

Hill receives award for ODFW



Ray Hill Photo by Joyce Hensley
By Joyce Hensley

The manager of Irrigon Fish Hatchery, Ray Hill, gave full credit to his staff for the Northwest Region Outstanding Manager of the Year award he received from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Without my staff I would not have received the award," said Hill. "They do a good job."

The efficiently run and immaculately groomed hatchery, located three miles west of Irrigon along the Columbia River, is one of the four largest in the state of Oregon.

Hill, his assistant manager, Mike Gribble, and seven technicians, are preparing to empty 32 race ways of 1.7 million steelhead. The eight-inch smolt have come to an important step in their development. They will be trucked to the area where they were originally spawned, the Imnaha and Grande Rhonde Rivers in northeastern Oregon.

The steelhead were brought to the Irrigon Hatchery last spring while they were in the egg stage from the Wallowa Hatchery in Enterprise.

The eggs were then placed in incubators for approximately four weeks until they reached the sac fry

stage. The steelhead were then transferred to six foot, circular, 100 gallon tanks, 40,000 to a tank; and hand fed every 30 minutes until they reached fingerling size.

The 2 million fingerlings went from the indoor circular tanks to the outside 20' x 5' x 100' raceways, where they grew to their present eight-inch smolt size.

"We need to get rid of four ponds of steelhead by February 6," said Hill. "At that time we will be getting 3.2 million fall chinook salmon in the sac fry stage."

The fall chinook will not spend as much time in the Irrigon race ways as did the steelhead.

"We get 3,500 pounds of sac fry chinook in February and we deliver them as 70,000 pounds, of three-inch fingerlings to the Umatilla River in May," said Hill.

The fall chinook plant is done through the cooperation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to rehabilitate the upper reaches of the Umatilla River.

The Irrigon Hatchery also spawns spring chinook eggs. The eggs are incubated, raised to fingerling size, then transferred to the Looking Glass Hatchery in the Elgin area.

Expansion of the Irrigon facilities is in the works and will be completed in two or three years, according to Hill.

Hill was transferred to Irrigon during the construction of the hatchery in 1984.

Hill's future plans are to stay on at the Irrigon Hatchery until he retires in eight years.

"I don't plan on leaving," said Hill.

He started at the bottom of the ladder becoming an Oregon Fish and Wildlife Technician before a college education was required.

"I learned in the school of hard knocks," said Hill.

Hill began his career in the world of fish hatcheries in 1964 as a technician at the Bandon Hatchery, then moved on to the Oaksprings Hatchery in Maupin, on the Deschutes River.

He was given an assistant manager position in 1972 at the Wizard Falls Hatchery at Camp Sherman.

He was then promoted to manager

and transferred to the Fall River Hatchery in the Crane Prairie region in Central Oregon.

From there he went to the Round Butte Hatchery in Madras in 1976; then on to Irrigon.

Hill is married. His wife, Betty is happy to stay in Irrigon.

"No more moving around for us," said Betty. The Hills have three sons: Randy, 28, is a commercial fisherman in Alaska; Jeff, 26, is a millwright in Roseburg; and Tim, 15, is a sophomore at Riverside High School.

In the Service

Spec. Donald E. Doherty has been decorated with the Army Commendation Medal in West Germany.

The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to those individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement of meritorious service in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Army.

He is an Infantryman with the 9th Field Artillery.

Doherty is the son of Charles J. and Beverly J. Doherty of Ione. The specialist is a 1985 graduate of Ione High School.

Pvt. Katrina M. Wilson daughter of Thomas V. Wilson of Dillard and Mary L. Widel, Ione has completed basic training at Fort Dix, N.J.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

She is a 1988 graduate of Douglas High School, Winston.

Hospital Notes

The following patients were reported admitted and discharged during the past week at Pioneer Memorial Hospital:

- Daryl Hudson-admitted Jan. 13;
- Kathryn Spears-admitted Jan. 15;
- Alta Cutsforth-admitted Jan. 16;
- Ethel Dunbar-admitted Jan. 17;
- Bud Richards-discharged Jan. 12;
- Donald Chase-discharged Jan. 12;
- Charlotte Gray-discharged Jan. 12;
- Sharon Mahoney-discharged Jan. 12;
- Paddy Howell-discharged Jan. 13.

Early season hunting proposal meeting is January 26

According to the Department of Fish and Wildlife, there will be a public meeting in Hermiston to review and discuss proposed early hunting seasons for 1989. Seasons to be reviewed are Antelope, Big Horn Sheep, limited entry Elk and Deer,

early antlerless seasons and late bow hunts.

