

HERMISTON HISTORY

Umatilla readies for new post office 25 years ago, in 1992

25 YEARS AGO
SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

• Umatilla residents will be able to mail their Christmas gifts from a new post office if everything goes according to schedule. "The new building will be completed by Nov. 9th," said Lee Geissel, Umatilla postmaster. "After that all we have to do is accept the building and move into it. Geissel said the new facility will feature three customer service windows, a new drive through letter drop lane and about 400 more mailboxes than the current building. "When they build these things they plan for the future," Geissel said. "This building, with 5,200 square feet will allow us to serve the community for the next 20 years.

• More than 100 people turned out Saturday evening to watch a fire engulf a shed and a trailer behind a house on Northwest Third Street. Reportedly, the fire caused more than \$4,000 worth of damage to property owned by resident Chris Anderson and several other people. The blaze, which threatened several residences and the Wilcox Furniture warehouse, began around 5 p.m. Fire officials are still investigating the cause of the fire. "This is going to be a long and drawn out investigation," said Pat Ward, fire marshal. "There's still some interesting questions we have about this fire." Jim Stearns, Hermiston fire chief, said the fire was confusing because so many people reported it to the fire department. "We actually thought there were two fires in this area. There wasn't, and all of the trucks kind of ended up at the same place," Stearns said, pointing to the five fire trucks around the blaze. Firefighters were on the scene for more than an hour and a half putting out the fire and making sure it didn't restart. "We were really lucky today," Stearns said.

50 YEARS AGO
AUGUST 31, 1967

• The water skiers of McNary Yacht Club will present their sixth annual Water Ski Show on Labor Day, Sept., 4th, at 1 p.m. at their site near Hat Rock State Park, according to show chairman, Ray Heimbigner. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend. Some of the features of the show are: 18 or more skiers behind one outboard boat; two of the youngest barefoot skiers in the country, Ben Hinkle and Mary Rasmussen; Mary and her twin sister Ann Rasmussen teaming up to top a 5-man pyramid over the jumping ramp; Mary demonstrating the turns on the ramp, which won her the regional trophy in Seattle recently. Tom Heimbigner will do a deep water barefoot takeoff, and Mike Clark will demonstrate a new barefoot teaching method. At 7 years of age, Mike is believed to be the youngest barefoot skier in the region. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Norman Clark. Dr. Clark will perform on a surfboard. Other



HERALD ARCHIVE
Hermiston watermelon harvest is in full swing on the Zabransky fields east of the Stanfield Loop Road, as these boys, engaged in the hottest, hardest work, well know. They are, left to right, Lonnie Cloe, Dusty King and Bob Bloom with Dick Miller and Kip Clark on the truck practicing the fine art of packing the melons so they don't roll off in this photo from August 1967.



HERALD ARCHIVE
Mrs. Bob Russel and Miss Claudine Hales, officers of the Hermiston Ambulance Corps, and Sam Moore of the American Legion, stand in front of a new community ambulance, which was purchased with funds donated by various organizations and individuals. The machine will be used in west end Umatilla County whenever the occasion arises.

skiers, such as Jeri Jeppe, Joe Halvorsen, Mark Halvorsen, Jack Thomas, Terri Smith, and about 20 others will be seen in the afternoon of show skiing, Heimbigner said.

• In a few months Hermiston residents will be able to shop at an entirely new, completely enlarged to local store, manager Bill Phinney and Safeway property manager Orville H Blair of Portland said. Plans for the new store are now being checked over, and the project should be out for bid sometime before Sept. 10, if all goes well, with construction to begin about a month later. The new building will be constructed directly behind the present location at 415 S.E. Second, and the present structure will be torn down and the space made into additional parking area. The new store will be approximately twice the size of the present one, occupying just under 9,000 square feet. Everything will be enlarged in the new store, Blair said, and the arrangement will be somewhat different from the old one. Ice cream and frozen foods will occupy a large center section, with dairy products at the rear. Produce will be located on one side, and meat on the other side. A new feature will be a bakery, set to one side of the front of the new store. Blair said that there may be a brief period of inconvenience to customers when the new store is finished and the old one is torn down. A week to 10 days will be required to raze the old structure and put in a parking lot.

