

The Heppner Gazette-Times

Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper



Weather

	High	Low	Precip
Tues., April 2	70	42	
Wed., April 3	58	38	
Thurs., April 4	61	38	
Fri., April 5	69	38	
Sat., April 6	69	37	
Sun., April 7	66	40	
Mon., April 8	73	43	

VOL. 103 NO. 15 APRIL 10, 1985

Heppner, Oregon

25 10 PAGES

by the City of Heppner

Ken Nelson receives soil conservation award



Ken Nelson

Ken Nelson was named Conservation Farmer of the Year for Morrow County at the annual meeting of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League.

Nelson, 41, has lived at the family farm six miles north of Lexington six miles east of Ione basically "all of his life" except for four years when he attended Lane Community College in Eugene earning an Associate of Science degree in aircraft mechanics and worked for Trans-World Airlines. He and his wife, Julie, have two daughters, Jill, 13, and Heidi, 11.

Nelson is a 1962 graduate of Ione high school and says that at that time he wasn't all sure that he wanted to be a farmer, but after living away from Morrow County, he returned in 1970 and began working for wages for his dad, Alfred, and his uncle, the late Norman Nelson. By 1971, he had formed a partnership

with his dad which continued until 1981 when he leased his dad's portion of the ranchland and subsequently has acquired leases for more fields. He and his brother, Keith, are now working together and farm "enough acres to more than keep busy." "Dad," he explains "still runs tractor or when he can although he is retired."

"Soil conservation," he says is a way of life, "if you're serious about it and must be considered with every operation on the farm. It has been drummed into my head since an early age that they're not making much new soil, so if we want to continue to farm, we want to do the best possible job of seeing that the soil stays in the field."

Trashy fallow, grass waterways, and seeding marginal areas to permanent grass all conservation methods begun during the '50s by his father and uncle. They received the conservation award in 1956 for part of the same ground which he now farms.

Trashy fallow which requires the use of a chisel plow and disc rather than a moldboard plow for working up the ground keeps most of the stubble as a mulch on top of the ground which conserves moisture by shading the soil from sunlight and helps stop wind loss which some years can be bigger than water loss. He has also practiced limited tillage for the last two years which requires applying a contact herbicide such as Roundup, in the spring to kill everything that is growing and planning and watching to combine operations such as plowing and weeding or fertilizing and weeding depending on the year and the weather.

He has also experimented with an additional herbicide, Glean, combined with Roundup, which he says "seems to work well to hold Russian thistle down especially on ashier ground. "It's important to remember that each time the ground is weeded, the soil is looser and more susceptible to wind erosion if there is a blow."

Sometimes it's necessary to "just quit farming some areas and seed them to grass because of the problem with soil erosion. Usually shallow, steep and ashy ground seeded to

grass retains the moisture and soil. Nelson claims 196 acres of permanently seeded grass which includes 12,600 feet of grass waterways, areas in the field where a ditch would wash with normal water runoff. When seeded with grass, waterways hold the water and soil in the ground and prevent the water from cutting a deep ditch and washing the soil away.

Level terraces, the first of which Nelson began in 1978 seemed to be working well, he says, so he put in more three years in a row until he felt that he had covered the ground which needed to be taken care of at that time. He decided this spring that he had another area where he could use a few more ditches and began mapping them out with the help of the Soil Conservation Service. He says that altogether, he has 55,610 feet of level terraces which look similar to diversion ditches but are made to hold water as well as soil in the field rather than channeling the excess runoff out of the field.

Nelson explains that the terraces which he made are big enough, 70 feet wide, that they can be farmed over the top of, and meet Soil Conservation Service specifications for height, thickness, and depth, so

that they will do what they are designed to do.

"It's important," he explains to "look at everything that comes along as far as soil conservation and to try the methods which look like they will conserve soil and increase production. The Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service, do a good job of presenting information about what is new and what works.

Varieties of wheat also can help to conserve soil because the newer varieties, such as Stephens are higher producing and a higher yield generally means more stubble, which, "may not be real significant, but every little thing added together helps." Stubble, however, can be a problem if there is a lot and it's not handled properly, it will be difficult to get the drills through the ground to seed.

