

A view from the hill



(Front Table Clockwise from Left): Pastor Duane Jones, Elmer Melligan and Floyd Raver and (Back Table Clockwise from Left): Dan Picard, George Jeffries, Lowell Gribble and Chuck Bailey enjoy a BBQ meal for Father's Day.

At Willow Creek Terrace, the month of June brought some delightful visits and entertainment and a completed feature enjoyed by the residents.

Thanks to Bob DeSpain, the gazebo is painted to match the residents' building. Warm weather has allowed residents to enjoy the quiet space with a view, a place for reflection, and a place to enjoy with neighbors and visitors. The walkway to the gazebo is now lined with commemorative bricks purchased by some of the donors to the building of Willow Creek Terrace.

A highlight of the month's entertainment was an afternoon provided by area musicians. Bob Stevens on fiddle, Bill West on guitar and Allison on piano and Al Riney on bucket livened up the common area on June 9.

Residents were able to enjoy a movie on June 6. Enjoying a movie in one's own home with neighbors adds to the pleasure. Throw in some popcorn and punch, and the event becomes even more enjoyable. The fact that the movie, *Bear with Me*, was good was a bonus.

Entertaining and instructive was the June 17 slide show about quilts, narrated by a quilting expert sponsored by the Oregon Trail Library District. Residents picked up some useful tips for their quilting project, which is progressing well.

Just as Mother's Day was special for about half of the Terrace residents, made especially so with the Tea and the plants that the Rebekah Lodge brought, the other half had a special treat for Father's Day. On Saturday, June 19, the Nazarene Church men invited the Terrace men to a barbecue, held on the patio,

where the plants and gazebo added to the pleasant atmosphere.

Visitors are always welcome at the Terrace, and in June, two residents were proud to welcome very special visitors, their newest great-grandchildren. Irene Swanson enjoyed Ola Rietmann, daughter of Greg and Shelly Rietmann. Kathleen Hisler entertained Brook Hisler, son of Shawn and Stephanie Hisler.

What the month of July will bring to the hill is yet to be discovered. The residents do know, however, that they will have a couple of "chilly" episodes. Root beer floats will accompany the July 4 fireworks, and July 12 will bring a special "Christmas in July" bingo day.

Residents and staff at Willow Creek Terrace invite the community to come share their view from the hill and to watch Channel 3 for periodic views of their home and their activities.

Red Hat meeting to be held

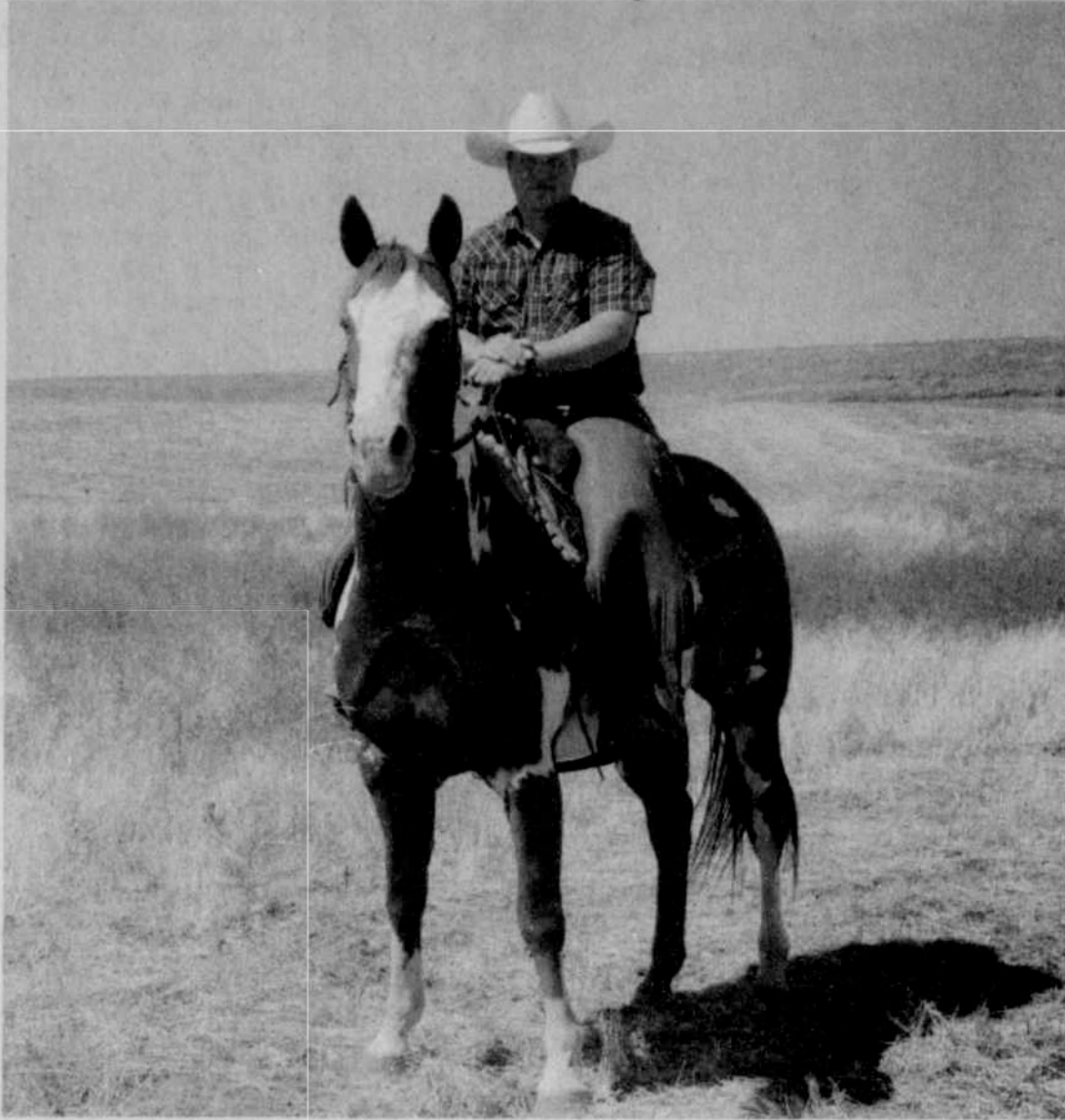
There will be a meeting of the Red Hat Rowdies on Wednesday, July 7 at 12 p.m., at John's Place.

