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HEPPNER

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Fire destroys home on Chase Street



Firemen drag burned furniture out of house.

Fifteen Heppner Volunteer Firemen and three pumpers responded to a house fire at 465 S. Chase Street in Heppner around 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5.

Heppner Fire Marshal Forrie Burkenbine said that the fire call was turned in by a neighbor and the fire department took only three minutes to respond to the scene.

Burkenbine said that the house was "totaled" by smoke

and heat damage that ruined the wiring, walls, paper, paint and floors.

Burkenbine said that the probable first source of ignition was the upholstery, but officials are not yet sure what caused the upholstery to ignite. "The cause is undetermined," said Burkenbine.

Heppner Fire Chief Rusty Estes said that the house had been purchased by the Hender-

son family from Sweet Home several days earlier. Estes said that Henderson had been weatherizing the house when a window broke and he got glass in his eye. Apparently Henderson was just returning from the hospital around 5 p.m. when the fire broke out.

Estes said that all the Henderson family's large appliances were destroyed in the fire.

HEDC honors board members Green, Spicer and Hyatt



(L-R) Cliff Green, Pat Hyatt and Anne Spicer.

Three retiring members of the Heppner Economic Development Commission board of

directors were honored at the annual HEDC meeting held in Heppner last Wednesday. Cliff Green, Anne Spicer and

Pat Hyatt were presented with plaques of appreciation for their past work on the board of directors.

Lesley celebrates his 100th birthday

By Merlyn Robinson

"Seen it all" aptly describes Huston (Hoot) Lesley's life during the past 100 years of monumental changes. This centenarian turned 100 on Feb. 1.

Perhaps hard work, clean living with high moral standards, plus a peppery temperament has helped endow this man with longevity. Best of all, Huston and his young 94-year-old bride, Marie, share over 76 years of married life and they continue to live at their Hardman residence where they have been since 1945.

Born in 1896, this World War I veteran began life on the family farm near Monument where his Scottish ancestors had settled. Ranch youngsters in those days were a vital part of the farm labor, all done manually using horse and mule power.

Huston's education began in the typical one-room schoolhouse of those days. Like others, he quit school and went to work full-time at age 15. In addition to ranch work, he became a protege on the county road crew. When a road was carved through the narrow gorge of the John Day River, Huston had attained "powder monkey" expertise and set dynamite blasts in the sheer rock walls of that area.

Huston also became a self-taught mechanic as automobiles became prevalent. He also operated stage routes over primitive roads of that era. Huston was 21 when he entered the Army during World War I in 1917. He became a corporal in charge of training younger men. His unit was transferred to Hawaii and the war ended before he was engaged in active combat in Europe.

Perhaps it was the sight of a tall, dashing figure in a uniform that helped him to meet his future bride when he attended a dance following military service. He and Marie Legler were married on Labor Day 1919. Their honeymoon trip was a campout in the mountains via a secondhand Model T Ford purchased for \$85. A rainstorm and a car that lacked power for climbing hills might have dampened the honeymoon, but not their marriage.

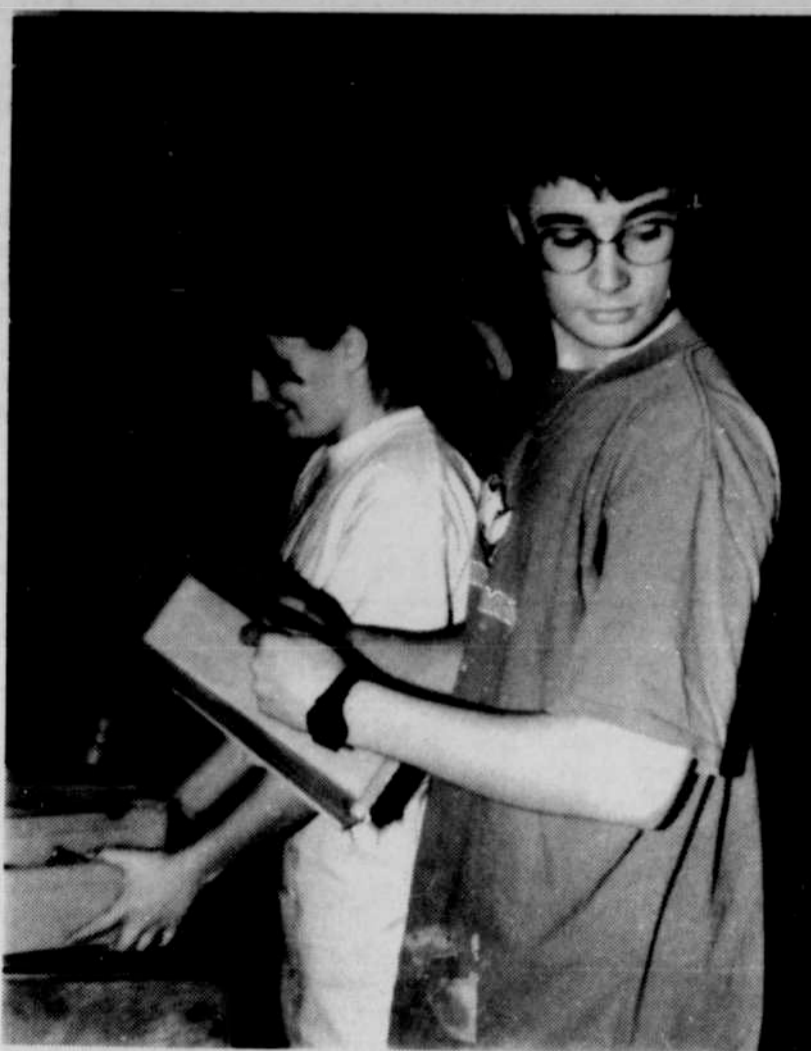
In those difficult times, ranch hands earned a dollar a day. Marie helped by cooking for crews. When Huston drove stage route between Long Creek and Kimberly, they bought a home in Canyon City for \$400.

