

Eskelsons plan family reunion

Friends are invited to join the descendants of Joe and Mary Eskelson for the Eskelson family reunion planned in Heppner July 4-6.

The reunion will be hosted by Charles and Tressie Wilcox and families and Dorris Graves and families.

Betty Carlson, a descendent of the Eskelsons, says that around 120 people are expected for the reunion on Friday, with more coming the following day.

The families plan a host of activities during the three-day weekend. On Friday, activities will get underway at 9 a.m. at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, with a tour of the Morrow County Museum to begin at 10 a.m. At 1 p.m. a bus tour is planned of the Eskelson homestead on Social Ridge, west of Lexington. Friday evening's events will end up at Hardman for a walking tour of the Hardman community and a prime rib dinner prepared by the Hardman Community Center.

On Saturday, activities at the Morrow County Fairgrounds, also beginning at 9 a.m., will include branding of Eskelson and other family brands on old boards taken from Ethel Eskelson's barn in Hermiston. At noon those attending will enjoy a catered ribs and chicken dinner and birthday cake in honor of the 90th birthday of Eva Wilcox Brosten, the oldest living Eskelson descendent. The day will also include much visiting and activities, including setting

W.C.C.C. Golf

Ladies' Play, June 17

Low gross of the field: Susan Atkins

Flight A: low gross Pat Edmundson; low net Barbara Gilbert; least putts Jan Paustian.

Flight B: low gross Bernice Lott; low net Luvilla Sonstegard; least putts Betty Christman.

Flight C: low gross Lorrene Montgomery; low net Jackie Allstott; least putts Sandi Hanna.

Long putt: Barbara Gilbert #16, Joyce Dinkins #12.

Kemp wins national FFA award

The National FFA Organization awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to Toni Kemp of the Heppner High School FFA Chapter.

The scholarship is sponsored by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., as a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

Kemp plans to use the funds to pursue a degree in agricultural business at University of Idaho. She is the daughter of Gary and Marcia Kemp of Lexington. Her FFA advisor at Heppner is Glenn Zollner.

The Wal-Mart scholarship is one of 970 awarded through the National FFA Scholarship Program this year. Over 200 corporate sponsors contribute more than \$1.2 million to support this program. This is the 14th year that scholarships have been made available through the National FFA Foundation by business and industry sponsors to reward and encourage excellence and enable students to pursue their educational goals, said an FFA news release.

Scholarship recipients were selected from more than 7,388 applicants from across the country. Selections were based on the applicant's academic record, FFA and other school and community activities, supervised agricultural experience program in agricultural education, career plans and financial need.

FFA is a national organization of 452,885 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. The organization has 7,263 local chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. "FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education," said the release. Local, state and national activities and award programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

Wal-Mart awarded 51 scholarships to one student from each state and Puerto Rico.

off water bottle rockets. Dinner fare will be a sirloin steak barbecue.

Sunday morning the family will say their goodbyes at breakfast at the Betty and Louie Carlson home in Heppner.

All meals will be no host. For more information about the activities and the no host catered meals, contact Dorris Graves, 676-5838 or Betty Carlson, 676-5302. They would appreciate a head count for the meals.

Joseph Eskelson was born in Denmark in 1856. At the age of one, he emigrated from Denmark to Salt Lake City with his parents, James (Jens) and Catherine Jacobsen Eskelson, who had converted to the Mormon faith. They traveled by railroad, pulled handcarts and rode by covered wagon to Utah.

Joe left the family at the age of 13 or 14, making his own way and eventually owning freight wagons and teams.

He met Mary Phariss on the trail from Salt Lake to Butte, Montana. Mary was born in 1859 at Petaluma, CA, to James and M.A. Lawson Phariss.

Joe and Mary married on June 2, 1882, and then headed west with their team and wagon to work for Blue Mountain Railroad which ran from Pendleton to Walla Walla by way of Weston, where their first child was born. They lived in a covered wagon until railroad housing became available.

In the fall of 1883, Joe applied for 160 acres of railroad land at Social Ridge. They established residence on the homestead before the birth of their second child in September 1885.

Joe and Mary had nine children: Nellie, 1884 in Weston, who married Lawrence Palmer; Orvel, 1885 in Weston, who married Agness Hammer; (all the remaining children were born in Lexington) Ethel, 1887, who married Robert Wilcox; Florence "Josie", 1889, who married Ernest Frederickson; Earl, 1891, who married Ada Crandle; Cleo, 1893, who married William Van Winkle; Margaret "Katy", 1898, who married Andy Owens and later, Joe Daniels; James, 1900, who married Ethel "Mickie" Mikesell; and Rose, 1904, who married Percy Sproule.

