



The High Prairiean

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

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June 2006

NOTICES

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

Fire Commissioners meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at Taylor's church.

High Prairie Historical Society meetings are held quarterly on the 4th Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1st Sunday of December beginning at 2:00 PM.

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

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY BARBEQUE

Lozetta Doll

The Sixth Annual Community Barbeque was held on June 4, hosted by Tom and Lozetta Doll. The rain of the night before had stopped and blue skies appeared with periodic clouds and gusts of wind. Seventy people joined together to celebrate the beginning of summer, the completion of yet another successful Firehouse Sale, good food and cheerful companionship. The High Prairie Songsters entertained the gathering and the children enjoyed games, a piñata, and roasting marshmallows.

Two of the Klickitat County Commissioners and their spouses were in attendance as well as the Sheriff and his wife. Many new residents joined the gathering as well as friends and former residents.

7TH ANNUAL FIREHOUSE SALE

Terry Chabbert and Lozetta Doll

To say that the recent Firehouse Sale was a resounding success would be understatement. The generous donations and the hard work of many individuals combined to net the most proceeds ever. The fire district and the community both benefit from the one big fundraiser of the year.

Many large items, including a car, vintage machinery, planter box, animals and birds, were sold by silent auction. The tables set up in the fire hall were laden with bargains galore, the plant section was set up outside as was furniture, appliances, sporting equipment, toys, construction material, and items too numerous to mention. The new tent purchased by the Community Council was a welcome addition as, typically, the weather was less than cooperative and the workers and crowd took advantage of the large shelter.

And then there was the "food pavilion!" "Myrin's Famous Brats" were a popular item as well as strawberry shortcake (new this year), pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, bread, etc. Lots of work went into setting up the cooking area, purchasing, preparing and cooking the food.

As always, there are so many individuals and businesses to thank for their contributions in terms of labor and donations. A big round of applause goes to Chairperson Sharon Aleckson and her team, Dona Taylor, Mike and Terry Chabbert, Ted McKercher, and Martha Hamil for the many hours of planning and pulling in all the loose ends.

Construction materials not sold were taken to the Rebuild It Center in Hood River, clothing to Second Hand Rose in Bingen, and baked goods were gratefully accepted by the Lyle High School. Many unsold items were taken to Lyle's 13-Mile Sale for another try at finding just the right customers.

Photos inside ☐

LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

Cindy Henschell

Apologies to the High Prairie fire crew, or a couple of them whose names I bludgeoned on page 7 of the March *High Prairian*. Among those pictured were Phillip Haner and Leslie Hayrynan.

"Typos are very important to all written form. It gives the reader something to look for so they aren't distracted by the total lack of content."

—Anonymous



The High Prairian

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News Desk: Douglas L. Taylor,

365-3242

email: highprairie@gorge.net

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COMMUNITY INCOME SURVEY

Cal Edwards

Thank you and congratulations residents of High Prairie. Before we started the survey, we were told by the State that it would be a difficult task. We had also observed other communities who had a difficult time completing an income survey. High Prairie however, did an outstanding job returning the survey forms. The Survey Committee thanks you for making an unpleasant task much easier than expected.

The results of the survey did show that High Prairie was qualified to apply for a State Community Development Grant. Klickitat County has approved our application and sent it to the state. Give your County Commissioners a big Thank You the next time you see them. We must now wait for the State to make a decision about our project.

Anyone who has not seen a drawing of the proposed building can see it when you attend a Community Council meeting on the 4th Thursday of any month.

Again, we thank the community members for making this possible by cooperating with the income survey.

HP COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Douglas Taylor

The road cleanup went extremely well with experienced personnel leading and doing the job. It was reported that much less trash needed to be picked up and the job was accomplished in record time. Many thanks to all the volunteers that participated in the cleanup. It appears those who are walking for exercise are contributing with our Prairie beauty on their own.

RABANCO DONATED USE OF DUMPSTERS

Douglas Taylor

Again through courtesy of Rabanco we had two dumpsters for community use during our firehouse sale. They were placed at the fire hall and on Struck Road property. Thanks to everyone for their dedication of seeing that only eligible items were deposited.