"Wheat research, fertilizer and chemicals have made farmers far better off than they would be without Herbicides, although we hear many negative things about them, if used properly are the best thing that has happened to farming." If not exposed to new things, you end up getting left behind," he concluded. "You have to be committed to it (soil conservation) to do a good job of it."



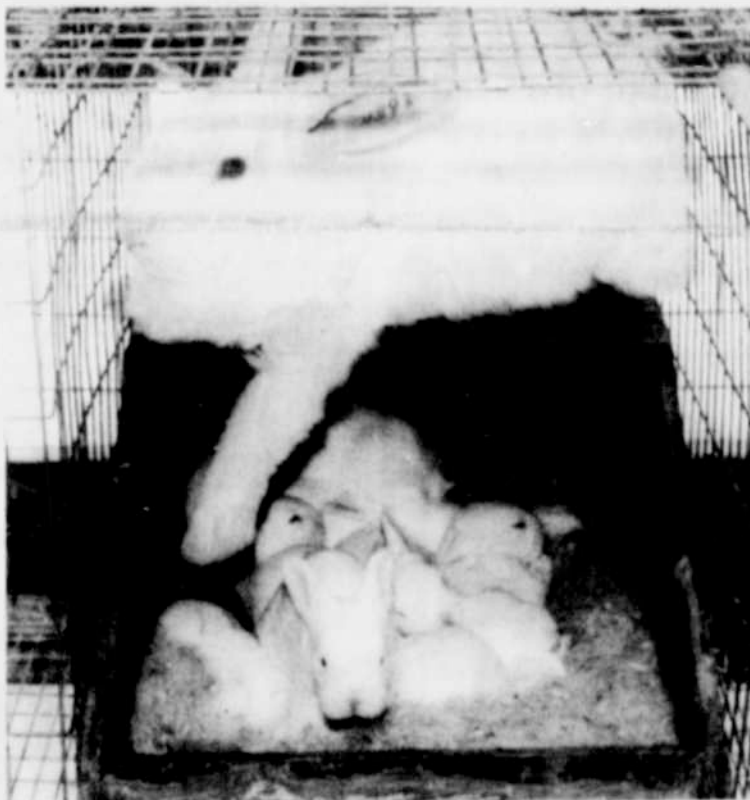
Appreciation dinner honors volunteer firemen

Heppner Mayor Cara Costa presents Fire Chief Forrie Burkenbine with certificate of appreciation, during dinner held Monday in honor of Heppner's Volunteer Fire Department.

The dinner, sponsored by the Heppner Chamber of Commerce, was held at the Heppner Bowl, and was intended to show the town's appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the volunteer fire department.

Burkenbine accepted the certificate and told the gathered firemen and their wives, "we couldn't get along without you."

Rabbitry brings 'a little more' with each trip to market



Mama bunny rests on top of nest box

(Editor's Note: March 29, 1984, the Gazette-Times featured an article about a new business, Miles Rabbitry, in Fuller Canyon six miles from Heppner. Last Friday, we visited with the owners again and learned of the progress.)

"The whole experience has been an education during the last year," says Corinne Miles, who, with her husband, Dexter, takes care of five bunny barns each currently housing producing does.

The animal care requires almost full time effort from one person, she

continues, but each trip to market seems to bring a little more. Dexter has begun a route which takes him to Pocatello every other week to purchase rabbit food, and on the return trip he picks up fryers from other producers to deliver along with his own to NorBest processing plant.

One thing which we could do differently if we were to start again is not to buy all of our breeding stock at once, but to begin with about one-quarter of the stock and raise our own. Corinne explains, "That way we know the "good mothers" and would be able to control our

stock better."

Another change we would consider, she continues, is building the barns with a controlled environment so that we do not have the heat to contend with in the summer and the cold during the winter. Last winter, which was more severe than some,

caused a drop in production and with culling out some of the poor mothers, the doe population is down to 400. Corinne began breeding replacement stock a month ago and expects to have it built back up to 500 does within another month.

