Will it be Stephens or Wanser, or maybe Faro? Perhaps some other variety? Which farmer will point with pride to his exhibit at county fair, proudly wearing the huge purple rosette that proclaims it the best wheat exhibit? This year, when crop yields and quality have been exceptional competition for the special award should be intense.

There are classes for other grains, too, such as barley and oats. Wheat sheaves are always a big attraction at fair ... they seem symbolic of the

harvest season. There's a special sweepstakes rosette for the best sheaf, too.

Bill Rawlins, superintendent, is proud of his grain department at the fair. He volunteers to clean any grain exhibit if it is brought early. Bring more than the peck required, if you plan to have it cleaned.

Morrow County's wheat exhibits go directly from county fair to state fair in Salem. The county has often won an award for the best grains exhibits at the state event. Will that award come back to Morrow County this year?

Pecks' collections prove

Pride in the land runs in the family

By BOB COSTA

Pride in the land and a bountiful harvest run in the family.

"I entered wheat sheaves at the county fair when I was farming, but when I retired and didn't grow wheat any more, I started bringing in sheaves of wild grasses," says Harold "Shorty" Peck.

Last year, Peck collected 34 species of wild grasses from

his Upper Rhea Creek farm and made a display for the Oregon State Fair. The exhibit was such a hit. Fair officials asked Peck if the grasses could be kept for a permanent exhibit. Peck has collected an additional 18 grasses for exhibit at the 1981 Morrow County Fair. The grasses are tied in attractive bundles called sheaves.

"I guess I inherited it from

my dad; he was quite a fairgoer," says Peck. At the 1916 Oregon State Fair, "Shorty's father, Burton Peck, won first premium for his individual exhibit titled "Peck's Dry-Farmed Products." The exhibit was an attractive display of grain sheaves, corn, peas, beans, and 32 varieties of potatoes, all grown under dry-land conditions at the Peck's Morrow County farm.



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