MEDIATOR MARTI KANTOLA TO SPEAK

Marti Kantola and Lozetta Doll

Marti Kantola, Director of Six Rivers Community Mediation Services, has agreed to speak at our July meeting of the High Prairie Community Council, July 27, 2006 at 7:00 PM at Doug and Dona Taylor's historical church building, 876 Centerville Highway.

Six Rivers Community Mediation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community dispute resolution program serving the residents, businesses and agencies of Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Wheeler, Gilliam and Klickitat Counties. Some of the types of cases the mediation service handles are between neighbors, consumers and merchants and disputes involving housing.

Ms. Kantola has been helping people find constructive results in highly emotional conflicts for the past 14 years. She left a career teaching Argument and Debate at the University of Alaska where there was limited satisfaction in fighting with the opposition to prove your point. No matter how good one gets at arguing, the other side is rarely convinced to change their mind! Dispute resolution offered a different approach to conflict. She began mediating in 1996 as a Human Resources Supervisor. She started Six Rivers Community Mediation in 2002 and has since mediated over 200 cases.

Mediation is a unique process, the learning of which can benefit everyone. Unlike arbitration, mediation allows each party to maintain control over the outcome. The only agreement you will be held to in mediation is the one you believe will work. Six Rivers maintains a philosophy that the people who live with the conflict must have the strongest voice in the solution as well. Ms. Kantola will speak about the dispute resolution program, the mediation process and how it can be beneficial for you.

HIGH PRAIRIE LITERARY CLUB

Lozetta Doll

There has been renewed interest of late in attempting to establish some sort of literary club and book exchange in the High Prairie area. If this is of interest to you, please give it some thought and call or e-mail Lozetta Doll at 365-0010, tomloz@gorge.net. Those interested in pursuing something along this line are invited to meet at the home of Ann Stearns, 57 Mott Road, on August 5 at 7:00 PM.

HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL— WHAT IS IT?

Ted and Myrt McKercher

Did you know you are a member? Don't remember paying your dues? Maybe that's because there isn't any. Unless you count attending the monthly meetings, voting on community projects, electing officers (maybe becoming one) as dues. You have a vote on what happens in your community. No Electoral College here! Wouldn't it be nice to know you have contributed to your community? Quite often there are interesting guest speakers. Sometimes the meetings are longer because decisions that affect all High Prairians are not easily made. Maybe YOU could change that. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM the last Thursday of the month at the old church, 876 Centerville Highway. Hope to see you there! Oh yeah, There are always refreshments after the meeting. No charge!

WHY A NEW FIREHOUSE/COMMUNITY CENTER?

Audrey Bentz

The Klickitat County Commissioners are recommending that High Prairie receive a \$389,000 grant from HUD to build the long-awaited Fire Hall and Community Center on our Stuck Road property. Yet some are asking, "Do we need this?"

A fire hall on leased property with no water access hardly needs explaining! The plan to have a three-bay facility with a **good well**, bathrooms, meeting room for training, etc. is a given!

And following are some of the uses served by a community center, to replace the private living rooms and tiny "Taylor Church" for an area which is growing in numbers by the day!

- o SOCIAL: Pancake breakfasts, Bratwurst/Spaghetti/Pizza/Oktoberfest parties, special birthday and anniversary celebrations, weddings, funerals, programs for senior citizens and youth, holiday parties, family reunions, swing/polka/square dances, and so much more!

- o COMMUNITY: Monthly neighborhood meetings to keep our High Prairie functioning smoothly and happily for all, book club meetings, fund raisers (annual Firehouse Sale!), day care,

continued page 8



Bev Edwards and a shy friend



Master Chef, John Cox



Lozetta Doll in the latest HPNA fashion



Bucky pays a visit to the sale

Sharon Alecson kicks back after the sale



Culinary artist Terry Chabbert



"Bag Lady" Dona Taylor in rain gear



The Famous Myrin (Bentz)





Douglas Taylor

BLUE GROUSE, HUNGARIANS AND TURKEYS ON HIGH PRAIRIE

The blue grouse is a medium-sized, stocky, round-winged, and chicken-like bird with a long, squarish tail. Their length is about the same as a bantam chicken to 17 inches. They will weigh up to a couple pounds when mature. They are a permanent resident in the woodlands and edge of fields and do not migrate excepting to higher ground in the winter. This fact always seemed unrealistic to me, but understand the snow generally blows off the ridges, leaving bare ground for a food source. They lay 6 to 9 eggs in a clutch in the spring, with an incubation period 25 to 26 days taking the young 7 to 10 days to fledge, hatching only one brood per year. Their diet consists almost exclusively plant matter with lesser quantities of insects.

