

# off the front page

## German man enjoying stay at Currin Ranch



Axel Trumpfheller

Axel Trumpfheller's home is 40 miles southeast of Frankfurt in West Germany in the city of Badkoenig-Momart. Badkoenig is where "the government is" has a population of about 3,000. Momart had about 300 people and is in a forest area with some agriculture.

Axel's family in Momart includes his grandmother, an uncle, his parents, a 23-year old brother, and a 12-year old sister. It is not uncommon, he says for three generations to live in one household. At 21, he says he is now responsible himself for what he does, "before 21 the parents are responsible." His family lives on a dairy farm in a mountainous area which has 16 dairy cows. Most small farms have dairy cows, he says, because they are needed to earn enough money. Milk is the most work, but it earns the most money. Their farm is average size which is about 50-70 acres in their region. They have a variety of crops including wheat, barley, corn for silage, oats and rye.

He is currently staying at the Tom Currin Ranch on Little Butter Creek, and says that he had wanted to come to the United States for a long time, so when Brent Fetsch a member of the Pendleton Chapter of Future Farmers of America spent three days on his family's farm and six months at a neighbor's farm, he took advantage of the opportunity and asked him to try to find some families in the United States who would be willing to take him in, if he would work for them.

Axel finished his course at the special agricultural school he was attending July 11, and says he "packed his bags and flew to the United States. He arrived in Baltimore, Maryland, July 24 and boarded a bus for Pendleton. "I financed myself, and it was the cheapest way I could come," he said.

He says that he was "surprised people on the bus were so friendly." It was the small things that he noticed that were a problem, nothing big. For example, we have McDonalds restaurants in West Germany, but they are not like McDonalds here. We also have pay telephones, but they are different from here. After trying to figure out how the telephone worked and not getting anywhere, "I finally went out and asked someone to help." With changing buses, too, it was different, but there was always somebody willing to help.

Axel says that he is glad that he made the trip. When he arrived in Pendleton, he stayed on a wheat farm for three weeks, then went to Boardman where he spent two months at a potato farm, and now he is wanting to extend his visa which expires January 24.

He has no definite plans after he leaves the Currin ranch, but would like to spend the "next four or five years traveling around the world, collecting experience and learning about the people and countries." Then eventually to settle back in West Germany and try to get a job. "There is a lot of unemployment, it's difficult to get a job you like."

Another reason for coming to America, he says is that he wanted to learn the English language better.

He studied English for six years in school, and for one and a half hours each week as refresher course during the time he spent at the agricultural technical school.

Most people, he says will go to a nine or 10 year school although about one-quarter of the people will choose a 13-year school or a college. All of the schooling is provided free, by the government, he says, but those who want to go to a college must have good grades to get in.

Although he grew up on his family's farm and attended agricultural school, it is still necessary to pass a test at the completion of his studies to be allowed to call oneself a "farmer." Before you pass the test, you only apprentice," he says.

Axel says that it is difficult to compare his home with the Heppner area because although at home he lives in a small village, it's only two miles to the next village. "Here you drive many miles and there is nothing."

At home many people after they are out of school live with their

parents and work in the same village or the next village. But here, "there is nobody after high school until they're married."

School isn't so important at home. Sports are not regulated by the school, he says, but by clubs. Each village has clubs which usually charge a small membership fee; if there are two or three people, they form a club. A lot of clubs are 100 years old; the rules were made then and people still join them. Clubs are important to the social life of the village; they usually meet once a week. Most villages have a singing club and sports club. Sports clubs usually are active in gymnastics and European handball, which Axel says has no resemblance to the version of handball played in America.

Some clubs, like riding and tennis clubs are "only for people who have better wallets."

He is a volunteer fireman in his village and they meet once a month to train. He describes their meetings as "putting the equipment together, sprinkling a little water

around so people know we're doing something and putting the equipment back where it belongs. Then we go to the restaurant. Clubs are to have fun. That's the main purpose," he says.

