

Bill Lowe celebrates 101st birthday



Home school children entertain Bill Lowe at his 101st birthday party.

photo by Merlyn Robinson

Bill Lowe By Merlyn Robinson

Snowy weather, carols and bagpipe music helped Bill Lowe celebrate his 101st Christmas-time birthday at the Pioneer Memorial Hospital Nursing Home on Dec. 20.

Home school students gathered to sing Christmas songs to Lowe and the other 20 residents. They were accompanied by Myrna VanCleave on the piano.

Amid congratulations from friends and family, and a large birthday cake, a special surprise was bagpipe music performed by Brander Richmond, a senior from Athena. Dressed in a colorful Scottish kilt, Richmond played "Happy Birthday" and a medley of others songs, reminding Lowe of his boyhood days in Northern England.

When Lowe was 14 years old, his family sold their English farm and shipped their personal belongings to America. After eight days of sailing across the Atlantic and a long train ride from New York across the country, the family arrived in Oregon. They eventually settled at Cecil where their Scottish cousins, the Hynds, had established a livestock business.

In those days, the Cecil settlement was an oasis for covered wagon travelers on the Oregon Trail -- a place to rest with plenty of water -- before there was a road along the Columbia River. Lowe's father, T.W. Lowe, became the Cecil storekeeper, postmaster, railroad agent and public notary, as well as the town mayor.

As a youngster, Bill Lowe was accustomed to hard work, as all family members had to do their part in those days. Lowe says he spent many lonely days far from home herding big bands of sheep and helping with shearing and lambing.

When the sheep were at the ranch headquarters, Lowe says he and "the boys" created their own entertainment by catching wild horses roaming the desert and breaking those horses to ride. Besides gaining personal mounts, they often could earn a few dollars by selling a horse that could be ridden.

Along with occasional mishaps, including a rattlesnake bite, one time Bill survived a ruptured appendix while with the sheep in Montana.

His country lifestyle was interrupted when World War I commenced. Lowe was still a British subject, so he was sent to Canada and inducted into the army. After another long ocean voyage, he spent the war years in England and France.

Boys of his age weren't sent to the front lines. Yet, regardless of location, all wartime soldiers endured primitive conditions during cold winter months due to food shortages and lack of coal for warmth. He also suffered from mustard gas that German prisoners had mixed into a soup pot.

Once discharged, Lowe again headed home to Eastern Oregon. In later years, he went to Portland and became a barber. He says he didn't care much for city life and "the wide open spaces kept calling." He established a barbering business in Heppner, where he has since lived.



Bill Lowe celebrates his 101st birthday.



Bill Lowe (right) is treated to a bagpipe serenade on his birthday.

During his leisure time, he enjoyed fishing and hunting and he and the late Dr. Tibbles often enjoyed outings together.

Bill and his brother Bob Lowe were major players in helping with the newly-built Heppner hospital. Bob did the maintenance work with Bill's help. Bill says he did everything from being the cook to playing janitor, but back then he didn't think he'd end up as a resident.

Many historic events were witnessed by this centenarian whose keep mind is a warehouse of so many interesting details. The complete story of the life of this true pioneer would make a best-selling book.

Local student earns 4.0 average

Casey Ingraham has received a 4.0 average at Yakima Valley Community College in Yakima, WA.

Ingraham also played volleyball on the YVCC team fall quarter.

A 2000 graduate of Heppner High School, Ingraham is the daughter of Sally Brosnan and Mike Ingraham.

BUSINESS CARDS
Heppner Gazette-Times

Mustang JVs crush Condon

By Rick Paullus

A huge first quarter propelled the Heppner Mustang JV boys to a 65-31 win over the visiting Condon Blue Devils on Tuesday, Dec. 19, to keep their record perfect at 4-0 on the year.

The Mustangs jumped out to a 30-12 lead after one as Brian Rust scored 13 points, hitting three three-pointers, the last from 35 feet at the buzzer. Kevin Drake was also hot, hitting two three-pointers in the quarter.

Brad Adams scored five points in the second quarter as the Mustangs increased their lead to 39-16 at halftime.

The Mustangs didn't let up in the second half as they cruised to the easy win.

Drake finished with 14 points to lead the Mustangs, followed by Rust with 13. Adams finished with 11, followed by Sam Van Liew with 10.

Statistics:
Condon: 12 4 10 5 - 31
Heppner: 30 9 15 11 - 65
Heppner: (65) Kevin Drake 5 2-2 14, Brian Rust 5 0-0 13, Brad Adams 5 1-2 11, Sam Van Liew 4 2-3 10, Donald Adams 3 0-0 6, Jon Bennett 2 0-0 4, Luke Murray 2 0-2 4, Tanner Britt 1 0-0 3, Adam Bergstrom 2 7 5-9 65. Three-pointers: Rust (3), Drake (2), Britt.

Senior class plans soup and bread supper

A soup and bread supper is planned on Saturday, January 6, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Heppner High School during the HHS basketball game versus Sherman County.

The basketball action gets underway at 1 p.m. and includes girls' and boys' varsity and JV games.

The meal, which will be served in the home ec room, will include a bowl of hot homemade soup, chili or chowder, a slice of homemade bread, beverage and a piece of cake for \$4 each.

Proceeds will go toward the Class of 2001 senior trip.

"Everyone is invited to 'shake off those winter blahs, enjoy a steaming-bowl of soup and help out the senior class,'" said a class spokesperson.

Ione lighting contest winners announced

Dustin and Karen Padberg won first place and \$60 in the "Residential in City Limits" category of the Ione Lighting Contest. Howard and Diane Mullins won first place and \$50 in the "Out of City Limits" category.