DA investigates campaign

By BETH WILLIAMS
The Enterprise
Boardman, Oregon

A number of complaints concerning the campaign practices used in the March 26 election by the committee to elect William Sharkey have been received by the District Attorney's office reported Morrow County District Attorney, Richard McNeerney.

The complaints included: U & I's office had called employees and suggested whom to vote for, offered rides on shift time, attached flyers to paychecks, and run a video tape endorsing one candidate on the company's closed circuit TV system. None of these actions according to McNeerney, are illegal as long as they are reported as campaign contributions.

It was also alleged that the committee to elect Sharkey had someone inside the polling place recommending which candidate to vote for and rumors suggested that numerous illegal aliens had registered to vote. Both charges were investigated, says McNeerney and neither were found to be true. Of the 65 people who registered in the week prior to and on election day only five were born out of the U.S. and all were citizens, he added.

McNeerney reported he had never had so many complaints on one issue before.

Gale Grill, treasurer of the committee to elect Bill Sharkey, when asked about the complaints, said "most assuredly we utilized all the resources available to make sure that people registered to vote and voted. You can also be assured we campaigned strong and hard for our candidate using every legal means we could."

Bill Sharkey who was elected to the position of Port Commissioner in the March 26 election said about the complaints, "it is time to put all of our differences behind us and get down to work."

Moonlight sale coming April 26

Heppner merchants will sponsor a two-hour Moonlight Sale on Friday, April 26. This is the first time they have held the moonlight sale on a Friday.

Merchants will close their businesses at 6 p.m. for supper and reopen them again at 7 p.m. with special merchandise marked with sale prices.

Local organizations that would like to have bake sales or space for selling other items should contact Jerry Hollomon at the Shoe Box, 676-5241.

40 years later

Receives WWII medals



Raymond F. "Bud" Batty displays medals he earned during 54 combat missions as a bombardier navigator in Europe during World War II. Although Second Lieutenant Batty was separated from the 391st Bomb Group of the Ninth Air Force out of England and France in 1945, he received the medals last Saturday, April 6, 1985, when he and his wife returned from a winter vacation in Arizona.

Batty who retired in 1981 decided that he might need his discharge papers from the service. He had a certificate of service showing the date of separation, but not the official discharge. During the process of inquiring about the discharge, it was discovered that he had never received the medals which he had earned.

Included in his prestigious collection are the World War II Victory Medal; the European, African, Middle Eastern Campaign medal with four major battle stars; the Distinguished Flying Cross which was awarded by General Anderson after the successful bombing of a highway and railroad on the Mosel river; and an Air Medal with three bronze oak leaves and one silver cluster. Still to come is the Presidential Citation for service during the Battle of the Bulge which Batty's squadron received. He recalls two missions during that battle, one when 36 bombers went out and 19 were lost, another when 12 went out and only two returned.

Batty is a lifetime resident of the Heppner area with the exception of the time he spent farming in several different areas following his time in the service. He has worked at a variety of occupations including managing Heppner Nor-Gas just prior to his retirement in 1981.

Seniors slate Saturday auction and rummage sale

From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, April 13, the day's big action will be at the Morrow County Fairgrounds where the Senior Citizen Mealsite will have a large, day-long rummage sale.

An auction of exciting, valuable and useful articles such as antique furniture and electrical appliances will begin at 1 p.m. About 3 p.m. the moped which was donated by Ray Boyce will be given to a lucky ticket holder.

From 11:30 until 1:30 a noon meal featuring nutritious beef stew and hearty chili, French bread and choice servings of homemade pies will be on sale in the senior dining area. During the hours before and after lunch, hot dogs and pop will be sold near the kitchen in the large, main hall and sales area.

This senior sale is offering many racks and tables of clothing for all family members; children's toys and games; a big collection of books; many household articles, and a huge assortment of miscellaneous items. Everything at the sale will be very reasonably priced, said a Senior Citizen spokesperson - some things are being called "unbelievable bargains."



Left to Right: Bill Cox, Paul Jones, Anna Johnson, Alberta Johannes, Babe and Bob Harris show some of the fine antique items to be on sale at the senior citizen rummage sale Saturday.