In 1920 the Eskelson farms were rented to Earl and James and Mary and Joe moved to Salem. Joe died in 1943 and Mary in 1944.

Descendants of Joe and Mary still living in Morrow County include: grandchildren- Nellie's son Elmer Palmer; Ethel's daughter Dorris Graves; Cleo's son and daughter Jack VanWinkle and Alma Green; great-grandchildren-Elmer Palmer's son, Roger Palmer; Marian Palmer's son, Lee Palmer; Alice Palmer Harrison's son, Bob Harrison, who is farming Nellie's farm; Dorris Wilcox Graves' daughter, Betty Carlson; Alma VanWinkle Green's son, Cliff Green; and Jack Van Winkle's son and daughter, Jim VanWinkle and Shirley George; and several fourth and fifth generation children.



Eskelson children (clockwise from left) Ethel, four years old, Orvel, six, Nellie, seven, Josie, two, and (center) Earl, six months.



Joe and Mary Eskelson



Mary Eskelson



Joseph Eskelson

GEODC hires executive director

Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation (GEODC) has hired Joni Gibbons Woodwell of Pendleton as executive director.

Announced by GEODC President George Koffler, Woodwell's appointment concludes an extensive search process. Woodwell will manage the corporation's economic development activities, including business start-up and expansion loans, infrastructure development, planning, marketing and recruitment. GEODC's primary goals are to strengthen communities, support business expansion and increase economic diversification in Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties, said a GEODC news release.

Business loan functions extend into Baker, Union and Wallowa counties as well.

Woodwell has provided small business consulting services from Pendleton for the past two years and formerly managed the Small Business Development Center at Eastern Oregon State College. "She brings extensive experience in business development, loan packaging and administration to the position," said the release.

"Woodwell believes her primary tasks are to expand GEODC's program offerings and to make GEODC's tools for economic development well known and readily accessible throughout the region," continued the release.

Woodwell may be contacted at 276-6745.

St. Patrick's Senior Center Bulletin Board

There were 78 present for the Senior dinner June 18 and 16 meals were home delivered. Members of the Lutheran Church served. Iva Booker's family honored her 98th birthday by serving a beautiful birthday cake, and several members of the family were there for dinner and the party. The seniors sang happy birthday to her, and wish her many more happy birthdays.

The menu for the Independence Day dinner July 2 will be barbecued beef steak, tossed salad, baked potatoes, strawberry jello, french bread and watermelon. Members of the Lone United Church of Christ will serve.

Hearing aid service will be provided and blood pressures taken before the meal. The Meal Site Committee will meet at 1 p.m. The new committee members will assume their positions at that time.

There were 41 at the breakfast Friday, June 20. The menu for June 27 will be blueberry pancakes andeggs, fruit, hot and cold cereal, orange juice, milk, coffee and tea. There will be no breakfast July 4.

One table of pinocle was in play Friday afternoon. Six seniors watched the video, "Lantern Hill", Sunday evening.

The seniors were saddened by the death of Darrell Vinson. He has been a very active member of the senior center for many years. He was always willing to help. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Sue and the family.

The next bus trip is to the Meal Site at Milton Freewater Friday, July 11, at 9 a.m.

Other dates to remember are as follows: Tues. and Thurs., 10 a.m., exercise; Wed., 10 a.m., hearing aid assistance, 11 a.m., blood pressures taken, 12 noon, senior meal, 1 p.m., Nutrition Site Committee; Friday, 8 to 10:30 a.m., breakfast, 2 p.m., cards; Sunday, 7 p.m., movie.

The Red Cross blood drawing will be held at the Senior Center Thursday afternoon, June 26. Come give the gift of life.

Tickets for the afghan raffle are still available at the Senior Center Office.

Pioneer Memorial Clinic will be closed Friday, July 4th. Have a safe and happy 4th of July!



Junior Golf Lessons by Pete Strawick

at the Willow Creek Country Club

ages 6 and up

July 25 & 31, August 8 & 15

CALL:

676-5437

3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

\$10 Registration Fee

PRIVATE LESSONS AVAILABLE

Bank of Eastern Oregon announces:
The "Harvest" Certificate of Deposit

6.0% (APY*)
\$10,000 Minimum

This special CD has an 18 month maturity and a one-time option during the life of the certificate which allows you to "harvest" a higher interest rate (should one be then available on a comparable Bank of Eastern Oregon 18 month, \$10,000 CD).

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) accurate as of 6/24/95. Penalty may be imposed for withdrawal before 18 months.

Bank of Eastern Oregon
"around the corner, not around the state"

Arlington 454-2636 Condon 384-3501 Heppner 676-9125 Ione 422-7466

Member FDIC



The "Harvest" CD is available for purchase only during June, July and August, 1997.