

100th birthday dinner

From Page 1

and Julie Nelson of Ione; \$10 second place winner Amy Wagenblast, daughter of Steve and Vicki Wagenblast of Lexington; and \$15 first place winner Barney Lindsay, son of Larry and Corrine Lindsay of Lexington. Lindsay read his winning essay, "An Important Pioneer" (See related story.)

Jones told everyone that because so many had turned out for the dinner some plates might not be as full as others, so "pretend you've just eaten a big plate of food."

Betty Marquardt accompanied Wilma Cheney for a musical rendition of "Do What You Can Where You Are," which Cheney introduced by saying that her 11 years as a resident of the county had taught her that most Morrow Countians, when they see something which needs to be done don't wait for an expert to come in and do it, but just put their shoulders to the wheel and accomplish the task.

Jack Morton, retired Dean of Students from Western Oregon State University, reminded contemporaries of earlier days in Heppner (See related story).

Following the speech, Jones introduced dignitaries in the audience, the second Morrow County Rodeo Queen, Eva Griffith, and last year's fair and rodeo queen, Sylvia Ladd. Rodeo Queen for 1985, Bridgett Greenup outlined her Irish Morrow County heritage and along with her court, Bobbette Angel, Stacey Kennedy, Sheila Seeler, and Cindy Lou Davis, invited everyone to the year's fair and rodeo festivities.

Francine Hansell and LaVerne Partlow, both of Irrigon, entertained with a rendition of "Gone Are the Days ... when the women stayed at home."

During the following recess, Ruby Roberts, 86, Ione, descended from early county settlers, the Pettys family, cut the county's birthday cake. Dignitaries and guests served themselves while the Grand Squares entertained with square dancing. Caller Ron Davis of Arlington kept the spirited dancers moving smoothly through their routines. Dancers included: Lloyd and Shirley McNary, Ione; Joe and Chris Nix, Condon; Mattlon and Cathy Hicks, Lone Rock; Bill and Daisy Collins, Heppner; Bob and Julie Griesen, Heppner; and George and Lorene Griffith, Ione.

Jones reconvened the crowd with a recap of the town-organized centennial events which were held in four of the county's communities. She explained that none of the helium-filled balloons released at the events had been returned — Irrigon's were not even released because they deflated in the warm car before the ceremony.

Within a month of being asked, Lexington held a celebration, the first town to do so and was judged the winner of the plaque which was accepted by Mayor John Ripple and committee members Ray Papineau and Linda Jones.

"Seeger described Jones as the 'toughest drill sergeant he'd had since the Army' and explained that since he was the county planner he was so well organized he couldn't find his list. Retrieving the list, however, he awarded several certificates thanking those who contributed their services to the centennial.

Jones returned to the lecturn with a plaque in the shape of the county which is presented to 100 year farms. The first event in the year's centennial was the awarding of farms which had been owned and operated by one family for 100 years or more.

Ruth McCabe reviewed the bus trip from Irrigon to Lexington via Valby Church and the Willow Creek Dam in Heppner. She concluded with a challenge to south county residents to visit the north part of the county to find out what is going on there.

Numbered commemorative centennial belt buckles were presented: No. 1 to Judge Don McElligott for the county court, and No. 2 to the Museum. Buckles numbered three, four, and five were auctioned by Jerry Peck as a fundraiser for the historical society. No. Three was bid up to \$80 by Fred Nelson, Pendleton; number four was purchased by Boardman mayor, Gale Grill for \$75; and number five was bid to \$70 by Frances Smouse, Ione. Following the bidding, Judge McElligott presented guest speakers Morton and Clark with buckles numbered 196 and 197.

Norita Marquardt sang a medley of songs from the Sound of Music including "Edelweiss," and "Favorite Things."

Emma Drake, 91, drew Anita Lutzer's name as the winner of the numbered print of the "Centennial Desert Scene." Two of the prints of a painting by Mary Lou Carlson were donated for the Centennial, the other one hangs at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner.

