



Happy Holidays!

The High Prairie

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

Volume Six, Number Four

Circulation: 1,200 • Subscription Cost: FREE

December 2006

NOTICES

Christmas Program December 3rd, 2:00 p.m.
at Taylor's church.

**Ground Breaking for New Fire Hall/
Community Center** Monday, December 4th
11:00 a.m.

Bentz' Christmas Party December 15th at
7:00 p.m. All welcome!

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st Tuesday of each
month at 7:00 p.m. 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 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th
Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. 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 p.m. Next meeting is the
Holiday Program on December 3rd at Taylor's
church.

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

**When requesting medical assistance or
reporting a fire CALL 911**

HIGH PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Dona Taylor

A special Christmas program will be held on December 3rd at 2:00 p.m. in the Historic church located at the Doug Taylor residence, 876 Centerville Highway. Twenty-eight High Prairie youth will present *A Christmas Around the World*. As the commentator reads the Christmas customs, the following youth: Christina Anderson; Kassy, Kelly, Karrie, Jesse, and Tyler Call; Emily and Ryan Darland; Priscilla and Patricia Estrada; Corey, Matt and Sabrina Gossett; Olivia and Liam Grim; Isabelle and Zach Martin; Shelly McKern; Bradley and Savannah Moe; Jim and Brittany Price; Caleb, Addy, Annika, Katie, and Elaine Strait; and Tatiana Taylor will portray the principal Christmas characters from Holland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, England, Sweden, Germany, Spain, Poland, and Ukraine.

Representing the United States, and reading the "The Night Before Christmas" will be our very own distinguished statesman of High Prairie, Myrin Bentz. His wife Audrey, and Alice Gosset will be in charge of the music and leading us all in carols of the season at the appropriate times through the program.

Volunteering their skills to make hats, props, decorations, and filling Christmas sacks are Teri Chabbert, Sharon Edwards, Martha Hamil, Penny Rutledge, and Dona Taylor. Gail Amery is coordinating this special program. This Christmas program is being sponsored by High Prairie's Historical Society. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special program.

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Lynn Tucker & Laura Reeves — Schilling Road



HIGH PRAIRIE NEWSPAPER

Douglas Taylor

We are fortunate to have many volunteers contributing articles, poems, and pictures and formulating and formatting, folding and labeling our little paper. The Klickitat County Economic Development office and Kathy Norton have overseen the printing and mailing. Kathy is no longer working for the Economic Development office and has taken a job with the Port of The Dalles. Mike Canon, the new EDC Director is helping to publish the paper. We wish Kathy well and look forward to working with Mike and his staff. We appreciate all contributions and look forward to more with each issue. It has been a community effort and as the old saying goes when the tide comes in all ships rise.



The High Prairian

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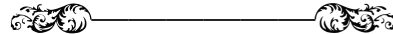
HIGH PRAIRIE HOLIDAY PARTY AT MORNING SONG ACRES!

Audrey Bentz

All High Prairians are invited to come to the Bentz home at 6 Oda Knight Road, 7:00 p.m., or after, on Friday, December 15th.

- o A good time to see old and meet new friends and neighbors!
- o Children (big ones too) can enjoy the arrival of Santa on the fire engines, all decorated in lights!
- o If you like to sing the carols, you can really celebrate the season! (plus other special music too)
- o And the food and drink are scrumptious (thanks to many contributions by guests)!!!

Mark this date on your calendar now!



JUST DO IT!

Audrey Bentz

A High Prairie directory would help us get better acquainted with our neighbors. And it would make it easier to find a phone number or address of a neighbor when needed.

One resident, Ondine of Oda Knight, has volunteered to assemble this directory, but she needs YOU to send her your name/address/phone/email information if you wish to be included. You can also add, if desired, some special interest or capability that you might be willing to share.

But, to be included, you must either phone, email or mail the above info no later than Christmas. Just do it now, before you forget, OK? Choose one of these:

Ondine Moore
224 Oda Knight Road, Lyle, 98635
509-281-0444
krebacious@earthlink.net

And thank you Ondine!

IN MEMORIUM

Our sincere condolences to Dorothy Kemp on death of her sister, Daisy Thompson of San Manuel, Ariz., on October 12, 2006.

GET WELL WISHES

Ted McKercher, Centerville Highway, who had surgery in October.

Paul Strait, High Prairie Road, who had the misfortune of falling from his ATV and breaking some ribs.

Rob Taylor, Budmore Road, had surgery also.

All are on the mend and we wish them a speedy recovery.

HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB

Lozetta Doll

The newly-revived High Prairie Book Exchange/Club has been meeting the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings feature the host or hostess doing a review of a book of his or her choosing. Anyone can bring books they want to exchange and report on what book(s) they are reading now, recommend books, and talk about favorite authors and books. Anyone is welcome to come.

