

Around About By Justine Weatherford

The time in which we are living is not the best of times or the worst of times, but it is close to being about the most uncertain, the most confusing of times. We don't know what disaster to spend the most time worrying about—the possibility of being struck down by a drunken or drugged driver, the coming of a catastrophic nuclear war or the predicted loss of the world's oxygen as the rain forests of the world are depleted.

We are depending to drives for canned food and practical gifts for the more-than-ever families in need and feel so alarmed because of the high unemployment rate—then we read that the guru Bhugwan Shree Rajneesh of nearby Antelope is getting his 24th and 25th Rolls-Royces for his 51st birthday. Somehow this doesn't make sense.

For years we've heard that smoking chimneys caused air pollution—yet today there may be more smoke rising from homes than there has been in many years.

Dire predictions of a massive energy shortage caused the planning and building of the Boardman Coal Plant—now it sits idle much of the time. Also, the unwise decision to build several "needed" WPPSS plants in Washington State, which instead of becoming potential money-makers now are costing each of us plenty each month as we electricity consumers struggle to pay off the huge debt of many millions of dollars in cost overruns they accumulated.

Some well-know, reputable economists are telling us the recession-depression is over, while some others keep warning us that the economy is not stabilizing yet and that we are not going to see the end of our economic woes for many years. Such confusion!

It is reassuring to have Christmas greetings coming in and going out on schedule. Being remembered and remembering friends at least once each year is an established custom which we hope will never die. Although it is costing more each year to mail our greetings and to burn colored lights, the pleasures these things bring to many folks is not confusing.

Several recent letters from Dorothy and Charlie Heard from their Peach Island, Milton-Freewater home, have caught me up with their family affairs. Dorothy asked to send her a copy of a G-T Christmas column of several years back—and after a search through stacks of clippings I felt very lucky to find what she wanted. I am sure it reached her before the church guild program when she wanted it to be used. Dorothy sent me some bad news, "Charlie's doctor is trying to get the right medicine and dosage for his angina, he really doesn't feel too good any of the time."

Several weeks ago I was told that a former lone resident, Beulah Lundell, would really appreciate letters from old friends. Her address is: Gateway Retirement Plaza, 10141 E. Burnside, Portland, Ore. 97216. Most of us know of other friends who are having lonely days and who we might cheer with letters or holiday cards. There is no better time to get with letter writing than right now.

Even the weather has been somewhat confusing—the eastern U.S. was unseasonably warm last week, but now it is almost snowbound. We know that winter doesn't really begin until next week, Dec. 21, and we certainly hope winter won't be much colder than these several weeks of late fall have been here.

Last week's public events in Heppner included that lovely concert by guitarist Jim Greeninger and the annual Farm-City Banquet which brought outstanding speakers and saw honors given out to worthy youngsters and adults.

This week is one of the busiest times of the Neighborhood Center. Everyone connected with this fine organization is working extra hard to carefully check and assemble the many boxes they expect to send out to families whose Christmas would be very bleak without these boxes. I understand that next week a great deal of special volunteer help is needed to deliver these boxes.

The crafty ladies who regularly attend Thursday afternoon sessions will relax at their Christmas Party this Thursday afternoon to which they invite any who have ever met with them.

Anna Mae Steagall, entertainment chairman for the Heppner Senior Mealsite, has arranged a series of delightful pre-Christmas programs. The first of these was presented by the beginning band students, fifth and sixth graders from Heppner Elementary School last week. Every Wednesday noon at the fairgrounds 4-H annex building, the growing numbers of seniors gather around tables which are beautifully decorated by Daisy Collins, and enjoy a delicious and nutritious meal. Their friendship and fellowship is as good for their souls as the food is good for their bodies. Any senior citizen is most welcome.

Local grads named in '81-'82 edition of 'Who's Who'

Four 1982 graduates from Heppner and Lone high schools have been included in the 16th annual edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

Michelle Aaron and John Murray of Heppner, and Anita Palmer and Brad Schmidt of Lone are featured in this year's publication.

"Who's Who" published by Educational Communications, Inc., Lake Forest, Illinois, is the largest high school recognition publication in the country. Students are selected by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches or by the publishing company based upon students' performance in scholarship award contests or extra-curricular activities, the spokesperson said.

Final selection is determined on the basis of criteria

which includes high achievement in academics and leadership in school activities, athletics or community service. Traditionally, 99 percent of "Who's Who" students have a grade point average of "B" or better and 97 percent are college bound.

The 16th edition of "Who's Who", published in nine regional volumes, features 263,000 students, or five percent of the nation's 6,500,000 high school juniors and seniors. They represent 20,000 of

the 22,000 public, private and parochial high schools in the country.

"Who's Who" students also compete for over \$50,000 in scholarship awards and participate in the publication's annual opinion poll of teen attitudes. The book is distributed on a complimentary basis to over 15,000 high schools, colleges, universities and public libraries throughout the country, the spokesperson said.

Sticky Stickers learn to hem

By KERRY BRUCH

The Sticky Stickers 4-H Club met at the fairgrounds in Heppner on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m. They learned how

to hem.

On December 22, they will meet at the fairgrounds again and will make some Christmas things. They will also learn a new kind of stitch.

Christmas is cookie time

Christmas is cookie time. Mounds of luscious cookies emerge from ovens all over the world to grace this joyful season, and children of all ages look forward to them eagerly.

If you're giving a party this Christmas for a group of youngsters, you might consider incorporating this favorite treat

into your plans.

If you have the time, you might bake, build and decorate a gingerbread house. It makes a marvelous centerpiece, and sets the mood to perfection. Around it, display your offering—freshly baked cookies, grouped by type.

Traditional Christmas favorites include gingerbread men,

buttery spritz cookies decorated with red and green sugar, crunchy pfeffermuse dusted with powdered sugar, and scrumptious leckerli.

You might also want to include non-traditional delectables such as chocolate or butter-scotch chip cookies, and peanut butter cookies. Yumm.

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