

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Top o' the morning to y'all. As I traveled through western California, Arizona, southern New Mexico and lots of southwestern Texas, I explained to family members and friends with whom I visited that I definitely wanted to be back in Heppner before March 17, because thanks to Jim Farley, KUMA, the ladies of St. Patrick's Catholic Church and other Irish and Irish minded citizens, that day is really becoming a most special day in this community.

After almost a full month away, my return was fairly well timed. Last Friday, Mar. 11, I enjoyed driving home from my final over-night visit in Corvallis, through the rain-drenched upper Willamette Valley. I had a most interesting luncheon with a special Grant High School friend in the new Lloyd Tower and then was feeling so good about the beautiful afternoon sunshine along the Columbia River. Although I was a few minutes late in reaching the Heppner Post Office, the friendly, helpful crew there gave me my weighty accumulation of mail and seemed really delighted to present me with a package that had been, Flossie Watkins said, "Smelling up our back room for too long." It was a nice box of smoked Chinook salmon from a friend, Jim Knudson, who lives beside the best fishing hold on the Alsea River. I hadn't thought to tell him I would be away from Heppner a month this spring, and his generous, annual gift gathered mold and gave off strong fumes while it waited for me to retrieve it.

How good it was to find Pendleton cartoonist Tom Simonton painting clever green, St. Pat's greetings on the store and office windows around town. It is good to see the schedule for Thursday filled with lively events from the 9:30 a.m. showing of colored slides of Ireland through the great Irish stew dinner and more Lindsay Family music at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. As I tried to catch up with south-county news I was pleased to see the attractive St. Pat's logo designed by Cathy Christensen, Irene Anhorn's daughter. I was terribly disappointed to read about the vandalism at Heppner High School.

Last Thursday, during my drive along I-5 from Medford to Corvallis, I took time to stop for two pleasing visits. My stop at Creswell did not result in a face-to-face visit, but I had a nice telephone chat with the Rev. Mel and Nancy Dixon, who have retired near there. They are both feeling fine. Mel says fishing hasn't amounted to much there this year. Nancy asked me to carry her "Hello" to friends here.

As I approached the Brownsville-Harrisburg overpass, I decided to turn off I-5 and to stop at Central Linn High School where I taught the year before I came to Heppner. Because I was having trouble recalling the names of some of my co-teachers, I asked the office secretary if I might look at copies of the 1964 and '65 yearbooks. She told me to try the school library. There I met one of the men I remembered teaching with who is now married to the library aide, Mrs. Boggan, who said she was sorry but that most of the library copies of the "Cobra" had been stolen by students. How disappointing! The Boggans suggested I visit the district office across the parking lot from the high school and talk with the superintendent's secretary and district clerk, Doreen Eagy, whom I remember. Mrs. Eagy let me look at her copies of the Cobra, and we visited about teachers I had known. I asked about Principal Dick Carpenter and Counselor Adrian Cook who moved to Central Linn after I had known them both at Heppner High. She said Mr. Carpenter is now at LaPine, but that Adrian Cook is still at Central Linn. So I walked over to his office and had a little visit with him. He asked about several Heppner folks and said he keeps in touch with Ed Heimstra. Adrian looks fine and seems to still be happy with his work.

My spring trip was mainly a bus trip, although I drove to Medford and left the car there until I returned. Irene Swanson and Helen Curran were excellent traveling companions as we went south on February 15. Helen says she had a good visit with her relative in Eugene, and Irene enjoyed a rainy stay in Redding with John and family before flying north to visit son Dennis and family at Auburn, Wash. I was glad to learn that both Helen and Irene returned home safely before I did.

Again I was pleased with bus traveling. It would have been most tiring to drive so far alone, and it would have been very difficult and much more costly to fly—if it were even possible to get in my visiting in Medford, Imperial Beach, Indio, El Paso, San Antonio, Killeen, Tucson and then Imperial Beach again, Medford again, and Corvallis and Portland. Flying is swift and so great at times, but I do enjoy seeing what is happening to fellow humans in their communities and what is growing in each area.

Years ago, my daughter, Ann, and I drove across the north Texas panhandle, but this was my first southwestern Texas experience. What a big area between El Paso, called an International city because only the Rio Grande separates it from Juarez, Mexico, and the beautiful birthplace of Texas, San Antonio. It was over 12 hours travel time between the two cities, both of which have parts of the University of Texas which I enjoyed visiting.

Special excitements for me were getting a taste of Navy life and language with the W.W. Weatherford III family, having a look at huge Fort Bliss with Army Lt. and Mrs. Ken Hillner and being escorted around the tremendous sites of San Antonio by Airforce stepson Bill Knoll who has recently been reassigned to Lackland Air Force Base after a tour of duty at Randolph Air Force Base across town. The Knolls also took me northwest through Austin to Killeen where their newlywed, older son, Bob, is an Army Lt. at Fort Hood. I also had a fine look around historic Fort Sam Houston, the famous big army base in San Antonio. No wonder Texas stays prosperous with the hundreds of thousands of military paychecks distributed there constantly. The huge military hospitals and medical centers are so impressive and also contribute a great deal to San Antonio's economy.

