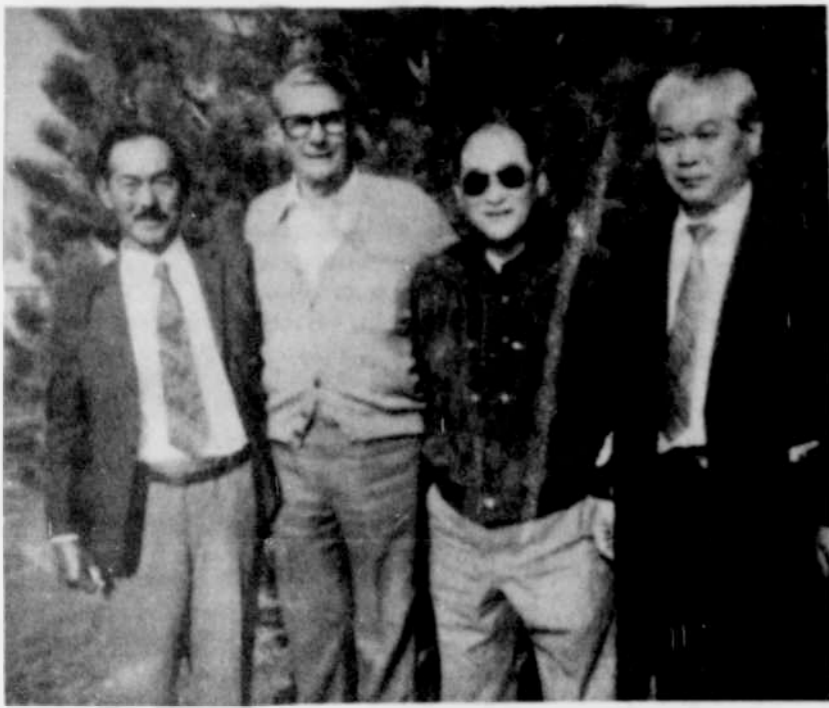


G-T azette Times

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Heppner man reunited with Japanese prisoner



Left to right: Yoshio Takayama, Gene Pierce, Spady Koyama and Satoshi Hirano.

Times really have changed - so much so that a WWII prison camp commandant, an interrogator and a prisoner of war can meet - over lunch.

The Japanese-American interrogator was Staff Sergeant Spady Koyama of Spokane, Wa. The POW was a Japanese navy petty officer Yoshio Takayama of southern Japan. And the commandant was U.S. Army Captain Gene Pierce of Heppner.

The three met in at a prison camp Hollandia New Guinea (Dutch New Guinea) in the South Pacific in 1944. Early in 1944 Pierce built the camp, which housed around 1,000 prisoners, 12 Japanese-American interrogators and an MP (military police) company. "We had good medicine," said Pierce. "We fed them well. We even did our own cooking at the camp - every Saturday was sports day. Takayama was the wrestling champ." He was also camp trustee.

Captain Pierce left the camp in

November of '44 for Tacloban Leyte, The Philippines. It was the last time he saw Koyama or Takayama. The camp was disbanded early in 1945 and the prisoners sent to Australia.

Takayama remained a POW until the war was over. Koyama had been wounded early in 1945. After a year and a half he was called back into active duty and was stationed in Japan as an interpreter. In 1947 he found Takayama in Tokyo. Takayama stayed with Koyama and Koyama was able to find a job for Takayama's cousin, Satoshi Hirano, then a teenager. And that was that, for twenty some years.

Until February of this year Koyama had friends that taught in Pendleton. He asked them to look Gene up. The teachers got in touch with Gene's son, Greg, who lives in Pendleton and teaches Corrections at Blue Mountain Community College. Greg gave Koyama the Pierces' phone number in California. Spady and Gene corresponded until Sept.

when Koyama and his wife, Maya, who were on the way home from visiting their daughter who lives at The Dalles, and Gene and his wife, Fay, met for lunch at McNary.

The Pierces and the Koyamas then met Takayama and Hirano in an emotional reunion at McNary on Oct. 25. "It was something that wouldn't happen very often," said Pierce. "It was very moving. Yoshio said 'I wish I could go before the American public and tell how well we were treated by the Americans and apologize for how my people treated the Americans.' He had tears in his eyes."

Spady Koyama, who had been born in Pasco, had been sent to Tokyo at the age of three to live with his uncle when his parents died. He returned to Spokane to live with relatives when he was nine and was raised there. Now 70, Koyama retired in 1969 as a colonel. He and his wife had three children, two boys and a girl. He is president of the Washington State Retired Officers association.

