

Gene Pierce inducted into Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame

Retired Heppner banker Gene Pierce was inducted into the Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame at the conclusion of the Oregon Bankers Association 86th annual convention at Sunriver Lodge June 18.

Pierce was born and raised in Hermiton. After high school, he started work at First National Bank in Pendleton in 1935.

He was drafted into the Army in 1942 and shipped out to the south pacific as a second lieutenant. He served in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines before being discharged as a major in 1946.

He returned to First National Bank in Pendleton and then went into the grocery business in Pendleton. After that, he sold farm equipment for a short period.

Pierce began working for the Bank of Eastern Oregon in 1957 and became the bank's president in 1962. He retired from the bank in 1984 after 27 years, building the small community bank into a "well capitalized, stable community bank, serving Morrow and Gilliam Counties."

A graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School, Pierce was very active in Oregon banking circles, spending a great deal of business and personal time serving on several different state boards. He served two terms on the state banking board and two terms on the board of directors of the Northwest Intermediate Banking Schools (NIBS) and is a past president of NIBS.

He served four years as president of the state chartered banks of Oregon. He served three terms on the executive committee of the Oregon Bankers Association.

Pierce was active as a charter member of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Foundation; a member of the water district board for seven years; president of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce; member of the Heppner schools budget committee; chairman of the board of the United Methodist Church; secretary-treasurer of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce for five years; Morrow County representative on the Blue Mountain Community College planning board; and secretary-treasurer of the Wrangler Cutting Horse Committee for 22 years.

In Pendleton he served as the



Gene Pierce

president of Kiwanis; an elder of the Presbyterian church; member of the Pendleton school budget committee; member of Happy Canyon Board; member of the executive board of the Chamber of Commerce and member of the original little league committee and head umpire.

The Oregon Bankers Hall of Fame

Garden Club delegates attend state convention

By Anne Morter

Delegates from the Ione and Heppner Garden Clubs attended the 64th annual Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs convention. Helen Martin and Loree Hubbard from Ione and Pat Brindle and Jane Rawlins of Heppner attended the convention held June 11-15 at George Fox College in Newberg.

Over 300 garden club members from around the state attended, including 19 from Blue Mountain District #10. Delegates enjoyed many displays and interesting speakers. Some of the topics discussed were garlic, ornamental grass and rare and endangered plants of Oregon. Those attending also enjoyed a talk by the president of George Fox College as well as a talk by Robert Bunn of Newberg. Bunn

recognizes Oregon bankers who have made outstanding contributions to the Oregon Banking industry and extraordinary contributions to their communities and to the state of Oregon.

Pierce and his wife Faye have five grown children and live in Heppner.

was involved in a recent effort to develop recyclable garbage bags to bring debris off Mt. Everest. He showed slides of his organization's expedition to retrieve the trash from the mountain.

State officers were elected at the convention. The Blue Mountain District was well represented with Elaine Belts of Pendleton elected president and Cece Slocum of Hermiton elected recording secretary. District directors were also ratified. Eva Lou Greiner of Condon is the new district director for the Blue Mountain District.

National Garden Club president, Mrs. Violet Dawson of Wisconsin was present at the session. The guest arranger was Mrs. Geanne Lundell of Boise, Idaho. She is the wife of the late Harlan Lundell, who was from this area.

Rep. Bob Smith to visit Heppner

Congressman Bob Smith will be in Heppner on Monday, July 1 at 9:30 a.m. to attend a town hall coffee at the Senior Center.

Smith says "There is clearly a great deal to talk about as we fashion a timber plan satisfactory to all sides

of this contentious issue. I have also just re-introduced for the fifth time my bill to force the federal government to balance its books. Ideas gained from one-on-one conversations with my constituents are of immeasurable help to me in my work in Congress."

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board



There were 101 people present for the senior dinner June 19. Irene Swanson won the free meal ticket, Rachel Harnett won the door prize and Honey Johnson from California received the guest prize. Serving was done by members of the Christian Church. Merna Toll provided entertainment playing several tunes on the piano. If someone would accompany her on the piano she said she would play her violin.

The menu for July 3 will be cold sliced turkey, baked beans, cantaloupe, banana bread and fruity jello. Members of the Catholic Church will serve. Merri Reamer, ECOAC, Morrow County Social Worker for the Area Agency on Aging, met briefly with the volunteer office staff before the dinner June 19. She will meet with them again this week regarding new office duties. She also met with John Wood, Senior Center Board president and Paul Jones, chairman of the Nutrition Site Committee.

The Willoughby Hearing Aid consultant will be at the Center Friday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to noon. He will give free hearing tests.

Other events to remember are Quilting Mondays 1 to 4 p.m.; exercise Tuesday and Thursday 10-10:30 a.m.; hobby time Tues. 1-4 p.m.

There will be a rural health meeting at the fairgrounds Thursday June 27 at 7 p.m. The Rev. Stan Hoobing and Rev. Grace Drake will attend representing the seniors.

4-H campers return years later as supervisors

A three-day 4-H camp held June 24 through 26 at Cutsforth Park near Heppner not only provided fun for 75 4-H kids, and 17 junior leaders, but also for adults-many of whom were 4-H campers when they were children.

RN Sheridan Tarnasky, spending three days as camp nurse, went to the same 4-H camp as a kid and was a junior leader as was Jean Brazzell, camp cook this year.

Bill Broderick, Morrow County Extension Agent and Elva Madden, Wheeler County Extension agent supervised the three-day camp and Phyllis Brooks, Nella Britt and Kenta Martin were cook's helpers.

The camp, entitled "Voices That Care International Camp" focused on international experiences and

sampled Mexican and Japanese culture. Activities included special classes in Aztec jewelry, Origami paper folding and a demonstration of Oriental cooking by Carol Bennett and the use of chopsticks by Fred Lundin, both Morrow County Extension agents.

