

Something about Harry

(Editor's note: The following article about a local resident, her cat and a kind-hearted hunter appeared in the Journal Register in Boston, Massachusetts, September 27, 2001)

By Rudy Wilk

Hunters are often portrayed as bloodthirsty redneck-types that have very little sensitivity, people who are in the sport for the kill. This misconception of sportsmen is an ugly portrayal of a group of which I am a part. Furthermore, I believe the opposite is true. Most hunters that I have been privileged to be around are quite the opposite.

Most I have known, are strong of character, show a deep love of family and are extremely sensitive to our environment. Their love of life and of all God's creatures is whole and complete, even though this statement seems contradictory in nature. One must look at the whole picture of the sport of hunting to realize all its attributes.

This week, I would like to write about a man who possesses all the attributes that any good man has, and one who is also proud to be known as a hunter. Below will be a story of Harry Lemay and his hunt for elk in Oregon. A story with a twist that made me smile. One I hope you also will enjoy.

Harry Lemay is a hunter extraordinaire who has harvested a good share of trophy animals. A small, charismatic individual whose love of family is only equalled by his love of hunting. A good man who I am honored to call my friend. Harry partakes in all forms of hunting. His love of the sport is so deep that even when he lost his sight in his dominant eye, he learned to change from shooting right-handed to left. Not an easy task! Just try using a fork with the opposite hand and multiplying it times a hundred. This testament speaks of Harry.

Harry's hunt for elk, like most hunts, begins well before opening day. In mid-July, Harry, and his incredibly understanding and wonderful wife Nellie, went to Oregon on a vacation/scouting trip. Nellie would visit relatives and Harry would see his son Eric, meet up with fellow hunting buddy, Dave Ward, from Oregon, and then scout the vast Umatilla National Forest.

Umatilla National Forest is set on an extremely large tract of land that has a mixture of hardwoods, arid canyons and mountains that reach over three thousand feet. Within her borders there is a collection of wildlife that most wilderness men only dream of. Huge mountain lions, bear, deer and elk co-exist in a picturesque setting. It is the same place from which Harry has harvested three elk and a brown bear in four of the last five years.

Furthermore, Umatilla National Forest will be the setting where Harry's incredible adventure will come full circle.

After visiting with family, Harry and Dave went to Umatilla National Forest to do some scouting and hang some tree stands. During this scouting time an incredible thing happened that would rival any script from a Walt Disney movie.

On July 20, 2001, the hunting duo had just arrived at the woods and got into Dave's vehicle. They were in an area in the national forest approximately 30 miles from a small town named Heppner and 20 miles from Ukiah. Both are extremely small towns no bigger than the town of Three Rivers. They had just begun to drive when Dave told Harry he had to find an area of road that would enable him to make a phone call home. After a distance, Dave was able to get a signal for his cell phone.

Harry seized the chance to stretch his legs and answer nature's call. Boy, did he. Having gone off to the side of the road, Harry thought he heard something rustling in the bushes. Then a second later, Harry heard a "meow." Not believing his ears, he made half-hearted cat calls with his tongue and lips. This time the meow was followed by a tiger. Not a ferocious one but a tiger kitten less than a year old! Here, in the true middle of nowhere, Harry found a seemingly abandoned cat.

In possession of a heart as big as the forest they were in, Harry had to find a home for the wayward kitten. Harry's next trick would be to convince his buddy Dave he had to find a home for the cat. After Harry was told by Dave that he didn't want to find any surprises in his tent, it was decided they would drive the cat the 20 mile trip to Ukiah. Once there, they would stop at the first convenience store and drop the kitten off.