There probably are not as many grouse now as in the years when the prairie was a wheat/grain producing area. When I was growing up the grouse would congregate near a water source, close to wheat fields, on the edge of a canyon. From this vantage point in the fall they would cross summer fallowed land that was loaded with garlic bulbs to the wheat fields where they would finish stuffing on the wheat. Then, about dusk they would fly back to the roost and safety of the trees near the spring.

I have had the immense pleasure of eating several of these already seasoned birds, excepting for adding a little salt and pepper. There would be no better meal than fresh grouse, enjoyed with good friends. Around the first of July when

we were cutting wheat hay for the cattle and while raising their young, these birds would be as plentiful and gentle as any chicken in a farm yard. They just moving out of way of the tractor and binder as we made our rounds. A little side note here, my father always started binding the wheat hay on the 4th of July without fail. Of course when I was old enough, starting at age eleven, I was the binder operator while dad drove the tractor.

The Hungarian Partridge was also very plentiful in my younger years, with many coveys scattered over the Prairie. For several years there were also jackrabbits that one would see occasionally in the fields. Going to Goldendale one would generally see a jackrabbit or two on each trip. For many years through Warwick and Centerville there were many Chinese Pheasants also. Now one sees very few.

I have seen the wild turkey with as many as 13 eggs in their nest and a like number of poults when hatched. They are presently doing extremely well with increasing numbers. But it being my experience with the turkeys, over-population seems to reduce production numbers.



Blue grouse hen.

April 25, 2006

To all residents of High Prairie, and readers of the *High Prairiean*.

Last weekend we visited the Presby Mansion Museum for the first time. It's located at 127 West Broadway in Goldendale WA, as many of you may already know. Like many of those pleasant surprises in our count, the museum is probably under appreciated for the "jewel" it really is. An authentic Victorian style home, the house is in excellent condition, and very reflective of the kind of men and women who made up the early population of this area, including the native tribal groups whose presence is often overlooked.

One of the things we can't quite get over, is how numerous are the close experiences, and interesting subjects this county holds, if one is ready to explore. The curator of the museum was very knowledgeable on the history of this mansion, and it's inhabitants. The home has been cared for with obvious pride and care. I would urge the many residents of this community to encourage their visitors, to see it and learn how hard it must have been to put down roots here, only a hundred years ago. I am always "talking Up" the surprises of our region, and this mansion is one of them, The Balfor wayside is another. Enclosed is a photo of the Presby Mansion.

Charles and Joyce Gardner, High Prairie fans



A SMALL BIT OF HEAVEN

Ted Mckercher

With so many retired ministers (do they ever really retire?) living in our area maybe "High Prairie" is closer to heaven than the rest of us imagined.

IN MEMORIUM

Dona Taylor

Henry O'Shea Hickman, 4 months

Son of Mike and Cyril Hickman died in his sleep at his home March 3, 2006 on High Prairie. He was the youngest of their 8 children.

John E. Mott, 84

A resident of High Prairie since 1983 died March 22, 2006 at the Veteran's home in The Dalles. He and his wife Helen enjoyed their small farm and horses. John was a World War II veteran, a retired Pacific Northwest Bell lineman. In his younger days enjoyed flying experimental planes.

Kathleen Gentry, 54

Passed away April 10, 2006 at her home on Clark Road. She and her husband Tom owned the land for 30 years and decided to move here in 2002. They had been active in the community road cleanup.

Ellen Irene (Struck) Morrel, 74

Resident of Vancouver, Wash. died at a local care center May 18, 2006. Her parents were Ernie and Virginia Struck. They adopted Ellen and her twin brother Ted in 1932 and brought them to their home in Appleton. The family moved to the Prairie in 1946. They lived where Cal and Sharon Edwards now reside.

Edward Morris, 90

Edward Morris former resident of High Prairie passed away May 21, 2006 at his residence in Dallesport. Ed grew up on High Prairie and attended the Johnson School just south of the large Olin Pond. He served in World War II and farmed for many years in the Sundale area east of Goldendale. He and his wife Denise were active members of High Prairie Historical Society.

