

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Garden harvests continue to complement the menus at the Terrace, thanks to many wonderful community neighbors who have taken pity on these victims of "deer avarice".

Apparently, not everyone's garden is being depleted by aggressive, hungry ungulates.

The month of August was also somewhat a month of pies at Willow Creek Terrace, probably because it is a month of days dedicated to various, abundant fresh fruits perfectly suited to pies.

And now, the fall harvest of apples suggests more pies on the menus this month. Residents and staff view this prospect with pleasure.

Remembering favorite poets and poems was a pleasure at the morning discussion on August 21, and Manager George Nairns surprised Lucile Peck, who was Nairns' second- and-third-grade teacher, by reciting a poem that the student had memorized in the classroom, more than a few years ago.

Another stand-out August day was the Wednesday spent at the fair, and one resident also took

in the Sunday rodeo that week. On Aug. 25, three residents appreciated the sounds of Luke Basile and Dakota Brown at "Music in the Park," which had to be moved inside because of the outdoor thunder-lightning-rain show. Everyone at the morning discussion was surprised on Aug. 26 to hear that it was the anniversary of UPS, which was started in 1907 as the "American Message Company" by 19-year-old Jim Casey in Seattle. Aug. 26 was also a day for serious discussion of an amazing woman born in 1910, Mother Teresa.

September continues the featuring of some special days for good discussions and celebrations. The Japanese formally surrendered on September 2, 1945, and residents remember that event. They also remember the voice of Paul Harvey, who will be a topic on Sept. 4, which also happens to end the preseason and ushers in the season-season of NFL. On Sept. 5, "Be Late For Something Day," the always-punctual residents will be challenged, but maybe the always-late residents will want to try reversing their modus operandi.

Grandparents Day is on September 7, a perfect

day for visiting favorite persons at the Terrace. Adding to that significance is its beginning of the week dedicated as "Assisted-Living Week." "Ballroom-Dancing Week" begins on Sept. 21, maybe a chance for a demonstration of this "blast from the past" and an opportunity to "trip the light fantastic."

September 17 is designated "Constitution Day." One organization is sponsoring a synchronized Pledge of Allegiance across the United States, so the Terrace community will be checking on line to find out when that pledge should be made to coordinate with the rest of the states, hoping to participate. Also available on line are opportunities to test one's knowledge of the "Constitution", since more than one site can be accessed for this entertainment. (This writer obviously needs a refresher course.)

Easier to answer on September 11 will be the question: Whose special day is it? Inside information: Barbara Struthers. Barbara will be celebrating her 93rd birthday with family and friends. We all view this as a true reason to celebrate at the Terrace and in the extended community.

Struthers win August Yard of the Month

By Kay Proctor

August Yard of the Month recognition goes to Ed and Marie Struthers home at 235 Rock Street in Heppner.

In 2000, the couple moved into their energy efficient (R-38 insulation factor) home that they designed and built together. It sits on a sloped 90' x 120' lot which they have carved out and created seven terraces from. No small accomplishment with little topsoil and basalt base rock.

Their gardening interests are wide and they have literally planted everything from 'A' (artichoke, asparagus) to 'Z' (zucchini). They enjoy garden challenges such as the bald cypress trees planted three years ago. Bald cypress is native to southern swamps and wetlands, but two of them are still growing on the dry, rocky slope.

Unique materials are used in their home and yard. Doorsills are made from diamond plate metal. Terracing is done with landscape blocks, rocks and boulders. Walkways are laid with pavers, tiles or river rock. Ed created stone mosaics in the walks, with designs such as trees, snake, and an owl.

Fruit and nut trees are scattered throughout. Ed espaliered a row of apple trees and in another area, mulched beneath a row of fruit trees with clover and violas to hold the moisture in. All produce is canned, dried or frozen to enjoy throughout the year. One of the varieties of plums grown is the 'Santa Rosa' plum, a hybrid developed by the famous botanist, Luther Burbank, who had a home and lab in that California community which is also Marie's hometown. Ed is originally from Condon.

