L-R: Bob Rietmann, Nels Anderson and George Luciani, visit during the Morrow County Soil and Water Conservation meeting celebrating 50 years of conservation in Morrow County, during Town and Country festivities Jan. 8. Nels told of Heppner's and Boardman's soil and water districts before they united to become one district.

Anderson, who now lives in Dallas, was the Morrow County OSU Extension agent from June 1, 1946 to June 1, 1965. He was secretary of the Hepnper district for 19 years, involved in the Wheat League and for years ran the county's 4-H programs. After leaving Morrow County he was overseas for two years and then returned to the Willamette Valley.

Off the Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

Like a tiny weed that suddenly becomes a giant, the progression of changes sometimes becomes a blurred memory. But changes in the area were vividly brought into focus recently.

"There were some rough times," said Nels Anderson, Dallas, who was Morrow County's extension agent for 19 years. He recapped those years as he spoke at the 50th anniversary observation of Morrow County's Soil and Water Conservation District.

Anderson came on board in January, 1946. His tenure after World War II coincided with ASCS director Tom Wilson. Older residents will remember legging it up the stairs to their offices above First Interstate Bank.

Anderson said that Morrow County was the first to receive a state program for conservation in the early 50's. The first local conservation award went to the Rietmann Brothers, "The way the wind blows there, they must have been doing something right, to stay in business," Anderson said, noting that Rietmann families are still farming.

Anderson also talked about the first stubble mulching that led to trashy fallow and deep fallow drills. He said that farmers often improvised by adapting machinery to chop stubble or subsoil the ground.

The first strip cropping in the state was at the Frank Anderson ranch. It was a program that brought about the extensive use of diversion ditches to prevent soil run-off.

While farmers were using new methods to prevent topsoil erosion, ranchers also used conservation techniques such as developing stock ponds for better range management. Patterned after the CCC work of the late 30's, channel work and land leveling along creeks and stream beds lessened flooding hazards and increased the land's profitability. Grass seeding of waterways protected riparian erosion and increased forage and wildlife habitat.

Though farmers of that era ate a lot of dirt before air-conditioned tractor cabs became the norm, land leveler Dick Meador could often be found in a cloud of dust as he leveled bottom land and straightened creek channels. All of which added up to good stewardship of the land and the resources.

But not all of Anderson's work was devoted to the soil. Every 4-H'er at that time, expected Anderson to be the on-site nutrition specialist, the training expert and the on-call veterinarian for each livestock project. And when those waddling-fat hogs and steers were brought to the fair, Anderson single-handedly oversaw the event and helped to make each fair a success. Besides overseeing his own family's 4-H projects, many of us can remember when Anderson made numerous trips to ranches to inspect a squealing pig or a steer that went off-feed.

Anderson also recalled late night meetings, often held in homes. At the time, many people never realized that his off-office hours were voluntary contributions as secretary for conservation and livestock organizations. With his "Can-do" attitude and his caring nature, Anderson's contribution to the county can be chalked up as years that added to the county's economy and resources.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

Mrs. Calvert brought her second grade class from Heppner Elementary school to sing for the seniors before the dinner Jan. 8. The seniors always enjoy having the children come to entertain and hope that they come again soon. The Senior Center board met after dinner. New officers elected were: Pat Wright, president; Helen Crawford, vice president; Rose Marie Buschke, secretary; and Howard Gilliam, treasurer.

One hundred-one people were present for dinner. Theta Lowe won the door prize and the meal ticket went to Alberta Johannes. Members of the Seventh Day Adventist and Nazarene chrches served.

The menu for January 22 is Barbecue beef on a bun, corn, vegetable tray, and fruit salad. Members of the Methodist Church will serve.

The singles, widowed persons party Sat. Jan. 11 was enjoyed by approximately 20 people. They had a potluck lunch and spent the afternoon playing cards and other games.

The Senior bus will take a group to the Golden Age dance at Hermiston Saturday evening, Jan. 18. They leave Heppner at 6 p.m.

Dates to remember: Quilting Monday, 1 to 4 p.m. Exercise: Tues. & Thurs. 10 to 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Friday.

$100 REWARD for the conviction of persons involved in the theft of a Ford Escort on the evening of January 10. 676-9613.

Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

-:-Joyce Buchanan has returned home from Portland where she had been visiting.

-:-Visitors at the Dick Temple home over the holidays were a son, Brent, and wife Kristin, from Salem. The young couple were married Dec. 14 in Salem. Karen Temples' mother Betty Lovell of La Grande was also a visitor.

-:-Holly Rebekah Lodge met for their Christmas meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19. A joint potluck dinner was enjoyed with the Oddfellows. The Christmas tree had an exchange of gifts and a box for the Neighborhood Center. An evening of visiting was enjoyed. Annetta Padberg won the painting of a mountain scene of Wallowa County, donated by the daughter of Dorothy Burcham in her memory.

-:-An open house was enjoyed at the Cecil Jones' home where family and frields helped celebrate Delpha Jones' birthday with dinner and a birthday cake. Present were her daughter Charlene Whitney from Portland; Pearl Lee Trahan and daughter Michelle Karran from Pilot Rock; Bob, Pat and Lucky Coal from Pendleton; Valda and Stuart Smith, Hermiston; Jo and George Irvin, Irrigon; Bill and Annetta Padberg, Joe and Hilda Yocom, Kenneth, Chris and Mike Jones and Connie Eng and sons Shane and Shawn. Pinochle was enjoyed during the afternoon and evening. Vickie Bowen and twins, Katy and Bo were also on hand to celebrate her birthday.