The Lesleys also lived in Mt. Vernon for five years where they owned a service station and garage. A home on the outskirts of town accommodated home-grown produce and helped to provide necessities for their family that included three daughters. They also lived for a time in Moscow, Idaho where Huston worked at machinery maintenance.

The prospect of making more money lured them to the Portland and Vancouver shipyards during World War II. Eventually they became tired of the "rat race" as the Portland area grew and they decided to return to their rural roots.

Before crossing the Blue Mountains, they ran out of gas at Hardman. The opportunity to purchase the combination store, gas station and post office building came their way and they decided to stay. Marie was postmistress for 21 years until rural mail delivery routes closed the Hardman Post Office in 1968. Huston pumped gas and did vehicle repairs. Closure of the store at this later date allowed them time for travels. However, they have continued to live in their cozy home inside this building with only minimal outside help.

MCGG Customer Appreciation Day



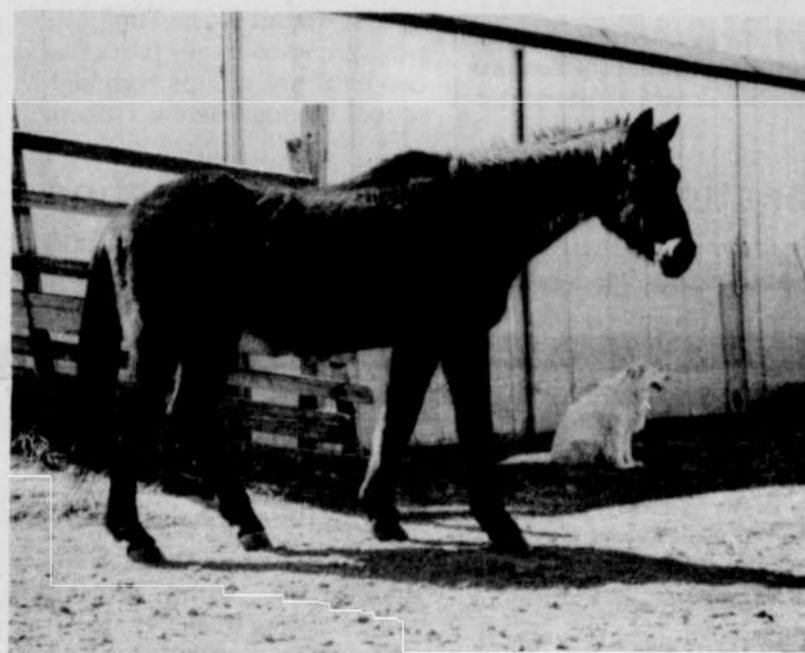
Heppner High School seniors, Dodie Givens (left) and Colin Anderson, help prepare Morrow County Grain Growers for their annual Customer Appreciation Day, Saturday, Feb. 10, from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Morrow County Grain Growers will hold its annual Customer Appreciation Day this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

The day starts off with a free pancake breakfast, followed

with dealer displays and demonstrations. You can also take your chance at winning one of the many door prizes to be given away. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Money-Hi, local old-timer, passes away



Money-Hi saw last winter.

Money-Hi, a 36 year old thoroughbred horse belonging to George and Anna Mae Steagall of Heppner, succumbed to old age and a bitter winter this past week.

Money-Hi was a member of the Steagall family since he was two years old. He was a familiar sight to the public on the Steagall's mini-ranch outside of Heppner for the last 27 years. The Steagalls moved to Heppner from Lexington in 1968, bringing Money-Hi with them.

Steagall raced Money-Hi in his younger years at the Heppner/Morrow County rodeos and the Morrow County Derby (long since dropped from the show). Steagall also raced

him at the Spray and Fossil rodeos.

"Many friends, who remembered him from his racing days, have often asked about him and passers-by in the last two to three years began to notice 'The Old Fellow on the Hill' and marvelled at his longevity of life," said Anna Mae. "Though not a record for age, he was unique."

Money-Hi had the run of the ranch and daily made himself welcome to the lawn by opening the gate and helping himself, she said. His many years of friendship and fun he gave to his master earned him this privilege.

"He will be missed," said Anna Mae.

Road construction to begin at Ruggs

An Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) construction project is scheduled to begin at Ruggs approximately 10 miles south and west of Heppner on Highway 207. The project will extend for 15 miles and end at Anson Wright Park. The contract completion date for this project is Sept. 30.

When construction begins, the public can expect minor traffic delays and one-way traffic controlled by flaggers and a

pilot car.

Construction will consist of an emulsified asphalt concrete leveling, emulsified asphalt oil mat, produce stock pile materials (sanding rock) and the installation of guardrail and metal snow fence.

ODOT has awarded the construction contract to Vail Construction of Pasco, Washington. Val Construction was the successful bidder for the project with a total bid of \$883,114.50.

FREE Pancake Breakfast
Customer Appreciation Day
Saturday, February 10th 8 a.m. to Noon
Lexington, Oregon
Morrow County Grain Growers
Lexington 989-8221 1-800-452-7396