The large backyard has 6' fencing which has successfully kept out deer. All kinds of plants have been planted over the years in the unfenced front yard. What is left has survived the grazing deer which includes creeping thyme, snapdragons, Russian sage, yarrow, rudbeckia, ivy and potentilla.

Marie's favorite plants are her numerous lavender varieties. Ed's are the grapevines twining around their fence line. He likes to eat them fresh, but does make juice from them, too.

All watering is done with timers, drip line, overhead sprinklers, or "dragging the hose around". By enriching the soil and using mulch, their water bill is minimal.

Both state that the back patio is their favorite place. It is private with a



Ed and Marie Struthers with their dog, Fair Dinkum

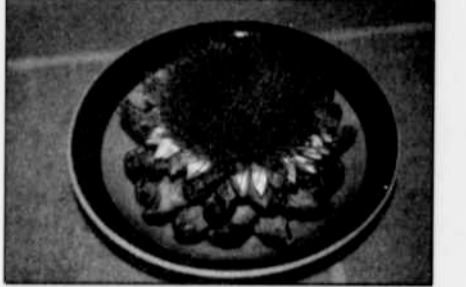
view to the hill-top. A water feature with a fish pond provides the soothing sound of a waterfall. Besides a barbecue nearby, they have built an outdoor dome oven for bread baking with bricks from the old demolished Heppner High School.

Retired from the state circuit court where she worked at the Morrow County Courthouse, Marie keeps busy with many hobbies including spinning, weaving, looming, knitting, and quilting. There are plants from the garden used for dyes in her raw materials. She caught her "compulsion" of gardening at an early age from her grandfather.

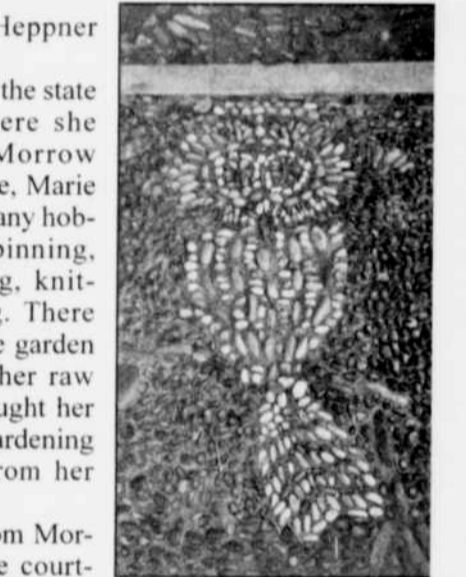
Ed retired from Morrow County in the courthouse, as the computer technician. He has helped develop the Community Garden as a volunteer and his latest hobby is creating furniture from juniper. The couple sets up a table of various wares at Heppner's Farmers Market where their top seller is homemade mincemeat stuffed cookies.

The Struthers will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next year by returning to where they met-at a base in Maryland where they both were serving in the Navy. Their four children, Pat, Sofi, Renee, and Dan, all grew up in Heppner.

Ed and Marie claim not to have any advice for others, but a top priority for them is amending the soil naturally. They do this with peat moss, compost and straw. Ed plants tomatoes right into straw bales where



An artichoke grown by the Struthers, then dried



A stone mosaic of an owl by Ed Struthers

they thrive and keep weed free. On average, only about three to four hours per month are spent pulling the occasional weed, dead-heading and maintenance. Neither chemicals nor a weed eater are used.

Amazingly, this lush yard full of birds, bees, beneficial insects and a few frogs has not one blade of grass and they do not want any. The Struthers do not own a lawnmower. Their goal was to have an edible landscape. In accomplishing that, Ed and Marie created an attractive and environmentally friendly yard.

Yard of the Month is co-sponsored by MCGG-Green Feed, the City of Heppner and the Heppner Volunteers.

