

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Now we have come a long way into 1983—two of April's big days are behind us, and I am very aware that to mention the prankster's delight, April Fools Day and Christianity's most holy day, Easter Sunday, in the same sentence is really far-fetched. Those two days (at least this year) and tax day, the fifteenth, so distinguish this month.

At Heppner, another big day in the first month of the year's second quarter comes on April 10, when 400 and more runners will probably take part in the second annual Rolling Hills Run. This means about one hundred more than participated last year will start from Heppner Elementary School at 1 p.m. and run out and back along the Pilot Rock Highway east of town—some will run 6.2 miles and some 3.1 miles. The run will finish at the Heppner City Park where every finisher will get a T-shirt and a certificate. The largest groups of entries in the eight different age categories will be Morrow County runners, but the run's general chairperson, Liz Curtis, says that there will also be runners from Salem, Pendleton, John Day and other central and Eastern Oregon localities. We understand that most Heppner business establishments will stay open on Sunday to accommodate runners, viewers and their families. This annual health-related event, being sponsored by Heppner Elementary School and the Heppner Lions Club, is a good people-assembling undertaking. Its originators and the supervising committee are to be congratulated.

A delightful young children's event assembled many pre-schoolers and their doting, camera-toting parents and grandparents near the library-museum last Saturday where, thanks to the Elks Lodge, Heppner's Great Easter Bunny (Cal Sherman) presided at an outstanding egg hunt. I felt so lucky to have a fine excuse to be present there with Weatherford daughter Karla Weaver, her husband, Rick, and their daughter, Abiah Lucile, two and one-half, and son Jacob Marion, just six months old. I wonder if this family, who lived my home last weekend, may have come the most distance to partake in Easter festivities here? Their home is west of Port Orchard, Wash. in the Sunnyslope District.

After a series of "ups" on electric bills, it was a nice surprise to find a credit on this month's billings and to read the letter of explanation from the Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors. However, what the electric co-op gave back, it seems like the City of Heppner Water Department was ready and willing to take away. I realize that the current water billing is the first based on meter readings since winter officially ended. Anyway, it was really an "up," especially for some commercial users.

Although I grew up reading the Portland "Oregonian" and continued reading it seven days each week until well into my own fifth decade, I have found that here in Morrow County, where I read the weekly reporting of local news in this paper, get six days of regional reports in the "East Oregonian" and am watching more TV than in years past, I often spend most of a week getting through the large Sunday "Oregonian," which I somehow just can't imagine giving up. Two of its most recent stories absorbed my attention early this week. I guess one is always caught up in reports of happenings that relate to one's own experience. The front-page story about the Greyhound Bus Co. cutting out its Corvallis-Newport run and the related Section D-11 feature "Goodbye to Eddyville" aroused my ire.

Although the many dozens of trips I've made between Corvallis and Newport were taken in private cars—I hate to think that bus route is being cancelled. Philomath, Blodgett, Burnt Woods, Eddyville and Toledo are places I remember fondly. The Bill Eddy family members were my friends and neighbors west of Corvallis—the town of Eddyville was named for his family. As I personally get further into senior citizenship I forsee more and more need for bus travel. Recently I was chatting with a wise friend about Heppner being a nice location for retired folks. My friend agreed somewhat, but complained about the lack of public transportation to and from this area. We know that historically there were stages and the train, but now one must depend completely on private vehicles.

The second front-page story which I related to was the one about the question of voter residency. This brings out some of the problems caused by late-day registration, and the related story (on E-6) concerning the Oregon election law's definition of residency was also interesting. Troubles at Antelope and its Wasco County neighbor Shaniko were closely tied to the matter of residency requirements and late registration. It is interesting to read that the statutes state "The place where a married person's family resides shall be considered the person's residence. The place where an unmarried person sleeps shall be considered the person's residence." Back in about 1971 I talked to the late Elaine George about some part-time employment with the City of Heppner. She told me I could not be considered because at that time my husband and I lived in Lexington. So Heppner was ahead of Portland then—only recently has the metropolis considered making city employees live within the city limits.