Jones introduced the final speaker, Portland mayor, Bud Clark, who reminded everyone that "we are the foundation and the cornerstone for the future ... we are where western civilization met western civilization," and shared some of his hopes for the state's future and his pride in our collective pioneer heritage. (See related story, page 1).

Accompanied by Betty Marquardt, Wilma Cheney sang the final musical selection, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You," which she said she hoped would express



Scouts salute flag while Norita Marquardt sings national anthem.



Francine Hansell (left) and LaVerne Partlow sing



Former Dean of Students at WOSC, Jack Morton



Seated at the head table (from left) Jerry Peck, Millie Rauch, Mayor Bud Clark, The Rev. Stuart and Julie Dick, Paul Jones, and Warren McCoy



Barney Lindsay



Mayor Bud Clark chats with guests



Delpha Jones (left) and Ruth McCabe receive awards from Deane Seeger



Ruby Roberts (left) and Jean Nelson cut the birthday cake

wishes for the future after talking so much about the county's past.

In one of the many lighter moments of the evening, Judge McElligott presented Portland businessman Clark with a gift, a hat, from local businessman Greg Gallien, proprietor of Greg's Irrigon Tavern. He also introduced Mayor Clark's son and became serious with the presentation to Jones and McCabe of tokens of appreciation from the County Court.

Pete Christensen who explained that his paycheck was signed by the mayor of Portland asked Jones for rebuttal time to Morton's speech during which he read a clipping which humorously described a 1930's Prohibition raid on an illicit still in the Heppner area.

Jones thanked Jean Nelson for decorating the head table and the following groups for decorating the other tables: Heppner Soroptimists, Heppner Garden Club, Ione Garden Club, Lexington Garden Club, Holly Rebekah Lodge, Harold Peck, and Barbara Bloodworth.

Also in attendance at the dinner were Morrow County Sheriff Roy Drago and several of the deputies from the Morrow County Sheriff's office who also helped with the celebration and were decked with special centennial patches on their uniforms.

Jones concluded the program with an apology to those who thought the program too long or too short, and to those who thought the program was just right, she said, "thanks a lot."

Jack Morton, one of the two keynote speakers at the Morrow County Centennial Dinner and retired Dean of Students of Western Oregon State College at Monmouth, told his audience that although he had lived in Morrow County only five years, 1933-37, he considered the county his home because he had learned much during the time growing up here.

Although adolescence is a difficult time, he said, Morrow County was probably as good a place as anyone could have to grow up in because it is a safe place psychologically. The community, he explained, is nurturing, and "you knew what to do and what not to do and what the consequences would be if you did do what

you knew you weren't supposed to do."

Following indulgence in adolescent reminiscences, he paid tribute to LaVerne Van Marter as a tremendous all-around athlete who, before his illness, was the only University of Oregon freshman at that time to letter in four sports. He explained that many benefits were to be derived from the extended family of friends and the impact by adults such as the Methodist minister who instilled a love of God and fear of the devil.

Morton said he learned another kind of lesson in faith from the Heppner city marshal who insisted that certain "cowboys" take a nap in their pickup and then leave town by 5:30 p.m. or become his guests at the

Courthouse. After seeing the truck leave town, Morton asked the sheriff how he knew they would do as he said. The sheriff answered: "Son, you've got to have faith."

Another lifelong lesson he said he learned from a friend's father during his poker game when he had bet his prize pocket knife. After losing the bet, his knife was returned to him with the advice, "Poker's a game; never make a bet you can't afford to lose."

He was inspired by county school superintendent, Lucy Rogers, who suggested that he go to college because he had performed well on a seventh grade national achievement test and had "a good mind." After his original inward rage because he

wanted to be a mountain man — logic "compelled that I agree that I had a fine mind."

A final lesson, learned from music teacher Harold Buhman, was to "play the music, not the notes." Music is not playing notes, Buhman explained to him during a summer trumpet lesson, but music is a knowledge of and respect for life. "Play the music as if you're aware of what's going on."

His own trumpet playing he described as enthusiastic and loud, much inferior to that of colleagues Jack Merrill and a skinny kid from Arlington named Severinson.

Former Dean shares lessons learned during youth