

Around About By Justine Weatherford

Last Saturday's summer sale festival "Heppner Daze" was dazzling. When I chanced to meet Della Scrivner near the temporary post office a little before noon she remarked how pretty the two blocks on Main Street looked, saying "I surely hope somebody makes a good picture of the street scene now."

The display arranged by the West Wind Nursery in the intersection of Main and Willow streets was most attractive. The plants and small trees they brought added a touch of coolness, that as the day grew increasingly torrid, certainly helped.

The little colored flags fluttering above the sidewalks, the balloon display and the many racks of clothing and tables with fine assortments of tempting merchandise kept people crisscrossing the blocked off street during the earlier hours. As the temperature soared the buying and looking was concentrated on the shaded side of the street.

The swim team's dunk tank was helpful in contribution some more needed coolness. I happened by it just as Mayor Green had been dunked. I didn't see who performed the unceremonious deed, but there was lots of laughter as the dripping, completely cooled magistrate returned to the dunking bench.

With any community event, lots of us sort of enjoy some music. I kept expecting to at least hear some recorded melodies, but if they were used, I must have missed the timing for them. Let's hope this year's Fair and Rodeo Parade has some musical offerings accompanying it. For several years our parades have been much too silent. How nice it was in years past when there were several bands in the line of march. This year's parade is coming soon - just three weeks from this Saturday, on August 27.

How attractive the new exterior of the Shoe Box and Talk 'n Tops store is looking. Everyone is so pleased that this business will be reopening so soon in its original location - this is a nice first step toward healing the terrible hurt of that early May fire. Over and over I hear folks saying how the miss S & J Market - how they wish it could come back! Everyone is also eager to have the post office back in its rightful location "where we could get to our own boxes at any hour."

Last Saturday there were several notable weddings. If the cliché "Happy is the bride the sun shines upon" is truly meaningful, the day's Heppner brides got off to surely happy beginnings of their married lives. The very nice ceremony I attended at the Christian Church saw a smiling Donna Cutsforth in a beautiful white satin gown with a lovely, lace-edged veil and train escorted down the aisle by her older brother, O.W., Jr. "Fritz", who presented her on behalf of himself and her parents to her tall sandy-haired groom, Ted Dougherty.

On this happy occasion, Cutsforth family members and friends were somewhat saddened because of the bride's father, Orville, needed to be seated ahead of time in the front pew close to the altar because of his present difficulty in walking and because of his hip surgery and could not escort his youngest child down the aisle.

One of the great beauties of Morrow County summers is the gorgeous sunsets. For a series of days they have been so colorful, so breathtakingly beautiful. Their beauty helps ease the pain the rather exciting thunder storms have brought during this harvest season. All grain growers must feel like Doug Drake, who spoke out during church asking for dry, suitable harvest weather. We know last Sunday's sudden, hard wind broke several large limbs from Heppner trees and are well aware that bolts of lightning often cause tremendous damage to life and property - during the years they have ignited numerous fires in northwest forests leading to billions of dollars worth of damage.

We have all heard the expression "dog days." In order to refresh my understanding of this period of the year, I have my trusty encyclopedia open to an explanation. "Dog days are periods of hot, sticky, uncomfortable summer weather. In the middle latitudes and subtropics of the Northern Hemisphere, these periods occur most frequently between early July and late August. Exactly when they occur and how long they last varies somewhat from place to place and year to year.

"The ancient Greeks gave the dog days their name. The hot, dry Greek summer began about the same time the dog star, Sirius, rose with the sun. Today, men know that the rising of stars does not affect weather, but the name dog days remains."

Some friends of Heppner Soroptimist President Mary Goheen are following the schedule of her summer tour. She was in Istanbul, Turkey, until July 29, attending the world convention of the Soroptimist International. Now Mary is touring Greece and its adjacent islands and is stopping at such interesting places as Athens, Nauplion, Olympia, and Delphi before touring the Aegean Sea where she will view many small, historic islands before flying home by August 13. Wonder how the weather is in Greece? Could they still be experiencing dog days there where that nametag originated?

My own "Camp Grandma" for 1983 is into its fourth and final session. Although I had planned to have more grandsons than granddaughters here this year, I am experiencing a dandy mix with seven of the 10 third-generation of kids I especially love coming to my Heppner home. For short or longer visits enrollment at my camp this year has included four boys and three girls with the youngest of the lot being accompanied by their parents. My latest and last campers are grandsons Adam Haberlach, going on nine, from Medford, and his cousin Thomas Chenhall, just six from Cheney, Wash.

Sheriff gives crime prevention tips

Special occasions present special security problems, warns Morrow Co. Sheriff Roy Drago. Social get-togethers and formal events announced in newspapers can also serve as tipoffs for burglars, he said.

The number of reported burglaries in this country continues to rise. Unfortunately, less than 15 percent of these burglaries lead to an arrest.

Any advertised absence from the home invites burglars. These special events deserve special precautions, says Drago.

For instance, a death usually results in an obituary in the local newspaper, listing the time and place of services. However such announcements also inform burglars that every member of a particular household will be absent at a certain time.

Wedding notices can also

tempt burglars and thus easily spoil a happy occasion. Mere conversation with a caterer, florist or other party involved in wedding festivities often reveals when a home will be left unattended. Even a passerby noticing a mother and daughter leaving the house with a bridal gown instantly knows that valuable wedding gifts lay unguarded inside. In such cases, it is wise to arrange for a friend or neighbor to house-sit.

Everyday occurrences also entice burglars, says Drago. Burglars take note of daily routines in which a home is left unguarded at specific times of the day or night. Even leaving the house with a tennis racket or golf clubs gives burglars hours to work undisturbed.

"In instances like these, make sure your home is well

guarded and remember that sometimes an observant neighbor can be an asset. Don't invite trouble by leaving your home unprotected; many thieves are professionals and will gladly oblige such an invitation," the sheriff warns.



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