*The community extends their most sincere
condolences to the families.*



COMMUNITY CENTER – from page 3

Boy/Girl Scout, 4-H or other service club meetings, speakers on topics of interest to this community, exercise/yoga groups or “weight watcher” meetings, and emergency needs that could arise.

o EDUCATIONAL: Firefighter training, First Aid/CPR & Paramedic training; art classes, Historical Society meetings and a library for historical books, pictures and local artifacts.

Thanks to the many years of concentrated effort by many in this community, it looks quite promising that our dream of a Firehouse/Community center has a good chance of becoming a reality. Keep tuned!

There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

—Margaret Wheatley

SOME TIPS FOR GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR GREENHOUSE

Suzy Krieg, CSU Master Gardener

When you want to garden where there is a short growing season, lots of wind and chilly nights, a greenhouse, temporary or permanent is the answer. Also, starting your own plants saves money and allows you to choose from a much wider selection of seed.

Varieties than are ever offered as started plants.

The ideal location for a greenhouse is out in the open. Light shade in the Summer so it doesn't get too hot, a frost proof water spigot inside, and a hot spring to keep it warm in the Winter would also be nice. A thermometer is a necessity and Mylar film (space blankets) on the shaded and north sides will

keep your plants growing straight up.

Pests will come in, so be prepared. Slugs can be lured to a drunken death in shallow containers of beer, any brand will do. Also shingles or whatever thin items you lay flat on the ground will have the pesky critters hiding underneath in the daytime when you can gather them up for relocation or execution. Any stray ladybugs, praying mantis or mantis egg cases you can relocate to inside your greenhouse will help provide predators.

According to recently published information, airborne aphids that look down onto metallic silver surfaces see a reflection of the sky, and do not land. Scraps of silver Mylar film strategically located between and under plants and pots will fool them into looking for “greener pastures”

Enjoy your greenhouse little more!

EXPLORING DILLACORT CANYON

Ted McKercher

What has rapids, waterfalls and Darth Vader? Why, Dillacourt Canyon! In order to believe, you must make the trip.

On a bright, sunny day in late February Mike, Terry, Myrtie and I dropped down via an overgrown logging road and the mini canyon behind our home into Dillacourt Canyon. Seven hours later, we emerged at the confluence of Dillacourt Creek and the Klickitat River.

Maybe I should start at the REAL beginning!

Once upon a time Myrtie decided she would like to hike into the canyon. She naturally assumed I would be excited to accompany her, but being a little pessimistic, I complained about the possibility of tick infestation, busting brush, wading streams and any other negative thing I could conjure. This dialogue between positive wife and negative husband was nearing its tenth birthday when we met Mike and Terry Chabbert.

Mike and Terry live high on a bluff above the mouth of Dillacourt Canyon and Mike showed a curiosity about a hike from top to bottom. Of course, Myrtie jumped on that opportunity. The Chabberts and Myrtie set a date and a time. I, not being able to find a way to weasel out, agreed to be eager for the trip also.

It was around 10:00 AM on a Friday morning when we packed our lunches to set out on what



we thought would be a four-hour jaunt down to the Klickitat. After all, by our reckoning it was only four to five miles.

We clamored through the first few hundred yards of undergrowth but then popped out into a pine, fir and oak forest that was easy walking and beautiful. That soon turned into a steep hillside that dropped into a small raging side creek just wide enough to keep seniors or near seniors from jumping across. Our first of water crossings.

Mike and Terry had thought to bring ski poles to assist walking in the rough. I soon found what I think is a maple branch, hard as a rock, right sized for me. Before the day was over that old branch and I were fast friends. After that first water crossing we were able to follow the south side of Dillacourt Creek again bush whacking looking for an easier way.

Ain't happening yet!