Although time was extended for getting the writings about your family, your groups, businesses, etc. to the Morrow County Historical Society for the county book—you are being urged to have everything in by the end of this month. It is so easy to put off putting things down on paper. I believe I almost qualify as an expert—as I so often lay things aside to be done later on. However, the IRS and the State of Oregon can't be put off much longer—neither can those articles for the county history. We must get with it.

R.S.V.P. potluck luncheon to be held April 14

By NEOLA MACKEY

A Retired Senior Volunteer Program potluck luncheon will be held at the Heppner Neighborhood Center on Thursday, April 14. All R.S.V.P. people and others interested are invited to attend. Recognition will be given at this annual event to the volunteers in R.S.V.P. projects in south Morrow County such as those who help at the library, hospital, senior mealsite and at the center.

A Social Security Representative will visit the center on

Friday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

A representative from Halmark Travel Agency from Pasco, Wash. will present a film on Alaska at the center on Thursday, April 21, beginning at 2 p.m. Volunteers from the Heppner Senior Mealsite and from the Heppner Neighborhood Center will co-host the presentation. Refreshments will be served and small donations will be taken to cover the representative's travel costs.

Foods for the Emergency Food Program is still needed at the center.

The Garden Patch

By BOB COSTA
OSU Extension Agent
Morrow County

Now's the time to get a jump on weeds and fertilize the vegetable garden.

To help control garden weeds, rototill or spade your garden now. This will encourage a flush of weeds to germinate. The weeds can be killed with a contact herbicide (Round-up, Knock-out, Kleenup) before planting the warm season vegetables. These herbicides are not active after they reach the soil, but they will damage all plants that they come in contact with. Do not disturb the soil again except to plant the vegetables. As an alternative to using herbicides, kill the weeds with a second rototilling or use a hoe. However, disturbing the soil again will bring more weed seeds near the surface.

Weeds will show up throughout the garden season, but herbicides are not recommended for use around garden vegetables.

Garden soils in this area need nitrogen and phosphorus. Some vegetables may respond to sulfur, but most of our soils contain adequate potash. I use a fertilizer called 16-20-0 because it has the necessary nutrients in about the right proportion (16-20-0 means 16 percent nitrogen, 20 percent phosphate, and 0 percent potash—it also contains sulfur). Phosphorus is important for early growth and root development in cool, spring soils. Fertilizer materials containing phosphorus need to be mixed with the soil, so apply before spading or rototilling.

Fertilizer materials such as 16-20-0, 16-16-8 or 15-8-0 should be applied at about two pounds per 100 square feet. If you use

manure, use half the amount of commercial fertilizer. Well rotted manure can be applied at two to five wheelbarrow loads per 100 square feet and mixed with the soil.

Be careful not to apply too much nitrogen (as commercial fertilizer or manure) because many vegetables will produce big, leafy plants with very little fruit. Some nitrogen loving garden plants such as corn should get a second application of nitrogen fertilizer later in the season.

When you map out your garden, remember to put each vegetable in a new location. This will reduce disease problems. Treat potatoes and tomatoes as if they were the same. Do not plant cole crops (radishes, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, etc.) where any cole crops grew last year.

Root maggots are a problem in cole crops. To reduce infestations of root maggots, apply

diazinon dust or granules in the row with the seed when planting radishes and other cole crops. After transplanting cabbage, broccoli, or cauliflower, drench the soil around the young plants with diluted liquid diazinon. Root maggot infestations can also be reduced without using insecticides. Contact me for more information.

Two useful publications available at the extension office in Heppner are "Soil and Water Management for Home Gardens," and "Home and Farm Vegetable Garden."



The spoked wheel, historians estimate, was invented around 2000 B.C.

Whales' skeletons suggest that the ancestors of these animals once lived on land.

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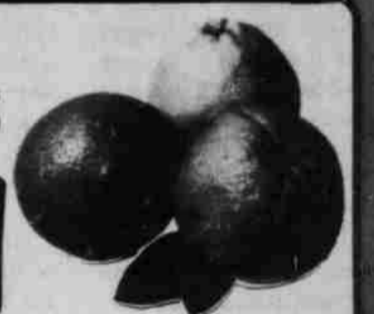


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