If you haven't been there, do go visit the Alamo, the early missions and tremendous old homes, the lovely University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures and the strikingly beautiful River Walk which winds its way through central San Antonio. You will come away pleased with that historic, beautiful community. I really think it is one of the most attractive cities I have been able to visit, although I truly enjoyed every minute of my fifth visit in Tucson with several Peake cousins and with longtime friend Dorothy Tupling Barber, in Indio with the Marion Weatherfords and in western Oregon with family and friends.

Ione Garden Club plans district meeting

Plans were finalized at Ione Garden Club's March 9 meeting to host the annual spring get-together of the 12 clubs comprising Blue Mountain District No. 10 of Oregon State Federated Garden Clubs. The district meeting is to be held at Willows Grange Hall in Ione on March 24. A noon luncheon will be served by the ladies of the grange, said club spokesperson Delta Huber.

Connie Tellefson of Milton-Freewater has served as district director for the past two years and will be passing the gavel to Elaine Beltz of Pendleton.

There will be several officers from the state level attending, and a program of original floral designs will be presented by a group of amateur arrangers from the Tri-City, Wash. area. Members of the district will bring horticulture specimens and arrange-

ments for a flower show, she said.

The "Country Store," a sale of plants and garden related items, is a popular feature of these district affairs. Proceeds from the sale go for projects such as the small garden beside the Echo Bank Museum.

Serving on the committee to plan details for the day are Pat Pettyjohn, Jean Nelson and Delta Huber.

Other items of business at the meeting were to set April 19 as a tentative date for the annual spring plant sale at the Ione Legion Hall, and the appointing of Joyce Buchanan to chair the nominating committee for new officers.

Elsie Huston led a study and discussion of herb gardening and uses of herbs. She started the study by showing that the botanist's definition of an herb and an herbalist's definition

differ considerably, Mrs. Huber reported. The botanist states that an herb is any non-woody plant that dies down to the ground after flowering. Herbalists broaden the application to include any plant, part or all of which has been used for such purposes as medical treatment, nutritional value, food seasoning or coloring and dyeing of other substances, she explained.

Mrs. Huston gave two classifications of herbs: one by uses and the other by horticultural needs.

Examples of medicinal herbs mentioned were: mullein, used in an oil base as an ear medication; aloe vera juice, to relieve pain and promote healing of burns; comfrey leaves and roots, beaten and used for sprains, to reduce swelling, heal bruises and sores. Comfrey was also mentioned to be the only

known plant source of vitamin B 12, Mrs. Huber said.

A recipe for moth repellent sachet contains one-fourth cup each of rosemary leaves, tansy, lemon peel, crushed cloves, lavender and spearmint leaves. A combination of rue and cedar shavings in his bedding should rid your dog of fleas, Mrs. Huber said.

Most herbs will survive in poor soil, but attention to a few horticultural practices will make them really prosper. Since most of these plants are of Mediterranean origin, a southern exposure and lots of sunshine, along with good drainage are beneficial, as are a weed-free situation and plenty of humus in the soil and compost to hold moisture. Sheep manure had been mentioned as best for herbs by Mrs. Huston's authority.

Lorraine Ladd assisted Mrs. Rea in serving refreshments in a St. Patrick's Day setting.

P.I.K. Program meeting slated

A meeting to determine which, if any whole base bids will be accepted under the 1983 Payment In Kind, P.I.K. Program, will be held, Friday,

Mar. 18, 9 a.m. in the Gilliam and Bisbee Building, ASCS conference room, Heppner.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

4-H sheep club meets

The "Student Sheep Projects" 4-H Club met March 3 and Wendy Skillicorn opened the meeting, reported Summer Cecil, a club leader.

The club discussed holding a bottle drive and bake sale to raise money for a trip to Salem for a sheep clinic to be held April 16.

The group would leave the afternoon of April 15 from the Ron Cecil home and return Saturday evening, April 16.

Cecil said other 4-H Club members who have sheep projects are invited to take the trip. Those interested are asked to contact Extension

Agent John Nordheim at the extension office in Heppner.

The clinic will teach judging, trimming and showing skills. It is sponsored by the Oregon Suffolk Association. Ron and Summer Cecil will chaperone the trip.

Also, Ron Cecil discussed the anatomy of sheep and what to look for when buying sheep.

The Cecils express their appreciation to the club members for their enthusiasm and good attendance at meetings.

The next club meeting will be held March 31, 5 p.m., at the Cecil home.



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