

Around About By Justine Weatherford

The Artifactory certainly drew many hundreds of persons to the Morrow County Fairgrounds last Saturday. During the hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. much selling, buying, visiting, snacking and pleasant "just looking around" took place. The producers of this annual craft extravaganza, the AAUW members, are to be commended for their community service and for their good management of this annual event which seems to have grown in popularity each year.

Those who enjoyed the display of oil and watercolor paintings by county artists were thrilled by the evidence of such great talent. Those who joined the Heppner Garden Club members in creating Christmas greens decorations really worked at putting together very attractive wreaths, swags and table centerpieces during the busy five hours of the annual happening.

I have heard two minor complaints, really suggestions, about the Artifactory. First, someone should see that the fairground gates are opened early on the first Saturday next December. Some folks had trouble getting in and out of the parking crowd. Second, it seems that people had read that the Heppner merchants were giving out some discount coupons but they didn't know where or from whom to get these coupons. One lady said she thought that it would be a great idea to pass out the coupons at the doors.

On Dec. 2, a full busload of county persons left Heppner at 7:45 a.m. for a look around the Preston Wine Cellar at Patterson, Wash. After learning some about wine production and storage and tasting a few samples of the finished product, the happy group went to a restaurant on Kennewick, Washington's waterfront for lunch.

Marlene Currin reports they had six luncheon menus to choose from, and they really enjoyed the old-English decor—the heavy furniture, and brocades and tapestries. That afternoon was devoted to individualized shopping and looking around at Columbia Center until the bus started for Heppner at 4:45 p.m. It was about 7 p.m. when the tired tourists returned home. What a fun day!

Last week on Tuesday and Thursday there was rather weak response to the Heppner High School Drama Club's play "Gift of Murder!" It is very hard to fit various non-athletic activities into the busy school schedule, and as most weekends are already taken, non-athletic activities must be set on weekdays.

Choosing an appropriate play for high school production, which will delight viewers of all ages and all backgrounds, is a most difficult task. There have been many excellent productions offered at the high school here through the years. Last week's play demanded lots of work from its casts, crew and director. It was too bad that the story itself was not too generally appealing.

I understand that Jane Rawlins will be directing three one-act plays on January 11 and 12 (again Tuesday and Thursday evenings.) These plays will be put on by the members of her drama class. She feels that the stories they tell will be generally appealing. It is hoped that play-night attendance will go up.

High spots of this week were the Monday, Dec. 6 concert by classical guitarist Jim Greeninger, called the foremost guitarist of the Northwest. Proceeds from the concert went to aid the Heppner Elementary and Junior High bands. Tomorrow (Friday) will be a big annual day for the County Livestock Growers and the CowBelles with fine programs and outstanding speakers set for the afternoon and evening at the Elks Lodge.

Retired teacher Jack Loyd reads many periodicals, and has noted that very little space is devoted to poetry or rhymes. He passed along some lines written by Kathryn Thorne Bowsler in the most recent issue of "Life's Cameos." The title of this short selection is "But Didn't."

Do you ever think at close of day
Of kindly words you meant to say —
But didn't?

Do you ever think when day is done
Of errands kind you could have run —
But didn't?

Do you ever think at daytime's leave
Of flowers gay you meant to give —
But didn't?

Do you ever think when skies are red
Of hungry mouths you could have fed —
But didn't?

Do you ever think at dawn, of night
Of letters kind you meant to write —
But didn't?

Friend, do you think at life's set of sun
You'll think of deeds you could have done —
But didn't?

Everytime I pass along Main Street in Heppner now, I feel so delighted with what must be about the prettiest town Christmas tree ever. It is so good that Columbia Basin, the city, the Ernie Garrisons and the Merchants Committee insisted that this gorgeous blue spruce be put in place. And bless the Boy Scouts for helping raise some of the necessary funds for replacing street light hookups with their firewood raffle. The colored lights really lift many Christmas spirits. All of these people could have felt "Why bother, why make this effort?" — but they didn't.

Monday audience spellbound by gutiarist's talent

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

The audience seemed spellbound by the lovely tones Jim Greeninger's masterful mind and strong, graceful fingers brought from the beautiful guitar he had built. He spoke in a most friendly manner to the "intimate group" who attended his Monday night concert of classical guitar selections at Heppner's Junior High School.

This artist encouraged questions during the pauses in his three part program which featured a wonderful variety of selections that were written directly for the guitar or had been transposed from music for other instruments. Greeninger had composed some parts of the numbers he presented.

In response to a question about his instrument, Greeninger told of the many unusual types of wood he built into its various parts. He put more than 300 hours of craftsmanship into its construction and said "I have not finished it yet." He fashioned his guitar after the guitars of Herman Hauser.

Greeninger, an Oregon boy from a farm near Hubbard in the Willamette Valley, joked about the great amount of time needed for tuning and re-tuning guitars. He said that he began his guitar studies at the age of 12. He made his debut in Carnegie Recital Hall in New York City. Critics have praised his mature musicianship, his elegance of style and warmth of tone as he has traveled all over America

giving recitals and concerts. He is now an experienced teacher of master guitar classes.

As an Oregonian it hurt him to speak about the very inadequate funding our state offers art and artists. He stated "Oregon is near the bottom in its support of the art community. It rates well below Idaho, even—and I do hope I can help improve this sad situation."

His plan for helping is in the formation of a recording arrangement which will offer musicians an honest way to market their music. Those people who indicated they would like to contribute to his plan for promotion of Oregon musicians may write to: Jim Greeninger, 640 N.E. 18th, Salem, Oregon, 97301.

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