

Former Heppner photographer plans retirement

When Louis Lyons, 70, Hermiston, retires at the end of this month he will take many memories of Heppner and of Hermiston with him to his new home in Hawaii.

The Hermiston Chamber of Commerce is hosting a reception in honor of Lyons' retirement at 5 p.m. September 10 at the Hermiston City Park.

Many of Lyons' memories are on film. Most will recognize his work, but even those who don't may recall his diminutive presence behind a box camera at many major events in the area. He has resisted change to the 35 mm. camera staunchly touting the superiority of the 3 x 5 box typical of the equipment used by commercial and news photographers during the 1940s.

The box camera takes better pictures, he said. Because it uses bigger film, it makes better enlargements. Many changes to the 35 mm. camera have improved the quality of its pictures, he admits and confesses to buying one to take scenic photos when he and his wife were on vacation six years ago. The camera was stolen during their vacation, but he has recently replaced it because of its convenience for scenic shooting.

Lyons grew up in Portland and graduated from Benson Tech in 1937. He studied photography at the



Willow Creek at Gale Street Bridge after run-off from Hinton Creek started coming in. (1949 file photo by Louis Lyons).

"When water began rushing down Chase St. and overflowed the yard where his studio is located, Louis Lyons seized his camera and dashed out to catch pictures. He kept at it all afternoon and into the evening shadows." (From the Gazette-Times, February, 1949.)

New York Institute of Photography and returned to Portland in 1941. He held photography jobs in Corvallis, Salem, and Vancouver, Wash., before moving to Heppner.

He owned and operated the Heppner Photo Studio from 1947 and moonlighted taking news photos for the Gazette-Times, then owned by Otheo Crawford.



Louis Lyons

After he moved his studio to Hermiston, he continued shooting news photos, but for the Hermiston Herald. When the Herald switched to offset printing, others began taking photos for the paper as well.

Lyons and his wife Lillian have 10 children, 16 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Some of the family thought we were trying to run away from them when we first told them we were moving to Hawaii, he said. Now most of them like the idea and are planning to come visit us.

Lyons has built a reputation for taking quality photos whether in his studio or on location. He likes shooting commercial pictures of buildings. He did an eight-year series on the construction at the Carby Coal Plant at Boardman. His files also include many animal and rodeo pictures.

For many years he was the only commercial photographer in the area. He plans to turn some of his photos of the Heppner area over to the museum here.

A charter member of the Professional Photographers of Oregon, he was honored with a plaque at a recent convention in Baker.

"Not that I know of yet," was his cagey answer to the query, will anyone in the area be able to take photos as good as yours after you retire?

He described the retirement he is looking forward to as taking photos for a studio in Hawaii—only part-time of course.

employees requested a "face to face" meeting with the county commissioners to try to settle the deadlock in contract negotiations.

Commissioners refused to meet with the employees at that time. The time for face to face talks has passed, County Judge Louis Carlson said. During the negotiation process we were meeting directly with the employees. Now, professional negotiators are speaking for both sides.

The law calls for a period of negotiations, Scott said. Then if an agreement can't be reached, a neutral mediator is assigned by the Oregon Employment Relations Board. There is no cost to the county or the union.

When the county and the road department and their representatives met with the mediator last month, they were unable to come to agreement.

Now each side will get a chance to present its position at an informal hearing September 30. At the hearing, called fact finding, Roy Erickson of Salem, will decide what the problems are and hear testimony from both sides. The county and the union share expenses for factfinding. Erickson has 30 days following the close of the hearing to issue recommendations for resolving their problems. Each side has five working days after the report is issued to accept or reject the recommendations. If both accept the recommendations, they have a contract. If either rejects the recommendations, they return to mediation and continue negotiations or the union can give 10 days notice and schedule a strike no sooner than 30 days after the factfinder's report is issued.

Two separate Wednesday outages left area powerless

Last Wednesday much of the area was without power for about three hours. Neither of the two separate outages was planned and neither had anything to do with the newly constructed main power line from the Bonneville substation into Heppner, Fred Toombs, manager of Columbia Basin electric Co-op said.

The first outage occurred when a crossarm broke on the transmission line that feeds the Sand Hollow substation. Crews were able to switch service and return power to all except Sand Hollow area customers in about an hour, Toombs said. Those south of the Sand Hollow substation were without power for about three hours.

Crews were still working to restore power to the Sand Hollow area when a bird flew into the substation at Heppner creating an arc that could be heard all over town and destroying vital switch gears. Again crews restored service to all customers except those served by the downed substation, he said. Crews

replaced the switches at the Heppner substation and returned power to customers in about three hours.

Neither outage occurred on the new facility, Toombs emphasized. One reason we were able to get power back on as rapidly as we did is because we had the new system with its switching capabilities, he said.

G-T office will close Labor Day

The Gazette-Times office will be closed for Labor Day, September 7. The office will open as usual Tuesday morning. The deadline for submitting news items and letters to the editor will be 9 a.m. Tuesday for next week only. Classified and display ad deadlines will remain the same, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday respectively.

The newspaper will be printed and mailed on Wednesday as usual.

'Heppner Harvest Festival' only an error in Oregon Tourism guide

If a stranger approaches you on the street this weekend asking for directions to Heppner's Harvest Festival, try not to think he's too crazy.

A mistake in the printing of an Oregon tourism guide has apparently listed Heppner as having a big Harvest Festival this weekend, Sept. 5 and 6.