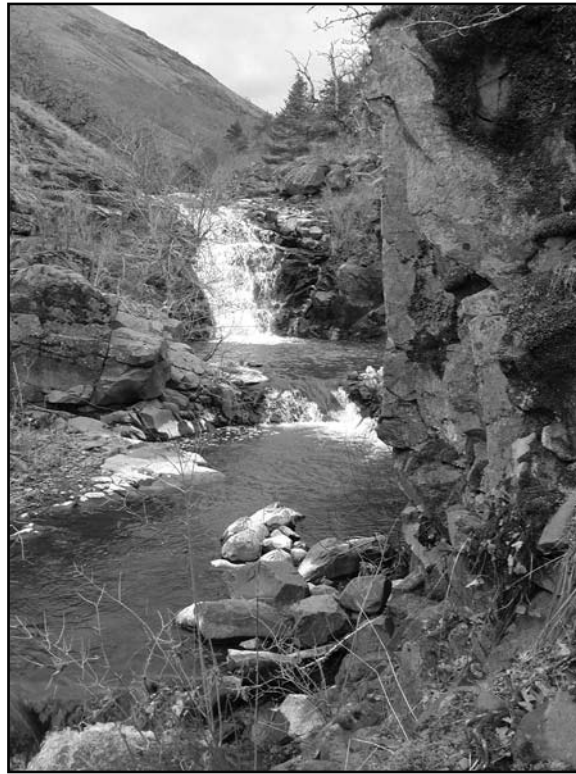
We came to a spot on the creek where we had to cross to the north side. Here again it was too wide and too deep with winter run-off. Terry and I decided to climb the steep south side to see if there was a narrower crossing visible from higher up.

Scrambling through thick brush rapidly discouraged us. Back to the original crossing location. But now Myrtie and Mike were gone! Apparently, they had crossed but did not wait for us. Where did they cross? Was it at that little waterfall? The fall was only about four feet high and at the top on the opposite side was a flat or almost flat rock. Now a few years back there was enough spring in these legs to make a needed jump. Maybe that small tree lying across would be enough to support 180 pounds on a 160-pound frame. Guess again old-timer! The tree bent until I looked like an old horseshoe with the luck running out. Fortunately, I was able to right myself. Although the day was bright and sunny out of the shade, the shaded areas were cold with patches of snow and

ice. My desire to get wet was somewhat less than my desire to hit my thumb with a hammer. There was a small rope sized maple branch reaching toward me from the other side. Maybe I can grab that branch; jump and tug at the same time and make it to the rock without skin diving or falling over the waterfall. Hey, it worked! Now to get Terry across. If I reach back to her with my new found walking stick, I can help pull her to the flat rock. We decided on the count of three — she says I jerked at two and a half but somehow we made it without getting wet.

Traveling the north side of the Dillacourt proved to be much less brushy but more steep and rocky. We caught up with Myrtie and Mike who thought we were still looking for an easy creek crossing.

As a group, we followed deer trails higher up the canyon side while occasionally dropping down to brush clear areas along the creek. We progressed through more oak savannahs, pines, firs and maples. On the north hillside, I began thinking it might be a good thing if my left leg was a foot longer than my right. My walking stick was now looked on with some affection. We crossed three or four more winter streams and several rock slides. Excursions down to Dillacourt Creek revealed raft negotiable rapids and deep pools at



the base of fifteen to twenty foot waterfalls.

As the day wore on with shadows lengthening, we became concerned we might lose daylight before we got to the vehicle we had left at the bottom. Mike kept assuring us the end was just around the bend or over the next rise. Sure enough three or four bends and a couple of rises later we finished our sojourn.

Dillacourt Canyon is beautiful! When you visit us, I will probably force you to look at the pictures Mike took. If you make the trip down Dillacourt

continued page 10

DILLACORT CANYON – *from page 9*

Canyon, you will be shocked that you had not realized it was there and awed by its beauty.

Did you say you might hike the Dillacourt? Mind if I tag along? What about Darth Vader? He is there; you will have to see for yourself.



SAFE DEBRIS BURNING IN WASHINGTON FORESTS

Douglas Taylor and Fred Henschell

Careless debris burning is the cause of many wildfires and nuisance smoke problems. Outdoor debris burning is subject to state and local fire safety and air quality regulations.

Consider no-burn options. Many landfills offer designated days when yard debris can be disposed of at little or no cost. Your local Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service offers “how to” publications and advice about composting. On-site chipping may be feasible. Limbs and other debris may be piled for wildlife habitat if located where it does not pose a wildfire hazard.