There will be no meeting in December. The next meetings will be hosted by: Myrt McKercher, 779 Centerville Highway, January 22, 2007; and Martha Hamil, 201 Oda Knight Road, February 26, 2007. Put the dates on your calendar and bring a book and a snack to share.

HIGH PRAIRIE IS CELEBRATING

Cal Edwards

The long talked about "Grant" is now a reality. The State has given final approval for our new Fire Hall/Community Center and we are moving ahead. I will encourage all of us to be patient as the implementation committee begins their job. Because we are spending someone else's money, we must use their procedures and rules. In spite of what may look like inactivity right now, we are busy getting the grant contracts between the State, County, MCEDD, and High Prairie written and signed. I believe we can look forward to seeing concrete poured in the spring.

Our next public event will be a groundbreaking ceremony. The date has been set for 11:00 a.m. on Monday December 4th for this event.

THROUGH THE EYES OF THE NEEDLERS

Martha Hamil

- Pots with badly burned food on which nothing has worked? Pour full strength chlorine bleach into the pan and let it sit if the pan is enamel, ceramic, or glass. The chlorine in the bleach and the carbon in the burn react to form carbon tetrachloride, a brownish liquid. It may take several days and several changes of bleach. With each bleach change, scrape out any loosened burned food. Metal pans react with the bleach but you can give it a try if it's stainless. Just keep an eye on it.

- Want to retain the bright green color in cooked spinach? Cook without a cover.

- Want to substitute butter or margarine for hydrogenated shortening, lard, or oil in baking? Use 1¹/₄ cup butter or margarine for the other fat to get the right fat to flour to liquid ratio. Substituting the other way use ⁴/₅ cup other fat for each cup of butter or margarine.

- No milk and you are baking? Substitute ⁷/₈ cup of water for each cup of milk.

- Avoid lumpy gravy - Add a little salt to the flour and stir before adding the liquid.

- Need a certain amount of cooked beans or pasta? 1 cup dry beans will yield 2¹/₂ cups cooked beans and 1 pound pasta will yield 4 cups cooked pasta.





Douglas Taylor

High Prairie
History

WOOD CUTTING

One day, seeing a neighbor drive by hauling a load of wood that he had cut apparently for someone else, reminded me of the days when all the farmers cut their own wood. This was a job required every year, so that we would be able to keep the houses relatively warm in the winter.

This was hard work and involved as many family members as possible, some to do the falling and bucking and others to do the splitting and stacking. I think this must be where the expression "All hands and the cook" came from. We had no electricity back then and wood was used to cook and can as well as heating the house.

Wood cutting was a trade that everyone did but, was somewhat looked down upon as a profession. It seemed the poor woodcutter worked hard but never seemed to improve his lot in life.

I recall one of my first wood cutting experiences with a chain saw. I rented a saw and used it all one day just falling white oak. I cut the larger pieces down to shorter pieces so we could load it on a trailer. My Dad and my

brother-in-law, Donald used axes to cut the limbs off and pile the brush.

We spent about a week hauling the logs in to the barnyard where we spent several days running them through a buzz saw that Dad owned. This amount of time spent actually kept us in oak wood for about three winters.

Cedar posts were used for fences and after they were used twice as posts, they usually ended up on the buzz saw pile for kindling. This was great wood for starting fires and was easily spilt. Cedar seems to weather well, and I have used these same posts after years of weathering to make toys and small figurines.

Cedar posts were imported and not native in our part of the country and that is the reason for triple use. They were used once as regular posts, and then, after rotting off the bottom, they were turned upside down and used as stays between the longer posts. This made a stronger fence, especially if one was raising hogs or sheep.

Most farms that raised hogs had their property fenced with 24-inch woven wire on the bottom. Many remnants of these fences still remain. Some times even a strand of barbed wire was placed below the woven wire. A couple sayings were that

a fence should be horse high, bull strong and hog tight. The other was that good fences make good neighbors.

We have lots of pine growing in our area and old fallen trees were good for making pitch posts. Some of these posts will last for forty years or longer. One needs to be especially careful using this pitchy wood to burn in the house woodstove however. Actually, this practice is not a good idea. Too large of a piece tends to get the fire roaring and has been known to start a chimney/house fire.

Due to the scarcity of wooden posts and the work of digging holes to



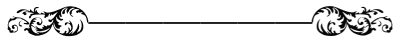
Prairie fence post, penstemon, and Mount Hood. Photo by Vicki Koch.

place them in the ground, metal posts have almost entirely replaced wooden posts, except for corners. The corners of fences may be of treated round poles or used railroad ties.

