

## THREE MINUTES WITH ...

## HERMISTON HISTORY



## BEN ARMSTRONG

Hermiston

### What do you like about Hermiston?

*I like how rural it is and how in-the-middle-of-nowhere it is. It's a small enough town where you can know everybody and walk around and feel safe. Definitely, when compared with other towns around, you can walk up and down streets and not worry.*

### Do you have a favorite quiet place in town?

*The Butte is really nice. I really like the movie theater because its generally quiet.*

### What was the last good movie you've seen?

*In theaters, I don't know. I just watched the cartoon version of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." It was interesting.*

### What do you like about 'The Lord of the Rings'?

*The scale of it is big. You can read it again and again to find details you never saw. And the world is so deep, you can find answers to every question you can imagine.*

### Then, what would Tolkien say about the meaning of life?

*It'd be very Catholic orientated, because he was a Catholic man, himself. He'd say his stories are based on home. Also, evil is greater than good but at some point, it will eat itself.*

### Do you agree with Tolkien?

*Yeah, I believe so. You see a lot in our culture, now and in the past, when bad things arise, it destroys itself.*

### Are there examples of that in the real world?

*There are catastrophes and crimes. Look at what the Nazis did during World War II. That wouldn't have happened if the Nazis weren't bad. If they were just chill, we would've left them alone. But they had to be bad guys; they had to be mean. So the world got back on them, and they brought it on themselves.*

### Do you have any favorite restaurants in town?

*Denny's or Shari's. I never eat breakfast, but I love breakfast food.*

### What do you order when you go there?

*Pancakes, hash browns, bacon and eggs over easy. Then, I mix my hash browns, bacon and eggs and ketchup, together. My dad used to do that when he was in the Army.*

# Sewing group creates robes with assembly line precision

25 YEARS AGO  
Oct. 29, 1996

To regain lost or stolen items, the Hermiston Police Department recommends marking often-targeted goods (like televisions, compact disc players, stereo systems, tools, guns, etc.) with an identification of some sort, like a driver's license number, initials or taking pictures of items.

Local police warn against relying on serial numbers, as those are usually printed on plastic stickers that a burglar can pull off the item easily. This may seem unnecessary, but if stolen property is seized by a law enforcement agency, ownership must be proved to be returned. If ownership can't be positively identified, officers can't assume the items were stolen and they go back to where they came from.

"If we don't have anything to enter (into the computer), it gets really hard to recover stolen items," said Sgt. Dave Hoffman of the Oregon State Police.

The Umatilla County Sheriff's Office will provide OSP etching tools for local citizens interested in marking their possessions, in the hopes of more cases of returning stolen items to their rightful owner.

50 YEARS AGO  
Oct. 28, 1971

The local Red Cross sewing group has been extremely busy, meeting each week at the Methodist Church to make goods, such as robes and slippers. The completed items are then distributed to the Veterans Hospital in Walla Walla and nursing homes in Umatilla County.

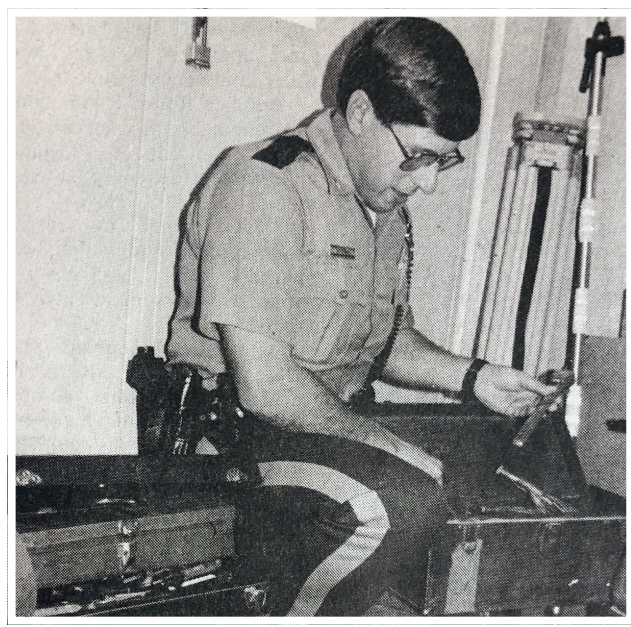
Creating an assembly line, each lady has a particular role in the process of these creations. For the robes, their jobs are as follows: Mrs. Bertha Casseday cuts square pieces from scraps, Mrs. Edna Elwood sews two squares together on three sides to make a pocket, Mrs. Cecile Jackson stuffs the pockets with nylon stocking for warmth, Mrs. Ellen Hill bastes the top of the stuffed pocket, Mrs. Ingeborg Lund tacks the center of the pocket with yarn and finally, Mrs. Allen Nelson arranges the pockets by color and sews them together to create an attractive, warm robe.

Those who receive these robes are very appreciative and thankful of the time and effort spent by these ladies. Mrs. Esther Parks oversees the operation and leads the determined sewing group. To prove the dedication and willpower of this group, one needn't look further than Mrs. Casseday, who is 90 years old and exceedingly productive each work day.

75 YEARS AGO  
Oct. 31, 1946

The Oregon National Guard and other veteran groups are asking Oregon voters to pass a State Armory bill that would provide funding for improving armory quarters, creating more armories and increasing the pay scale for soldiers. Buck privateers, the lowest pay grade, received \$1 for armory drill one night a week in 1940. The new amount would be \$2.50.

"The Armory bill will raise \$500,000 a year, by means of a .45 mill tax, for ten years. On the base of a 1,218,991 population estimated for Oregon on July 1, 1944, each man, woman and child would contribute 41 cents for the construction of new armories and repair of existing facilities," Brig. Gen. Ralph P. Cowgill explained.