"We don't have a Harvest Festival," said Chamber Manager Claudia Hughes who discovered the

error when people from outside the area began calling to inquire about the non-existent event.

She said a phone number listed in the brochure, for information on the mythical Harvest Festival, belongs to Fran Hale of Blake's Ranch, who knows nothing about the event.

Hughes said the brochure was put out by the State of Oregon Economic Development Tourism division.

"I don't know where they got the information," she said, pointing out

that Heppner couldn't even have become mixed up with Boardman, because Boardman's Harvest Festival was cancelled this year.

Hughes says she received a letter from a man who wanted to come and set up a booth at the Festival, and also received a call from another man interested in coming. "I'm sending them some information on other things we have. We have a nice town, we just don't have that particular event," she said.

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Wages and insurance key issues

Still no contract between county and road employees

The county and the road department still are miles from agreeing what road department employees should be paid this year. The employees' contract with the county expired July 1.

The county's last offer, for a three-year contract package, called for a 3% raise (approximately 25¢ per hour) for the first year, their negotiator Don Scott and Assoc. reported.

The road department employees are asking for a 75¢ per hour raise with no cap on insurance coverage, the union negotiator Mike Persons said.

The second year of the county's offer calls for a 3 1/2% increase including insurance which means that if insurance rates go up, employees will be able to choose less insurance coverage or lower wages, Scott said. The third year, the county is offering a cost-of-living wage increase.

"The way the union sees it," Persons said, "is that the county decided to change insurance companies at a savings to the county, which is good; but the savings should be for future raises. The county decided to change insurance companies; they should not ask the employees to take the risk if rates increase."

"Our feelings," Scott said, "is that the union's demands outstretch what can be expected by reasonable criteria." We have looked at the surrounding counties and at others in Morrow County and are confident that the pay rates we are offering are comparable. Nothing tells us that the extra wage increase would be appropriate, he said.

The rest of the county employees received a 2.45% wage increase for this year.

Employees have never been asked to accept a cap on insurance coverage before, Persons said. We have compared Morrow County Road Department wages with seven other counties and found that Gilliam County is the only one that pays lower wages than Morrow County. The increase we're asking would not even put Morrow County at the top of the scale, but in the middle, and we don't see that as unreasonable, he said. Wages were compared with

Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, Wasco, Umatilla, Union, and Walla counties because they have roughly the same weather and road

conditions as Morrow County.

The county has the money, Persons alleged. This year's budget for salary adjustment is \$45,000, and the

whole 75¢ per hour increase we're asking would only require \$32,000 he said.

August 5 road department



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Summer's Over...

These Heppner Elementary School pupils were reunited with their favorite playground activity when schools opened their doors for the year Tuesday.

Archery season underway

It's been a fairly typical archery season so far, Bob Krein, Heppner Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Fish and Wildlife said. The forest has been hot and dry, normal weather for this time of year.

Central Market reports a more-than-average 15 elk and six deer harvested by bow hunters stored in their lockers.

Three nice bulls (two five-point and one six-point) were bagged near Spray last weekend, Krein said.

Bow hunters need to remember that all land North of the North exterior boundary of the U.S. Forest

Service land is closed to all archery hunting.

Archery season continues through September 20.

Grouse season is in full swing and will continue until October 24. Hunters are finding a lot of Rough Grouse in canyons with rushing water, Krein said. Blue Grouse have been taken on north slopes where it is cooler rather than where the hunters usually find them.

Bag limit for grouse is three Rough and two blue grouse. Local license centers have a copy of the season dates and bag limits.

September 1 dove season opened and Krein said this year hunters will find doves. Cold weather usually chases them off by the beginning of the season, he said.

Many local offices and business to close Labor Day

All four area markets, Del's, Central, Court St., and Bristow's report that they will remain open Labor Day, September 7.

The Post office, the extension office, Heppner City Hall, county offices, schools, and area banks will be closed Monday in observance of the holiday.

Coast-to-Coast has notified the Gazette-Times that they will stay open Monday.

The following businesses have notified the G-T that they will close for Labor Day: Pettyjohn's Builders Supply, Case Furniture, Country Rose, Murray's, Peterson's, Ployhar Insurance, Skaggs, Shoe Box, Gardners.



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Back to School

Morrow County Schools opened Tuesday. Kids and teachers returned to their books a week earlier than the past few years when schools started up after Labor Day.

Teachers returned to work last week to prepare classrooms and bulletin boards and get ready to greet students. Teachers new to the district toured the county on Wednesday. All teachers returned to school Thursday and together with other district employees attended a conflict management workshop on Friday.

Pictured below are teachers new to the district: Back row left to right: Winston Raw, Business Ed. - RHS; Kevin Fry-Language Arts, RHS; Beth Creason-

Kindergarten, A.C. Houghton; Ray Davis-Art, A.C. Houghton and Sam Boardman; John Adamson-Music, Columbia Jr. High and A.C. Houghton; Steve Molthan-Language Arts, RHS; Mark Dowdy-Language Arts, HHS; Dean Robinson-sixth, seventh and eighth grade English, Ione.

Front row left to right: Terri Franks-Speech/Language, A.C. Houghton; Carma Barron-Kindergarten, Sam Boardman; Cindy Sutherland-third grade, Sam Boardman; Lisa Sharkey-Language Arts, RHS; John Colvett-Language Arts, Columbia Jr. High; and Karen Smith-Griffith-Special Ed. HHS and Ione.