One interesting use of material was by Clyde Houston and wife Rachel who came to the Prairie in 1936. His fence stays were made of baling wire that was connected between cedar posts about every four feet. Clyde had salvaged wire from his hay pile for this purpose and this made for a good tight fence.

When I first knew them in the 1940's they were milking a small herd of goats for an income and delivering the milk to Lyle, where it was shipped by train to Vancouver. I don't ever recall his goats running at large.

They retired and moved from the Prairie to Lyle in 1951, selling most of their property. One interesting note here is one parcel of approximately nine acres was never recorded as sold. This property went through several owners before this mistake was caught by the County Assessor. Finally it was deeded back to the Houston heirs, who put it up for sale.



HIGH PRAIRIE SERENITY

Judith Alef

The deep throated chime sounds its call to prayer.

The low tones move below the arial wave of small birds gliding from fence post to feeder.

Below them the topographic map of this place is filled with trace depressions, paths that betray the silent journeys of deer and turkey.

A sentinel appears from white oak below the trace. Perfect stillness. The doe capable only of clearly seeing movement to determine my presence. I sit frozen. Now to the side and behind me they come to forage around the edges of my world. I breathe slowly and we stare at each other till we are one.

My yearning for the coffee cup beside me is satisfied when the herd moves into the shadows and one by one drop down into the tawny grass to rest. My vision is now the doe's; I no longer see form, only movement of twitching ears or the slap of a white tail.

Coffee now in hand is complete.

Contentment is now the order of the day.

Note: Judith, a recent visitor to High Prairie was inspired to write as she enjoyed the solitude of a warm late summer morning.

EMU SIGHTINGS

Ted McKercher

Any citizen who lives on or near High Prairie has seen turkeys and deer. Some have occasioned bear, cougar and elk.

Now there have been sightings and evidence of emu! "e' mu – a large flightless bird of Australia related to the ostrich".



If its from Australia and flightless it either walks on water or booked a flight on Quantas.

Either may be possible but not highly probable so I have to imagine Mr. or Ms. Emu was ranch raised and "broke out".

My first alert came from John Grim who saw what he thought was a very large turkey in the small canyon between our house and his about 150 yards north of Centerville Highway. Upon closer inspection he realized the bird was too big for his oven (Thanksgiving, you know) and was in fact an emu.

Oda Knight Road resident, Martha Hamil spotted a very large track near where she was walking recently. Her first reaction was, "What the heck is that?!" She knew it wasn't cougar or bear and a turkey track that large was a real stretch. Martha took a picture of the track but says the picture wasn't as good as she would have liked (sounds similar to a sasquatch sighting, eh?).

There have been other sightings or rumors there of but my phone messages to those observers have gone unanswered.

Has anyone else spotted this Aussie? If so give me a call at 365-9576. Just ask for the bird watcher.

TREES ON HIGH PRAIRIE HILLS?

Vic Kaufmann

I am the old fellow who wanders around my hills planting trees and trying to take care of them. The courteous and friendly people motoring up and down Schilling Road wave to me and I wave back. They probably think I'm a little touched if harmless; but I guess I have become so notorious that someone suggested I write something about trees for the *High Prairian*. I am glad to do that as a kind of civic obligation although I really haven't much expertise to pass along. I don't have any ag courses or degrees to my credit. I grew up on the family farm in Indiana. I like plants and nurseries and plant people. I had the acreage on Schilling Road for a number of years. After a while I started calling it Windgarden, a name that has the potential to be factually descriptive or—if not that—ironic. Finally in 2002 I could no longer resist the compulsion to try planting something on its rather barren surface. About all I have to talk about here is the few practical lessons I think I have learned since then. I started out in 2002 with the package of plants Soil Conservation provided: ponderosas, grand firs, Columbia hawthorns, elderberry, ocean spray, chokecherry, red maple and Caragana, a few plants of each species. By last spring I had planted eighty-some species and varieties and about three thousand individual plants. The numbers are impressive only for those who plant on a one-Gator basis (a Gator is a small John Deere utility vehicle).

It seems to me that the time of planting may be the most critical factor in determining the success of my plantings. Compared to soils I have known in Indiana or even in Portland, my soil at Windgarden is very strange. When winter rains have wet it thoroughly, it is so fluid I can poke the blunt end of a one-by-two a foot down into it without much effort. When it is summer-dry, it is brick-hard, hard to dent its surface with a pick. There is a brief period in the spring, however, when this soil has just the right degree of moisture; and then it is a good, dark color and soft and workable—it looks and feels like the best soil in the world. That is the time to plant, when you want to get your plants in the ground all at once. A little later, if you try to work with the soil, it will break up into hard clods that aren't ever going to cooperate with you or your plants. You just have to watch and plant when the ground is right.

