

A Look Into Our Past



By Sarah Collier

An interesting article in the July 31, 1902 edition of the Heppner Gazette is headlined, "Telephone Without Wire." According to the article, on July 28, Ernest Ruhmer, an electrical inventor from Berlin, succeeded in telephoning seven kilometers by his wireless methods. The speaking voice was perfectly audible continuously during the experiment. Ruhmer, who hitherto has used a searchlight 35 centimeters in diameter, intends to construct another between 100 and 200 centimeters, expecting to speak 40 kilometers, which would be a distance sufficient to cover a modern city. It is affirmed, however, that the apparatus is too large and expensive and too delicate to be practicable commercially, but it will be highly useful to warships in transmitting orders at sea. Herr Ruhmer's invention acts on the principle of the transformation of light waves to sound waves by using a searchlight and a microscope. We've come a long way, haven't we?

The photo above is courtesy of the Morrow County Museum. One of the first phone lines in this area was established around 1888 from Castle Rock on the Columbia River, through Ella, and up Blackhorse Canyon into Heppner. The Inland Telephone Company sent a line from Arlington to Heppner in 1898.

Commuter Café open before daylight



Pam Schmidt prepares a treat for a customer.

By Sarah Collier

While most of us are enjoying the last couple hours of sleep before a busy day, Pam Schmidt is hard at work baking pastries and brewing coffee for those who need to grab breakfast on the run. Schmidt, who recently purchased the Pony Espresso, has renamed the business, Commuter Café, a name she thinks fits a place open so early in the morning. "I'd like to attract those who have to commute out of town for work," says the new business owner.

Schmidt and her husband, Richard, moved to Heppner in June 1998 to raise their three young children. Prior to purchasing the café, she was working at Bucknams. "I have been in food service for 31 years," says Schmidt who used to bake cinnamon rolls for Pony Espresso.

Schmidt says she still offers most of the same items that customers are used to purchasing from the yellow, Main Street business, but has added different meats and cheeses to the sub sandwich list: Italian salami, pepperoni, American cheese, cheddar, real Swiss, provolone, and pepper jack. She also features fresh baked pastries and low fat, baked donuts. Another new thing is a breakfast sandwich on an English muffin with the

choice of bacon, sausage or ham with cheese for \$1.25; on a waffle, it's \$1.75.

Commuter Café is open from 4:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. "My hours of operation are limited by the availability of daycare," says Schmidt, "but if people want to call ahead to order, say, a pizza, I will stay and make it." Schmidt says she has also been doing daily lunch specials with specialty sandwiches and a cup of potato or macaroni salad. In the future, she would like to offer more specialty salads, and after the first of the year, remodel. "I want to keep the drive and walk-up but turn the other half into a bakery and add a grill, broiler and more refrigeration. I might do calzones, baked pizza, or other dinner entrees."

Schmidt encourages those with big or special orders to call ahead. "The first weekend I was open, I was really busy and didn't have all the details worked out so people had to wait. I'm sorry to anyone who had to wait and was inconvenienced. I would love to have you back again," she said and added that comments, suggestions and recipe ideas, especially for those on special diets, would be appreciated.

Willow Creek Terrace receives donation



Sharon Harrison presents check to Suzanne Jepsen, representative for Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Corporation

Klamath First recently contributed \$1000 to help meet the financial needs of Willow Creek Terrace, the assisted living facility under construction on Gilliam Drive in Heppner's Lakeview subdivision.

Sharon Harrison, manager of Heppner's Klamath First branch, presented the \$1000 check to the Willow Creek Valley Assisted Living Corporation board last week. "We know this project is worthwhile and we are all eager to see it completed," she noted. "We are helping with the loan financing of the facility and this donation is another way in which we can help."

Board members grow increasingly eager as the summer days pass and the project grows closer to a reality. Because of the increased costs involved in the construction, the board continues to accept donations. They feel confident that the financing needs will be met, and report that Sally Walker and John Edmundson continue to apply for grants. "This donation from Klamath First is one example of the kindnesses that have made this facility for our community possible," Doris Brosnan said. All donations to the 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation are tax-deductible.

"Examples of the importance of such donations," Brosnan added, "are found in some of the comparatively less expensive features of Willow Creek Terrace. Gutters may be boring, but they are important. Shutters do not represent a huge expense, but they will add so much to the face of the building. A wonderful feature, the beauty-barber shop, will not be terrible expensive to furnish, but it will certainly provide an important service space at Willow Creek Terrace." The beauty-barber shop will be a room furnished with a stylist's chair, a sink, a hair dryer and a mobile station selected by Rene Devin. Residents will have the convenience of setting up hair appointments with barbers and beauticians willing to come to the facility. Seeing that not more than one appointment is scheduled for the shop at one time, Tonia Adams will count this as just one of her many responsibilities.

Adams has been employed as

on-site Facility Administrator for Willow Creek Terrace by the Morrow County Health District, which has been contracted to run the facility. She is presently completing training required for the position and will soon be assisting with the hiring of other employees.

Those wishing to be put on the reservation list may pay a \$200 refundable deposit to Rene Devin at City Hall or mail to Willow Creek Terrace, P.O. Box 244, Heppner. They will then be contacted by Tonia Adams to be interviewed for a "needs assessment". This is to be sure that Willow Creek Terrace will be able to meet the needs of the resident interviewed.

Al Riney, one of the many community volunteers helping with this project, is working with the landscaping committee, chaired by Diana Ball. He has surveyed and is making plans for the construction of the decorative block wall in the backyard.

Don Bristow, board member from Lone, is in the process of having a sign made to be placed at the entrance to the facility.

As soon as the front area of the building is ready, volunteers Carlyle Harrison and Bob Harrison will put in the sprinkler system.