Second place in the residential-in-city-limits category went to Loyal and Debbie Burns, who earned \$50. Third place went to Earl and Rhonda Garrett, who won \$30. Honorable mention went to Joe and Anita Orem and Arthur Ekstrom, who won \$10 each.

Second place in the out-of-city-limits resulted in a tie for second between Gary and Suzanne Rea, and Jerry and Judy Ripka. Each won a \$25 prize.

"We were very pleased with all the participation in town and out of town," said Ione mayor Betty Gray. "We know the lights of Ione and surrounding areas enrich our meaning of the Christmas season."

G-T deadline Friday for Jan. 3 newspaper

Because of the New Year's holiday, the news deadline for the January 3 Gazette-Times will be this Friday, December 29, at 5 p.m.

The advertising deadline will remain the same, Tuesday, January 2, at noon.

Bell Canyon bridge closed for repairs

The Morrow County Roadmaster has announced that the lower bridge on Bell Canyon Road will be closed for repairs due to a structural failure.

A detour will be in place until further notice.

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Chamber treated to Christmas program



The Heppner Chamber of Commerce was treated to a Christmas program at its meeting Tuesday. The VanCleave family provided music and stories for the Chamber's enjoyment. Above is Bethany VanCleave as Mary, Daniel as Joseph and Nathan and Matthew are the animal puppets in the Christmas story.



Off The Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

A new millennium won't ensure that all those New Year's resolutions will be carried out. Yet we're sure to be introduced to new electronic gadgets for both humans and beasts. Seems like most of humanity is now walking around with head phones or cell phones glued to their ears. Electronic bracelets are used to monitor persons under house arrest. I can remember when I would have liked to have that convenience for our teenagers. Radio-controlled collars have also been used to track and study wildlife. In order to get working dogs to obey commands, some dog owners have used shock collars to train dogs. Forget the pencil, there are now hand-held data organizers, laptop computers, electronic games and toys galore, digital cameras and camcorders, fax machines, copiers and the list goes on.

Now, with the cooperation of millionaire Ted Turner, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to spend \$40,000 teaching wolves not to kill livestock by means of collars that produce a mild electric shock when they get within "biting distance" of livestock. This experiment is to take place on Turner's Flying D Ranch in southwestern Montana. Could be that Turner doesn't want his buffalo to end up as wolf chow!

I always suspected that the expensive reintroduction of wolves into the U.S., that are bred and nurtured in captivity in Canada, was fostered by Canadian cattle ranchers. The more U.S. cattle eaten by wolves, the bigger the share of U.S. markets captured by Canadians, since they continue to truck large quantities of beef here that affects the price of American beef.

The "protect-all" folks that favor the return of grizzly bears and wolves and the protection of cougars might be in for some surprises if they are planning any wilderness camping trips. When they talk about the balance of nature, the human species enters into those equations. Predators can also become prey.

Quoting Roger Pond, he says, "I don't see how we can transplant a Canadian wolf into the U.S. and then label her pups an endangered species." Perhaps it's the same pattern that makes an illegal alien's offspring, born in the U.S., American citizens. But hey, that means more eligible voters, even though they might believe that dimples are on faces and a Chad is a country in Africa.

Back to electronic collars, Dean Anderson, animal scientist with the Agricultural Research Service in Las Cruces, NM, has developed a patented cow "roundup" collar supposedly for commercial use to control cattle movements instead of fences. His computerized collar prototype locates cows with a Global Positioning System receiver tuned to satellite signals. It supposedly whispers electronic versions of the cowboy's "gee" or "haw" signals, the article says.

While many horses respond to these verbal clues, we must be doing something wrong with our cows... a good heading dog is more effective in establishing directional signals for cows than all the hollering or whispering in the world. Yet Anderson claims that putting these collars on cows will help manage animals and save on costly fencing. He doesn't mention the cost of these collars, but he says if a cow ignores all sound cues, mild electrical shocks follow. Now I'm sure that the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wouldn't approve. And neither might a rancher. If you shock that old hide's neck, she just might hightail it out of the country.

I'm sure grant money is available for this experiment. This "cow whisperer" person advocates that his collar automates the husbandry principles of better known practitioners for low-stress animal management. To aid in this research, we should give him this one old cow. When she has a newborn calf, I'd like to see him whisper in her ear and let her know that a person in only trying to ear-tag her calf.

Anyway, I think they should spend more research money on more important things like perfecting a gadget that can instantly find anything put away for safe keeping. The problem is that I can't always remember what was put where.

Karen's Korner

Items of Health - Tobacco Prevention by Karen Masshoff

I hear the "ring of the holiday season" - wonderful. But where did November get to? For a good part of it I was out of the area attending various prevention conferences. When in Heppner, I had several delightful occasions to speak with Cub Scouts groups about the dangers of using tobacco. I was gratified and encouraged by their interest and understanding. As our children hear the same message about healthy life-styles from school, home, and the community, this will translate into their making conscious decisions to remain tobacco and drug-free throughout their lives.

One of the main topics at those conferences I attended was tobacco cessation - the continuing need for folks to quit tobacco use. One of the greatest gifts we give ourselves and those we love and care about is good health. If you have ever had the remotest thought of giving up tobacco, what better time for serious contemplation? What if you presented your family with a New Year's card pledging your intent to quit?

The Oregon Tobacco Quit Line at: 1-877-270-7867 can help get you started thinking. Or, you may stop by the Health Department here in Heppner - also our office in Boardman - I will be happy to talk with you and give you some written material. I quit smoking 30 years ago, so I know it can be scary even to think about it. But I love to celebrate my birthday as I did recentlyin pretty good health.

Do enjoy your holiday time!