



Happy Holidays!



The High Prairian

"All the news that's print to fit."

Volume Eleven, Number Four

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December 2011

NOTICES

Friday, December 16, 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Dinner and Holiday Party
Community Center

Sunday, December 18
2011 Lyle Area Christmas Bird Count
For info call Jake Jakabosky at 365-0025

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center/Fire Hall for equipment maintenance and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for training.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center/Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Community Center.

Lyle School Board meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

High Prairie Book Club meets the 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lozetta Doll for location and book recommendations, 365-0010.

High Prairie Needlers meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. to work on projects and crafts, swap ideas and "network" over a sack lunch. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

NEW HPCC OFFICERS

Audrey Bentz

At our December 1 HPCC meeting, the following officers were elected: President Neil Shuster, Vice President Sharon Aleckson, Secretary Barbara Parrish, Treasurer, Shannon Hess and Director/Board members Dona Taylor, Ted McKercher and Deborah McDonald. We thank those who have been serving these past years for all their volunteer time, but especially Dona Taylor, who has been our competent treasurer for almost ten years! We are happy that she has agreed to continue on as a director/board member.

CONFUSION OF IDENTITY

Gwen Berry

I recently read a statement that, "The High Prairie Community Council (HPCC) needs to give back to the community . . ." On the other hand, an article last spring explained, ". . . the HPCC (that's you, the community) . . ." Well, which way is it? Is 'the HPCC' something different than 'the community,' or not? Is it an elite club that owes the rest of us, or something that only operates because community members step up and make things happen?

Defining 'the community' isn't hard. It's all the residents of High Prairie (and sometimes a little beyond). It's determined by geography and by how people in the area interact with each other.

Defining the HPCC isn't hard, in the abstract. There are documents that clearly define the HPCC: incorporation papers and registration with the state of Washington, an application and approval by the IRS as a non-profit organization, and bylaws that set out the organization's purpose and structure. These are documents that create the concept of the HPCC.

The documents say that membership in HPCC includes everyone in the community. So in that sense, the people of the community and the people of the HPCC are one and the same. The only difference is that some community members are more actively involved and some are less involved.

It's tempting to picture the most active group of people, those who are at the center of HPCC's projects right now, and think that they are the HPCC. It's true that they're the most visible part of the organization. We're always hearing from them or about them, they make most of the decisions—and they do most of the work. This is often the case in volunteer organizations. They don't do it alone, though. People are involved in HPCC's activities on all levels, ranging from 'widely involved,' to 'involved in projects that interest me,' to 'I come to the meetings,' to 'I'll help out a little at the Firehouse Sale.'

The High Prairie Community Council was created by people who saw that High Prairie needed an effective vehicle that the community could use to accomplish

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HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY CENTER AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE!

Audrey Bentz

There are few communities that have such an attractive facility and "state of the art" kitchen available for general use. If you know of someone who is in need of a facility for a wedding, anniversary, or birthday party, etc. tell them about our community center! If you have a connection to a business, organization, or political party, etc. that might be looking for a location for an meeting or training event (wi-fi available), we can give them a tour at their convenience. If a group wants meal preparation provided, this is also an option. The building is approved for approximately 180 people.

For further information, contact Audrey (365-3600) or Debbie MacDonald (365-6813) or any Board member.



The High Prairian

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things we wanted or needed as a community. In other words, it was a way to organize ourselves to get things done, with some convenient advantages like non-profit status.

Everyone who takes part, at any level, is making HPCC function as intended—as a vehicle for our community to do things for our community. The more people who take part in the decision-making, or help set future goals and priorities, or get together with others to get things done, the more it feels like 'community' and 'HPCC' are the same thing.

Some of the things the community has accomplished through HPCC:

- * Raise Large Amounts of Money with the Annual Firehouse Sale/Silent Auction & 13+ Mile Sale
- * Financial Support for Fire District 14
- * Develop Water Source for Fire District 14
- * Provide Scholarships
- * Financial Assistance for Fire Victims
- * Organize Roadside Cleanup
- * Organize Dumpster Days
- * Participate in Planning Community Center
- * Volunteer Labor to Finish Interior of Community Center
- * Finish Equipping Community Center Kitchen
- * Manage Community Center and Kitchen
- * Market Community Center and Kitchen
- * Organize Classes and Activities
- * Hold Other Fundraisers
- * Contribute to Lyle Lions Christmas Basket Program
- * Host Informational Community Meetings
- * Put on Great Community Parties
- * Sponsor High Prairian Newsletter
- * On and On *

Do you have a STORY to tell?