This is where the story becomes more remarkable. At a store called "Granny's," this heart-warming tale grows to the spectacular. Dave pulled into the small store and Harry jumped out of the truck with the orphaned cat. While Dave stayed inside the vehicle, Harry went into the store. Harry had the kitten on one arm and one leg inside the threshold. He had just finished asking the proprietor if she would take the kitten when he heard a scream, "Harry!" Not knowing anyone in the area, Harry began looking around to find the source of the scream, then saw a pretty girl across the street and looked now to see who she was yelling to. Then, without stopping, the girl in her twenties continued towards Harry. She was still yelling, "Harry!" when she finally wrapped her arms around Harry Lemay's neck and planted a kiss on his cheek.

Harry was flabbergasted and Dave was shell-shocked! Then the pretty lady grabbed the kitten and hollered, "Harry! Where have you been?" as she stared lovingly at the cat, she and the young family named "Harry."

You can imagine his surprise when Harry Lemay introduced himself. A short time later, it was discovered that Diane and Dale Munkers had been camping out at the national forest a week earlier. During that time Diane fell ill and the cat escaped when Diane had to pull the car over. They had been searching for "Harry" for the week and finally had to give up. Then, magically, Harry found "Harry." A fairy tale ending that in a time where everyone needs to smile.

How did that cat survive in the remote wilderness for a week? How Dave's cell phone got a signal in that very spot? Then an incredible man named Harry found "Harry," a kitten. Well, an oddsmaker from Vegas would have had it at over a million to one!

Roughly one month later, Harry returned to the place where the fond memory of when Harry met "Harry" began. This time he was hunting with son Eric and buddy Dave, along with Donny Ward, Frank Farlow, Ted Burns and Fletch Dotson. The camaraderie and good-natured ribbing and the hearty laughs concerning the miracle cat, "Harry," will to them be legendary.

During the time they were there, each hunter secretly felt that Harry's good deed would be repaid. On Thursday, August 30 at 7:15 a.m. Harry the hunter once again proved his salt. He bow harvested a mature cow elk, the only one in the group to connect on an elk.

In his heart and in mine, I knew the good deed had been rewarded. So, get out there, remember all good will be rewarded. God does have a master plan for all his creatures. One never knows when a chance meeting at home or in the field can make a difference. This time a man, who also happens to be a hunter, showed many of you what most hunters epitomize.

So have fun, relax and be safe.