I want to get my plants in the ground the day I receive them. If the plants arrive and the soil is frozen too deep or there's too much snow to work in, I bathe the plants in a solution of fungicide so they won't mold.

When I can plant, I prune a plant's roots to six or seven inches, open up the ground with a shovel—wide enough to take the roots straight down, then make another cut with the shovel to push the first cut closed; and then I press the soil firmly around the plant with my boot. When all my plants are safely planted, then it is time to cut the sod away from around each plant—clearing a circle about thirty inches across with a sharp shovel. The term for this procedure is scalping, and it's certainly easier to do the scalping when the ground is soft. Next I put a plant tube over the plant, pound in a one-by-two stake (I get the stakes from SDS Lumber in Bingen) and cinch the tube to the stake with a plastic tie (like a cable tie but UV-proof). I even put my stake on the southwest side of the tube to give the plant a little more protection from the heat of the afternoon sun. A note about plant tubes: in 2002 I overlooked one ponderosa seedling after planting and didn't ever fit it with a protective tube; four years later the sibling growing closest to it is several times larger and stronger than the little pine left behind without a tube. After positioning the tube, I mulch around it with barkdust, a hard-packed five-gallon bucketful around each tube. I used to use the black soil mats, but I think the barkdust is easier to apply and more effective in conserving moisture and discouraging competition from weeds and grass. I mulch deciduous plants inside the tube, if they are tall enough, with a soup-canful of perlite to retain moisture and keep the soil from hardening rapidly around the plant. I don't do this with conifers or with small deciduous plants, which would be covered up by the perlite.

Once the ponderosas have received their barkdust mulch, they are on their own and will need little further attention; but broadleaf plants are another matter. I want the things I plant a Windgarden to grow naturally, to take care of themselves. However, given the severity of conditions on my land, the likelihood of the broadleaf's' getting firmly established there without supplemental water is minimal. I try to help the deciduous plants by watering them before each forecast spell of merciless weather (high pressure with hot, dry winds). I do this for two years since I understand that by the third year a plant has adapted as well as it can to the conditions it is experiencing. In the 2007 planting season I am going to try out a couple of new ideas. I am going to experiment with small crushed rock (I can get five-eighths-minus), incorporating it into the soil and

also using it as a surface mulch; and I shall try coating the roots of my deciduous plants, before planting, with a gel of SoilMoist, a moisture-retaining polymer that is supposed to minimize transplanting shock and improve a plant's chance of surviving.

Plant-eaters represent my most serious problem—perhaps a substantially insoluble problem. The offending critters are—so far—deer, voles, snailcase bagworms and earwigs. The earwigs can defoliate and kill a small broadleaf plant, but it is easy to kill them with a tablespoonful of “slug bait”, the meal formula, in each tube. At first the parthenogenetic snailcase bagworm seemed to be a fearsome threat, but it hasn't done much harm and seems to be disappearing. The voles usually account for about two dozen plants a year, usually deciduous plants, gnawing them off at ground level inside the plant tube; but it is an acceptable loss, and I am sure the voles' value as cultivators of the soil is worth many

times the value of the plants they take out. That leaves the deer, which will almost certainly determine how much I can accomplish at Windgarden. I have tried a number of anti-deer measures, but they have been ineffective. The deer pretty generally eat off the deciduous plants at the top of the plant tubes. Perhaps these browsed-down plants will survive and outgrow the deer. Some species seem to do better than others; at this point I would bet on Caragana, Siberian elm and Garry oak. I'm pretty sure some kinds of plants, including some deciduous ones, will succeed at Windgarden. I am confident the ponderosas will; the deer don't like them and seldom bother them, and they just keep growing. The deer should be a part of the landscape as they have been for ages. I don't want to fence off an unnatural preserve; and, short of that, I shall just have to be satisfied with what the deer let me grow. I will be satisfied with that.

MINIATURE HORSES

Lakoda Lady and Rozee Carr-Bird

Hi, my name is Lakoda Lady. I am a red and white, pinto miniature horse. I would like to tell a little story about a small ranch where I was raised in Lyle, Washington on the High Prairie. We have ten miniature horses and many other animals. The miniatures have shown very well in the horse world. We have a little mare Shady Deal who has won many championships, including 4th in the nation, and she has never been beaten in a show. We also have Color Me Eboni who is a Champion mare.

The 4-H kids come to our house on Wednesday and Saturday. My owner (Rozee) teaches them how to train the little horses. Not me, I don't like little kids. One 4-H girl, Laura Parsons, has shown Broadway Baby in driving, jumping, halter mares, showmanship, and was High Point youth in the 10 and under group.

