

## Bagett writes for Gazette Times 50th Wedding Anniversary

Mark Bagett, Prairie City, is a new feature writer for the Gazette-Times. Samples of his writing have been included in the last two weeks' papers, with favorable comments. His column, Eastern Oregon Outdoors, will be run weekly in this newspaper.

Mark is a full-time, free-lance outdoor writer and photographer. Aside from authoring his syndicated weekly column, "Eastern Oregon Outdoors," Bagett's feature articles and photographs appear nationwide in such magazines as "Petersen's Hunting," "Bassin," "Petersen's Fishing," "Western Outdoors," "North American Fisherman" and others. He is the former editor/art director of Everyone's Outdoors and has served as the Oregon editor of Western Outdoors.

An active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and

Oregon Director of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association (NOWA), Bagett was presented with the NOWA 1988 Excellence-In-Craft Award in Seattle this spring for his efforts with Everyone's Outdoors.

Born from a long line of outdoorsmen, Bagett enjoys all aspects of western hunting, fresh-water fishing, wilderness adventure and horse packing. He has also been employed in the surveying, logging and ranching industries.

"I've done other work, but none is as gratifying as communicating the wonder of the outdoors, even though it's one of the toughest ways there is to make a living," Bagett said.

"To paraphrase a colleague of mine, 'An outdoor freelancer is one of the few individuals willing to put in 100 hours a week to keep from working 40.'"



Mr. and Mrs. N.C. (Nels) Anderson will be honored at a reception on August 5 from 3-5 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1401 S.W. 13th, Dallas, Oregon.

The Andersons lived in Heppner from 1945-1965 where Mr. Anderson was County Extension Agent. After leaving Heppner, they lived in Africa before settling in Dallas.

Those unable to attend this special occasion may send a photo, clipping or other written memory to Connie Linton, 12575 S. New Era Road, Oregon City, OR 97045.

The couple requests no gifts.



by Mark Bagett

"One 'o these days we gotta get over to the Columbia and try some 'o that walleye fishin'..."

### Spot Check: Columbia River Walleye

A few years ago, those words rippled back and forth through eastern Oregon's diverse angling community with a frequency comparable to heavy smokers threatening to kick the habit. And though the ashtray-manufacturing industry is probably still as secure as ever, enough Eastside fisherman have sampled and become hooked on the Columbia's walleye fishing in recent years to help build what is probably the fastest-growing fishery the big river has ever seen.

Theory has it that walleye entered the Columbia's upper reaches in Washington some 30 years ago and began spreading downward. And while walleye have been present in Oregon waters of the Columbia for at least half that time, biologist say a true fishery for the large perch has existed only since the early eighties.

Much of the buzz about the new fishery has been about the unusually large size of fish being taken, even back then. State records in both Oregon and Washington were being rewritten several times each year and, given the ideal growth conditions of the Columbia, biologists and other walleye experts began considering the possibility that the 1960 world walleye record of 25 pounds might well fall to a Columbia River fish. During an interview several years ago for a magazine feature on Columbia River walleye, ODFW biologist Steve Williams mentioned an unconfirmed report of a 23-pound walleye caught in the fall of 1983 in an Indian gill net.

"This fish would certainly have been over the world record had she been caught in the spring," Williams said.

River guide Bob Gritski of Pendleton specializes in trophy Columbia River walleye fishing and claims the best activity can be found from McNary Dam downstream to Arlington. And, while he claimed good numbers of fish are scattered throughout the area, he said "the Boardman area seems to be pretty hot right now."

"We've been catching fish between eight and 12 pounds pretty consistently," he said, "and there's been some four-and five-pounders (caught) too. There aren't very many small fish in the river up in this area; your average fish is about seven pounds."

The walleye guide said male fish have made up the largest portion of the marble-eye catch recently, with the big females just starting to come in.

"Right now they're just starting to get into their summer stages, which is (the fish are) coming up on submerged islands and points," he said. "There have been some 16-pound fish caught, but not many."

Gritski, winner of the 1988 Oregon Governor's Cup Walleye Championship on the Columbia, suggests looking for this type of underwater structure in depths of 15 to 30 feet.

Although walleye are known to occasionally feed on passing steelhead and salmon smolts, these migrations typically pass higher in the water column than is favored by the walleye, a bottom-oriented fish. Hence, leaches, eels, crawfish, sculpins, and rough-fish (especially squawfish) minnows are all primary walleye fodder.

Gritski usually favors trolling a spinner/nightcrawler combo on a four-foot leader behind a bottom-bouncing weight for big walleye, but says diving plugs can also be effective when trolled with downriggers through some of the deeper holes. When the action slows down a bit, he often goes to a one-half-ounce to one and one-half-ounce banana-style jighead with a plastic grub or shad body and a nightcrawler.

"Jiggling is fine, especially if the fish aren't hitting quick and furious," he said. "If they are off their bite, it doesn't hurt to sit there and drift with the current using jigs because it slows down your presentation, which in turn will help entice some of those fish that just aren't biting well."

