

Researcher seeks flood info, finds relatives



Ross Porter and Cork Norene.

Russ Porter of Smethport, Pennsylvania, population around 1,800, came to Heppner looking for information about the 1903 Heppner flood. He found the information all right, but he also found something else.

Porter, a 20-year teaching veteran who is on sabbatical, arrived in Heppner Aug. 27, "strictly to do research." He called his parents, who told him that he had relatives here. "In Oregon?" he asked. "No, in Heppner," they replied. It turned out that Porter's father and Jim Norene, local veterinarian, are cousins. Porter then contacted the Norenes, who persuaded him into staying an extra night and arranged for a mini-reunion with Jim and his wife, Cork, and their daughter and family Tracie and Mike Bunch and daughter Audra.

A high school teacher with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and history, Porter is researching floods all over the world. Besides Heppner, he plans to research a flood in the San Fran Quito Canyon, CA. in 1928; the Teton River dam collapse in 1976; a Massachusetts dam collapse in 1876; a South Dakota flood in 1963; a Kentucky flood around 1968; the Johnstown PA flood in 1889; an Autin, PA dam collapse in 1911; two floods in

England; a flood in the south of France and one on the west coast of Spain. Porter said that the Johnstown flood, attributed to Andrew Carnegie, was the result of a dam, which was created to enclose fish for a hunting and fishing club. That flood left 2,200 dead, Porter said.

Porter says that all of the floods have several things in common. In every town so far, he says, an attempt was made to notify people down stream from the floods. In most of the dam bursts, the people were assured by the Army Corps of Engineers, that the dams were safe. However, he added, in most cases, the dams were not built to bedrock and were eroded from underneath.

He said that a dam near his home is very similar in structure to the one now in Heppner, but the Smethport area dam has 126 miles of shoreline, compared to only around two in Heppner. At this point, Porter is not sure of the outcome of his research, but says he may write a magazine article.

Something of an entrepreneur, Porter is also an auctioneer, and has devised an auction game about the former Soviet Union. Porter is also an auctioneer, and has devised an auction game about the former Soviet Union. Designed as a way to help his high school students learn geography, Porter's game, currently called "Moscow, Auc-

tion", has turned out to be prophetic, foreshadowing the fall of the USSR. The game came out in November 1991, the week the first real auction was held in Moscow. The object of the board game, which features a geographically correct layout of Moscow, is to privatize ownership of property by auctioning off the city piece by piece, and beating the KGB to the commission. Porter has been to the Soviet Union twice, once in 1990 with a group of students and again in June. Porter has incorporated the name of his 12-year-old son, Izach, into the game, but players must look very carefully to find it.

Porter says that the game is as popular with junior high school and college students as it is with high school kids. The game was selected as one of the top geography games of the National Geographic Alliance this year, was featured in the May '92 edition of Auction World and will be featured in Kiplinger's Personal Finance as a financial game. Plans are to market the game under the name "Absolut." Already involved in marketing the game, Porter and his wife, Jovana, attended a toy and game show in Las Vegas Aug. 16-21.

They traveled by car from Pennsylvania to Las Vegas and then to Sacramento where his wife flew back home. He continued on to Heppner via Prineville and Spray.

The game may be purchased for \$28.50 plus \$3 shipping by direct mail: Planet-3 Games, P.O. Box 773, Smethport, PA 16749.

School enrollment up



Cherry Webber has her second/first day of school with kindergarten kids.

Morrow County students went back to school on Monday, August 31. Total Morrow County School enrollment is up by 85 students, from 1,897 last year to 1,982 this year, mostly due to increases in enrollment in North Morrow Schools according to figures released by the Morrow County School District.

Heppner Elementary registration on the first day of school was 337, down 12 from 349 last year; Heppner High School registration was 155, up two from 153 last year; lone registration is 183 up nine from last year's 174; Sam Boardman Elementary at 362, is up 28 students from last year's 334; A.C. Houghton Elementary is at 375, up 21 from last year's 354; Colubia Junior High is at

Hope, Valby to recognize vocations

Sunday, Sept. 6, the congregations of Hope and Valby Lutheran Church will recognize the various chosen vocations of the member-

ship. Worshipers are encouraged to wear the clothes of their vocation. Pastor Stan Hoobing will preach on the theme of "O Lord, Why Did You Do This To Me?" based on the assigned lesson from the letter to the Hebrews 12: 1-13.

Wool contest deadline nears

By Anne Morter

The September 26 registration deadline for the District 7 "Make It Yourself With Wool" contest is approaching fast reminds district director, Maureen Krebs. The contest will be held on October 10 in Lone. Contestants must have their completed registration forms returned to Krebs no later than the September 26 deadline.

The District 7 contest is open to residents of Gilliam, Morrow, Umatilla, Wasco, Sherman and Hood River Counties. Contestants may enter in one of the following categories: Pre-teen (12 & under), Junior (13-16), Senior (17-24), and Adult (over 24)). The category is determined by the contestant's age on December 31, 1992. Winners in the junior and senior divisions will advance to state-level competition.

Garments are judged initially on the entrant with appropriate accessories. Judges look for current fashion, appropriateness of fabric and style to the entrant, fit, poise and presentation, and construction. After modeling, garments will be judged on inner construction and durability.

Entry forms are available from local county extension agents, many local fabric stores or from Maureen Krebs, Cecil Star Route, Lone, OR 97843. Additional contest details may be obtained from Krebs at 422-7548.

Garden Club

meeting Sept. 7

A Garden Club meeting has been scheduled for Monday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Sign up deadline for the Sept. 22 bus trip to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker is Sept. 16. There is room for 18 people on the bus. Call Pat Brindle 676-9684 or Bebe Munkers 676-9677 to sign up.

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Closed Labor Day
Have a Safe and Happy Weekend

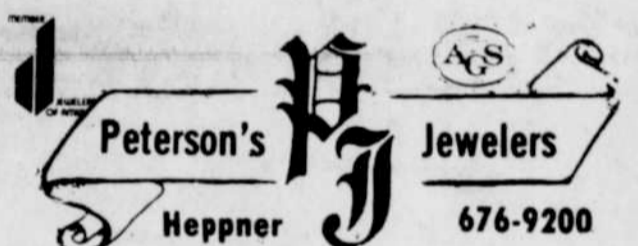


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