Another boy, James Parsons took Laroo and won High Point, 18 and under. James won the chance to go to State in Puyallup. His mother and father could not take him, so

Papa Joe put James, his horse and a driving cart into the motor home and away they went. Not only did that motor home give them a place to sleep, it gave Laroo a place to sleep also. He did very well at State with that little horse; it was the first miniature horse to go to State in driving.

Now I must tell you there has never been a professional trainer touch any of our horses just Cissy Whipple, Rozee's daughter, and my trainer Rozee Bird. I have won everything a miniature horse could ever win. In 2004 I won the highly sought after “ALL-STAR” and in 2005 I took “THE NATIONAL HALL OF FAME” given in Texas. I also won seven championships at Klickitat County

Fair in 2006. I won championships in: showmanship, jumper, hunter, costume, mares, trail, and I was the all around Best of Show and I got a huge neck ribbon. I was High Point horse at the fair and Rozee was High Point adult. We are very proud to be from High Prairie and we have done our best to make them proud of us.



CANADIAN HOLIDAYS

Helen Kearns, High Prairie Needler
Former Canadian from Manitoba

On November 11th (Veterans Day) we remembered our veterans and fallen soldiers. In Canada, we refer to it as "Remembrance Day." We celebrate Thanksgiving in much the same way as in the United States, (big meal, turkey and trimmings etc.) *but*, on the second Monday of October—a different date. Now in my mind, and humble opinion, it makes better sense. I don't mean to be insulting of the American way, but I invite you to think about it. The earlier date, allows for well over a month to prepare for the busy Christmas season. Think about how that would feel? You have time to breathe! Admittedly, I may be a little biased and loyal to my country of origin.

Now, unlike celebrating the coming and the settling of the pilgrims, Canadians give thanks for a successful harvest. As the English and French explorers began to settle in New Foundland (beginning as far back as 1578), they gave thanks for surviving the long journey. Eventually in 1879, Parliament proclaimed a day of Thanksgiving to "Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which we have been blessed...to be observed on the second Monday of October." Does it not make good sense? I should move back to Canada for such a good reason! No, I like my life here. I actually became a U.S. citizen last May. I can vote now!

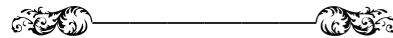
Christmas is all celebrated in much the same way. The day after Christmas is known as 'Boxing' day (and not about dakin' it out). It is a holiday and traditionally, it was a day for giving money and other gifts to charitable institutions and perhaps spending the day volunteering. The exact origin is unknown, but the idea centers around the giving of boxes to the less fortunate. The holiday is celebrated in Canada, England, Australia and New Zealand. Perhaps it would be good to refocus on that precept. I don't think it is observed in the same way any more. Hope you learned a little about my native land (as far as the holidays anyway), and don't you agree our Thanksgiving date for a celebration time is better??? EH? I won't be offended if you don't.

One of our 'needlers' (Katherine Baugh), gave me this recipe awhile back and I would like to share with any that wants a simple, healthier crust.

Recipe for 'No-Roll' Pie Crust

2¹/₂ cups all purpose flour
2 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 cup cooking oil
1/3 cup milk

In a bowl, stir together flour, sugar and salt. In a small bowl, stir together oil and milk and add all at once to flour mixture. Stir with fork until dough mixture comes together. With floured hands form in a ball. Press dough to an even thickness up sides of pie plate. There is enough for two pies or you can use some on top for top crust if you pat in small quarter size circles and place on top using a spatula. *Happy Holidays!*



ANGEL DUST

Tom Doll

The panoramic views of summer colors fade away each year to the phantoms of the dead. Wayward winds of winter speak in a voice that chatters and shudders with rhythms that shift the scenes, signifying a change for the living.

The shifting colors of the fall season give way to the angels dusting the barren prairies and rolling hills in an asymmetry of white cool flakes.

Flights of wings venture their perilous migration through the canopy of the sky leaving their frozen echoes behind. Blankets of soft white fleece cover nature's perennials each winter shielding them from the refrigerated earth above.

Trees and bushes appear as ghosts, haunting the landscape like shadows of death, spreading arms of waving lines across the shifting odorless flakes of snow. Creatures large and small lie in slumberland on foliage beds, protected during the annual turbulent darkness.

These whirling wheels of nature confront the mortal world to live among the soft silence of the white dust the angels left for us.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS DOUG AND DONA TAYLOR

Lozetta Doll

Long-time residents Doug and Dona Taylor have their feet firmly planted in this High Prairie soil, buffeted but not swayed by the constant winds of change. They remain as firmly committed to this community now with all the new residents as they were back in the days when there were only a close-knit 18 families here.