He likes the United States, "I would not want to extend my visa if I didn't like it." There are more freedoms here. In West Germany, there are 16 million people in about the same area as Oregon where there are only 2.6 million people. At home people aren't allowed to have guns; there are a lot more rules, and the driving age is stricter because there is more traffic.

Although legal drinking age is 16, he says, to get a drivers license you have to be 18. First you go to driving school one evening each week for two to six months, and have 10-12 driving lessons. Then after all that, you must pass a test, and the license is expensive—almost \$500. The penalty is strict for those caught driving without a license, too: they can be denied a license for from two to five years.



## Head 'em up & move 'em out

The eight large trucks pictured above, which belong to Geophysical Service Inc., a subsidiary of Texas Instruments, "sent sound waves" along Heppner's Main Street Tuesday as they roared from their parking spots to return to GSI's work area near Highway 74. The trucks, called vibrating units, are used to send sound

waves below the earth's surface and then to pick up the energy waves reflected from below ground formations with geophones or sensing devices said Field Crew Manager Bill Kelley. The trucks were washed while they were in town.

## Mayor opens Christmas season with traditional tree lighting



As Heppner mayor, Cliff Green, flipped the switch to turn on the lights on Heppner's downtown Christmas tree, Friday, Nov. 30, he told onlookers that Christmas had been in the hearts of many for several months, but now it officially begins.

### Coloring contest deadline nears

Children who have colored pictures for the Soroptimist's Coloring Contest should bring their entry to the Heppner T.V. office by Monday morning, Dec. 10.

Pictures to color, for those who have not yet picked them up, may be obtained from Coast to Coast, R & W

Drive-In, the Heppner T.V. office, and the schools in Heppner and Lone

Money prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in each of three age divisions: pre-school and kindergarten; first and second grade; and third and fourth grade.

## Presidential proclamation honors home health care

The President of the United States and the Congress have proclaimed November 25-December 1, 1984, as National Home Care Week to pay tribute to the thousands of dedicated individuals throughout America whose efforts allow more than five million elderly, infirm, disabled or dying to receive skilled health and social services in the comfort and privacy of their own homes.

Blanche Collins, Supervising R.N. of the Tri-County Home Health Agency states: "There is a movement in this country to find less expensive and more humane ways to provide health care to our growing elderly population, as well as children and young people who are temporarily or chronically ill or disabled. Lawmakers are finally discovering what we have known all along: Home care supports the dignity and independence of our most vulnerable by keeping them out of hospitals and nursing homes for as long as possible. It keeps families together and offers a compassionate and low cost way to care for our loved ones. In an era of skyrocketing health care costs, home care offers an excellent alternative to institutional care both because it is less expensive and because it encourages the self reliance and cooperative effort upon which this nation is founded."

Mrs. Collins went on to note that Tri-County Home Health Agency has been serving the counties of Morrow, Gilliam, and Wheeler for over seven years. In those seven years some 450 patients have been admitted for

care by their physicians and over 9,000 skilled nursing and therapy visits have been made by the staff at Tri-County Home Health Agency.

She concluded by saying: "The theme for National Home Care Week is 'When It Comes to Health Care, There's No Place Like Home.' We think that says it all."

Persons wishing additional information on home care should contact the Tri-County Home Health Agency at 676-5133 or stop by the office, 186 E. May Street in Heppner.

### Planning Comm to meet Dec. 10

The Heppner City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing during the regular meeting at Heppner City Hall on Monday, December 10, 1984. A study session will start at 7:30 p.m. with the regular session to follow at 8 p.m. The Commission will consider: (1) A Conditional Use permit application to allow a mobile home to be placed in a Central Commercial zone on Linden Way, and (2) A Conditional Use permit application to allow a Senior Citizens Activity Center building in a General Residential zone.

### Merchants to meet Fri.

Heppner Merchants will hold a regular monthly meeting Friday, Dec. 7 at noon at Kate's Pizza and Pastry.



The Rev. LeRoy Wornell leads carolers in Christmas songs at the downtown tree lighting ceremony.

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