

HERMISTON HISTORY

Fire damages Stanfield Cafe 25 years ago

25 YEARS AGO
JULY 28, 1992

Armed with leather gloves, sturdy shoes and wooden pokers, members of four local organizations have picked up the gauntlet to collect trash strewn on Highway 395 from Umatilla to Interstate 84. First to join the Adopt-a-Highway Program in the area was the Umatilla Kiwanis Club in July 1991. Club members gather garbage from a 2-mile stretch of highway, beginning at Buck's Corner and ending at the Umatilla Speedway. "We might not have chosen the best section of road to clean up," joked Larry Clucas, club president. "That two miles gets a lot of trash lost on its way to the dump. Once the Umatilla Kiwanis had completed their second cleaning, they decided to share the fun and presented the Hermiston Kiwanis with a bright orange bag of trash and challenged the club to adopt its own section of roadway. "We couldn't let the challenge go unanswered," said Hermiston Kiwanis president Steve Frazier. Meeting the challenge, and maybe going one better, the Hermiston Kiwanis adopted the remaining four miles of Highway 395 leading to Hermiston.

Golf Central - Kik's Picture. A late night fire Sunday severely damaged a restaurant in Stanfield and kept firefighters busy throughout the night trying to extinguish the blaze. The fire, which apparently started in the attic of the Stanfield Cafe, spread between two roofs and made it difficult to extinguish. The fire was reported at about 11 p.m. and firefighters were battling the blaze until about 4 a.m. Monday.

Inquiries from all over the United States regarding Hermiston are being received and answered daily. Mrs. Everett Lake, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, told the Chamber board of directors at their meeting last Friday noon at the Hong Kong cafe. Mrs. Lake said that Hermiston brochures, maps, travel information and literature are mailed to those who ask for them. She has prepared a mimeographed supplement to the Hermiston brochure, giving up-to-date listings of churches, motels, service stations and restaurants in our community.

Hermiston Rotary Club viewed a film, "Revolution in Our Time", presented through the courtesy of Don Gray, First Federal Savings and Loan Association. The picture compared the early



HERALD ARCHIVES

A Stanfield firefighter faces large flames and heavy smoke while battling a blaze at the Stanfield Cafe. Firefighters were on the scene all night in July 1992 to contain the fires at a local cafe, which burned the roof of the building on Highway 395.

depression days when renting was prevalent with the present day of homeowners, pointing out that since 1947 home ownership has doubled in the United States, with 60 percent of the people owning their own home; and now 1 million homes are being built annually in this country.

Ann Rasmussen, member of the Hermiston Swim Team, won the three-meter diving championship for girls 12 and under in Eugene July 23, in the first Oregon AAU Combined Senior and Junior Diving Championships. She also was second in the age 11-12 one-meter diving. By virtue of her winning Ann will go to San Francisco, Calif., August 26-27 for the Far Western Division Championships.

75 YEARS AGO
JULY 30, 1942

Members of the Hermiston unit, Co. E., 22nd Battalion, Oregon State Guard and members of the Hermiston ambulance corps will stage a parade along Main Street Friday evening about 8 p.m. for the benefit of those who are not aware of the fact that these two groups are in existence. They will also advertise the benefit dance scheduled for Saturday night at the Townsend pavilion. The guard has recently added five more recruits, bringing the number well over one hundred. Another addition to the local unit is the arrival of another commission, 2nd Lt. Rex Moses of Umatilla.

In case this week's Herald does not have that effeminate touch it is because this office has done its bit towards the war effort by relinquishing all rights on the girls employed here. In other words, the Misses Joyce McCulley, Kay Joyce Ritchie and Anne Sommerer are now employed at the ordnance depot in one capacity or another. Some help has been received by the able assistance of Mrs. Ritchie, mother of Kay Joyce, and Miss Elsie Rauch who have come to the

trying to compete with such a combination of bad odors, and forthwith beat a hasty retreat, to the great delight of the inventor of a formula that, in this case, proved successful in making the polecat take to the jungles.

Not many cities in the state of Oregon, or in any other state, either, can boast of a fair sized revenue from the sale of alfalfa taken from city property. This is why Hermiston has a unique distinction over other towns. For years money has flowed into the treasury of the city from alfalfa crops cut four times each season off a tract of land that it owns and which is situated along the east side of the railroad right in the city. The ground upon which this commodity is grown is one of the most slightly spots in Hermiston, and some day ere long the fodder now growing thereon will disappear, although such a money maker for the town, and in its place will spring up a tree-encircled bluegrass park that is intended to be one of the most beautiful and enticing spots of this nature to be found between Portland and Spokane.

Lack of rain has been a great drawback to sheep and cattle men ranging stock over the bunch grass area in this section of the county this season. Fodder is getting very scarce, becoming dry and withered for want of moisture. While this condition prevails in most parts of Eastern Oregon, it is more noticeable here this year because it so seldom happens.

On this account many of the large owners of cattle and sheep utilizing the range hereabouts have been compelled to move their herds closer in so that green feed can be secured. One is JD Watson of this city, who this week was compelled to move his flock of 450 sheep and 80 head of Angora goats from the range near his ranch 9 and one-half miles southwest to a grazing spot on an alfalfa ranch near Hermiston, which he rented for the purpose.

The Hermiston History column is compiled from previous issues in our archives by Shannon Reed Paxton.

rescue.

At a recent meeting of the Hermiston city council, a deal was made with Dr. and Mrs. E.A. Marble whereby the city of Hermiston acquires all interest in the artesian well just south of the city limits, five acres and some buildings. A lease has been in effect for the past several years but it expired July 21. A purchase price of \$2,500 has been announced.

The water will be used at the completion of the improved water system now under construction. It will be completed as soon as the DeBlasio crew finishes the sewer.

100 YEARS
JULY 28, 1917

J Frank Spinning, a druggist of Echo and well known in this neighborhood, sure got the goods on a polecat one day last week when he discovered the animal in the cellar of his residence. Mr. Spinning did not stop to make intimate acquaintance at the particular time, beating a hasty retreat to other parts of the house, where in sober meditation he evolved a solution to the problem of getting rid of Mr. Skunk without being called upon to become inoculated with the aroma for which polecats are noted. With plans well laid, J. Frank returned to the cellar where he made a strategic flanking movement and placed formaldehyde and sulfur candles, which he brought with him, in as close proximity to the enemy as he dared. The skunk apparently realized the futility of

THREE MINUTES WITH ...



SHERRIE A. KOPACZ
Owner, Kopacz Nursery

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
In about 1954. I went to school in Umatilla, and I came here because my parents did. I've lived here most of my life.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?
Hales.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
The only thing I've ever had time to do is read — and sometimes keep up with the grandkids.

What is the last book you read?
I'm reading a new one by Danielle Steele. She's my favorite author, so anything by her.

What surprises you about Hermiston?
The traffic, and the lack of businesses. We used to have some really neat businesses, but not anymore. There was an ice cream and pizza place — "Happy Joe's" — people would have birthday parties there. We used to have all that kind of stuff.

What app or website do you use most often?
Nothing.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
Nothing that I can remember — I'm probably trying to forget it!

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?
Nowhere. I worked all the time, and didn't have time to do anything else. So I just like staying home.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?
I'd like to retire some time — but it's easier said than done.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
I'd have to say my kids — and starting this business. It's been kind of a joint family affair.

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