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Bank of Eastern Oregon business of year



Bank of Eastern Oregon president Gerald Pierson (l) and Bill Jaeger, chairman of the board of directors, accepts award from Meg Murray.

The Bank of Eastern Oregon was presented the business of the year award at the annual Heppner Chamber of Commerce Town and Country Days dinner.

Presenter Meg Murray commented that the business "has not only grown and prospered in our community, but has helped the rest of us do the same." Murray noted that the bank has "furthered the progress of our rural area, lately by helping fund the Senior Citizen Center and Main

Street renovations, but always by supporting with the time and effort the many organizations that contribute to the quality of life that we enjoy."

In 1945, the Gilliam County Bank in Arlington was capitalized for \$25,000. At that time Arlington had been without a bank since the 1930's. In 1957, the Heppner bank was opened, and it became necessary to increase the capital to \$120,000. The directors called on the people of

the county and raised the needed funds in just one day. The prime movers in the Heppner area were John Krebs and Phil Mahoney, said Murray.

The Heppner bank opened in a corner of the Empire Machinery Company. At the time, the bank had two employees, plywood counters and a cannon ball safe. The Empire Machinery Company was located where Morrow County Abstract and Title and the law offices of Kuhn and Spicer are located today. The bank later purchased the building that had been a blacksmith shop and built the bank in its present location. The bank has been remodeled and expanded several times because of increased bank activity. The bank now has a branch in Ione and Arlington.

On December 31, 1957, the total assets of the Bank of Eastern Oregon were \$2.5 million. On December 31, 1991 the bank lists \$33.7 million in assets.

The bank has had only three presidents since its inception, L.C. Buckner, Gene Pierce and Gerald Pierson. Two members of the original board of directors are still living, Howard Bryant and Frank Anderson. Both still reside in Heppner.

Queen and court crowned at banquet



L-R: princesses Rondi Robinson, Donita Sharp and Queen Elizabeth Doherty

Morrow County Fair and Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo Queen Elizabeth Doherty and her court, princesses Rondi Robinson and Donita Sharp, were crowned at the annual Town and Country banquet held Jan. 13 at the Heppner Elks Club.

Queen Elizabeth Doherty is the daughter of John and Doris Doherty, who live in Morrow County near Pilot Rock. Princess Rondi Robinson is the daughter

of Kirk and Delia Robinson, Heppner, and the granddaughter of Don and Merlyn Robinson. Princess Donita Sharp is the daughter of Mickey Sharp and the granddaughter of Earl Papineau.

The hatbands were given to the court from the Ladd family. Lorraine Ladd is a longtime fair and rodeo supporter, her son Richard has been a member of the fair board for several years and daughter, Sylvia Ladd is a former Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Queen and was Miss Rodeo Oregon.

The queen and her court were presented buckles by the Bank of Eastern Oregon, represented by George Koffler, First Interstate Bank, represented by Jackie Allstott, and Inland Empire Bank, represented by Larry Mills.

Debra Ledford, Heppner, was the winner of the Black Hills Gold ring drawing sponsored by the court. Linda LaRue, Ione, won the drawing for a gemstone, which was donated by Peterson's Jewelers.

Missoula Children's Theatre to present Pinocchio

The Missoula Children's Theatre, remembered from their visit to Heppner with "Jack and The Beanstalk" in May 1990, is coming back to town.

This time, their week-long residency will culminate in a production of "Pinocchio", featuring as many as 50 local performers, on Saturday, February

13. Audition notices and further information will be distributed within the next week.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is sponsored by the Morrow County Museum, the Morrow County School District's artist-in-residence program and gate receipts from "Jack and The

Beanstalk."

Housing is being sought for the two actor-directors during their six-day stay. They require only two separate sleeping areas and a reasonable amount of privacy. Anyone interested in opening their homes to the artists is asked to call Marsha Sweek at 676-5524 or 676-5121.

Chamber honors first citizens, educator



Maryan McElligott

The Heppner Chamber of Commerce presented its annual awards at the Town and Country Banquet held Jan. 13 at the Heppner Elks Club.

Maryan McElligott received the woman of the year award, George Koffler the man of the year, Bank of Eastern Oregon, business of the year and Linda Shaw, citizen-educator of the year. The Rev. Grace Drake received a special award for her work in the local summer recreation program for children.