High Prairie does not issue burn permits, but follows state and county rules and “burn ban” restrictions. Burning in the undeveloped forested portion of your property is regulated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). If burning according to state and county rules, Please notify one of our local volunteers before burning. In forested areas protected by DNR, debris burning is permitted

without a written permit if all the following conditions are met:

- Burn one pile at a time of forest debris that is less than 4 feet in diameter (July 1 - October 15) or less than 10 feet in diameter (October 16 - June 30). Burn barrels and incinerators are not permitted. Burn only natural vegetation or untreated wood products. The burning of household or industrial trash is not permitted.
- Burning after sunset requires a special permit.
- Burn piles must be at least 50 feet from structures and 500 feet from any forest slash.
- Clear the area around the burn pile of any flammable debris.
- The winds are calm or light. It is too windy to burn if trees are swaying.
- Maintain a connected water hose or at least five gallons of water and a shovel nearby.
- Attend the fire until it is completely out.
- Be prepared to extinguish the fire if it becomes a nuisance.
- Call 1-800-323-BURN to obtain updated burning information on the day of the burn.
- Check our signs on each end of Centerville Highway for no burn restrictions.

If any of these conditions cannot be met, a written burning permit is required. These conditions apply only to burning in areas regulated by DNR.

To obtain a written burning permit contact your local DNR office at 1-800-527-3305.

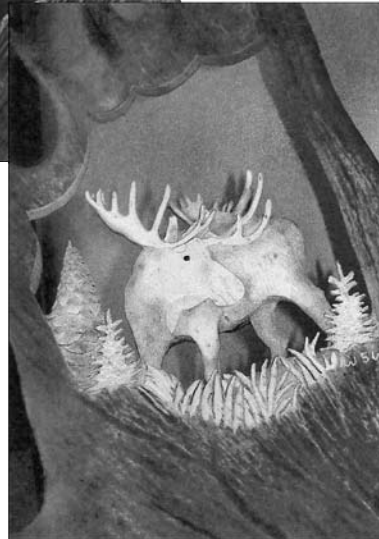


ARTIST EXTRAORDINARY

Douglas Taylor

Bill White, in his youth a High Prairie resident and now of Sutton Alaska, visited the Prairie at the end of April. He was an overnight guest of Doug and Dona Taylor and visited many of his long-time friends in the area. He was very impressed with the unbelievable change to the area. During his residency to the late 1940's very few people lived here with most only living on larger farms. He said the most notable change was housing on hilltops everywhere one looked, and the division of properties into much smaller parcels.

Bill was a farm boy and he eventually acquired his own farm/cattle ranch which he operated for several years. He later worked on pipeline construction in Alaska, operating heavy equipment such as Cats, graders, and backhoes for several years. He also owned and operated his own restaurant



for awhile in Alaska. Bill was a life-long supporter of the great outdoors and enjoyed the pleasures of being among and hunting the wildlife of his area.

During the long Alaskan winter nights Bill took up the art of carving wildlife likenesses from discarded and shed antlers of different species of animals. He spent many hours on a single carving, achieving very realistic detail. His finished work is

a delight to behold with the special realization that he is doing this with the vision in just one eye. He had the misfortune of losing the other one in a shop accident as a young man working on a farm as a farm hand.

We had a very enjoyable visit reminiscing of days gone by, fun things and mischief done that probably would be better forgotten. Included are photos of two of Bills carvings.

COUGARS

Douglas Taylor

With the turkey hunting season opening in April came new sightings of cougars. Recently I had one report of a family from Centerville traveling home from Lyle late at night seeing two of the critters near Struck Road, crossing the Centerville Highway.

Another report I received was of a hunter near Stacker in his camouflage outfit being approached by a cougar in response to his turkey call. The report was he fired two shots at the cougar, but we may have a wounded cat now that could even be more troublesome.

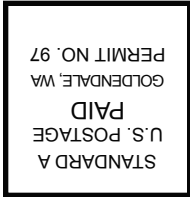
I had one turkey hunter tell me about jumping

a deer in his travels and as it jumped, another deer that a cougar had been stalking also jumped, with the cougar in hot pursuit. He said it was a strange looking cougar with a mane unlike other cougars. There was no dinner for the cougar this time though.

One cougar had acquired a taste for lamb, but it was eliminated from the gene pool last year. Yet another one had taken a liking to veal.

There had been several sightings last year and seems likely there are going to be many more this year— along with the occasional bear.

POSTAL PATRON



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