



# The High Prairie

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

Volume Eight, Number One

Circulation: 1,225

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March, 2008

## NOTICES

**High Prairie Night Out at Lyle Hotel**  
Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m.

**Side Road Cleanup** volunteers needed  
April 16-19

**Garbage Containers at Firehall**  
May 14-19

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire House Yard Sale**  
May 17-18

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

**Fire Commissioners** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

**High Prairie Community Council** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. 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.

**High Prairie Book Club** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m. The March meeting will be at Sharon Aleckson's home: 783 Centerville Hwy.

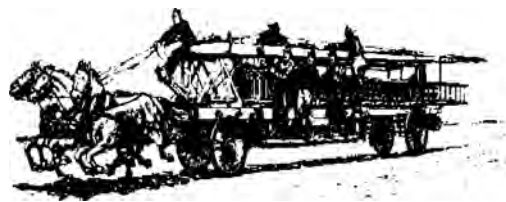
**High Prairie Needlers** meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

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

## HIGH PRAIRIE "NIGHT OUT"

Audrey Bentz

For several years High Prairie has scheduled a "night out for dinner" at the Lyle Hotel. It is a time to support our local business, as well as enjoy good food and conversation with neighbors. The scheduled evening is Thursday, March 13 between 6 and 9 p.m. Chris suggests this year that he has a buffet meal so that more people can be accommodated at the same time, and for an affordable price as well. Call for reservations at 365-LYLE.



## HIGH PRAIRIE FIREHOUSE SALE

Audrey Bentz

Good news! Sharon Aleckson has agreed (arm-twisted?) to head our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Firehouse Sale on May 17-18 again this year. We can share our gratitude by giving our support and volunteering to help in the many areas of need below. So THANK YOU SHARON! We also want to give a little break to those who have worked for a solid week, year after year.

Meanwhile, begin saving your stash of usable and clean items (furniture, clothing, household items, toys, garden plants, etc.) Sharon also suggests a need for some "big ticket" items for our silent auction (cars, farm machinery, etc.) And perhaps the birdhouse makers can manage to furnish more again, as well as the talented quilt makers! If possible, it is hoped that most of the items can be brought during the week prior to the sale. But if not, there is a limited amount

*continued page 4*



Ivan Bilibin

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



To the Editor:

We look forward to receiving each *High Prairian* newsletter. We just wanted to thank the writers who are contributing all the articles. Such informative and entertaining information!! And we especially enjoy reading the articles written by Ted McKercher... such great humor!! Keep 'em coming Ted.

~Bob & Bev Edwards

## HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB

Sharon Aleckson

Anyone interested, is invited to attend the High Prairie Book Club Meetings. One need not be a High Prairie Resident to come and enjoy interesting literary discussions.

The meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The next three books that we will be discussing are: for March, *The Woman In White* by Wilkie Collins, for April, *Saving The World* by Julia Alvarez, and for May, *Beyond The Limit* by Joan Spici.

The March Meeting will be at Sharon Aleckson's home: 783 Centerville Hwy. Come and join us.

Happy Reading!



### The High Prairian

P.O. Box 592 Lyle, WA 98635

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
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The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie web site: <http://www.highprairie.us>

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 Doug Taylor:  
**[highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net)**

or

**365-3242**

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

## LONG OVERDUE, BUT SINCERE THANKS

Shari Neth, Bethel, Alaska

More than a month has passed since the car I was driving slid into the guardrail while heading up from Lyle on the Centerville Highway. The snow was falling, the road was slick, and I got stuck that January 8th afternoon. I want to express my deep gratitude to all who stopped to give assistance that day. I can name only a few of the many helpers: Pam Gage, the bus driver, with her sense of humor and cheer, the warning triangles she contributed to warn other drivers, and her assistance with getting chains on; my parents' neighbor, Gene; a helper named Eric; the deputies who came to give assistance and direct traffic; the gentleman who graciously tried to pull my vehicle off the guardrail, but ended up having to cut his tow rope to get his own vehicle unstuck; my dad, Fred Neth; and the many drivers who stopped to make sure no one was hurt. Thank you!

I had flown down from Alaska and had come to assist my folks after Mom's surgery. My parents and I, no doubt, will be teased about the fact that it was their Alaskan daughter who got stuck in the snow.

