

Around About By Justine Weatherford

My last week's two biggest excitements were being able to see 1982's greatest film and being present when the selection committee of the Heppner Garden Club "found" the lovely Paustian yard which was never lost. One of my interesting projects has been a quick review of some of the history of India and of the life of Gandhi. Another project, demanding study and causing me distress, is my assignment to write the history of Heppner for the Historical Society-promoted county book. I am so hopeful to do a decent job, yet it is so hard to include everything which has happened here in over 110 years and to attempt to mention those who caused these happenings.

Recalling local things first, how thrilling was the discovery of the beautiful yard of Jan and Les Paustian, which one doesn't see from the street. How impressive are their years of great effort and their love of beauty which has resulted in their achievement.

Listening to friends' conversations, reading and TV and film viewing are about to out-weigh my own first-person discovery method of learning. Actually I guess this happened some time ago, but I haven't wanted to admit it until recently. As a child and even long into adulthood, I have wanted to go ahead and burn my finger on the hot stove, to taste the sweet and the bitter myself, to see as many places personally as possible. I still believe experience is the greatest of all teachers, but now I must almost resign to letting vicarious experiences take over.

After I visited India vicariously last Sunday afternoon in a Pendleton theater, where quite a group of Morrowites viewed the British-made film "Gandhi," I was inspired to a little more study about India. I quickly saw a real contrast between the guru, the Bhagwan of Antelope, who was not very popular in India, and the great leader Gandhi.

Gandhi, who died in his 78th year after living a strenuous, very simple, very concerned life, was assassinated by a high-ranking Brahman (Hindu) who feared Gandhi's program of tolerance for all people, all stations in life, all creeds and religions including India's Moslem minority.

Among those viewing the outstanding film last Sunday were Heppner's beloved, 90-year-old Maggie Healy and her son, Francis, of Pendleton. Perhaps Maggie was the only former British subject in the theater. Seeing her there I thought about her brave life. She left Ireland in 1911 when she was 18. Ireland had become part of Britain in 1801 after the Act of Union passed in 1800, which among other things stated that Roman Catholics could not vote or hold public office (however this part of the act was overcome in 1829). All but the six counties of North Ireland finally became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain called the Irish Free State in 1921. On April 18, 1949, it cut all ties with Great Britain and became the independent Republic of Ireland.

Most of India, where about 15 percent (once one-sixth) of the world's population lives, came under the control of the British East India Company around 1760 and remained thus until 1858 when the British government took over from the company, coaxing local princes to accept British supervision. In 1877 Queen Victoria became Empress of India. There were 15 British provincial governments under the viceroy.

After the Amritsar Massacre (April 13, 1919) when a British general ordered his troops to fire on a restless, unarmed crowd, killing about 400 and wounding at least 1,200, the country's struggle for independence grew, and in 1920 Gandhi became leader of the Indian National Congress and his non-violent, civil disobedience became a mass movement, soon involving millions of Indians.

This London-trained attorney, whose merchant-caste parents had arranged his marriage to a girl also 13-years-old, which produced four children, had worked for Indian rights in South Africa for 21 years before returning to India in 1915. Gandhi (1869-1948) was a small man with limitless physical and moral strength, and he ardently promoted many economic and social reforms. His life was guided by a search for the truth, which he believed could be known only through tolerance and concern for fellow humans and through constant personal testing. He called his autobiography (much of it written in prison) "My Experiments with Truth." He overcame fear in himself and taught others to master fear. He practiced his own method of direct social action based on principles of courage, non-violence and truth which he called "satyagraha" that proclaims "The way one behaves is more important than what one achieves." His leadership achieved India's independence and brought tremendous change. India became an independent dominion in 1947 and an independent, democratic republic on January 26, 1950.

Back close to home, I feel distress about the overlapping of some fine activities next week. Next Thursday, April 28, I know the Morrow County Homemakers Day is set for Ione's Willows Grange Hall from 9:30 to 2 p.m. This promises lots of fun and education, guest speakers and the installation of a study group officers — proclaimed "A day of celebration of spring and the joys of homemaking." Many women should plan to attend. Some weeks ago my friend Mary Goheen invited me to attend the annual Soroptimist luncheon honoring senior girls and their mothers that same noon. I accepted her invitation because I am always delighted to attend these lovely affairs, to see the girls and their moms and to hear the outstanding speakers. How hard it is to schedule events without overlapping, especially in this period after winter leaves us and before school ends.

So we must all keep busy with worthwhile activities, beautifying our yards and our community, supporting planned programs and continuing to search for the truth.

Deadline drawing near

The deadline is drawing near for submitting stories for the Morrow County History Book. "We hope that no one will be left out because they didn't know about the book or didn't get their story prepared," said a spokesperson for the Morrow County Historical Society, sponsors of the book. Members of the committee will be glad to help anyone prepare a story, she said. Contact Ruth McCabe, Ione, at 422-7194, Jean Nelson, Lexington, at 989-8188, or

Delpha Jones, also Lexington, at 989-8189.

"Remember that everyone who lives in Morrow County now and has ever lived here is eligible to have a story in the book free of charge. We hope to have a good representation of the families in the county to make it an interesting book for everyone," she added.

Be sure to send your check for \$39.50 to one of the above historical society members to reserve a book if you wish a copy.

Free help on tax forms

Volunteers will be offering free help to those wanting to file 1982 Homeowners and Renter Refund Forms, announced Gertrude Simpson, Volunteer tax assistance coordinator, Pendleton. The volunteers will be at the Pendleton Senior Mealsite, 510

S.W. 10th, Monday through Thursday until April 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The form may be filed even though an income tax report was not filed, Simpson said.

After April 28, those needing assistance may call 276-2126 for an appointment.

Extension agent speaks to Heppner Garden Club

By JUSTINE WEATHERFORD

On Monday evening, April 11, a potluck dinner, program and business meeting of the Heppner Garden Club was well-attended at the home of Dr. Wallace Wolf. Bob Costa, county extension agent, talked about controlling weeds in lawns and gardens and fielded questions. He brought along a collection of various weeds from his yard and garden as samples of the

gardeners' enemy, and he gave out copies of two extension bulletins, "Controlling Weeds in Home Lawns" and "Yard and Garden Weed Control." His talk to the club last spring about pests, another major enemy, is still vividly recalled by some gardeners.

President Theta Lowe conducted the business meeting during which several plans were discussed and responsibilities for some projects assigned. The Yard of the Month Committee was directed to

select a yard worthy of honoring from April 15 until May 15.

A group of members agreed to obtain containers and to plant four rose bushes which Mrs. Lowe had obtained.

The growing rose bushes have been carefully planted and are now located near the bulletin board fence in the space between the Abrams-Kuhn law offices and the major stone building on Main Street.

Garden Club members are planning to cooperate with the

Albert Wright family committee that is chairing the 1983 Pioneer Picnic on May 29 by providing and arranging flowers for the buffet meal tables in the fairground's pavilion building.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Toombs and Mrs. Toomb's father attended the meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Toombs are the newest members of the Heppner Garden Club. The club's next meeting will be held May 9, at the home of Irene Swanson.

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