The Red Hat Society is a group of ladies 50 or over who get together to have fun, form friendships and share wisdom. They can be recognized by their purple outfits and red hats and lots of laughter.

Meetings are the first Wednesday of every month at 12 p.m. at John's Place.

Please join us, and if you need information contact Cam Wishart at 676-9018.

Horse trainer and farrier brings love of horses to Morrow County



Russ Robbins on a paint owned by Bert Houweling of Heppner.

Three-and-a-half years ago, after the sudden death of his 15-month-old daughter, Samantha, Russ Robbins decided to actively pursue his passion—horses. He now actively works as a horse trainer and farrier and has moved his business from Umatilla County to Morrow County.

Robbins has been riding since he was four and training horses since he was 17. Six years ago he added horseshoeing to his skills and went to Texas Horseshoeing School in Scurry, TX, where he graduated at the top of his class. His training experience comes from apprenticing under several trainers and taking a little bit from each of them.

Rather than the hard break of bucking and spurs, Robbins trains his horses with a gentle, light method that he believes creates a more dependable horse. "A horse has to have a good foundation," Robbins said, "and a horse isn't broke until my kids can ride on it." He has experience in breaking colts, finishing reining horses and working cow horses.

In training horses, Robbins guarantees 30 days of work with the horses, in which most of the time they are trained outside of an arena. Robbins makes sure the horse has "ranch miles" so that its rider can take it out on trails and in the field without the horse being

spooky. He believes horses are "pets, but also tools" that everyone should be able to use, whether it be for pleasure, showing or working cattle.

Another aspect crucial in Robbins' training of horses is giving lessons to the owner with the horse. Before he sends a horse home, he makes sure the horse will listen to the owner and that the two can work together. He does not want to send horses home that only know how to respond to him.

To Robbins, there is a sense of accomplishment when he knows he has made a usable animal that can be enjoyed.

In the farrier end of his business, Robbins says that in going to school, he has learned ways of horseshoeing that protect and preserve the integrity of a horse's hooves. He commented that he is fairly adamant about his techniques, which he believes help protect the horse and will leave a job if the owner requests something he believes will harm the horse.

Having spent summers in Morrow County hunting since he was 12, Robbins had always wanted to move from the St. Helens and Scappoose areas to Heppner. He believed it would be a great place to run a business and raise his family. Robbins' and his wife, Jessica, and their two

children Bailey, two, and Blake, three months, live in the North Lexington area. He also has two stepdaughters, Lacey, 12, and Taylor, eight.

While the North Lexington area is working for him right now, Robbins dreams of buying a "mini-ranch" closer to Heppner, in which he would be able to follow his dream of being an instructor. While he loves training and shoeing, Robbins also wants to teach children and adults about horses, horsemanship, showing and training.

The aspect of having a mini-ranch would allow him to have enough room that he can train and teach with cows. He believes that especially in Morrow County, a good horse is one that can be enjoyed in riding, but also knows how to work.

Robbins' goal is to keep his business local. He truly wants to serve the people of Morrow County. "I want to give something to Morrow County that no one may have given them yet," said Robbins.

With his "honesty is the best policy" and "the horse is yours, come whenever you want" attitude, Robbins is striving to bring quality horse care to Morrow County. To contact Robbins for more information, call 989-0910.

Local students inducted into the National Honor Roll

Thirteen students from Morrow County qualified for induction into the 2003-2004 National Honor Roll.

From Heppner High School: Tyler Boyer, Lexington; Mechele Nieman, Heppner; and Cody Walton, Heppner.

From Ione High School: Jeani "Missy" Baker, Ione; Tyler Brown, Ione; Barbara Holland, Ione; Kayla Larue, Ione; Alyssa M. Rietmann, Ione; and Megan Tollefson, Ione.

From Riverside High School: Landi Busey, Boardman; Andrew Mckee, Boardman; Tanna Marie

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