The local 4-H camp program has been going on more than 20 years.

Off the Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

The calendar says it's summer, but sweaters and sweatshirts are still comfy. Although wheat and grazing land benefit from late storms, it's rough on hay crops and ripening cherries. Mixed blessings for agriculture. Cool weather is also discouraging to summertime vacationers who plan outings.

Without traveling long distances, we are blessed with great scenery and places to camp. A recent visit to the Gibsons cave above Cutsforth Park brought back memories of former visits and it re-emphasized that area's potential for attracting visitors. Sight-seeing shouldn't be limited to the view from the Scenic By-way route.

There have been few changes, except for that new highway, in the Forest Service area surrounding the park. And that too, is a mixed blessing. But it doesn't take an athlete to wander into the woods to view caves, the old coal mine diggings or other historical and picturesque places.

Well-marked hiking trails and a map of these routes should be available so that city dwellers can also do some easy hiking off the roadway.

Years ago, we used to play follow-the-leader during outings of the local riding club. Trails then had lots of detours due to fallen trees. However the caves, Ar buckle Look-Out, Little Baldy and various meadows teeming with wildlife were part of those excursions.

Our overnight destination then was the Winchester cabin on Ditch Creek. After unloading near the park we enjoyed hearty meals and lots of entertainment.

Dedicated musicians in those days were people like Harold Erwin strumming lively tunes on his guitar. And I can still picture Lennie Lowden making the old pump organ sway on an outdoor platform, while cowboy boots stomped the night away. When people did turn in for a few hours sleep there was no telling the surprises that awaited at the bottom of sleeping bags.

It often took Howard Bryant's coon dog, baying up a storm, to rouse campers as the hotcakes browned on outdoor wood stoves. But ice-cold water from the creek was a real eye-opener. Some people pitched tents for protection from the dew. And I can remember when jokesters stuffed our tent's stovepipe with newspapers. When that carefully laid fire was lit to ward off the early morning chill, we all scrambled outside to avoid becoming well-smoked sardines.

There was plenty of entertainment, midnight rides and lots of socializing. Lois and Ernie pulled out all the stops and even talked some people into wearing old costumes for character parts. Newcomers to the occasion were often startled and embarrassed by well-dressed mannequins sitting at ease in the "his and her" outhouses.

There's nothing more boring than reminiscing, but that part of our world above Cutsforth Park is not boring and I hope that many others can enjoy its beauty. However they should have more than yellow ribbons or a trail or bread crumbs to guide them safely back to civilization.

Doctors honored with golf, luncheon



Dr. Jeanne Berretta (left) and former public health nurse, Pat Wright and Molly Rhea visit during luncheon

While a special golf day at Willow Creek Country Club in Heppner honored Dr. Ed Berretta, Dr. Jeanne Berretta was honored at a ladies luncheon held at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church parish hall.

Over 85 ladies lunched on salad provided by Soroptimist club

members and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Heppner Elks ladies. The ladies enjoyed entertainment by Ione High School drama club students Heidi Nelson and Crystal Minster, who performed sketches from the play "Daughters", Patti Smith from Irrigon, who sang and Claudia Hughes and Jackie Bergstrom who told amusing anecdotes.

The day's activities were sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Soroptimists.

Lynda Baker SOSC grad

Lynda Baker of Heppner is one of 872 individuals who completed graduation requirements for a bachelor's master's or associate's degree at Southern Oregon State College this past year.

Baker earned a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

Commencement ceremonies were held in Ashland's Lithia Park Saturday, June 8. SOSC offers its 4,800 students a broad-based curriculum through its undergraduate and graduate programs. The college is located 300 miles south of Portland and 350 miles north of San Francisco.

EOSC announces dean's list

Of the 269 students named to Eastern Oregon State College's spring term dean's list, 105 had a perfect 4. grade point average including Sherry Kemp of Heppner.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must have a G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher with a minimum of 12 graded credit hours. Cody Hibbits of Boardman qualified for the dean's list.

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Chamber Chatter

By Claudia Hughes, Chamber Manager

Memories will be long-lasting for the 178 people who attended the Doctor's Appreciation dinner at the Elks Saturday. It was an evening of laughter and tears, of sharing memories, of community togetherness, of sharing the immense joy of Dr. Jeanne and Dr. Ed's reunion with Mary Mobley. The heart on the buttons was very appropriate; our lives were all touched by this special event.

Have you been considering Morrow County's Healthcare System? A very important meeting is being held Thursday, 7 p.m. fairgrounds to give each and everyone the opportunity to answer three questions: what do you like; what don't you like and what changes would you like to see. Please attend.

Mark your calendars to visit with Congressman Bob Smith Monday, July 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Senior Center lobby. This is an opportunity to visit about concerns which affect our area.

Coming up next Tuesday: Vision 2000 meeting, 8 a.m., Columbia Basin; Chamber Board Meeting at 11 a.m.; regular chamber meeting at noon and Morrow County Tourism meeting at 4 p.m., V & G Lexington. Happy Fourth of July.

Thought for the week: "You don't get to choose how you're going to die or when; you can only decide how you're going to live...now. Joan Baez

Willow Creek Invitational this weekend

The 10th annual Willow Creek Invitational Golf Tournament gets underway this Friday and will run through Sunday.

According to a tournament organizer 115 golfers have so far signed up, with some coming from as far away as Hayward Calif., and Seattle Wash.

Rick Bordenkircher from Pendleton, who just won the Round up city Invitational is scheduled to be here, as well as Bill Johnson of Vancouver and Jeff Steger of Seattle.

Local favorites John Edmundson, George Waterlund and Ron Bowman are also set for competition.

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