Or NEWS  of interest to denizens of
HIGH PRAIRIE?

How about a POEM, a RECIPE  or a
GARDENING TIP  to share?

Or just want to see your NAME in print?

If so, submit your offerings for PUBLICATION in

THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

Contact Gwen Berry:

pgwenberry@hotmail.com

OR

365-0025








All the news that's print to fit.

LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!

Debbie McDonald

(Editor's note: Recent reports of bears getting into Debbie's trash and into birdseed bins and feeders at Daria Johnson's make the information in this article especially pertinent.)

Bears in the neighborhood can be a cause for concern but understanding their behavior is key to avoiding conflicts with them. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) website has a number of species fact sheets on how to live with and avoid conflicts with local wildlife including bear. In a nutshell, here are some good guidelines:

-  Wait to put out winter bird feeders until December when bears are hibernating. Suet and seed contain lots of attractive calories. Take feeders down in March. (Important: see Bill Weiler's comment below regarding hibernation.)
-  Bears love barbecue smells as much as we do. After cooking, crank up the heat and burn off the grease and oil.
-  Manage your garbage—store cans inside a garage or shed, put your cans out for pick up the morning of pick up instead of the night before, and spray your cans frequently with disinfectant or ammonia solution to kill odors.
-  Put only plant matter in your compost pile.
-  Harvest ripe and fallen orchard fruits.
-  Store pet and livestock feed indoors.
-  Never intentionally feed the bears!

WDFW responds to bear sightings only when there is a threat to public safety or property. WDFW will not come out for bear sightings or remove a bear for going through garbage cans and bird feeders. It is our responsibility to discourage bears from contact with us by following the guidelines. For more information on living with wildlife and your legal status, consult the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/nuisance/>.

Bill Weiler, Wildlife Biologist in High Prairie adds that the black bears don't truly hibernate. They will sleep but will wake if disturbed and, if we have a warmer than normal winter, bears in trash and bird feeders may be a problem all season. Bill also says that it is extremely important not to harass or try to shoot the bear because an injured bear becomes a much more serious threat to people and pets. I couldn't agree more. If you suspect there is a bear nearby, turning on lights and making lots of noise such as the banging of pots and lids together are likely to discourage a visiting bear.

BONNIE'S BACK!

Ted McKercher

"All my friends call me "Bonnie" 'cause that's what my husband called me." I think it's just one of those nicknames we give someone who is special.

Mildred and Merlin Anderson immigrated to High Prairie from Washougal in 1978. They lived in their RV while they built their cozy home on 27 acres a few hundred feet from the (then) graveled, dusty Centerville Road. It was Merlin's first attempt at house building but "he could do anything he put his mind to."

They lived comfortably in that place until Merlin passed away in 2001. They had been married 59 plus years. Merlin and Mildred met and wed as youngsters in a small border town on the Minnesota/North Dakota line before heading west.

After Merlin's passing, Bonnie's children wanted her near them in the Vancouver area, but after a while she couldn't take living on the wrong side of "WHERE THE SUN MEETS THE RAIN." She had to get back home to the 'Prairie.

Mrs. Anderson likes to read, knit, cook and camp but says cooking is not as enjoyable as it was when she had served her husband and six children. Camping, well "its not fun by yourself!" At 89, on November 18th this year, she is grandmother to 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She has a wait-and-see attitude about becoming a great-great-grandmother as the oldest possibly to make that a fact is currently only 16.

Mildred "Bonnie" Anderson has invited me into her home on Centerville Highway (the road is paved now) a couple of times now, made me feel like I belonged there, promised not to sue me over this missive and told me to come back and bring my wife. I'm sure she would make you feel the same.

Oh yeah— she said I could call her "Bonnie"!



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Audrey Bentz



The Ballroom Dance class has just completed about eight weeks with teacher Don Slusher. Since one of the last classes took place on Halloween night, everyone came dressed in costume, met for food and drink at the Bentz's, welcomed the neighborhood "trick and treaters" there and then worked on the waltz at the community center.

The next dance session will take place in March and April, so stay tuned!

