

Yard of the Month

By Kay Proctor

Mary Ella Johnson's home at 215 W. Baltimore has been recognized as the September Yard of the Month in Heppner, which is the last recognition until April 2007.

The two-story house was built in 1900 and is known as the Gilliam house. Johnson had lived in a nearby apartment and wanted a place of her own. The Gilliam house had sat empty on its overgrown, weedy lot for five years with a sadly neglected interior and exterior. Johnson had faith in the house so she purchased it in 1995.

She started in by having the roof redone and then painted the house's exterior herself in warm earth tones. Rescreening the front porch herself, Johnson also put in Plexiglas on the windy side of the porch to protect the potted plants scattered throughout. A charming fountain sits in one corner proving a soothing sound that can be heard inside the house, too. A split log bench provides some of the seating on the relaxing porch that is Johnson's favorite part of her home. She can visit with her neighbors from the porch and gaze out at the hilltops.

Not too long after moving in, the water line from the meter to the house broke and Johnson dug it out herself. After clearing the overgrowth, she laid a thick sod lawn. Another project she did herself is a patio area made from cement pavers.

Two gifts from her brother, Dick Johnson, take up a portion of the yard; a well built covered dog kennel and a Doberman Pincer named Garnet. Johnson had a fence built along the back of the lot to help define Garnet's outdoor living space. Old fashion hollyhocks have sprung up around the fence. Growing around the dog kennel are plantings of Kenilworth ivy, which started as a gift from her botanist sister, Elaine Urban, and is Johnson's favorite plant.

The tall, green spruce in the front yard has provided shade for the house and a shelter for all kinds of birds including a great horned owl. The late Howard Gilliam grew up in this house and told Johnson that he has a picture of himself as a child standing next to and about even with the same Spruce. Underneath this tree,



Mary Ella Johnson with her dog Garnet. Photo by Kay Proctor.

Johnson heaped soil and put in easy to care for plants such as lavender, creeping phlox, blue fescue and hens and chicks. Scattered throughout the barked mounded bed are rustics such as the top half of an old milk can, antlers and pine cones. During her employment time with the US Forest Service working out in the woods, she would find interesting rocks and pack them home to place in this area.

The front yard fence and gate are original as are the sidewalks. There are planters along them filled with marigolds and moss roses. Some of the plantings in the border beds are calendula, gayfeather, Jupiter's beard, mock orange, peonies, black-eyed Susan, silver and lemon thymes, columbine, parsley and sedums. Along a side yard, old lilacs grow with a birdhouse standing among them.

Screening that side yard is a tall row of roses of a coral pink color. These tough roses were in place when Johnson bought her home surviving the years of neglect. Garnet's favorite place in the yard is laying in the cool grass behind these roses in the deep shade of a sumac planted by her owner.

The soil has been good to grow things in, but while digging in the yard in an old burn pit site, Johnson found a US Navy dog tag. The name printed on it is "K C Lindsay," along with an ID number. Johnson would love to visit with anyone who knows the owner of the dog tag and would return it to him.

Originally from Pendleton, in Heppner Johnson has worked as a cook at the Senior Meal Site and baked for the Willow Creek Diner. Her current kitchen is certified by the state and she bakes cinnamon rolls and dinner rolls upon request. She is a member of the local Art Club

and has been presented with the Sweepstakes Award at the Morrow County Fair for her 'Badger' scratchboard work and various crafts. Her home's interior is creatively cozy. One of her latest projects is restoring a 1920s 'Sellers' kitchen cabinet. For various reasons, she has put her home up for sale.

While Johnson has always been interested in gardening, her inspiration is her late brother-in-law, the noted botanist Karl Urban. Urban was widely known for his work in wildflowers and native plants. His plant illustrations have been used in many publications and are still requested. He developed a plant coding system used by the USFS and The Native Plant Society of Oregon awarded him a fellowship. He shared his knowledge by leading nature tours and teaching others.

And that is what Johnson enjoys about gardening; it is "something you can share; it's not costly, but rich. Who doesn't like flowers?"

And who doesn't like a person who creates a nice yard and home with her own hard work and tender loving care?

The Heppner Yard of the Month is cosponsored by the City of Heppner, MCGG Green Feed, Heppner TV and the Heppner Garden Club.

Over the Tee Cup

Ladies gathered Sept. 12 at Willow Creek Country Club for their weekly play.

Jan Paustian took low gross of the field. Lynnea Sargent took low net of the field. Betty Christman and Betty Carlson tied for least putts of the field.

In flight A, Karen Thompson took low gross.

In flight B, Lois Hunt took low gross.

In flight C, Bernice Lott took low gross and Pat Dougherty took low net.

Christman had a chip-in on hole #5.

Ione volleyball opens league play

By Brittnee DesBouillons

Ione has played tough over the last three weeks. With Dufur, Condon and Sherman tournaments under their belt they've now learned that league play will not be easy, but is surely accomplishable.

The Cardinals took on several teams at the Sherman tournament Saturday, Sept. 16. They defeated Culver and played tough against South Wasco and Union. In the end, the Cardinals took eighth place.

"[The] girls did good," said Coach Brandi Orem. "I saw improvement from each of the girls."

Ione took on Heppner Thursday, Sept. 14, and played well, although Heppner took the win.

Ione tipped off league play on Friday, Sept. 15 against Arlington at Ione.

The Cardinals started off the match dominating the first two games 25-17 and 25-14. The teams took the match to five games giving Arlington their first league win.

Stephanie Holland was 14 for 14 in serves and had three blocks and four kills. Emily Rietmann was nine for 10 serving, while Kaylee Palmateer led the back row in serve receives.