Yoshio Takayama, now 55, became a farmer. He had around four acres of land, seven head of cattle ("All cows," he says) and raised vegetables. He had six children. Takayama's cousin, Satoshi Hirano (also pictured) is now a Japanese congressman. He has no children.

Pierce had met his wife, Fay, earlier at Army headquarters outside Sidney Australia, where she was an army nurse. The nurses had no sleeping quarters there, so had to use the kitchen of the camp where Gene was stationed for their dormitory. Fay and Gene were married on August 4, 1943. They were separated during the war, but after the war they returned to Pendleton where Gene worked for First National Bank. He had worked for First National before the war. In 1957 Gene and his family came to Heppner where he had a job with the Bank of Eastern Oregon. He retired from the Bank of Eastern Oregon as bank president in 1984.

Father & son each bag 6 point elk

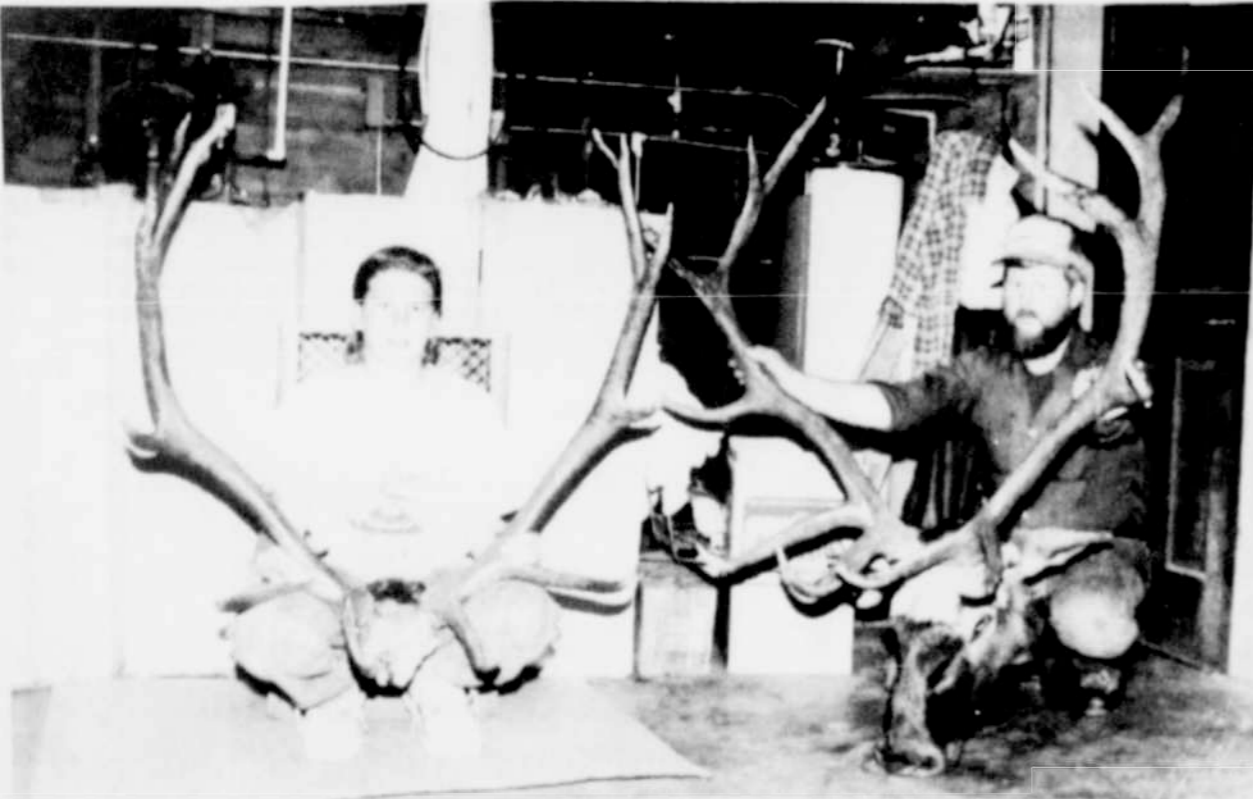


Photo by Joyce Hughes

It was a good elk season for one father son hunting team from Heppner. Tom Wicklund and his son Jered both killed six point elk the past week. The elk were taken in the John Day area according to Tom.

G-T closed Fri. Enter to win Thanksgiving turkey

The Heppner Gazette-Times along with area schools, government offices and banks will be closed this Friday, Nov. 10 because of the Veteran's Day holiday.

Enter today and you could be the lucky winner of a Thanksgiving turkey.

Twelve local businesses will be

giving away turkeys on November 20th, just in time for the holidays.