THE WATCHERS, PART I

W.S. Stallings

(Some musings on our neighborhood, old stories and a favorite painter, William S. Parrott 1844–1915)

A primary High Prairie pleasure upon awakening is to gaze upon our landscape, watch the weather rolling by or rising from the canyons to play with the mountains' making their own weather, the land ever alive with light as color, then with shadow and texture. Others before us have named what we see, as if names were important: Hood, Adams, Rainier, Gilbert, Simcoe; but our landscape needs no labels until, in the distant valley, lines become order appointing places that must have names or be forgotten: a Blockhouse, or a Goldendale. Others before us came to that valley to settle. Others before them gathered and hunted there, so did not take kindly to the two new families with skins void of the earth-tones of the ancients.

The old ones were artists, who left their visions upon the basalt that, upon closer gaze, is the foundation of our landscape. A masterpiece that we who love art cannot collect is "She Who Watches," inscribed in what could be our south wall were the Dalles Mountain not in the way. The old ones feared the new ones, who feared them in return and so built their homes of palisade and called it "Blockhouse." In time the hunters hunted, the farmers farmed, the children played and the two families with names we can pronounce, "Parrott" and "Golden," made their separate peace with those whose names were, for us, unpronounceable, so we called them all "Klickitat," all the while "She Who Watches" watched.

The new ones built, farmed, ranched and ordered a town-site amidst the golden grasses of the valley. A town-site without a name was nothing but grid on a map; named it became a railroad destination. We've heard tell that Papa Parrott and Papa Golden flipped a coin to name it: John Golden won and named it for his daughter Dale. By chance it could have been Parrottwilliam, Washington.

While his elders built and plotted the future, William watched "She Who Watches" watch and saw in stone his future. He could chisel it or paint it as the Klickitats would do. So he fashioned his brushes and ground his pigments in their old ones' way, but chose to paint rock on canvas rather than paint on rock. He layered his pigments in ways never replicated, endowing his canvas basalt with the feel of foundation, over which his white mountains shimmer in ways only we who live here know to be true.

So we can and do collect his canvases. They hang on our walls as the Dalles Mountain fades into darkness, with hundred-year old weather rising from canyon stone to play with the mountains, again, as we gaze inward upon our landscape before retiring.

KITCHEN CHATTER

Debbie McDonald

Our community kitchen is nicely equipped and I've been happy to supervise the last few potlucks. I want to thank Dona Taylor for all her hands-on help and advice. Dona has experience working in school kitchens and I appreciate all of her practical suggestions. We make a good team. Thanks, Dona!

Mark your calendar: The next event is the Christmas Dinner and Holiday Party on Friday, December 16th starting at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be provided, so you don't need to bring food unless you'd like to share a dessert. There's no need to bring a serving spoon, fork, spatula or pie server. Our kitchen has plenty of these utensils to go around. Please do bring a non-perishable food donation to leave at the party for the food bank in Bingen.

Food Handler's card: If you are interested in obtaining a food handler's card or your card is about to expire, you can attend the class and take the test in either Goldendale or White Salmon. The cost is \$10.00. Days and times are posted on the Klickitat County Health Department website (<http://www.klickitatcounty.org/health/Content.asp?fD=33&fC=53>).

Between the two locations there is a class almost every week of the year. If you renew your card before it expires, the card is renewed for 3 years instead of the usual 2 years.

I'm looking forward to the new year in anticipation of fun community center events that include the kitchen. If you have ideas for neighborhood activities, please contact any member of the HPCC Board or give me a call at 365-6813.



This little gem brightened our email in mid-November:

From: Carrol Andersen

To: Barb Parrish

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 12:44 PM

Subject: Re: Ideas for High Prairian

Didn't know if anybody was aware of this, but my pole building on Centerville Highway was broken into about three or four months ago. They kicked the door in, but took nothing I was aware of. Got the door fixed and then last weekend my son-in-law was down getting wood and somebody had dug a three foot hole on the east side of it and got in and took a couple of things. I did report both to the sheriff at Goldendale. I just wanted people aware that breakins are happening. Have had the property since 91 and never had any problems before.

Just want people around the area to be aware and alert. And feel free to check around my pole building off and on.

Carrol Andersen

From: Rocky

To: Barbara Parrish

Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2011 9:49 PM

Subject: Re: Fw: Ideas for High Prairian

Saw a bobcat tonight, a cougar Friday and a bear a couple weeks ago . . . evidently have not seen the real varmints !

