

Green family reunion held at M.C. Fairgrounds

Nearly 80 descendants of Stephen Alex and Mattie Bryant Green gathered at the Morrow County Fairgrounds on August 28 for a family reunion.

Alex and Mattie Green lived in Morrow County and Heppner after 1907 until he died in 1949 and she, in 1972. Alex and Mattie raised their six children, Mildred, Cornett, Herman, Joe, Ruth and Louise, in Heppner. They farmed and operated retail stores in Heppner, and were always active in the Heppner United Methodist Church. Alex and Mattie are buried in Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Ruth Green McCaleb of Gresham, the only one of their children still living, was not able to join the Green-Bryant clan reunion, but Howard Bry-



Pictured are members of the Green family that attended the family reunion. -Contributed Photo

ant of Heppner, Mattie's nephew, was there.

Most attendees were from Oregon and Washington, but Mildred's granddaughter, Shelli Scifers, came from Germany, and Joe's son, Dave, and his family came from Florida.

Greg Green of Bothell, WA, (Cornett's grandson), delivered a lively program about the history of the Green and Bryant families, and Shelli Scifers distributed written genealogical charts and stretched a detailed family

tree along one wall in the Annex.

Cliff Green of Heppner (Herman's son) was the host and master of ceremonies for the reunion. Joann Green Byrd (Joe's daughter) helped organize the gathering.

Boardman Rural Fire Protection District pursues \$11 million bond

If passed, the Boardman Rural Fire Protection District General Obligation Bond would pay for a new fire station, pay off the current debt obligation, and replace the old ladder truck. Boardman voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on the \$11 million bond on the Nov. 2, 2010, ballot.

According to the Chief of the Fire Protection District, Marc Rogelstad, one reason the District's Board of Directors decided

to pursue this bond is for the potential opportunity to work with an EMT/Fire Science program that has an internship component. In this type of program, 15 students work and live at a fire station with a "sleeper" program, covering a shift providing emergency fire and EMS calls when not attending classes. If the BRFPD had this program, these interns would aid staffing levels at the District. Boardman area residents could then potentially receive

quicker responses seven days a week, 365 days a year without having to pay for additional staff.

"Four of our firemen that we currently employ are paid for by a federal grant, which runs out in two years," said BRFPD Board Chairman Don Russell. "If the bond passed, and we had the intern program, this would be a way to keep our level of service high."

Another reason the District's Board opted to ask voters to pass a bond

is the fact that there is no room to expand to provide for this type of program in the current facility. Built in 1973, the station was remodeled in 1998 to house an expanding fleet and additional classroom space. Since the station was originally built, Sam Boardman Elementary and Windy River Elementary have been constructed across the street. A new station would include updated training facilities that would be utilized by the BRFPD and other local emergency service agencies, if the bond is approved by voters.

The new building would be a "one stop" point of contact for emergency services. If approved and participants in the "sleeper" program train for paramedic certification, Morrow County Health District's Boardman staff and ambulances would be housed in the new station. North county office space for the Morrow County Sheriff's Office also is proposed. The Port of Morrow has donated land on the corner of Olson Lane and Columbia Avenue for the purpose of building a new fire and training station. The only stipulation is that if the BRFPD ever vacates the land, the property would be returned to the Port of Morrow. The 30-year bond would be for the construction of the building, not the purchase of the land.

The relocation of the main station of the District would allow equal access to routes south of Interstate 84 and direct access to a proposed third viaduct across the interstate. District volunteers would have fewer traffic restrictions responding to the new location.

Money from the bond for a new ladder truck would replace the 36-year-old truck currently used by the District. Though not many, there are buildings requiring the District to maintain a ladder truck. The cost of a new ladder truck is approximately \$1 million, which is out of reach of current funding resources. The District has said it would also look into the possibility of purchasing a used ladder truck if the bond is approved.