But you have to enter to win. See page 7 for contest rules and where to enter.

Cardinals advance to state



Photo by Wayne Hams

Lone Lady Cardinals celebrate district volleyball championship. Now it's on to state.

The lone Cardinals will be back in the state volleyball tournament again this year, after defeating Wheeler Saturday 15-3, 15-9 to take the District 3B title.

The victory will send the Lady Cards to Eugene Friday and Saturday where they will play East Linn Christian, their first game on the

quest for the state title. The Cards took second in the state last year, losing to first place champs Wheeler.

Wheeler will not be back to the state tournament this year, being eliminated by Culver at the district meet.

The Cards smashed the Falcons in the first game, but had trouble in the second until Darcee Padberg push-

ed lone over the top with expert serving that produced 10 points.

If lone wins its first game against East Linn then it will advance to the play the winner of the Paisley-Mt Vernon contest, with the winner of that game advancing to the finals, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

M.C.G.G. in good financial condition



The Riverside High Swing choir performs at the M.C.G.G. annual meeting Monday night.

"This is the best financial condition your co-op has been in in the 20 years I've been associated with it," accountant Steve Green reported at the Morrow County Grain Growers annual meeting Monday night.

Green said that although net income was down approximately \$166,639 over last year, all other financial indicators showed the co-op was in good shape.

Total income for the co-op was up about \$3 million over last year, reflecting a net income of \$526,585, down from \$693,224 in 1988. Earnings in the grain department were down due to the reduced amount of government owned and farmer owned grain in storage. And the farm supply and fertilizer departments showed improved results due to the increases in commodity prices and planted acres, the co-ops annual report stated.

Outgoing president Ken Nelson, who was honored for 10 years of service on the board of directors, praised co-op Manager Larry Mills for the work he has done in the past 20

years. "In 1969 your co-op had a net worth of \$1.5 million. In 1989 the net worth is \$5.5 million. A lot of that is due to the ability of your manager. I feel our co-op would not be in the shape it is without the efforts of our manager Larry Mills," Nelson said.

Mills said the high quality staff at the co-op deserved much of the credit, and he also predicted that the challenge of agriculture in the years ahead will be environmental issues, groundwater and the issue of food quality.

Entertainment for the annual meeting was provided by the Riverside High School swing choir, and humorist Jack Taylor, who kept the crowd laughing with his homespun stories and portrayal of the Honorable Timothy Hays, Mayor of Whoopup, Missouri.

New members to the board of directors elected at the annual meeting were: Charlie Anderson, Dave Matheny, Keith Ray and Bob Rietman.

Riverside moves to AA league

Riverside High School will be competing in the AA Greater Oregon League next year, according to RHS athletic director Larry French.

"It will be different," said French. "We'll have ten times as much travel, two to three times as much expense and we'll be competing with schools twice our size...a lot tougher competition."

Riverside has moved into a different league because of an increase in student population. According to French, AA schools are those which have a population of 201 to 601 in their top three grades. Riverside has 240 in the sophomore, junior and senior classes combined, and a total student population of 335 in all four grades, said French.

Riverside will now compete with Burns, Madras, Ontario, Baker and Mac Hi at Milton-Freewater. With the departure of Riverside, the Columbia Basin Conference now consists of Umatilla, Stanfield, Pilot Rock, Weston-McEwen, Wasco Co., Wahtonka and Heppner.

According to French, league classification is frozen for four years. Every four years school classification is reviewed and schools affected by rises or falls in student population will be reclassified. Schools that experience a drastic change before the four years are up may petition for a reclassification, said French.

Currin wins rifle drawing

Tom Currin of Heppner is the winner of the recent drawing at Les Schwab Tire Center in Heppner of a Remington 243 rifle.

Weather Report

By City of Heppner

	High	Low	Prec
Tues.	51	25	.0
Weds.	51	25	.0
Thurs.	58	33	.0
Fri.	63	44	.0
Sat.	56	43	.0
Sun.	56	38	.0
Mon.	52	42	.0

Police hunt sign thief

An engraved sign was torn from the wall of the St. Patrick's Senior housing facility. If anyone has any information, please call 676-9618 or contact any Heppner City Police officer.

Clinic hours reduced Fri.

Pioneer Memorial Clinic will be open from 9 a.m. to noon only on Friday, Nov. 10, because of the Veteran's Day holiday.

Morrow County Election Results November 7, 1989

Measures	HEP HARD		LEXINGTON		IDNE		BOARDMAN		IRRIGON		TOTALS	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Prison Election Results	226	46	80	275	429	1056						
	483	180	159	223	165	1210						



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