Doug was born in 1934 to parents, Ben and Letitia Taylor, who moved here in 1919 and 1931 respectively. Doug was later joined by his sister Lorna who rounded out the Ben Taylor clan. Doug was educated in the Lyle school system and worked for 33 years for the Boise Cascade Corporation and/or its predecessor companies.

Dona, born also in 1934, in Wapato, Washington, moved to Dallesport in 1949 with her parents, Clare and Ople Brown, twin sister Donna, older twin brothers Robert and William, younger sister Joy and brother Donald. She also attended Lyle High School where she and Doug caught each other's attention. Their "attention" developed into "intention" and they were married in 1954. Their marriage license didn't have an expiration date and, 52-plus years later, they are still husband and wife. They have four children: Doug Jr., John, Nancy and Martin. John and Martin live close by but Nancy lives in Alaska and Doug lives in Illinois, good reason to travel!

Dona was a busy full-time wife and mother for many years before going to work at Diamond Fruit in Hood River. She then worked for Lyle Public School food service for 14 years until



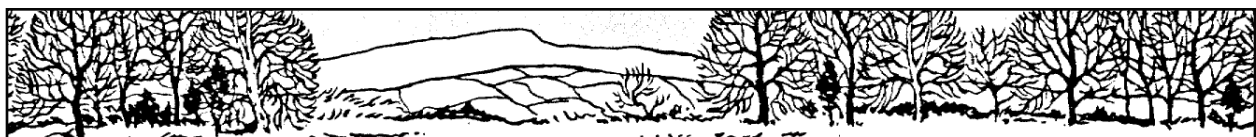
retiring in 1998.

In 1953 Doug bought the Baptist church and one acre of land upon which it sat. Over the years it has seen many school graduation exercises, weddings, memorial services and community functions. The Taylor's have most graciously allowed its use as a commu-

nity meeting place. It bulges every spring with rummage sale items.

Doug and Dona have been active in community affairs their entire married life. Doug was involved in the creation of Fire District 14 and served as one of its first Fire Commissioners, a position he holds to this day. Dona was one of the first "Boosters", which later evolved into the present-day High Prairie Community Council. Back in 1983 the Fire District started from scratch and there were few people to hold the many fundraisers necessary to get started, and literally no funds available from the County at that time. Doug and Dona were also heavily involved in 4-H for many years. Doug served as Lyle School Board Member for nine years. They have been on the Lone Pine Cemetery Board for the last ten years and have been active in the High Prairie Historical Society since its inception.

Now that Doug is retired he has put his skills to work at the computer and has done a lot of research on family and community history. He is Editor of the *High Prairian* and he and Dona are the main ingredients for its continued success. We are lucky indeed to have these two fine people here in High Prairie.



RUNNING WITH THE SHEEP

Ted McKercher

A conversation between two old friends went something like this: "We ran with the sheep."

"You what?"

"We ran with the sheep"

"Baaa-baaas?"

"Of course!"

"Wait a minute—why would you run with sheep?"

"It's a short story."

A while back we were visited by friends from Portland whose daughter had "Run with the Bulls" in Pamplona, Spain. If you are not familiar with the Spanish tradition, the basics are once a year bulls are loosed in Pamplona and the citizenry both native and foreign attempt to out run the raging sharp horned beasts.

Why? I have no idea.

About the same time our friends were visiting an article appeared in *American Profile* a Sunday paper supplement magazine caught my attention.

It seems that during the Montana centennial celebration in the late 1980's someone had the idea there should be a great cattle drive in Billings as part of the special event. The only problem noted one self proclaimed historian is that Montana was originally a "sheep state."

In Reed Point, Montana a town about 60 miles west of Billings, Russ, Connie, and a county commissioner hatched the notion of having a sheep drive.

Reed Point is an unincorporated town of around 100 people sandwiched between I-90 and the Yellowstone River. Division, the main street runs south to north about one quarter mile long with the requisite saloons, R.V. Park, a gas station/mini-mart and the Hotel Montana.

The Hotel Montana is a converted turn of the 20th century grocery store that had attorney offices on the second level. (Some day you need to ask me about the two story outhouse that walkways led to behind the building) The building has been converted to accommodate five guest rooms upstairs with a bar and restaurant down stairs. The rooms have all been outfitted as a hotel and bar may have been in the late 1800's to early 1900's with tin ceilings, and tin wainscot but with bathrooms in each room as opposed to running

down the hall or out the back door. In each room there were period clothes you were invited to wear if you preferred.

The sheep drive came that first year and so did the vendors, herders and spectators in a collage not unlike Saturday Market; 12,000 or so people supposedly overshadowing the "Billings Great Cattle Drive".

