

Historical Society enjoys trip

By Delpha Jones

Thirty-nine people boarded the Mid-Columbia Bus trip, sponsored by the Morrow County Historical Society, on Friday, May 1, for a fun three day trip to Fort Townsend and other points of interest. En route, lunch was enjoyed at historic Mary McCrank's Restaurant in Chehalis, WA. This establishment was started in 1935 in the Dutch Mill Inn, an old road house on what was then Highway 99. She passed away in 1984 but left a legacy of an AAA restaurant and the new owners have continued with the same atmosphere and good food from many of Mary's recipes.

The group then motored on to Port Townsend, enjoying the scenery and trip on Hood Canal. They enjoyed dinner at the Sea Gallery, and were up and ready on Saturday morning for a view of the many fine homes in the town. They had breakfast at the Manresa Castle, built in 1892. Charles Eisenbeis was a prussian baker who migrated to this country. At that time Port Townsend was a great world port. He amassed a fortune by supplying bread and crackers to ships that put in port there. He built the castle for his young wife to resemble medieval castles of Europe. In 1925 it was purchased by the Society of Jesus who built on a wing and used the building for a retreat and Tertian school. It was named after a village in Spain. It is a bed and breakfast Inn and is filled with beautiful and valuable antiques. The group was entertained as they traveled by bus around town by a most knowledgeable guide.

A visit to Fort Worden was enjoyed and travelers heard how people in the area are working to preserve the barracks, lighthouse and other points of interest. The Jefferson County Courthouse was an impressive sight made of beautiful brick and in the same style as many of the area's homes, with round turrets, and lovely grounds surrounding. This building was built in 1892. Also on the list was an Episcopal church built in 1890 which has a beautiful interior.

The bus motored to Sequim where they visited an Olympic Game Farm where they keep, many interesting animals such as tigers, bears, jaguars, coyotes, bobcats, llama, guanaco bison and other animals. A picnic lunch was enjoyed at the John Wayne Marina and travelers were able to view a boat parade in the spring like weather.

Dinner was at the 3 Crabs restaurant, which is on the US register of good food places to eat. While here the group was joined by Bill and Harriet Busby of Seattle, WA., (the former Harriet Heliker of Ione) who spent the evening with the group visiting.

En route to the hotel the group visited a farmer's market, a quilt show and an arts and crafts show. Before going to the motel they visited Reno night at a local casino, where some enjoyed playing games and others the lovely evening and scenery.

Sunday morning the group visited the Whitney Gardens which raise rhododendrums and azaleas. Some of the plants were over 50 years old and the visit was greatly enjoyed as people saw some plants as high as a house and all colors. A picnic lunch was enjoyed at Snoqualmie Falls. A train ride which was about two miles long with old fashioned cars was also enjoyed. The route of the train has been closed due to a land purchase. The group enjoyed a fine dinner again at Whistlin' Jacks near Ellensburg before arriving home late and tired. The area visited seeped with history and one that most people would enjoy. At one time Fort Townsend was the main point of immigration on the west coast with several other country ambassadors making their home there. The town is trying to keep this history alive by several different projects.

Babe Ruth sign-ups being taken

Anyone from the Ione-Lexington-Heppner area interested in playing Babe Ruth baseball this summer should contact Rick Johnston before May 15. Babe Ruth is a baseball program for kids age 13-15. Games are played during the month of June. To sign up call Johnston, 676-5562.

Benefit to help Neighborhood Center


The Office Tavern in Ione is sponsoring a bingo game night Sunday May 17 from 4-6 p.m. The proceeds will help the Neighborhood Center of South Morrow County purchase the old Les Schwab building, in which they are now occupying.

Dr. Norene attends conference

Heppner veterinarian Dr. Jim Norene and his wife Cork attended the veterinarian's spring conference held May 2 and 3 at the Red Lion Inn at Portland. Two of veterinary medicine's most widely recognized speakers on dermatology and immune problems, Dr. Peter Ihrke and Dr. Bernard Feldman, were featured speakers at the conference.

Auxiliary sells poppies


The Heppner American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 87 will be selling poppies May 19 in front of the Post Office.



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