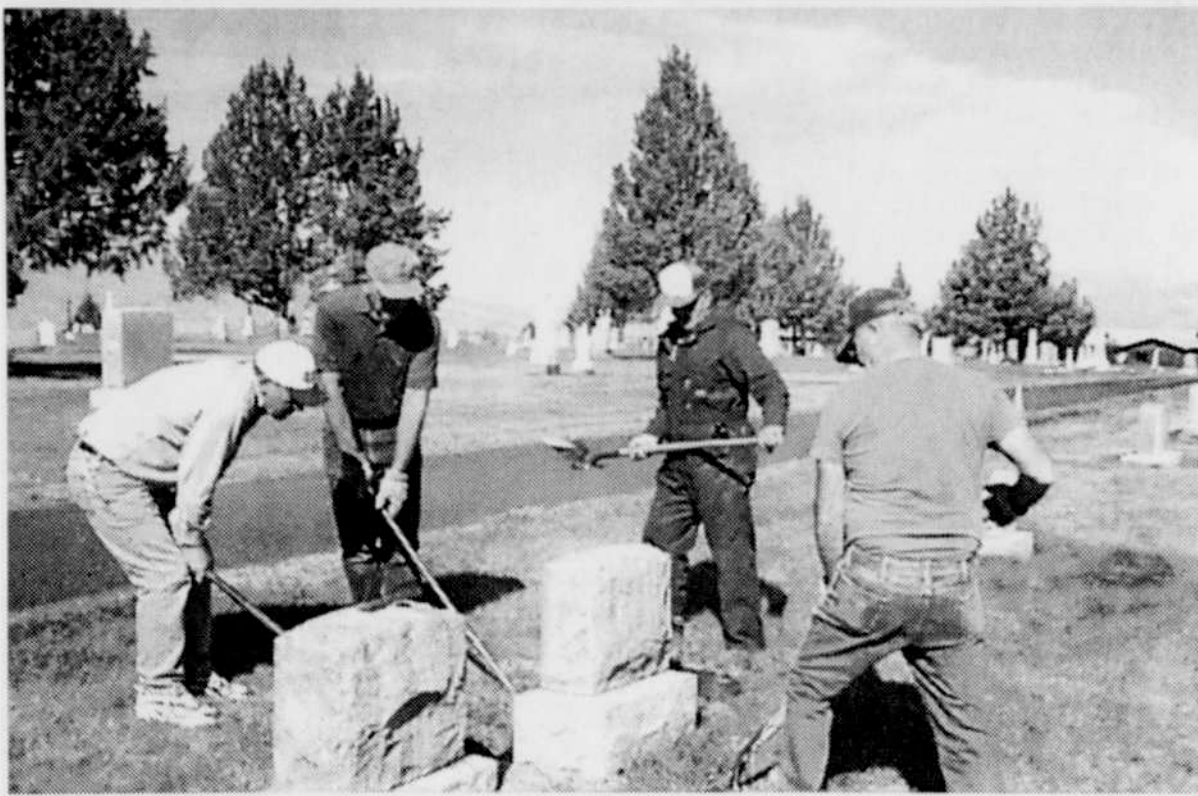
DINE FOR AMERICA

A Benefit For The American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund

Please join us on Thursday, Oct. 11 from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. for a benefit to support the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. A portion of the sales will go to the relief fund. We are grateful for the generosity of our employees and guests for making this possible.

Beecher's Restaurant & Lounge
350 Highway 74 • Ione • 422-7038

Volunteers work to restore Heppner Cemetery



Cemetery volunteers Dale Conklin, Bob Jepsen, Wilbur Jackson and Al Riney.

A group of local men are working to beautify the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

The men, headed up by Al Riney, and including Bill Gentry, Bob Jepsen, Dale Conklin, Wilbur Jackson and Albert Wright, have been working since May of this year to straighten the tombstones that are leaning or that have fallen over. Their goal was to restore the tombstones before the 100-year remembrance of the Heppner Flood which will be held on June 14, 2003.

To date, the group has restored 135 tombstones with an estimated 300 more to repair. The group initially received instruction from the Wylie Monument Works.

The Morrow County Historical Society has donated \$500 toward the project for the cost of the sign and the



Cemetery renovation sign

materials-sand and gravel. Al Riney and Bill Gentry also donated the use of their front-end loaders. An unidentified man walking through the cemetery gave the volunteers a \$100 bill for restoring a relative's grave marker.

Anyone wishing to help with the project may call Riney at 676-5680. Additional tractors and front-end loaders could also be used.

Local woman receives technology honor



Lynda Orwick Firth, seated far left

Lynda Orwick Firth, Heppner High School Class of 1973, recently received the 2001 Technology Excellence Award, recognizing her "outstanding leadership in innovative technology programs", from the

National Association of Secondary School Principals, HighWired, AOL@School, and The Journal. Only 16 awards of this kind were given out in the United States. Firth integrated technology into

the curriculum through the Isaac Newton Technology program, the first magnet program in the Springfield Public Schools. Firth is the daughter of Gene and Donna Orwick of Lexington.

Ione to celebrate homecoming Friday

Ione High School will celebrate homecoming festivities this Friday, October 12.

The homecoming game vs. Echo will get underway at 7:30 p.m. with the dance planned from 10 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Members of the Ione homecoming court include: freshman princess Katie Hams and her escort Tyler Raible; sophomore princess Brittany Day and her escort Billy Ross; junior princess Jamie VandenBrink and her escort Brian Gutierrez; senior princesses Amellia Peck, Salli McElligott and Rhonda Wilhelm and their respective escorts, Derek Campbell, Adam Neiffer and Adam McCabe.