Bethel, like Lyle, is a small community in which folks reach out and help each other. As much as I would like to tangibly thank those who helped me out if I could, I realize that I need to trust in the

wisdom of our Yup'ik elders who live here in this part of Alaska. They teach us that whatever you give to others comes back to you. So, to the many who helped out January 8th, be prepared to be blessed!

With sincere and heartfelt gratitude,  
Shari Neth

## FIRE DISTRICT SECRETARY

Doug Taylor

The High Prairie commissioners of Fire District #14 would like to welcome Sue Darland as district secretary. She and her husband Tim have been active in community affairs. Tim is a local fireman and on Lyle School District board of directors.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Dona Taylor

Congratulations to the Holman family on the birth of their new baby.



Congratulations to the Lyle High School for winning a national bronze medal for outstanding education given by News Week magazine.

## THE COMMUNITY THANKS RICK CARLSON

*Dear Rick,*

*Excitement is growing in our High Prairie Community as we await the imminent start of constructing our Fire Hall-Community Center. At The January 24 meeting of our Community Council, we heard an update on our plans, and the good news that we will soon advertise for bids. We've come a long way!*

*Midst the excitement of last week's meeting, we paused to acknowledge the many, many hours of service you have provided as our architect. You have been very patient with the many proposals we've dealt with, most of which required more sketches and calculations on your part. After we heard the Implementation Committee's update, a motion prevailed that we express our thanks to you in this card. The attached list of signatures further testifies to the gratefulness your High Prairie neighbors feel. You are doing a great service to our community and we value it highly!*

*The High Prairie Community Council, January 4, 2008*

## Firehouse Sale — from page 1

in the Taylor church. And the food booth will again make their great contributions of baked goods and bratwurst a highlight. Remember, donations are tax deductible, so ask for a receipt if desired.

Where does the profit go? The fire department is in serious need of a “jaws” (used to extricate persons from vehicles). The present one is now dysfunctional, so any profit from the sale will help purchase a good one. The other half will likely be designated to help furnish our new community center.

- Areas for volunteer help
- Advertising
- Setting up tables, canopies
- The food booth (grilling, serving, set up/take down.)
- Baking rolls, cookies, pies, cakes, etc.)
- Sorting and pricing sale items
- Workers in plant section, outdoor equipment area, food booth, parking area, fire hall area.
- Cashiers
- Sunday p.m. cleanup, sorting, transporting, take down
- Transport leftover recyclable items to donation sites

Come sign up at the HPCC meetings or email/call Sharon at [sharlen@gorge.net](mailto:sharlen@gorge.net) 365-4429. More details coming in our later March mailing.



## SPRING CLEANUP TIME!

Audrey Bentz

Allied Waste is providing their bins once again this year, to give us free disposal for throw-away items. But if we want to keep this complimentary assistance, we must NOT discard the following: hazardous material, appliances, computers or televisions, and paint. The containers will be available during the Firehouse Sale weekend (May 17–18).

Meanwhile, Cheri deHart suggests that if you need to dispose of big items with metal, or appliances, call husband Steve at 365-2661 or his work at 509-427-8388. But he advises “no paint, TV’s or monitors or microwaves, and only small amount of fencing materials.

## SHEEP KILL

Doug Taylor

The day began early on December 31 2007 for Steve Pimley on Highway 142 who lives near the Klickitat River above Lyle. He found two ewes and two lambs that he suspected had been killed by a cougar. He found one partially eaten ewe carcass next to an outside fence above the highway. It showed signs of being dragged for approximately a hundred yards from the barn area. On further inspection, Steve found another ewe and two lambs that were killed in the barn; the two lambs had their heads eaten off.

He notified the Game Department and they immediately permitted a couple men with hounds to search for the cougar.

That evening the State Game Warden turned his spotlight on the carcass by the road and found that a cougar was busy eating. The cougar was killed by late evening ending the year and hopefully the ending her reign of terror. The cougar proved to be a 3 or 4 year old female that apparently never had any cubs.

Hopefully this is the cougar that has killed livestock of various owners. She seemed to be killing just more for sport now than just killing to satisfy hunger. These rogue animals can be dangerous and must be dispensed with before they attack humans, for which they show no real fear.