-:-The children of Dolly Allstott met in Echo one day last week for dinner. Those present were Dolly, Laurel and Bud Laney, Lyle and Virginia Peck, Dorothy and Wilbur Jackson, RD and Alberta Allstott, Richard and Dorothy Allstott and Clyde and Jackie Allstott. Several of those present visited and enjoyed desert at the Lyle Peck home. Dolly is spending some time there visiting.

-:-Bob Peck was a recent caller at the home of his parents Glover and Josie Peck.

-:-Ed and Dorothy Tucker from Salem are visiting her parents Josie and Glover Peck.

-:-Jeff and Missy Cutsforth and baby have moved into the Pat Cutsforth home. Pat has moved to a mobile home on the property.

-:-John Tellechea is confined to his home, recuperating from a broken leg.

-:-Betty Marquardt entertained her children and families and guests T.E. Messenger on New Year's.

-:-Susie and Berl Stillman are the proud parents of a daughter, Sarah Neoma, weighing 8 lbs. ½ oz.

Historical Socity discuss Oregon Trail sesquicentennial plans

By Delpha Jones

The Morrow Historical Society met at the home of Jim and Barbara Bloodsworth for the quarterly meeting and Christmas party. A bountiful potluck dinner was enjoyed. The home was decorated in the holiday theme with an electric train circling the Christmas tree.

During a short business meeting, a report was heard on the Oregon Trail project. There have been suggestions of a county-wide celebration. It is hoped that each community will think "Oregon Trail" and plan something. This Oregon trail sesquicentennial is a big undertaking and will commemorate the trail from beginning to end across many miles of hardships for the pioneers.

The theme for the essay contest for junior high students in the county is "Early Settlements of Morrow County". The essay must be at least 500 words with a maximum of 1000. These will be judged in May and prizes will be awarded. Teachers and parents are encouraged to support this project as it is great for the young people to know the history of the county, said a club spokesperson.

This year's annual trip scheduled for the first weekend in May will be to Sequim, WA., on the northern rim of Washington's Olympic Penninsula.

Travelers will visit a John Wayne Museum, the Olympic Game Farm, a national wildlife refuge and other places of interest.

An election of officers was held with Delpha Jones re-elected as president; vice president Harold Peck; and secretary-treasurer Ruth McCabe. Following the meeting a gift exchange was enjoyed by those present: Judge Louis Carlson and wife Betty, Jerry Peck, Don and Donna Eppenbach, Ruth McCabe, Jean Nelson, Harold and Edna Peck, Delpha and Cecil Jones and hosts Jim and Barbara Bloodsworth.

J.J. Shaw elected to fraternity position

John Jacob (J.J.) Shaw was recently elected director of academic affairs for the Delta Mu chapter of Delta Tau Delta fraternity at the University of Idaho in Moscow. He will hold this office for the 1992 calendar year.

Shaw, a 1989 graduate of Heppner High School, is the son of Linda Shaw of Heppner and Johnny Shaw of North Powder. Majoring in mechanical engineering, Shaw earned a 4.0 grade point average (all A's) for his work fall semester.

Rosalie Breidenbach air academy grad

Rosalie Breidenbach, daughter of John and Cindy Breidenbach, of Heppner, has graduated from International Air Academy, Inc., of Vancouver, Washington and has been employed by The Shilo Inn in Portland.

Ms. Breidenbach completed a comprehensive 12 week course in airline reservations, ticketing and passenger services. Prior to attending the Air Academy, Ms. Breidenbach attended Heppner High School. The International Air Academy, established in 1979, is the world's largest private, fully-accredited professional school specializing in training employment-ready ground personnel for the airline industry. Residence campuses are located in Ontario, California and Vancouver, Washington.

More than 12,000 graduates of the school's intensive 342-hour, three-month course have secured entry level career positions as reservations, ticket/gate and ramp agents, and customer service representatives with more than 200 airlines and travel related companies nationwide, according to an academy news release.

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Engagements

Doherty — Johnson

Richard Byron Doherty and K'Lyn Helen Johnson, both Portland, announce their engagement to be married. The couple plans a Feb. 29 wedding at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Beaverton.

Richard is the son of Charles and Beverly Doherty, Ione. He is a 1979 graduate of Ione High School and a 1984 graduate of Eastern Oregon State College. He is employed as a pilot with Horizon Air in Portland.

K'Lyn is the daughter of Donald and C. Jeanne Johnson of Hillsboro. She graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1980 and Pacific University in 1986. She is employed as an occupational therapist at Tuality Community Hospital in Hillsboro.

Heppner students, teacher chosen to participate in writing workshop

Photo by Joyce Hughes

L-R: Junior High teacher Sally Walker, Shannon Benjamin, Ben Ewing.

Heppner Junior High seventh grader Shannon Benjamin, eighth grader Ben Ewing and teacher Sally Walker comprise one of six writing teams invited to participate in the 14th annual Young Writers At the Coast writing workshop. The workshop will be held at the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology in Lincoln City, January 16-20. The teams were selected on the basis of writing samples which they submitted in December.

Creative writing-both poetry and prose-and techniques for forming an editing group will be the focus. The residency will be led by Kim Stafford and Melissa Madenski. Focused activities will include visiting writers from the Oregon coast and writing prompts associated with projects and scientists at the Sitka Center.

Each participating school will have a follow-up visit by one of the workshop leaders, scheduled for the spring.

"The Heppner writing team is looking forward to meeting and working with other students, teachers and writers as well as bringing back new writing ideas to share," said Walker.

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