The meeting will be held Thursday, January 27 at the Hermiston Junior High School, room 25 at 7 p.m. Anyone interested in the early season proposals is invited to attend.

School Board meets at Sam Boardman Elementary

Monday, January 16, the Morrow County School Board met at Sam Boardman Elementary School.

The board heard a statement from Maureen McElligott, MCEA president, criticizing the board's position of certificated negotiations.

A concerned Heppner parent, Ardy Evenson, made a statement requesting fair settlement of the certificated contract negotiations.

A report was given on the Sam Boardman elementary sixth grade project proposing a name for the next space shuttle from teacher Elisa Carlson.

The superintendent reported that the renewal premiums on property, tools, general liability, vehicles, boiler and machinery and fidelity bonds are down slightly over \$30,000 this year.

He read a letter from the Carnine family requesting a "reasonable settlement of the contract negotiations with the teachers."

A letter was read from Judge Carlson and a memorandum from County Health Nurse, Pat Wright, informing the district that present and future health services for schools from the County Health Department

will be limited to those required by Oregon Administrative Rules.

A number of board members and Advisory committee positions are up for the March 21 election. The filing deadline is February 16 for these positions.

Under unfinished business, the board approved a resolution on Morrow County School District's position on School Funding Reform to be sent to Governor Goldschmidt.

Under new business, the board hired Lydia Sanchez as an aide at A.C. Houghton Elementary to replace Marcia Anderson. Anne Bedortha was hired as a bus driver for the lone McNabb route.

Thirty-four contract days of maternity leave was approved for Cindy Beatty from A.C. Houghton Elementary.

The board was notified that Thad Killingbeck will be on sick leave from his position at Columbia Junior High for approximately four weeks.

A field trip was approved for the Riverside High School Jazz Band. An Executive Board session was held on personnel and collective bargaining.

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 21.

*Mr. & Mrs. Tad Miller
and
Mrs. & Mrs. Adolph Weinke
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their children
Nancy Lee
&
Michael Ben
Saturday, the fourth of February, Nineteen hundred
eighty-nine at two o'clock in the afternoon
St. Mary's Catholic Church, Pendleton, Oregon
Reception following, Pendleton Elks Club*

Boardman • Irrigon News

Call 676-9228, 567-7873 or 481-3274 With News Items

Pickers greet School Board members



Over 120 teachers marched Monday night at the Morrow County School Board meeting in Boardman.

Quiet pickets greeted the Morrow County School Board members at the board meeting Monday, January 16, but negotiations remain at a standstill.

After 14 months of negotiations, contract talks have reached the crisis stage, according to Maureen McElligott, teacher at Riverside and president of the Morrow County Education Association.

Over 120 teachers marched in the informational picket in front of Sam Boardman Elementary School before the meeting which had to be moved from the library to the gymnasium to accommodate the audience consisting of about 180 concerned citizens, students and teachers.

McElligott presented a speech to the board in which she stated, "you have not responded to our efforts at reason. We now believe that you intend to force the teachers to accept an unreasonable offer or strike."

Following McElligott's speech was a statement by Ardy Evenson, a concerned citizen and parent of Heppner who stated that the board has given misleading statements to the press concerning contract proposals, which has confused the public.

The board has offered the teachers a 0%-1%-1% increase for the next three years, which is an "unreasonable offer" according to Morrow County teachers who have accepted the neutral factfinders recommendation of a 4.5% increase

for 1988-89, an increase by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) less 1.5% with a minimum of 3.5% and a maximum of 7% for 1989-90, and a salary increase by CPI less 1.5% with a minimum of 4% and a maximum of 8%.

The Morrow County school board has said that "the taxpaying public has said through the ballot box that school costs must hold the line. Of thirteen levy or tax base elections in three years, the voters passed three."

The board has also cited a decrease in cash reserves to operate the schools and unforeseen building maintenance and asbestos problems as reasons for holding the line on increased spending.

The district has said that the cost of current teacher salaries and benefits is high, and that the cost of the teacher's new proposal is "significant".

No strike announcements have yet been made, but under Oregon Law, Morrow County teachers could strike after giving 10 days notice.

Morrow County teachers have been working without a contract since June 30, 1988.

Stew feed and game night to be held

A stew feed and "game night" will be held at Stokes Landing Senior Center in Irrigon on Friday, January 27. Everyone is welcome to attend either or both events. Bring your friends and have a pleasant evening.

The stew feed will include hot rolls and coffee or juice and pie. The meal will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. for \$2.50.

Card games and table games will begin at 7 p.m. and close by 10:30 p.m. There is a \$1 fee.

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R&W Drive In

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Tom **R&W DRIVE IN** Helen