Rock

HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY EMBRACES TECHNOLOGY

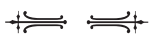
Debbie McDonald

The High Prairie community has an active website and Facebook page enabling our community to stay connected over the internet. The website address is <http://www.highprairie.us>. As explained on the website, "Some content on the site is available for everyone to see, other pages require a password. This is an attempt to keep spam off our community site, so that all posts are from our community to our community." It is easy to set up a password and you'll find instructions on the home page.

This is where you'll find the latest newsletter, the community calendar with events posted, minutes of each monthly neighborhood meeting, pictures posted by community members, High Prairie history, and articles of interest. It's so nice to have our website active again. Check it out!

A new Facebook page has been created by Fern Johnson for our High Prairie community and anyone can post a comment, picture or document as it's an open group. There are currently 18 members and growing. You'll find information on community center events and classes, and some have posted pictures of our beautiful high prairie. If someone posts a comment, you can ask a question or add your own "two cents."

If you don't have a Facebook account, it is very easy to get one. Type in www.facebook.com and create your own free page. (Remember to set up your privacy settings.) Once you have your own Facebook page, or if you already have a Facebook account, login and search on "High Prairie Community." When you click on your search result,  the page. The next time you login in, you'll be notified of new posts to the "High Prairie Community" social network page.



HELP CONNECTING WITH FACEBOOK

Leslie Hayrynen

Everyone is invited to join the High Prairie community Facebook group, created by Fern Johnson, as stated in her email a few months back. The link is <http://www.facebook.com/groups/180735785338230/>. Of course you have to have your own Facebook page, but it's fun and easy to set up. With this group page anyone can post pictures, comments, etc. It is also a great way to connect with family and find old friends.

I would be happy to help anyone on the Prairie set up their own page and join the group. We have wi-fi now at the Fire Hall. I could set folks up there and get them started. My email is: redcheques@hotmail.com if anyone is interested.

A MUSICAL FAREWELL

Marilyn O'Malley

I am now in California and my High Prairie House is up for sale. I wanted to share this song called "Leaving High Prairie." To listen to the song, go to www.marilynmusic.com and on the left hand side of the front page there is a link. Give it a minute to start. It's slow.

Leaving High Prairie

Dance with me darlin'
Come take my hand
Dance with me darlin'
while we still can
Cause life slips away and we run out of time
So to these hills of High Prairie I bid my good-bye

And when I am gone
the Red-tails will still soar
through the sapphire brilliance
as they did before
and the curlew will still keen
with her mournful cry
But to these hills of High Prairie I bid my good-bye

The quail with its headdress
the deer swift and light
Eagle and falcon
amazing in flight
Wild turkey will hurry across Centerville Road
But I'm leaving High Prairie, for where I don't know

The wind blows so hard here it howls through the night
Oh let that wind carry me to where I belong
High Prairie wind carry me
High Prairie wind carry me
High Prairie wind carry me

I came here alone
and alone I will go
That's not how I planned it
But still it is so
Mt. Adams will still glisten with bright snow when I'm gone
I'm leaving High Prairie- time to move on

Dance with me darlin'
Come take my hand
Life is too short
to live alone on the land
Part of my heart will remain here it's true
But I'm leaving High Prairie in search of you

The wind blows so hard here it howls through the night
Oh let that wind carry me to where I belong
High Prairie wind carry me
High Prairie wind carry me
High Prairie wind carry me

HIGH PRAIRIE BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO MARTHA HAMIL

Gwen Berry

High Prairie said goodbye to Martha Hamil at a party on October 21. Friends and neighbors gathered at the home of Karron Buchanan to wish Martha well on her move to Portland. The move took place in mid-November.

Martha's departure leaves a noticeable gap in the community. She had a great enthusiasm for the area, and for 15 years after arriving on High Prairie in 1996 she was at the center of many projects to benefit the community.

More recent residents may not be aware of the many ways she served High Prairie and of her accomplishments during her years here. Not long after moving here Martha stepped in as temporary Secretary/Treasurer for Fire District 14 and, seeing their need for better equipment, she campaigned for the formation of a community group to support the fire district. She was instrumental in organizing and putting on the original Firehouse Sale and other fundraisers. She helped bring the High Prairie Neighborhood Association into being, and she was instrumental in getting the organization incorporated as a non-profit (renamed High Prairie Community Council).

For several years Martha acted as president of the High Prairie Neighborhood Association/Community Council, and continued to serve on the HPCC Board of Directors until last



year. During her tenure the organization developed a set of ambitious long-term goals, built the Firehouse Sale into a huge success, gave regular financial support to Fire District 14, helped finish the old fire hall, collaborated on getting a water source for the fire district, participated in the development and construction of the new Fire Hall & Community Center, and took over management of the new Community Center.