For more information, call Gritski at 278-1154. The Washington side of the river claims an 18-pound, 5-ounce trophy as their state-record walleye, while Oregon's record, taken near Arlington, weighed 17 pounds, 9.4 ounces. An unsubstantiated report has been circulating that a possible new Oregon record exceeding 18 pounds was caught by a notable walleye guide within the past few weeks, however that angler could not be reached for comment and the Oregon Bass and Panfish Club, official keepers of the state's warmwater-fish records, has had no entry of such a catch as of this writing.

### Eskelson family gathers in the mountains

On July 2, 1989, the descendants of William and Cleo (Eskelson) Van Winkle, gathered for a family reunion at the Alma Green and Jack Van Winkle cabins in the mountains.

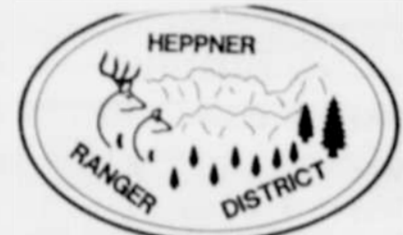
The day was beautiful and 67 people enjoyed visiting, playing games, eating food and having fun for the day.

Out of town family members were from Spokane, Bothell, Bellevue,

Kirkland, Hobart, Southworth and Puyallup, Washington; Woodburn, Sandy, Coos Bay, Beaverton, Salem, Troutdale, Adel, Vale and Prineville and Costa Mesa, Calif.

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Recently it has been brought to the attention of the Heppner Ranger District that people are unsure what trees they can and cannot cut.

The main question has been can you cut dead standing Tamarack trees? Tonya Bowers, Public Information Specialist for the Heppner Ranger District states, "Yes, dead standing Tamarack can be cut if it isn't marked with paint, metal, or paper wildlife posters. However, it must be in a designated woodcutting area or in an area with a special permit. Refer to your maps for detailed information on which trees may be cut for firewood. Regulations may vary by area."

At this time there are two areas open for wood cutting: Area 11 south of Sunflower Flats on Forest Service Road 22, and Area 12 east of Bull Prairie Lake on Forest Service Road 2039. Area 11 and 12 mainly consists of down Ponderosa Pine, Douglas Fir, Lodgepole Pine and Tamarack.

Permits can be obtained at the Heppner Ranger District office Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or after hours and on weekends at Millers Chevron Mini-Mart. If you have any further questions call Heppner Ranger District office at 676-9187.

### New roof at Pioneer Memorial Hospital



Work has started on a new roof at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. Sears has been contracted for the job. The new roofing has a 25

year guarantee on it. It should be done in the next couple of weeks, says Ernest Wick, hospital administrator.

### Wranglers planning day ride in mountains

The Heppner Wranglers are planning a Day Ride for July 29. The route is undecided but the final destination will be Bennett's cabin with a barbecue. Anyone with a horse is invited to

attend, you need not be a member of the Wranglers. Time and location of the ride is to be announced at a later date. For more information, call 676-5037 or 676-5878.

### Barrel club list winners

The Heppner Barrel Club ran a competition on June 28. Following is a list of winners:

Open: first-Joan Eckman; second-Kelsie Evans; third-Christi Stroeber. 200 Novice, first run: first-Barbara Zeller; second-Dawn Peterson. Second run: first-Barbara Zeller; second-Dawn Peterson. Juniors: first-Krista Adams; second-Tiffanie Munkers; third-Angela Munkers.

The next competition will be July 12 at 7 p.m. at the Wranglers Arena in Heppner.

# July CLEARANCE!

<p>Men's <b>WRANGLERS</b> Lt. Blue, Tan &amp; Silver Reg. 27.95 <b>now \$19.95</b></p> <p>Lady <b>WRANGLERS</b> Assorted Colors Reg. 28.95 to 35.95 <b>now \$19.95 to \$24.95</b></p> <p>Summer <b>SHORTS</b> Reg. 18.00 to 25.00 <b>now \$10.95 to \$14.95</b></p> <p>Gym <b>SHORTS</b> Red and Royal Reg. 4.95 <b>now \$1.95</b></p>	<p>Printed <b>T-SHIRTS</b> Reg. 9.00 to 13.00 <b>now \$5.95 to \$8.50</b></p> <p>Men's Western <b>BOOTS</b> H&amp;H® reg. 67.95 to 79.95 <b>now \$47.95</b> Tony Lama® reg. 143.00 to 150.00 <b>now \$89.95</b></p> <p>Converse <b>TENNIS SHOES</b> 4 styles to choose from Reg. 26.95 to 52.95 <b>now \$19.95 to \$39.95</b></p>
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**BEGINS THURSDAY JULY 13 at 9:00 a.m.**

## Gardner's MEN'S WEAR

193 N. Main St. 676-9218 Heppner

No Host  
**RETIREMENT PARTY!**  
Honoring O.L. Adams  
at Beecher's in Ione-Sat. July 15th  
Social Hour: 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner: 7:00 p.m.  
All Friends are invited!

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