Heppner High School Class of 2004 holds reunion



Left to right: Brian and Megan Smith with sons, Connor and Aaron; Cam and Stefanie (Hanson) Sweeney with sons, Mack and Keller; Randy and Brooke (Rust) Carnine; Cody and Lindsey (Clough) Jones with daughter, Fallon; Aaron Smith-Griffith; Darin Skaggs; Ben and Jessie (Woodward) Smith with children, Aubrey, Hannah and Jude; Blake (Allstott) Johlke with son, Caden; Justin and Danielle (Looslie) Hoef with son, Colden.

Members of the Heppner High Class of 2004 and their families met on Friday, August 29, at the Mor-

row County Fairgrounds for their 10-year reunion. Class members enjoyed a potluck barbecue, visiting

and reminiscing, and the children played games and "entertained everyone," according to a spokesperson.

Sheriff's Report

-Continued from PAGE THREE

May 2: -A female from Irrigon stated there was a bunch of screaming and hollering at the location and then everyone went home. She stated that everyone was gone and no officer was needed. She stated no one was injured and it was just her and the bartender now. MCSO did not respond.

-MCSO was advised that James Ernest Stout was arrested by Umatilla County Jail on a Morrow County Circuit Court warrant for

Failure to Appear/Theft II. -Parole and Probation director reported a possible verbal dispute at location. MCSO responded and arrested Kelly Ray Finger, 44, for Assault IV - Domestic Violence Misdemeanor and Harassment.

-MCSO was advised that Spenger L. Gibbons, 29, was arrested by Gilliam County on an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for failure to pay fine on Driving While Suspended Violation.

May 3: -A woman in

Irrigon advised MCSO that her neighbors had been having large equipment coming to their house making a lot of noise all night.

-A woman in Irrigon advised MCSO that she was getting married that day and expected a lot of people at the location.

-A female from Irrigon advised MCSO that she received a butt dial from her sister's ex-boyfriend. She could hear a dispute occurring and also heard the male hit the female. The caller was currently in Stanfield. MCSO responded and contacted both parties at the residence. Both subjects advised verbal only.

-A woman in Heppner advised that while she was out of town, a male was watching her house. He was supposed to come in and check it and then leave. When she arrived home, the male was lying on her couch and had been eating her food. The caller also advised there were multiple items missing from the residence.

-An Irrigon caller reported that a go cart was running around, with one 15-17 year old male wearing a black hat and black shirt. MCSO made contact and the male advised he would

not do it any more.

-A caller in Heppner asked that someone swing by his neighbors' apartment. They had been drinking and were getting loud. MCSO responded and the subjects advised they would keep it down.

-MCSO was advised that Portland Police Bureau arrested Joshua Lee Rains, 25, and an Irrigon Justice Court warrant for Failure to Appear on Possession of Marijuana. Subject was also arrested on other charges with MCSO hold placed.

May 4: -Morrow County Sheriff's Office received report from an anonymous Irrigon resident that he heard loud music, yelling, laughing and singing coming from a residence.

-MCSO received report of a 911 hang-up from a cell

phone. On call back a male subject said that he was broke down on I-84. He was given the number of a towing company.

-MCSO received report of a brown cow loose, last seen heading westbound in Boardman. MCSO responded, but the owner was already on the scene. The MCSO Sergeant assisted the owner in returning the cow to the pasture.

-MCSO received report of a car alarm that had been going off every 15 minutes for the last hour and sounding five-10 minutes at a time in Irrigon. MCSO responded and attempted contact at the residence, but no one was home.

-MCSO cited Victor Ruben Sanchez Mendoza, 23, for Driving While Suspended Violation, No Motorcycle Endorsement

and Failure to Wear Helmet.

-MCSO received report of four people walking across an Irrigon woman's property. She said that while she was on the phone, two subjects crossed the fence into her neighbor's property. MCSO responded and determined the subjects work for Bonneville Power and were doing a survey.

-MCSO received report of a brown cow running down the road by County Garden Estates in Irrigon. There were additional calls and the cow was returned to its owner.

-MCSO received report of a newer silver Chevy parked at the mill driveway in Heppner. MCSO responded and the vehicle had broken down. The owner left a note stating he would have it moved the next Monday.

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