As the years have passed the Labor Day event planners added new draws—a parade, car show, a Calamity Jane shoot-out, sheep shearing, log sawing contest, street dance and yes—

RUNNING WITH THE SHEEP!

So now you are loosely brought up to the present on the history of the sheep run.

I called the Hotel Montana for a room reservation. Connie set us up.

Friday September 1st Myrtie and I set off on our 750 mile, 15 hour drive to Reed Point.

The sheep drive was not to be held until Sunday the 3rd so we spent Saturday wandering around town talking to the locals and receiving an education in the drive history and sheep. I was surprised! Sheep can run 30 miles an hour! I doubt I could run 10! I hadn't had to run in years and to top that I was the oldest runner to sign up for the sprint from one end of town to the other!

When Sunday rolled around we were given white pants, white shirt, red sash, red kerchief and black beret to parody Basque herders as in "Running of the Bulls".

There were 14 runners including two transplanted New Yorkers, a girl from Oklahoma,





two teens from Colorado, a Louisiana man, some young Montanans, Myrtie and Old Ted.

After a briefing by Russ on where to start our run and what to do when the sheep caught up with us we marched the length of town to the starting point.

As we marched a newspaper headline kept running through my head—"MAN TRAMPLED BY 730 SHEEP".

At the starting point Russ again coached us as to when we would start our run emphasizing the need for a head start and to be sure we listened for his command to go.

Soon about a half mile away we saw the leaders of the herd coming down a side frontage road. My nerves and adrenaline were working over time. I don't think I have been this pumped since the old high school track days 50 years ago.

As they came closer the herders were constantly trying to keep them from straying in drive ways and other side streets (ewe turns?—is that baaaaad?)

When the woolies were within 200 feet Russ shouted GO! GO! GO! And we did.

I lost track of Myrtie.

At about two thirds of the way through town a small black critter passed me on the right. Shortly a river of "pre-yarn" flowed by on the left and the end of town along with "Running with the Sheep" was over.

I stepped aside with some of my fellow runners to enjoy watching the remainder of the 730 graceful, running, jumping animals.

Myrtie showed up quickly after having been overtaken and then rejoining to finish the "race" "Hey Myrtie, we ran with the sheep!"

If everyone has 15 minutes of fame I think Myrtie and I have 13 minutes change.

SIDE BAR TO A SHEEP RUN

Ted McKercher

After the "Sheep Run" Myrtie and I decided to leave a day earlier than we had planned.

As it was the decision was a good one.

Southern Montana had been plagued by wild fires before, during and after our trip. The town of Reed point had been saved by virtue of freeway I-90.

The Big Timber fire had come to the south side of the highway just two days prior to our arrival. If it had been able to vault the expanse of I-90 it would have most certainly devoured the town of 100 year old wooden buildings.

As we left Reed Point that Labor Day the usual Montana beauty was obscured by heavy smoke. We drove to Coeur d' Alene, Idaho before escaping into cleaner mountain air. We thought back with sadness on the 26 homes that were no longer. But we were amazed at reports that at least two ranches were spared when the lightning caused conflagration chose to take a path around.

As we neared Spokane smoke was again staining the atmosphere. A result of the Blue Mountain fire of Washington.

The sun going down that evening was color coded a brilliant red by the fire pollution. It would have been a beautiful sunset if not for the cause.

Soon the star-filled skys of High Prairie welcomed us. It was good to be home.



ANDERSON GOATS

Doug Taylor

Gary and Carroll Anderson have changed residences recently and have acquired a new double wide home and a nice new pole barn. Developing new quarters takes time to get established. Their Boer goat farm is situated at 206 Hartland Road. Gary came to High Prairie in 1991 after serving 22 years in the United States Army. He started raising commercial goats around 1999 and has increased his herd to around 63 does and one buck. This not including his replacement does and young stock.



His does produce generally two offspring a year; they are capable of producing offspring about every 18 months. The Boer goat was developed primarily as a meat animal and for raising more little Boer goats.

Gary sells most of his excess kids off the farm when they reach about 60 pounds or so to buyers for butchering at \$1.10 per pound. What he does not sell locally he sells through the Toppenish sale yard.

His 42 acres is fenced with steel posts and 47 inch field fencing which he finds is a proper height for confining the goats. The shorter 35 inch fencing is just too low and the goats will jump over. He also has four Emus which run with the goats for predator control. He says so far this has worked very well with no losses to predators.

The farm buys most of their feed locally, feeding about nine months out of the year.

Gary has worked for an alfalfa hay raising neighbor (the Amery Farm) for ten years and was a part time school bus driver for Lyle about the same amount of time. He now has taken a full time bus driving job with the Lyle School District, leaving his summers open for local employment and catching up on projects at home.