cleaned makes suitable bandages when torn into strips. Anyone having this type of material on hand should get in touch with the USO girls or telephone 2402, Claudine Hale. The ambulance girls are now in the midst of a first aid course studying the art of caring for injured persons. All the members are now bedecked with the official uniforms making quite a pleasant sight. With the arrival of the new ambulance, the activities of this group will be much in demand,

100 YEARS AGO
SEPTEMBER 1, 1917

• AJ Arnold, a constant reader of The Herald residing in Portland, after asking for information regarding well drillers in this section, kind of made our chest swell somewhat when he referred to the improved condition of the paper in the following letter: "Will you kindly advise me names of well drillers in your city, as I wish to have a well drilled on my place near Boardman, but have not been able to get in touch with any well drillers yet. "Wish to congratulate you on your imperial newspaper and also your timely article in the last edition on 'Preparing and Seeding of New Land.' I intend to take advantage of this and get all done possible this year. I am quite sure articles on those meet will all subscribers approval."

• John J Casserly, one of the old school of newspaper men whom it is always a pleasure to meet and converse with, was in town Saturday from his ranch 1 and one-half miles northwest of Hermiston. Years ago Mr. Casserly was a shining light in the newspaper arena in south Dakota, where he made history with his paper called The Enterprise for the city of Wentworth, in which it was published. Always progressive, both by nature and occupation, he wielded a strong influence toward the up-building of that town through timely articles appearing in his paper. Eight years ago he sold the Enterprise, and later the lure of farm life overtook him, and hearing of the opening of this fertile project by the government he came west with his family six years ago and settled on the land embracing his up-to-date farm. Here his energetic ways won for him the same success in ranching as formerly experienced in the newspaper business, until now he is well fixed in worldly possessions and forging right along toward the goal where he can see the silver lining, fringed with a little gold, depicting for him a surcease from toil and a well earned rest.

75 YEARS AGO
AUGUST 27, 1942

• House-to-house milk delivery will cease in Hermiston after August 31. Both the Hermiston Dairy and Happy Thot Jersey Farm have served notice to their customers that hereafter they will have to get their milk at the stores as house-to-house delivery will stop due to the tire difficulty. It is understood, however, that milk deliveries to stores and boarding houses will continue as heretofore. Stores will now carry a big supply of milk in order that all customers will be able to obtain it there. Stores will be allowed to make milk deliveries with a grocery order but will not deliver milk only.

• Members of the Hermiston Ambulance Corps have asked for a donation of material that can be used for bandages. Old sheets and other cloth which can be washed and



TABITHA MENDENHALL

Owner, Unique Hair Salon

When and why did you move to Hermiston?
I've lived here my whole life — born and raised.

What is your favorite place to eat in Hermiston?
I love Walker's (Farm Kitchen).

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I spend all my spare time with my family — my husband and my boys.

What surprises you about Hermiston?
The growth — it has grown so much since I was a kid. But it's also amazing.

What was the last book you read?
The Twilight series.

What app or website do you use most other than Facebook?
Pinterest.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?
I've always wanted to go to Australia.

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
I can't think of anything that's happened to me, but I saw something that happened to somebody else. My husband and boys and I were in here one weekend doing stuff, and a lady took off running into the old car dealership parking lot and tried to jump the fence. Her shorts got snagged, and she was stuck on the fence — she couldn't get over completely so she had to come back.

What is one of your goals for the next 12 months?
To get my business where it needs to be to make my family's life better, and to spend more time with my family.

What is your proudest accomplishment?
My family. I have two boys, my oldest is 9 and a half and my youngest is almost 5.

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