

## District honors Rawlins



Bill Rawlins (right) chats with John Edmundson and School District Superintendent Doyle McCaslin during a reception given in honor of his retirement Monday, March 31. Rawlins began driving school bus for the district in 1977 and began maintenance work at the district office in 1978. He says he doesn't expect retirement to change his life much except that he won't be going to Lexington to work everyday.

He plans to garden and enjoy Morrow County and expects to have all kinds of opportunities to do things. He is active with the Morrow County Fair, is building a garage at the family's apartments in Heppner which will be used for a woodworking shop during the winter.

Dan Marshall of Heppner will assume Rawlins former duties at the district office.

**County Agent's Corner**  
by Fred Lundin  
County Agricultural Agent

EXTENSION SERVICE

Many evergreen trees have suffered this past winter from the severe cold. They appear brown in spots. In some cases the southwest side of the tree seems worse than the rest. It may appear to be drying.

If your tree looks like this, it is probably because it was drought stressed this past winter.

During a normal year, winter comes gradually, allowing a tree to "harden" or prepare itself for the coming cold weather. This winter, however, came quickly and stayed for two months before milder weather returned. Then, with the soil frozen and the tree unable to take up any moisture, we had a very mild January causing the tree to dry out. This produced the drought symptoms we see now. In some cases symptoms are worse on the windward side.

If this happened to your evergreen tree, don't worry. It will probably recover. Any brown needles will stay brown, but the tree should grow new leaves now that spring is here and the ground is thawed.

Carrots grow best in cool weather, so you can plant the seeds in early April through June. Carrots grow best in loose, damp, fertile soil. They should be planted 1/2 inch deep in rows that are one to two feet apart.

Use 3 cups of 16-16-16 or similar fertilizer for an area that is 100 square feet. Plow or spade the soil at least eight inches deep.

Carrot seeds grow slowly, so the top surface of the soil should be kept damp and loose. When the carrots are a few inches high, thin them to one plant per inch.

Keep weeds out by tilling or hoeing. If you wait until the weeds are too large, however, you will injure the carrots when you pull or hoe them out.

Carrots may be picked anytime after they are finger sized, but they do not keep long when young. Harvest them as needed throughout the summer. They will keep well in the ground until a hard freeze.

The above information is found in an Extension circular entitled "Grow Your Own Carrots". It's free and the Morrow County Extension Office has publications dealing with green beans, cabbage, lettuce, corn, beets, and many other garden vegetables. Let's start gardening.

Many poisonings can be blamed on improper storage of medicines and household and farm chemical products. Often they are within easy reach of children or stored in inadequate or unmarked containers. Store yours safely:

Keep pesticides in a cabinet, room or building that can be locked to keep children out. Store in original marked containers. Don't transfer a non-edible product of a food or drink container.

Keep household chemical products in original containers in cabinets or on shelves inaccessible to small children.

Keep medicine in a lockable cabinet that small children cannot get into. Never leave medicine on a kitchen or bedside table, in acces-

ible purses and such when small children are present. Medicine containers should have child-proof caps; make sure caps are replaced after each use.

When finished with a product, return it to safe storage. Promptly dispose of empties.

Take a close look at your lawn this month. If thatch is building up in the turf, the lawn may be choking.

Thatch is a build-up of old leaves, stems and grass clippings at the base of the grass plant. Lawn renovation, or thatch removal, is the solution to a thatch build-up problem.

When lawn thatch gets thick, it has a springy, carpet-like feel when you walk on it.

Thatch can cause many lawn problems. It forms a layer that soaks up water and nutrients, preventing them from reaching the roots of the grass. It harbors weeds and diseases and, because it raises the cutting level of the lawnmower, the lawn can't be cut to the correct height.

The tools needed to remove thatch depend on the size of the lawn. A hand rake should handle areas smaller than a thousand square feet. For larger lawns, a dethatcher can be rented at garden stores to make the job easier and faster.

First, mow the lawn as low as possible and remove all clippings. Set the dethatcher to slice into the thatch near the soil surface and go over the lawn at that setting.

Remove the debris by raking or sweeping, then use the dethatcher again in a crosswise direction to first first cutting. Remove the debris. Set the lawn mower as low as possible and mow the lawn again. Remove the clippings.

The lawn may look pretty bad by his time, but it will recover.

The cool spring weather that arrives with March and April is perfect for planting cool season crops. Planting these crops later in the year when temperatures are higher is not recommended because warm to hot weather reduces the quality of many of the hardier vegetables. Cool season crops grown in Oregon include broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, onions, peas, white potatoes, spinach and turnips. Others are beets, carrots, chard, parsnips, and radishes.

Peas are among the earliest to be planted of all the cool season crops. They should be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. Plant seed directly in their permanent row. Young plants do not transplant well. Peas are sensitive to summer heat and many varieties are susceptible to virus disorders spread by aphids and other spring insects. Early plantings usually do best.

Plant onions from seed, transplants or sets. Onion sets can go in as soon as the soil is workable. Sets can be grown in flower pots in the house if the garden remains too sloopy.

Lettuce can be grown from transplants tend to escape the ravages of insect infestations that can quickly destroy summer plantings.

## Depot to test employees for drugs

Umatilla Depot Activity will begin compulsory urinalysis testing for drugs in late June of this year. Employees within the Critical Personnel Reliability Program (CPRP) will be subject to the test. Critical personnel are those responsible for the security of the installation and employees who work around chemical surety materials.

Public affairs officer, Susan Voss refused to comment on the number of employees to be tested at the Umatilla Depot because of the sensitivity of that information.

Voss said the objectives are "to assist in determining fitness for appointment to or retention of critical positions and to identify drug abusers and to notify them of the available appropriate counseling, referrals, rehabilitation or other medical treatment."

Voss also stated that the tests will be required "to assist in maintaining

national security in the internal security of the Department of the Army."

The target testing date for current employees in the CPRP is June 20. New applicants will be subject to the test after March 31. According to Voss, urine samples will be tested by the Army Forensic Testing Laboratory at Fort George Meade, Maryland.

Employees who receive a positive reading and those who refuse to submit to the test will be reassigned or demoted to a non-critical position. If none is available, they will be separated from federal service.

CPRP personnel at Umatilla Depot were given 48 hours to sign a form agreeing to the test as a condition of continued employment. Those refusing to sign the form will be treated in the same manner as a positive reading. Those taking prescription medications must submit

medical documentation of legitimate use from their physician.

Voss said the Army will have tight control on the samples. They do not anticipate sample mix ups or human error in the laboratory because of those controls and minimum handling. Samples will be sent to Maryland via registered mail.

Voss stated that presently she knew of no recourse an employee could take in the event of a sample mix up or human error.



Ron Hunt, an infielder who played with various National League teams holds the record for getting hit by pitched balls.

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