Winchester snags final Yard of the Month Award



Pictured is Erna Winchester with long-time family dogs Nicky, Cally and Bundy. -Photo by Kay Proctor

By Kay Proctor

Heppner Garden Club's last Yard of the Month recognition for 2010 goes to Erna Winchester at 515 N. Jones Street.

Originally, the home of Frank Gilliam sat on this rocky slope and survived the great 1903 flood. Years later the house was torn down and the lot sat empty with only the original cement stairs remaining until Erna bought it from the Healy family. After leveling for her new house was completed, Erna hired Jim Healy to stack large landscape blocks five high in front and five high in back almost the full width of the lot and backfilled with the original alkaline soil. This is Erna's second year living on Jones Street.

The daughter of long-time Heppner residents, the late Ernie and Lois Winchester, Erna says she had a great time growing up here. She lived in town where her mother operated a beauty shop in the family home at the corners of Church and Main Streets. Her family had acreage and later a home by Hinton Creek where she could keep horses, and a cabin on Ditch Creek where she could spend days riding. The cabin was known as the "Wheel Inn" because of the 100-plus wagon and buggy wheels displayed around it. The cabin is gone now, but some of those wheels now decorate Erna's yard.

Other family mementos used in landscaping include a coal bucket, a Fresno and a cast iron pot. A hand pump and a tricycle made of horseshoes by a friend sit among the front flowerbeds. A charming western painting by her mom hangs by the back porch.

While digging in the yard, Erna has found square nails, marbles, part of a Mason jar, buttons and lumps of coal.

An unknown variety of sedum that is Erna's favorite plant spreads by a corner of the driveway and was brought from her Hinton Creek home. She found a sad snapdragon and some sorry looking

zinnias at a "save my life" plant sale and turned them into healthy and blooming plants. Also found in her yard are huge, volunteer marigolds from seeds she planted her first year, baskets and flower boxes of annuals, delphiniums (her mother's favorite), cosmos, forsythia, lilacs, junipers, arborvitae and a vegetable garden of Swiss chard, tomatoes, squash and volunteer pumpkins. An original gate from the Gilliam house is propped up for green beans to climb.

Erna mows the lawn about every four days and she uses Scott's winter fertilizer and 16-16-16. She highly recommends using Miracle-Gro potting soil and a water-soluble fertilizer regularly during the growing season.

When working for 25 years at Columbia Basin Electric Co-op, Erna read meters in five counties. During this time, she raised, trained and showed Paint horses and is tickled to recall her APAH champion mare, "Rosarena Jones" named after Mrs. Floyd Jones, a neighbor and friend.

Since Erna's activities became limited by arthritis, she enjoys having "enough yard to keep busy." Instead of looking after acreage and horses now, she can sit on the front porch (her favorite place) and look at the view down Church Street, which includes the two-story house where she grew up. When not flying the US flag from the porch, an Oregon State University banner shows where Erna's loyalties are from her college days in Corvallis. Enjoying the porch and yard with her are Nicky, Cally and Bundy, long-time family dogs.

Erna says she caught the gardening bug from her mother, but really only had time for it since moving back to town. She finds it "kind of rewarding" especially because she "likes looking at it, too". So do many others.

Yard of the Month honors are sponsored by Green Feed Store/MCGG, the Heppner Gazette-Times and the Heppner Garden Club.

Wind power workshop planned for October

Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development will present a workshop for rural landowners, public officials and community members interested in learning more about wind energy development. The workshop will take place on October 5 and 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will include an introduction to modern wind technology, the various scales of wind develop-

ment, and state incentives and policies affecting wind energy projects.

Day one of the workshop will also include information on installing a small wind system for on-site use and working with commercial developers. Day two of the workshop will be devoted to community-scale wind development with morning speakers and an afternoon

field trip to a community wind project.

The workshop is open to the public with a registration fee of \$35 for each day of \$60 for both days. A light lunch will be provided on day one. For additional information and to register go to www.nwseed.org or contact info@nwseed.org, 1-866-759-SEED. Registration will close on October 1.

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Edmund Burker

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