Gail Hughes, chairman of the furniture and fixtures committee has been working for several months with Sue McDonald a sales representative/decorator for the U.S. Contract Group. Her committee members Nancy VanderDoe and Luella Taylor have selected all of the furniture, fixtures and colors for the facility. The board hopes they will be able to open by September.

Individuals wishing to donate to the construction of Willow Creek Terrace may make their tax-deductible donations to Rene Devin at City Hall or mail the contribution to P.O. Box 244 Heppner or to Sherron Woodside, Treasurer, 64123 Clarks Canyon Road, Lexington Oregon 97839. Individuals with questions about the facility are encouraged to call Suzanne Jepsen, Board Chair, 676-9850; Victor VanderDoe, CEO of Morrow County Health District, 676-9133; or Tonia Adams, Facility Administrator at 676-0004.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

May 1: Boardman Police Dept. officer cited a male subject for Exceeding the Maximum Speed Limit, 78 mph in a 65 mph zone and Failure to Register Vehicle.

-MCSO, Heppner Police

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

Dept. received a report of a burglary alarm activation at the DMV office in Heppner. An officer checked the building, a door was found partially opened. The building was checked, the door secured and the alarm reset.

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) reports handling the following business:

-MCSO received a report that Eddie Joe Rios, 39, was arrested on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for Parole Violation/Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and Irrigon Justice Court warrants for Failure to Pay Fine/Driving while License Suspended/Driving Uninsured/Violation of the Basic Rule, 65 mph in a 45 mph zone. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received a report from the Umatilla Chemical Depot of a leaking propane tank in the POL area. The fire dept. had been notified. About 30 minutes later, it was advised that the propane valve was shut off and there was no longer a leak; the depot was declared clear.

-MCSO, Boardman ambulance received a report of a male subject with a possible stroke. The patient was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. officers arrested Michael Steven Moore, 19, for Forgery II.

-MCSO, Boardman Police and Fire depts., Boardman ambulance received a report of a mobile home in Boardman fully engulfed in flames. No one was home. One firefighter was transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

-MCSO deputy arrested Michael Dean Hendricks, 45, on a warrant for Distributing a Controlled Substance II x2 and Possession of a Controlled Substance II x2. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy to assist in a civil situation in Heppner for a female subject that needed to get her things from her ex-boyfriend's house.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a request for an officer contact in Boardman regarding a juvenile going into an unlocked house and taking items.

May 2: MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon of two or three subjects in a vehicle with Washington plates that banged on the door of his residence and kicked in the side of his wife's vehicle. The subjects were stopped in Umatilla. Rhonda Lee Hopkins, 33, was cited for No Operator's License and No Insurance. The female passenger was identified.

-MCSO, Irrigon ambulance received a report from the Columbia Middle School of a 13-year-old female with shortness of breath. The parent took the patient by private vehicle to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston.

-MCSO deputy cited Saturnino Reyes Flores, 36, for Driving while License Suspended/Infraction and arrested on a Morrow County Circuit warrant for Possession of a Controlled Substance. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail. The vehicle was impounded.

-MCSO received a report from Oregon State Police that William Ellis Looney, 26, was arrested on three Irrigon Justice Court warrants.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Irrigon that her four-year-old son was missing. The child was found and returned

to his mother.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy contact in Irrigon regarding the neighbor's dog digging holes in her yard.

-MCSO received a report that Francisco Javier Nunez, 44, was cited for Child Neglect II.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy contact in Irrigon regarding the caller's son who was threatening her. Daniel Joe Hurn, 25, was arrested on a Umatilla County Sheriff's Office warrant for Failure to Appear/Possession of a Controlled Substance II. He was lodged at the Umatilla County Jail.

-MCSO deputy cited Timothy John Glynn, 44, for Violation of the Basic Rule, 79 mph in a 55 mph zone.

May 3: MCSO received a report from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office that David Earl Morgan, 49, was arrested on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear/DUII. He was cited and released.

-Boardman Police Dept. officers cited Jose Daniel Caamal Mukul, 22, for No Operator's License and Driving Uninsured. The vehicle was towed.

-MCSO, Irrigon ambulance received a report from a caller in Irrigon of a vehicle in the ditch on Division Street. One adult male was unresponsive and there was one juvenile in a car seat. The patients were transported to Good Shepherd Medical Center in Hermiston. One gun was recovered from the vehicle. The vehicle was towed.

-MCSO, Boardman Police Dept. received a report of a residential burglar alarm in Boardman. It was determined to be a false alarm; all was okay.

-Boardman Police Dept. officer cited Silvino Garcia-Torrez, 21, for Careless Driving.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Lone that someone had taken a week old boxer puppy, and then today someone opened the kennel gate, letting out another puppy.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Heppner that her son's black lab had been missing since May 1 and was last seen near Rugs and the Porcupine area.

-MCSO received a report from Oregon State Police that Luther Whitlow, 36, was arrested on a Heppner Justice Court warrant for Failure to Pay Fine/Improperly Validated Deer Tag.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Everett, Washington that her husband had been gone for three weeks, but she thought he was staying a male subject. The husband was found and advised to contact his wife.

-MCSO, Oregon State Police, Heppner Fire Dept., Heppner ambulance, Lexington EMTs, ODOT received a report of a one-vehicle rollover on Highway 74, 1/4 mile north of Lexington. One subject had numbness, was bleeding from the arm and had back pain. The patient was transported to Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner.

-MCSO received a report from a caller in Lexington that he found a dead bird shot with a pellet gun in his chimney.

-MCSO received a request for a deputy contact in Boardman regarding a sex abuse case of a male subject in Irrigon.

-MCSO received a report of a burglar alarm/motion detector in the basement of the Irrigon City

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