

Gazette imes

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Puzzle with missing piece finally comes together



Jane Richards with grandson

The last missing piece to a puzzle that Jane Richards of Lexington has ponered over for years, finally fell into place when she met the brother that she never knew.

Jane had been adopted in Portland at three months of age by her second cousin, Grace. Grace later married Vern Leathers.

The two, both now deceased, comprised the V and G in the V & G Restaurant and Lounge in Lexington which they operated for many years.

Jane knew that she was adopted and that she had siblings, but didn't know who or where they were. Then, as a teenager, she finally met her sister, Sue Harrison, who was 11 months younger than she. Another

sister, Nancy, who was married to a serviceman, was on her way to the East Coast when she looked Jane up in Chicago. "She knew who I was," said Jane. But I haven't seen her since." Nancy, who is around 52 now, is married and lives in Louisiana. Jane learned that her oldest brother, Jimmy, had died. Jimmy had been raised with Nancy and another brother, Paul. While Jane had never met Paul, Sue and Nancy knew where he was, but their other brother, Roger, was a "mystery."

"We knew we had a brother and we knew his name was Roger, but that was all," said Jane.

In the meantime Roger had become curious about his past. After his parents, both teachers, had pass-

ed away, Roger discovered two birth certificates, one his adoptive certificate, and one his real certificate. According to Jane, he knew he was adopted, but he didn't know he had siblings. He also found a letter and a photograph. He thought the photograph was of his sister, but it turned out to be of his cousin Diane. An address he discovered turned out to be that of his aunt, whom he contacted. The aunt told him where everyone else was. From there Sue called Jane and Roger and Jane set up a time to get together.

The two met at a restaurant at Rockaway on the Oregon coast where Roger lives. "I called him on the phone from the restaurant," said Jane, "and it took him around two seconds to get there. We talked and talked. We closed the restaurant down and went back to my motel and talked in the lobby til around 11:30." The next day Jane visited Roger's house and they visited until

afternoon when she had to leave to get back to Heppner.

In their visiting Jane found that Roger, now 50, is married and has a grown son. Roger, who was two years old when he was adopted, had stayed with Jane and her adoptive mother when he was around six. But the memories of that were dim, because it was over 40 years ago. Roger and Jane also learned that they had crossed paths several times in Idaho and Reno. Jane, an archaeologist, discovered that she and Sue share a love of history with him. Coincidentally, she and Sue had both worked the medical field at one time, Sue as a medical technologist and Jane as a nurse.

The children's biological mother is still living, but their father died many years ago.

Now that the two finally met, however, they are already making plans for a reunion this summer. "It's complete now," said Jane.

CBEC to hold meeting in Condon

Columbia Basin Electric Co-op will hold its annual meeting next Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Gilliam County Fairgrounds in Condon.

Al Wright of the PNUCC will be the featured speaker at this year's meeting, which gets underway with registration at 5 p.m., dinner at six and the business meeting at 7 p.m.

As usual there will also be numerous door prizes given away.

Also scheduled for that day will be an open house for long-time CBEC employee Billy Gentry. Gentry is retiring after 43 years of service to the co-op.

Gentry's open house will be from 4 to 5 p.m., also at the fairgrounds in Condon.

Ione's homecoming court



Photo by Pam Minster

Ione Homecoming court right to left: Queen Amy Pointer; princesses Jannie Cupps, Michelle Kandle and Kimberly Bedortha.

Sign up for food baskets

Signups for Thanksgiving boxes are now being taken at the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County located in Heppner. Deadline for sign up is Nov. 6. Those signing up are asked to bring proof of their income.

Portland Wrestling coming to Heppner November 17

Portland wrestling is coming to Heppner Sunday, Nov. 17. The matches will start at 7 p.m. in the High School gym.

The cost of ringside seats is \$8. General admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 13 and under.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at Kate's Pizza or at the door the evening of the event.

Proceeds will go toward the Heppner High School Seniors drug and alcohol free trip to southern California.