Award presenter Bill Kuhn noted that McElligott raised a family of eight children and still found the time to be a community leader. She had 19 years involvement in 4-H; has supervised many lone fund raising dinners, including those at the Fourth of July and American Legion; has been a member of the Cardinal Club, serving as committee chair and president; has been member of the school district computer planning committee; worked voter registration for 20 years; chaired U.S. Air Force women's clubs; and taught cooking and cake decorating through Blue Mountain Community College.

McElligott has also served as beef spokesperson for the Cattle Women, is an organizer of the district "Make It Yourself with Wool," is an active member of St. Williams Catholic Church; has been president of the St. Williams Altar Society; and has been a catechism teacher for over 25 years. She also bakes and decorates cakes for the community. She and her husband, Jerry, have eight children, Terry Grace, Janet, Patty, Bridgett, Mike, Vincent and Matthew.



George Koffler

Man of the year, George Koffler, was a member and past president of the Heppner Lions Club, is a past president and long time board member of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce; was instrumental in the Heppner hotel project; was past president of Little League and coached Little League for three years; was a member of the city of Heppner budget committee; has coached Colt basketball; is a member of the Elks Club and is on the Elks scholarship committee; is a member and officer of the Odd-fellows Lodge; was a member of Heppner Vision 2000, a community economic development organization; is a member of the Heppner United Methodist Church and is currently vice chair of the Heppner Coordinating Council and is helping to spearhead the Morrow County Fairgrounds development project. He was also involved in the Heppner downtown improvements and the football field lighting. Koffler and his wife, Debbie, have two sons, Rick and Brian. Vice president of the Bank of Eastern Oregon, Koffler will become president of the bank when current President Gerald Pierson retires after this year.

When it became apparent that the Heppner swimming pool would not open this past summer, Grace Drake organized a summer education and recreation program for area children. The project started out as a program for underprivileged children, but became available to any interested child. Eventually almost 60 children participated in the five-day-a-week, month-long program.

"The children were taken on



Linda Shaw

trips to Monument, McNary Dam, Cutsforth Park, Bull Prairie, the Oregon Trail and a potato plant, among others. Drake found volunteers, made travel arrangements and made sandwiches," commented Kuhn. "Amazing Grace Drake is a community asset beyond value," he added.

Drake is a former pastor of the United Methodist Church in Heppner. She raised four children, Doug, Susan, Richard and Gwen.

Citizen-educator of the year Linda Shaw earned a bachelor of arts degree with a Phi Beta Kappa and a master's degree at the University of Oregon. She taught English at North Eugene High School, in the Monument, Kinzua and Fossil area and in the Morrow County Schools. She is currently the reading specialist for Heppner Elementary/Middle School. Shaw serves on the Morrow County School District Testing Committee and the talented and gifted committee. Shaw has been instrumental in organizing the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at the school, which recruits senior citizens to help with the school reading program. She is a member of Hope Lutheran Church, serving at least six years on the church council and acting as secretary and chair of that group. She has served on the Heppner T.V. Inc. board and was a member of the Heppner city council. She has a son J.J.

Past winners of the first citizen awards are: 1991 man and woman Jim Farley and Birdine Tullis; educator Betty Rietmann; business, Kinzua; 1990 Bill Rawlins and Claudia Hughes; educator, Dick Allen; business, Court Street Market, 1989 Don Bristow and Gladys Hobbs; educator, Jim Bier; business, Peterson's Jewelers; 1988 Bill Kuhn and Dot Halvorsen; educator, Cara Costa; business, Murrays; 1987 Dr. Wallace Woff and Justine Weatherford; business, Shoe Box; 1986 Larry Mills and Jane Rawlins; 1985 Bill Collins and Jean Nelson; 1984 Forrest Burkenbine and Francine Evans; 1981 Jerry Peck and Theta Lowe and 1980 Oscar Peterson.



Bill Kuhn presents award to Grace Drake

Shoe Box host business after hours



Jerry and Joyce Kay Hollomon, owners of the Shoe Box, will host the second Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours this Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m.

All business owners and managers in the area are invited to attend for visiting and getting to know your fellow business owners and their products. Mexican snacks, wine and coffee will be served.

Seminar planned on advance directives

A community seminar on 'Advance Directives' has been scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at the St. Patrick Senior Center.

'Advance directives' instruct physicians in advance as to a patient's wishes in the event that the patient needs life sustaining procedures. Power of Attorney health care will also be discussed.

Speakers for the seminar will be Dr. Jeanne Berretta and attorney Bill Kuhn.

For more information contact Russ Demianew, seminar coordinator, 676-9133.

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