Bob Edwards and companion performing winter chores. Photo: Bev Edwards

## GET WELL

Dona Taylor

Get Well wishes go to Evelyn Neth who had surgery, Patty McKern, Sharon Aleckson, Bev Edwards, Dona Taylor and Fred Neth and any other neighbor that we may of missed. A speedy recovery to all.

## LEAP YEAR CELEBRANT AMONGST US

Amanda Richards

*Wednesday, February 27, 2008*

Yesterday my Mom, Pat Cochran, of Oxford, Mich. and I (from High Prairie) were on the Martha Stewart show, set to air on Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup>.

We were featured on her "Leap Year Baby" show. Both my Mom and I were born on February 29<sup>th</sup>, and we were born at the same minute: 3:45 a.m. I have a picture of us with Martha that I'm attaching. We flew in to JFK on Monday and had a whirlwind sightseeing trip before coming home Tuesday night.

I live on High Prairie Road with my husband Mike and my two daughters.



## CHECKING FOR MELANOMA

Bev Edwards

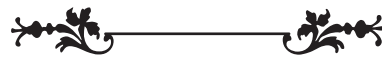
Melanoma is a kind of skin cancer. It is not as common as other types of skin cancer, but it is the most serious. Melanoma can affect your skin only, or it may spread to your organs and bones. Luckily it can be cured if it's found and treated early.

You can get melanoma by spending too much time in the sun. This causes normal skin cells to become abnormal. These abnormal cells quickly grow out of control and attack the tissues around them. Melanoma tends to run in families. Other things in your family background can increase your chances of getting the disease. For example, you may have abnormal, or atypical, moles. Atypical moles may fade into the skin and have a

flat part that is level with the skin. They may be smooth or slightly scaly, or they may look rough and "pebbly". These moles don't cause cancer by themselves, but having many of them is a sign that melanoma may run in your family.

You can go on the internet and check melanoma to see what they look like. There are several different images for you to see.

I would urge every one who reads this article to have someone frequently check your back to see if there are any abnormal looking moles that need to be checked by your doctor. It may some day save your life, as it has mine.



## HIGH PRAIRIE NEEDLERS

Gwen Berry

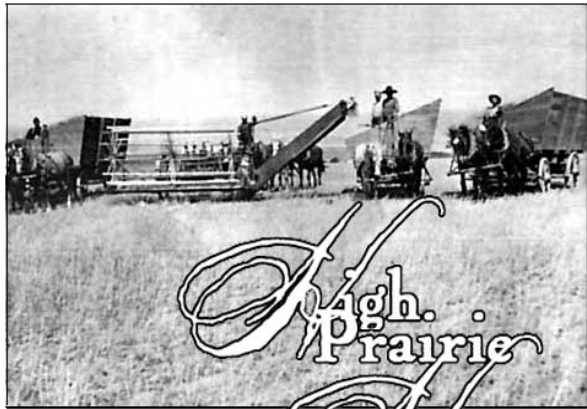
You've read their columns in the High Prairian, but who are these people?

The High Prairie Needlers are a loose-knit group of women who gather on Monday mornings to share an hour or two while working on knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, quilting, mending, or whatever other crafty project we bring with us.

Needlework is the activity that brings us together, but the more compelling attraction is simply the atmosphere of friendship. In a rural community, keeping in touch with far-flung neighbors isn't always easy, and Needlers is one great way we stay connected. Laughs and stories, the wealth of local and practical information exchanged, impromptu discussions on a surprisingly wide range of topics, and discovering new aspects of people you thought you knew — it all adds up to a rewarding and lively time.

Anyone is welcome. Even if you've never done needle crafts, don't let that stop you. Bring any kind of a project you can do while sitting in a living room chair, and bring a lunch. The gatherings begin at 10:30, and we eat our lunches together around 12:30. There are no dues, no officers, and the only commitment is to come and share whenever you can. We meet at various members' houses.

For information or the location of the next meeting, call Judi Strait at 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll at 365-0010.