Radio-TV personality to speak at MCGG meeting

Dorothy Wilhelm, a radio and television personality in the Seattle-Tacoma area, will speak at the Morrow County Grain Growers annual meeting planned Monday, Nov. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds in Heppner.

Wilhelm will speak on "The Right Way to Pick up Porcupines," using laughter to tell how to handle prickly people and sticky situations. Wilhelm, who has a regular schedule of radio and TV programming, became a widow and sole supporter of six children at the age of 47. She then went back to college and received her degree in communications from Marylhurst and embarked on her new career.

The MCGG meeting will also include reports from company officers and election of directors. Nominees for the four director positions are: Ned Clark, Tom Currin, Mark



Dorothy Wilhelm

Cutsforth, Stan Kemp, George Miller and Steve Peck. Nominees for associate director are Doug Drake, Virginia Grieb and Barry Munkers.

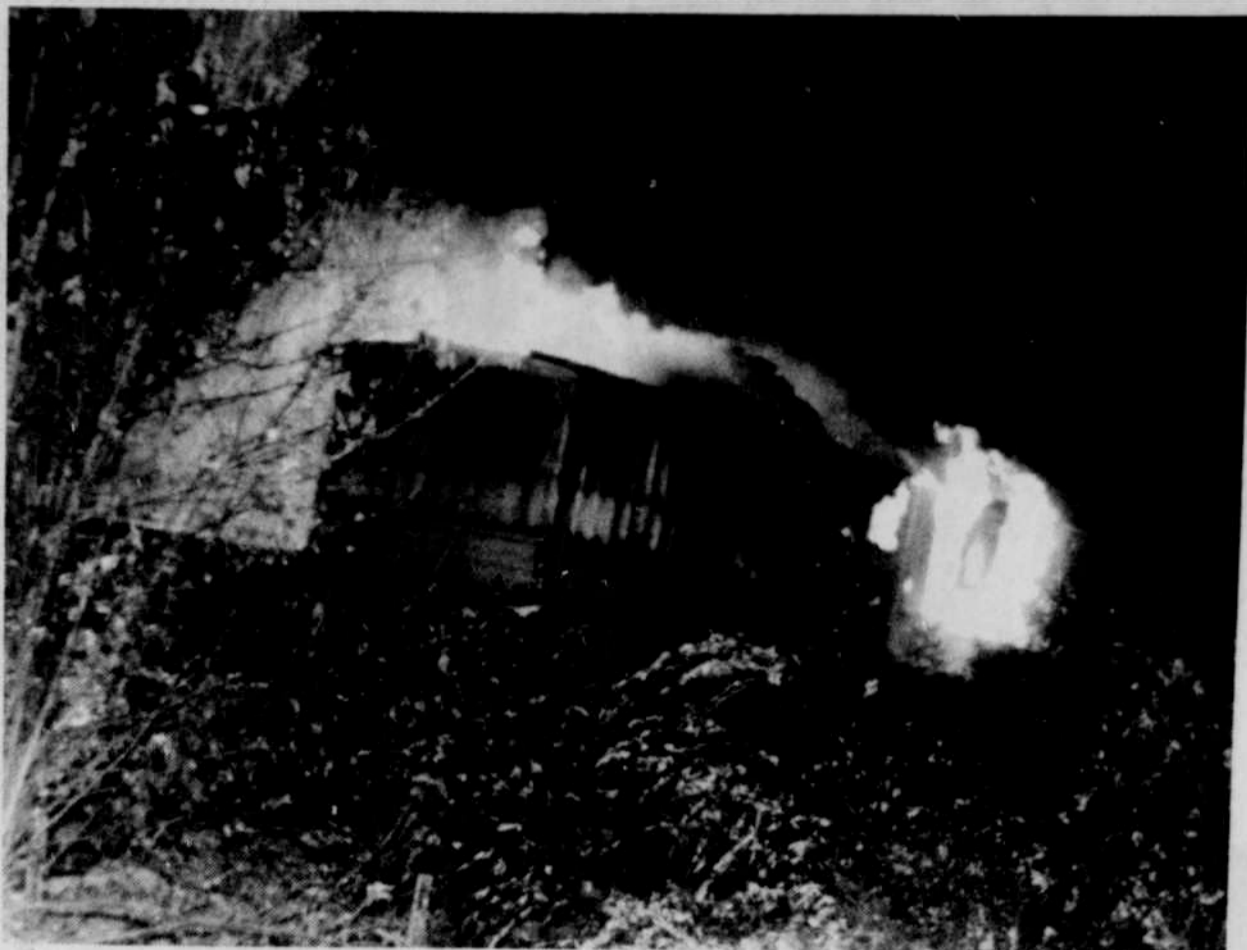


Photo by Joyce Hughes

Early morning fire destroys mobile home

An early morning fire completely destroyed this mobile home in Heppner Wednesday. The lone resident managed to get out unharmed.

The fire, of undetermined origin, started around 2 a.m. Wednesday at the home of Elsa May Gibson, 610 N Garriques St. The mobile home was a complete loss.

Health care dollars topic of council

What is "Equitable Distribution" of health care dollars in Morrow

County? That question was addressed at the October meeting of the Morrow County Rural Health Council. The council decided that "Equitable Distribution" may be defined as follows:

"The fair and impartial distribution of health care dollars to those areas of the county that demonstrate a particular need or needs during a specific budget period. This may be determined by certain criterion as developed by an impartial group or committee which may include, but is not limited to, such factors as distance from existing health care centers, age groups, economic status and ethnic needs. The major goal of health care delivery is to ensure adequate, quality care with equal access to services. Equitable distribution-based on need, should be the goal for

all county services; be those medical, law enforcement, educational, judicial, or any other of the myriad of services provided by county government."