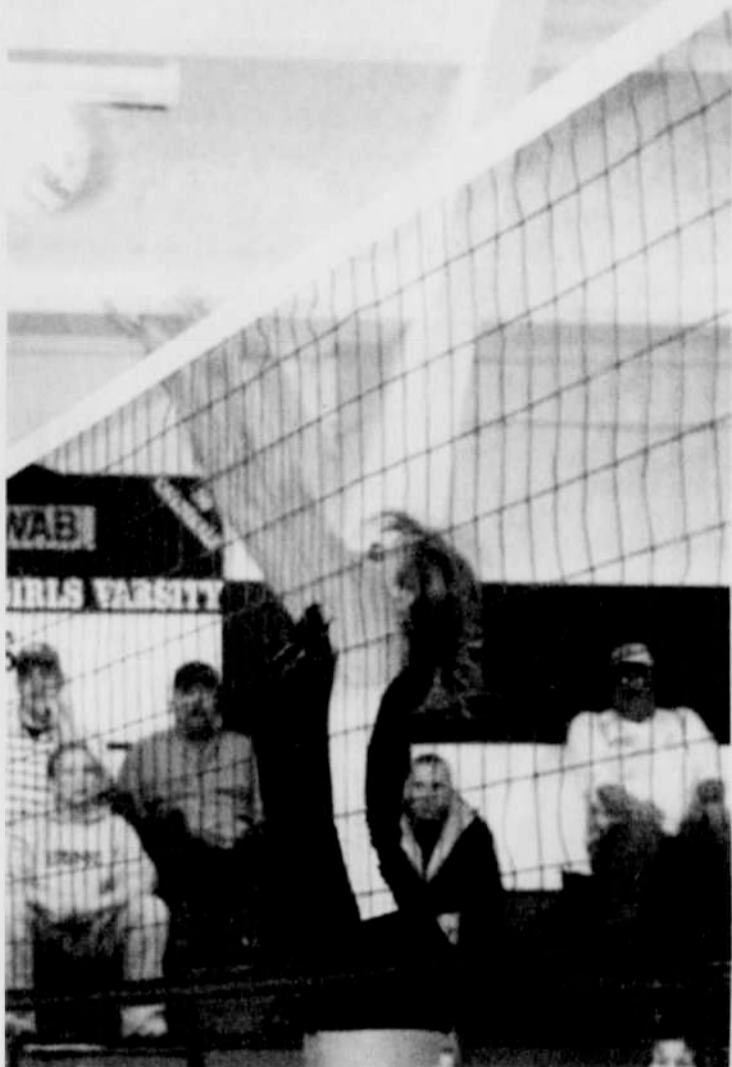
"Stephanie Holland had a great game. She was all over the court and aggressive at the net. Tiana Camarillo came off the bench and stepped in doing a great job also," said Orem.

The Cardinals will match up against Arlington this Friday for their next league game.



Stephanie Holland goes for the block against Arlington.

Photo by Donna Rietmann.



Kylee Svetich blocks a hit against Arlington.

Photo by Donna Rietmann.

Cardinals drop to Buckaroo 64-0

The Ione Cardinals traveled to St. Paul last Friday evening where they ran into a bigger, faster, stronger team. The Buckaroos, currently ranked #2 in the state, thoroughly manhandled the Cards, winning the game 64-0.

Ione was again forced to reconfigure the offense, starting the game with several key players on the sidelines due to injury. Then early in the first quarter, senior end Mark Davidson left the game with a knee injury. About midway through the second quarter, junior Kevin Fowler, the other end took a hard hit and went down with bruised ribs.

St. Paul did most of their damage on the ground, racking up 362 yards of rushing on 42 carries. With an additional 80 yards passing, the Buckaroos had 442 yards of total offense to

the Cards 56 yards. Ione's running game was stymied by the strong Buckaroo defense. Leading rusher for the Cardinals was Paul Hams with 41 yards on three carries.

On defense, Montana Marlatt led the team with 12 tackles (seven unassisted.) He was followed by Clay Morter with nine tackles (four unassisted) and Paul Hams with seven (two unassisted).

"Nobody wants to lose a game like that," said Coach Dennis Stefani but he noted that it was a good learning experience for his young team. "They got to see how a really good football team operates. Those kids have been playing together since peewee football. It wasn't that this team was that much bigger but they were stronger."

"We found positives in a lot of areas," noted Coach Stefani. The team had just one penalty to the Buckaroos 13 and "they learned a lot of techniques" from their opponent. "We also found different people to play different positions and everyone played a ton," he said.

Despite the lopsided loss, Coach Stefani was pleased that the team kept their heads up and "kept trying to figure out" a way to compete with St. Paul. "Their enthusiasm is just great," he said.

The Cardinals have another tough one on the schedule this weekend for their home opener. Ione will host Wallowa this Saturday, Sept. 23, starting at 1 p.m. "Wallowa is another top five team. We'll go in with a goal of trying to improve and give them a game," said Stefani.

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- Saturday, September 23 -
OSEA Northeast District
Golf Tournament

Northeast District VP Tim Deseve Visitation.
PERS & Committee persons are urged to attend.
PERS, wear your green jackets.
Cocktails 5:30-6 p.m. • Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Prime Rib, Steaks, Salad, Au Gratin Potatoes
by Chefs Rick Smith and Marty Brannon

- Thursday, September 28 -
Hunters' Night
Barbecue Dinner beginning at 6 p.m.
Rifle Raffle: Weatherby 243
and many other prizes!

Congratulations!
Joshua Keyes
and
Josie Proctor

You Are Cordially Invited
to the
Open House Engagment Party
for Joshua and Josie
Saturday, September 23 at 1 p.m.
at Mike and Kay Proctor's house,
61238 Hwy 207, Heppner

The couple will be married
October 14, 2006 in Los Cabos, Mexico