As if that weren't enough, Martha also helped organize and lead the High Prairie Historical Society, was a committee member and contributor to the *High Prairian* newsletter, and was a charter member of both the High Prairie Book Club and the High Prairie Needlers. She was known here, too, for her expertise as a geologist, and her wide range of interests, including birds, wildflowers, gardening, gourmet cooking, politics, and Doberman Pincers.

Martha reports that she's now getting established in her new home in the historic Biltmore Apartments in the Nob Hill area of Portland. She loves being able to walk to "just about everything," and she's enjoying the milder temperatures and lack of constant wind. She misses High Prairie, though, and has issued an invitation to everyone to come and see her new place. To say hello, call 541-308-5068.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Audrey Bentz

If your New Year's resolution includes taking better care of your body, then the Community Center will provide lots of healthy and inexpensive options.

- ☞ Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Yoga with DVD and 10 a.m. Belly Dancing led by Fern Johnson
- ☞ Wednesday Tai Chi: Break in December but resuming in 2012.
- ☞ Saturday Zumba Gold: 10 a.m. at Bentz's lower level above the Center (Morning Song Acres, 6 Oda Knight Rd.) to save heating costs at the Community Center.

Most of the classes during these winter months are just \$1 per session to cover DVD's and/or heating expenses. If the winter blues get to you, just choose an hour a week with us and you will feel GREAT!



On October 22nd Larry Gohl, of White Salmon, sent out this picture of an unusual partial-albino junco, with these excited comments: "This little bird interrupted our dinner tonight. This individual was one of a flock of 4 and the only one with a pure white head. The other 3 juncos were normal. I was so excited that I didn't photograph each of the other birds . . . probably 2 males and 1 female. I can't guess the gender. If I know women, it is the new fall look. She was just sick and tired of looking the same as everyone else."

HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Jake Jakobosky

We're well into the home heating season now, which means someone is likely to have a flue fire in a chimney that hasn't been properly cleaned. Flue fire? No big deal, some would say. Right? WRONG!!!! Fire District 14 takes flue fires very seriously, as they can easily result in a house fire.

You can identify a flue fire by the impressive noises in your chimney described variously as roaring, huffing, cracking, popping or a low rumbling like a freight train. Most likely you will see dense smoke and flames shooting out of your chimney. Other chimney fires may be less dramatic due to a lack of air or fuel but still generate sufficient heat to damage the flue structure and adjacent combustible parts of the house itself.

Once you determine it's a flue fire, call 911. Don't wait! Flue fires produce a lot of heat which can ignite wood structural members near the chimney; or the smoke and fire may escape the flue through cracks in the masonry and mortar or by damaging a metal chimney. The extreme temperatures can crack or warp clay or steel flue liners, providing a pathway for smoke and flames to enter the home.

What can you do while you're waiting for the fire trucks? An adult can close all stove openings including draft and damper controls. The air supply to an open fireplace can be cut off by very carefully placing a piece of sheet metal or a wet blanket over the opening. Family members should go outside and watch for sparks or signs of fire on the roof or nearby. They could also wet down the roof with a garden hose. Adults should monitor the house and attic for smoke and flames. If there's no sign of smoke in the house, an adult could "steam" the fire by carefully opening the stove door a crack and spritzing the fuel with 2 or 3 squirts of water from a spray bottle every few minutes. With a really vigorous flue fire, it may be necessary to throw a glass of water into the stove, even though it can damage the stove.

Do not use a fire extinguisher in the stove. The on-scene fire commander will determine if that is safe and appropriate to the situation. Firefighters are equipped and trained in the safe application of this technique. Do not try it yourself!

If smoke is observed anywhere in the house, including the attic, get all family members outside together in one safe place and again, call 911 to advise emergency responders of this serious development.

Experience dictates treating this as a structure fire. We'll respond with lights and sirens. We'll bring a structure engine and tender, followed by apparatus from Lyle and another fire district if needed. We'll arrive fully dressed in bunker (structure fire) gear, and qualified fire fighters will don breathing apparatus so they are fully prepared to enter a burning building if needed. Fire hoses will be strategically deployed in anticipation of the worst. We'll request a thermal imagery device from Lyle or Centerville Fire Districts. This infrared detector can locate any hot spots near the chimney so they can be extinguished.