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File  
**Oregon State Police Sgt. Dave Hoffman searches for identification markings among stolen items seized in October 1996.**



Joyce Hensley/Hermiston Herald, File  
**Receiving assistance from her 6-month old Siamese mix, Kiki, Beverly Harkenrider sets up a Halloween display in October 1996 at her Hermiston home. She has created similar displays for the other holidays since 1962 (without the help of her cat).**



Hermiston Herald, File  
**The Red Cross sewing group — from left, Mrs. Esther Parks (standing), Mrs. Ellen Hill, Mrs. Ingeborg Lund and Mrs. Bertha Casseday — create an assembly line in October 1971 while making robes for the Veterans Hospital in Walla Walla and nursing homes in Umatilla County. The women, who also make slippers, meet weekly at the Methodist Church in Hermiston.**

Apparently, the current armories in Oregon are in very bad shape. "Regular army inspectors have practically turned thumbs down on the Portland armory. It is in such bad condition ... it's an indication of how they will feel toward other armories in the state if there is no assurance that they will be brought up to date," Brig. Gen. Thomas E. Rilea said. In short, if Oregon is going to keep training soldiers, this bill needs to pass so there will be adequate facilities — though it will mean an increase in taxes.

100 YEARS AGO  
Oct. 27, 1921

The women's club, which meets at the Hermiston library, will hold a favorably anticipated program Tuesday afternoon that will focus on the history of Oregon. Mrs. J. T. Hinkle will present the interesting career of John Jacob Astor, a prominent businessman of the time and founder of the American Fur Company, in his effort to establish American interests at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Mrs. B. S. Kingsley will portray the dramatic and picturesque life of Dr. John McLoughlin, who is credited for opening Oregon to permanent settlement more than any other person by proving its agricultural potential. Lastly, Mrs. M. D. Scroggs will review the activities and famous accounts of exploration of Bonneville, according to writer Washington Irving.

All women are invited and encouraged to attend this enriching program full of history!

*McKenzie Rose, a sophomore at Echo High School, searched Hermiston Herald archives to compile these article summaries.*

## BY THE WAY

# East Oregonian, Hermiston Herald looking for COVID-19 stories

The **East Oregonian** and **Hermiston Herald** are teaming up to report a series of stories commemorating the community members we've lost to **COVID-19**. If you've lost a loved one during the pandemic and would like to share their story, we'd love to hear from you. Email [newsroom@eastoregonian.com](mailto:newsroom@eastoregonian.com) and a reporter will reach out.

The deadline is getting scary close for the **Hermiston Herald's** scariest real-life stories contest.

Using no more than 300 words, Hermiston-area residents need to post their stories on the Herald's **Facebook** page by **Saturday, Oct. 30, at noon**.

We'll pick the story we think is the scariest and print it in the **Nov. 3** edition. The writer of the spooky tale will receive a \$20 gift card to a local coffee shop and a copy of the newspaper with their story.

For questions, contact Editor **Erick Peterson** at 541-564-4536 or [editor@hermistonherald.com](mailto:editor@hermistonherald.com).

For those who missed **Hermiston High School's** drama production "**Lend Me A Tenor**," people still can see the play. The cast understudies will have an opportunity to take the stage during a pair of special performances **Friday, Oct. 29** and **Saturday, Oct. 30**. Curtain time for both shows is 7 p.m. in the school's fine arts auditorium, 600 S. First St.

The Broadway comedy by playwright **Ken Ludwig** received several awards. Sure to tickle your funny bone, the **London Times** called the madcap, screwball comedy "a masterpiece."

For more information, call 541-667-6100 or search [www.hermiston.k12.or.us](http://www.hermiston.k12.or.us).

**United Way of the Blue Mountains** is holding a photo contest to celebrate its work across the region as it moves into a new location in Walla Walla. United Way supports local nonprofit organizations and human services across the region.

The photo competition includes two categories, **focus areas** and **funding regions**. The focus areas section includes successful students cradle to career, disaster recovery and healthy people and thriving communities. The funding regions involve Umatilla, Morrow, Baker and Union counties, as well as Columbia and Walla Walla counties in Washington.

The contest is open through **Nov. 19**. Winners of each category will have their photo displayed in the Walla Walla office, 13 1/2 E. Main St., Suite. 202.

For more information, contact the United Way at 509-529-1183 or [info@uwbluemt.org](mailto:info@uwbluemt.org). To enter the contest, visit [www.woobox.com/xkusqw](http://www.woobox.com/xkusqw).

After winning the battle of the **Bulldogs** against **Pasco**

63-36, Hermiston fans can join the celebration with the **Hermiston Linebackers Club**. The no host luncheon is **Thursday, Oct. 28**, noon to 1 p.m., at **Desert Lanes Family Fun Center**, 1545 N. First St., Hermiston.

Coach **David Faaeteete** and the team will be riding high as they cruise into Richland, Washington, (Friday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m.) to take on the **Hanford Falcons**. Everyone is invited to be a part of the special teams and hear the game plan. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Flora Larson** at 541-567-5215 Wednesday, Oct. 27, by 3 p.m.

The **Harkenrider Senior Activity Center** menu for **Thursday, Oct. 28**, is chili, cornbread, fruit and dessert. The menu for **Tuesday, Nov. 2**, is chicken pot pie, fruit and dessert. (In-house meals will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. People planning to dine in are asked to call by 11 a.m.)

For a **Meals on Wheels** delivery in Hermiston, call **541-567-3582** before 10 a.m. to place an order. To pick up a meal from the center at **255 N.E. Second St.**, call before 11 a.m. Meals are \$5 and can be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and noon.

The **Boardman Senior Center** now is providing meal delivery. Meals are \$4 paid upon delivery. Call 541-481-3257 to order.