

### More Heppners.....



Caroline and Vern Heppner

Vern and Caroline Heppner had seen the Heppner exit sign from the freeway on their trips from Pendleton to John Day, but were never able to take the time to stop. This time, however, they made a special trip to see their namesake town.

The Heppners, who are from Reno, Nevada, arranged to spend two days in Heppner on their way to Calispell, Montana, where they will attend Vern's 50th high school reunion and a family reunion.

While in Heppner they played golf at Willow Creek Country

Club, toured the town and museum and visited with the Chamber of Commerce and Gazette-Times.

Vern's grandfather emigrated from Germany to Canada when he was in his late teens sometime in the late 1800s. Vern's father, who was born in Canada, moved to Montana in the early 1900s. Ironically, Vern's father had a brother named Henry, the same name as the founder of Heppner. Harald Heppner from Germany came to town in June of this year.

Vern is a retired CPA and Caroline is retired from First Interstate Bank.

### Junior golf classes planned

Sign-up for junior golf classes for kids nine years and older has been scheduled for this Saturday, July 25 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Willow Creek Country Club golf course in Heppner.

The classes will consist of four lessons followed by a mini tournament and barbecue in August. Class times and dates will be announced later. There is a \$5 charge for the lessons but students

do not have to be members of Willow Creek Country Club. Clubs and balls will be provided, but if students have their own clubs and balls they may bring them.

Classes will be taught by George Waterland and other WCCC members. Waterland said that anyone interested in teaching a class for younger children should contact him or a board member.

### Impact of forest fire explained

What would happen to Heppner if there were a major forest fire and we ended up with 1,000 firefighters camped near town?

Representatives of the US Forest Service and the state of Oregon held a town meeting last week in an effort to answer that question. The meeting was organized by Heppner District Ranger Delanne Ferguson.

Forest Service officials say drought conditions, combined with a 70 to 80-year build-up of fuel in the mountains, could mean the Heppner area is due for a "really big fire."

Government firefighting experts say the town could expect to have its grocery store stripped of drinks, ice cream, bread and many other items when the big firefighting camps are set up nearby. And although the camps are set up quite a distance from town, "You will see lots of equipment, buses and people moving through," said John Robinson, fire management officer with the Umatilla National Forest in Pendleton.

Robinson said in any given year there will be 18 to 28 fires in the forest, but most are small and under 10 acres.

Before the government began aggressively putting out fires about 80 years ago, large fires in the woods occurred every 10 to 14 years. The fires served a purpose by clearing out brush, killing insects and certain species of trees. The Forest Service now recognizes these good aspects of fires, however, a large buildup of fuel in the woods the past 80 years makes fires bigger and more damaging than in the past. Controlled burns of up to 4,000 acres are being tried by the Forest Service.

Officials say the state of Oregon firefighters are responsible for private lands, and questions were asked about Blake Ranch in the event of a major forest fire.

"We use the Cat more than the Forest Service," said Mike Howard, state district forester from Prineville. "People on private land are less concerned with disturbing the land. They just want the fire out."

Howard said if a major fire were to threaten Blake Ranch the sheriff would be notified to warn residents. "The landowners have responsibility to set their own evacuation plan," however. And the state does not fight structure or house fires. "We're trained to fight forest fires, not structural fires," Howard emphasized.

Howard also said that unless negligence on the part of the landowner is shown, the state does not charge landowners for fighting fires. "The first 24 hours of any fire are not billable," he said. "If there are lightning fires on your property or hunting fires there is no billing on the fire. If there is negligence or maliciousness on the fire you will be billed."

Both state and federal firefighters said although they hope this area does not have a major fire, conditions are such that this could be the year.

### Sisters reunited at birthday



Shirley Haugen had a very special birthday on Sunday July 19. In addition to a birthday celebration at Kates Pizza and recognition at Heppner United Methodist Church, Shirley had a special visitor, her sister, Jerry.

Shirley and Jerry's relationship is all the more special because the two were separated as babies by tragedy. The girls' mother died in 1936 when she was only 20 years old. She left two little blonde girls, Geraldine "Jerry", who was three years old, and Shirley, who was 1 1/2. Their father was unable to raise them,

so the girls went to live with a "shirrtail" relative, Gladys Corrigal and her husband who lived on Buttercreek. Sadly, Gladys' husband died shortly after she brought the girls to Buttercreek to live and she too, found herself unable to raise both girls. Shirley remained with Gladys, who pro-

vided her with a stable family life. But Jerry was returned to relatives in the Medford area and "bounced" from one family to another.

The two saw each other occasionally, perhaps once a year through the years, but it wasn't until the two were in their late 20s and both had their children, that they really started visiting. Each of them had four children "right in a row". The two have kept in contact over the years, resolved a lot of problems together and their bond has grown even stronger.

Jerry, who is celebrating her 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 13, now lives in Portland. Shirley, who has been widowed three times had been away from the area for 45 years until the death of her foster mother brought her back three years ago. She and her husband Don, have lived in Heppner since.

### Lexington News

By Delpha Jones

Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Bigelow from Prineville were Lexington callers Sunday.

Floyd Lantis from Condon was a visitor at the home of his daughter, Ellen, and Larry Kennedy on Friday.

Josh Peck spent the weekend with his parents, Raymond and Debbie Peck from his work in Bend.

Dick Ruhl is here from Roseburg to help with the harvest

and visit his mother, Faye Ruhl.

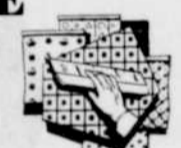
Philip Tellechea is spending the week with his uncle, Mike Burcham in Pendleton.

Visitors at the Joe Yocom home on Sunday were his daughter and family Mr. and Mrs. Leland Jones, a daughter Millie West and children from Pendleton and son Jack Yocom and family from Heppner. The families enjoyed dinner and pinochle.

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Shirley Haugen and her sister Jerry

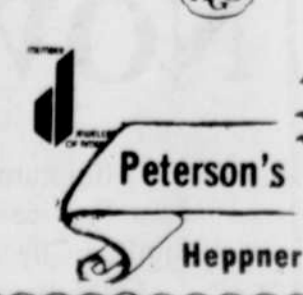



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