When the fire is out you'll be instructed on the necessity of getting the stove and chimney cleaned and inspected before starting another fire in the stove. This means having a CSIA certified chimney sweep clean and evaluate your chimney system from top to bottom for damage.

Enjoy your warm stove and remember your Fire District is willing and able to help in the event of a flue fire or other emergency.



THE ZEN OF CHIMNEY CLEANING

Jake Jakobosky

Obviously it is best to avoid the nightmare of a flue fire by properly cleaning your chimney at regular intervals. You could always hire a chimney sweep but High Prairians, being by nature an independent lot, usually prefer to do things like this themselves. So how does one clean a chimney and how often? Some authorities recommend cleaning after burning $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a cord of wood, more often if your wood is not well seasoned (dry). You could clean the flue then check monthly for soot and creosote buildup to determine how often you need to clean. In my case, if I open the stove door and it produces a puff of smoke, it's time!

The best cleaning tool that scrubs the entire surface uniformly is a stiff wire (not plastic) chimney brush in a size to fit your flue. These are mounted on a rod or pipe and worked up and down the flue. A large plastic bag can be taped around the bottom end of the stove pipe to catch the falling debris. You may need a hand-held wire brush to clean the pipe below the damper. Other methods using tire chains in a bag or wire mesh can be found described online.

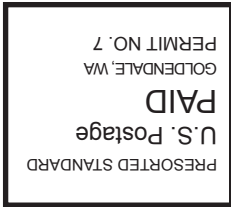
Deliberately starting a periodic chimney fire by building a hot fire or tossing in commercially available chemical compounds to remove soot and creosote sounds easy but is a risky way to keep your flue clean due to the high heat generated.

Now that you've cleaned your chimney how do you handle the ash from the firebox? ALWAYS! place it directly from the stove into a metal container with a tight fitting lid. Wetting down the ash will help cool it faster. And ALWAYS! place the container away from buildings and combustibles. Hot coals, hidden in a pile of ashes and thus well insulated, can stay hot for up to 4 days. Remember, before final disposal coals must be dead out. Local winds can fan weak coals into a grass fire, even at this time of the year, when it has been dry for a few days.

Be fire safe. Clean your chimney, handle ashes carefully, and don't hesitate to call your fire department if need should arise.

Our continued gratitude to Klickitat County EDA for
their support in publishing *The High Prairies*.

POSTAL PATRON



The High Prairies
P.O. Box 592
Lyle, WA 98635

ON THE BANKS OF THE KLICKITAT

This poem was sent in by Frank Fink, who found it tucked away in a library book. Although his copy said, "Author unknown," after a little research the author was identified as William Steward Gordon. It was first published in 1914 in a book of Gordon's poems called, *The Western Spirit: A Bunch of Breezy Poems*. The poem's original title, "The Fated Race," reflects its not-so-breezy topic.

Based on the bits of information we were able to piece together, William Steward Gordon seems to have been a Methodist pastor who lived in and around northwest Oregon for many years. He wrote poems about all kinds of things, but many center on his experience of the Pacific Northwest in the late 1800's and the early 1900's and might be of special interest to those of us who also live here. You can read the entire book of poems online by going to <http://books.google.com/> and entering 'The Western Spirit' in the search box.

On the Banks of the Klickitat

I stood on the banks of the Klickitat,
On an Indian camping ground,
Where a dusky band of Yakimas
Had pitched their tents around.

They sadly gazed on the busy road,
Where once they followed a trail,
While in the twilight gleamed the spires
Of the city of Goldendale.

Like phantoms grim where the willows shade,
Where the path runs into the stream,
I saw them cross it one by one
In the moonlight's silvery gleam.

They could see the bluffs of the ancient fort,
Where their fathers had bent the bow;
Where white and red had fought and bled
In battle long ago.

That night I saw them move their camp
And ride in solemn tread
As if they were chanting a requiem
In honor of the dead.

This I say is an emblem true
Of all the faded race;
They are crossing the river one by one,
While the white men take their place.

They could see the white man's furrowed fields,
They knew they could hunt no more,
And their hearts grew cold like the snowy peaks
That dotted the landscape o'er.

They turned their train to the northern hills,
Where now they are forced to stay;
And only the dying embers show
Where a nation camped that day.

Thus civilization surges on,
Nor waits for flesh or blood,
And those who will not join its ranks
Must sink beneath the flood.