Students have planned activities each day in preparation for the event. Monday was "Inside-Out Day"; Tuesday was "Rainbow Day"; Wednesday was "Patriotic Day"; and Thursday was "Red, White and Black Day".



Ione High School students (left to right) Til Tullis, Caitlin Orem, Tracy Griffith and Diana McElligott celebrate "Inside-Out Day" Monday as a part of homecoming activities at the school this week.

Willows Grange #672
Fund Raiser To Replace Heating System
Saturday, October 27th

SPAGHETTI FEED at 5:30 p.m.
and
BLUE MTN. OLDTIME FIDDLERS at 7 p.m.

Music and Meal:
Adults \$8 • Seniors & Students \$7 • Ages 6-12 \$2.50 • 6 & under free
Meal Only: Adults 12 and older \$5 • Ages 6-12 \$2.50 • 6 & under free
Music Only: Adults \$4 • Seniors and Students \$3

Boardman Community Pride

Make new friends, help create a community soccer field, earn community service hours and a chance to win up to \$500 for your organization.

The fourth annual Boardman Community Pride Day and Community Challenge Awards will be held Saturday, October 20. Boardman non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate in this year's project.

Volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at the large field in front of Oregon Potato, Inc., on East Columbia Avenue. Participants will be developing a new regulation-sized soccer field for the community and plant vegetation around the area. Participants are asked to bring along gloves, shovels and rakes for this project. It is estimated that the project could be finished by 12 p.m.

Cash awards will be given to the organization that works the most total hours. First place will receive \$500, second place, \$125, and third place will receive \$75.

For more information, call Debi Watson, Boardman Community Development Association, at 481-2220.

Domestic violence Day to be held

Umatilla and Morrow counties' Domestic Violence Services plans their annual march to "End the Violence" this Thursday, October 11.

In Boardman, participants will meet at 6 p.m. at Services to Children and Families, 103 S.W. Kinkade Rd., for a march to city hall for a 7 p.m. candlelight ceremony.

In Pendleton events start at 6:30 p.m. with a march from the train depot to the courthouse and a 7 p.m. candlelight ceremony at the courthouse clock tower.

In Hermiston participants will meet at 6 p.m. at city hall for a march to the community center for a 7 p.m. candlelight ceremony.

A march will also be held at Milton-Freewater beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Meeting Notice:
The Heppner/Lexington Advisory Committee will hold a special meeting, Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. at Heppner Elementary School library. The purpose of this meeting is to explore the possibilities of placing the new structure in the same location as the old high school building (elementary school campus); using some of the components of the existing facade in the new structure. Public input and comment is being sought.
Published: October 10, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Heppner City Council will hold a work session on October 18th at 8:00 AM to discuss the City of Heppner Water System Study. This is a public meeting where the public may attend and listen to discussion on the study. The meeting will be held at Heppner City Hall, 188 W. Willow, Heppner, Oregon. Gerald W. Breazeale
City Manager
Published: October 10, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice to Ione area voters. A drop box will be available at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Ione branch until election day Oct. 30, 2001 at 4 p.m. After 4p.m. please use Lexington Public Works drop site or Morrow County Clerks office Heppner. Ballots will be mailed October 12, 2001 to all Morrow County Voters.
Published: October 10, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF DEFAULT AND ELECTION TO SELL
Reference is made to that certain Trust Deed made by William Rill, also known as William Dean Rill, as Grantor, to Morrow County Abstract & Title Co., Inc., as Trustee in favor of Daniel M. Stingl, Trustee for U/D/T as Beneficiary dated June 24, 1998, recorded June 24, 1998, in Book "M" Page 1998-54600 of the Mortgage Records of Morrow County Oregon covering the following described real property situated in said County and State:
The real property described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and incorporated herein.
SUBJECT TO AND EXCEPTING:
Those exceptions and tax Notes set forth in Exhibit 2 attached hereto
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