Health council members also toured facilities of the Pioneer Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home as well as Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner. One of the focus groups shared a draft of medical services available in Morrow County for seniors. The one-page flyer will be available in large print in both Spanish and English.

The next meeting of the Morrow County Rural Health Care Council will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 21 at the Boardman Clinic and city hall.

Vandalism a problem



Dick Wilkinson shows damage vandals did to his truck.

Area rancher Dick Wilkinson is concerned about vandalism. He knows a little bit about the subject because he has experienced it firsthand.

Vandals did between \$600 and \$700 worth of damage on his LM 800 industrial truck sometime between Saturday, Oct. 19 and Monday Oct. 21.

Both headlights and both turn signals were broken and the windshield was smashed. Whoever did the damage must have tried to start the truck, but wasn't able to because of the choke, Wilkinson surmises. The headlight switch had been pulled on, but because the headlights had been smashed, the battery, fortunately, didn't run down. Besides repairing the broken headlights, turn signals and windshield, Wilkinson will have to replace the ignition switch and the door locks, because the keys, which had been hidden in the truck were either taken or thrown away.

Wilkinson thinks the vandals are local and has offered a \$300 reward to anyone providing information leading to their arrest and conviction.

He says he noticed pickup tire tracks in the area and says they may be related. While bird hunting season was open during the time the truck was vandalized, Wilkinson, who is one of the few who still opens his land to hunters does not believe hunters were the culprits. "Hunters are sportsmen," he said, "and it sure isn't a sportsman that did this. Hunters are appreciative. We need them," adding that hunters help with the management of wildlife so they don't destroy so much of the farmers' crops.

Before the damage occurred, Wilkinson had been fixing corrals at Justice Place on upper Hinton Creek and had put poles on one truck and a backhoe on another. The one with the poles was vandalized, but the other, a ways away and more hidden was not.

Wilkinson says this is only one of many acts of destruction and vandalism in the area and hopes that making people aware of the situation may help curtail the destruction. Anyone with information is asked to call the Morrow County Sheriff's Department.

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