Approximately 50 years ago, goat breeders in the eastern cape of South Africa began developing a true breed of meat goat. They were called "Boerbok", which means "farmer's goat". They were imported into Canada in the early 1990s. Canadian and American breeders have selected the best Boer goat genes available worldwide to establish a vigorous population of top quality animals. Boer goats have proven to be among the hardiest and most adaptable stock breeds worldwide. Among their most desirable traits: heavy muscling, high carcass yields, high fertility, high percentage of multiple births, meat that is lean, tender and tasty.

The meat goat industry is one in which demand exceeds production. There is a huge supply shortage and growing demand for goat meat in North America. Both Canada and the U.S. import large amounts of goat meat every year in an attempt to meet this demand. The superior carcass yield of Boer-influenced goats creates enormous potential in the industry for producers of quality breeding stock and commercial goat herds.



HIGH PRAIRIE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Doug Hutchison, Chief

Your Fire Department needs more members! If you've ever thought about serving in some capacity but are unsure of your ability to become a firefighter, there are a variety of membership roles that need to be filled by both men and women. All roles require some formal training for your safety as well as the safety of the other volunteers. District policy requires attendance of at least 50 percent of the bi-weekly drills to remain a member in good standing. All training and equipment costs are paid by the District. Following are some roles that you might consider:

Emergency Responder: Entry level position. Member must complete Board of Volunteer Firefighters physical, have/obtain First Aid/CPR/AED certification, and must complete both the Basic Brushfire and Fireground support courses. Member may respond to calls on apparatus and provide support functions *outside* of the hazard area. Additional training is required to enter hazard areas.

Wildland Firefighter: After completing Emergency Responder training, members may elect to be trained as Wildland Firefighters. Minimum training is S-190/S-130 ("Red Card"). Members may then respond to combat wildland fires or provide structure protection.

Engine Operator (Wildland): Members trained as Wildland Firefighters may become Engine Operators by completing the Emergency Vehicle Accident Prevention (EVAP) and the Brush Engine Operators course. Wildland



Firefighting 1 preferred as well.

Structure

Firefighter: Members may be rated as Structural Firefighters (FF 1) by completing Department approved FF 1 training. These members will be fit tested for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) use and be entry qualified.

Driver Operator:

Members may elect to be trained as a Driver/Operator. After completing Emergency Responder training, the member shall complete an EVAP course, as well as the Water Tender Operator course. Those wishing to continue may complete the Pumper Operation course. Members who are Driver/Operators, but not Firefighter qualified shall not drive or operate in any hazardous area (i.e.; attacking a wildland fire or providing structure protection).

EMS Responder: Members wishing to provide Emergency Medical Service may, after completing Emergency Responder training, be trained to the First Responder (or higher) level. If members wish to drive the Aid unit they must complete an EVAP course.

The District has worked hard to build a well-trained, available cadre of volunteers and earned a reputation throughout the County and even at the state level for being responsive and carrying out duties with a high degree of professionalism. Please consider joining us! Talk to one of the current members or contact me by phone: 365-2677, or by email: dhutchison@gorge.net.

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NOXIOUS WEEDS of HIGH PRAIRIE: SPOTTED KNAPWEED

Cindy Henschell

Maybe you've noticed and even admired this striking purple or pink flower along the roadside or in otherwise bare fields. If you didn't recognize it as one of Washington's most wanted (dead) noxious weeds, you might want to keep an eye out for it this spring.

Why is it considered to be a noxious weed? Essentially this plant is dangerous to other plants, animals, and possibly even to humans. Knapweeds (or the genus *Centaurea*) are phytotoxic, exuding chemicals that are absorbed into the soil, making it toxic to other plants. This is a pretty efficient way of reducing the competition for soil nutrients and moisture, but killing off grasses and other vegetation can eventually lead to soil erosion.

The plants are of low forage value to wildlife and stock. Some species



of knapweeds can cause "chewing disease" in horses, which can be fatal. The same chemical that is toxic to plants has been rumored to be carcinogenic in humans. Though this is not proven, handling knap-

weed can cause irritation to unprotected skin.

Knapweeds spread aggressively. The best control of knapweed spread is prevention. Knapweed seeds are spread by people, dogs, vehicles, stock, wildlife and in hay. It's best to stay out of infested areas. If you notice knapweed starting to become established on your property, early season removal (manual, mechanical or chemical) is sometimes successful, but repeated treatment is often necessary. Roots are deep and can remain alive and capable of re-sprouting if not removed completely. For large infestations chemical control is about the only option but it is difficult and expensive. It's best to seek the advice of the Klickitat County Weed Control Board: 773-5810 or noxiousweed@co.klickitat.wa.us.