Douglas Taylor

## HIGH PRAIRIE FIRST POST OFFICE BEGINNINGS

HARTLAND. Established as HIGHLAND, on October 20, 1880, Chester Parshall; renamed it WILDCAT on April 11, 1881; renamed HARTLAND on July 20, 1881. Other postmasters were David K. Clark, 1890 to 1899, Roena A. Clark (Mrs. David K. Clark), 1899 to 1902; John W. Boston, January 3, 1902 to 1909; William H. Butts 1909 to 1912; William Bridgefarmer, March 27, 1912 to 1916; Albert E. Majors, December 6, 1916 to 1919; Mrs. Emma E. Kelleher (*nee* Huff, Mrs. Andrew P. Kelleher), 1919 to 1921; Miss Birdie Ann Taylor, 1921 to 1923; John A. Taylor, 1923 to 1930. The Post Office was discontinued on April 15, 1930 and residents started receiving mail from Lyle.

This office changed locations with almost every change in postmasters. Mr. Parshall, who had so much difficulty in deciding upon a name for his post office, conducted it in his farm home located on the Lyle to Goldendale road (now known as Centerville Highway) which led east through Centerville (Cen. Sec. 24, T3N, R13E). The Clarks were known to have operated a store about a mile NW of Parshall's (SE Sec. 14), with the Post Office therein. Mr. Boston took it to his farm home situated about 2 miles farther northwest (SW Sec. 11), but Mr. Butts brought it back to the site which present-day maps show as Hartland (Sec. 14). Bridgefarmer's home was a short distance west (Sec. 23), as was Major's. Mrs. Kelleher had the aid of many patrons in erecting a small post office building beside her farm home (Sec. 12). The John Taylors moved this building to their home (Sec. 23). The small but intact post office building still stands on the original

Ben and Letitia Taylor farm as of February, 2008. The building is now owned by Lorna and Bob Dove. All sites are about 10 miles NE of Lyle.

Mr. Clark's son, Byrd, was still in his teens when he carried mail bi-weekly from Lyle in a one-horse cart for contractor Van Sorensen. There was just enough room for the driver but Byrd would sometimes squeeze in a passenger. He would leave his horse and cart at a Lyle livery stable, row a boat across the Columbia to Rowena, Ore., to meet the night train from The Dalles, due at 11 o'clock. Often he went to The Dalles, got the mail, and started his return trip by steamer about 5 o'clock the next morning. Once, the boat sprung a leak and began to sink, but it ran onto a sandbar where it rested with the lower deck underwater. In order to keep the mail dry Byrd took the pouches on his back until a deckhand could get into a lifeboat and row him to Lyle. Sometimes mail was brought to Lyle by the steamer and Byrd had to make a hurried trip to Hartland and back to catch the returning boat at Lyle with outgoing mail. The road was steep, narrow and rough.

After it's service was over, the post office building was used as a public building, used by the owners as a storage building to keep many of their gardening and small tools handy. It even housed many discards that many today would call antiques.

As I was growing up, the mail was delivered three times weekly to the Prairie: Monday, Wednesday and Friday. After the population started expanding in 1981 or 1982, my wife and I and Ed and Betty Woods petitioned the Postal Service for every day service and it was granted.

Some information for this article was taken from the book *Postmarked Washington* by Guy Reed Ramsey published by the Klickitat Historical Society.



The final post office building, a little worse for wear after the fire that destroyed Ben and Letitia Taylor's home.

*I promised to continue the interesting history of the Klickitat Mineral Springs, so here's "the rest of the story". —Cindy Henschell*

## KLICKITAT BUBBLING WATER THE SURPRISING HISTORY OF THE MINERAL SPRINGS AT KLICKITAT, WASHINGTON PART TWO

Sandy Bisset

Amateur Historian and Genealogy Sleuth (wildflowers@gorge.net)

**DRY ICE:** We left off as the depression was impacting virtually every aspect of life. As the Langdon estate was settled, Raymond B. Newbern, an expert on gases from back east, with the assistance of a geologist named Holdredge, investigated the potential of the carbon dioxide that gave the effervescence to the mineral water. Mineral water had gone out of mode and the manufacture of dry ice, which manipulated carbon dioxide, was an up and coming industry. The American public had embraced the concept of refrigeration in a big way. Langdon's 1926 laboratory analysis had shown that the naturally occurring carbon dioxide at the Klickitat Springs was 98.4% pure and required no filtering process. An attached note from the chemist stated "The gas sample...you will note is to be a practically pure carbon dioxide, which is what we had hoped to find, and it should be available for medicinal baths, and used compressed in cylinders for any purpose for which carbon dioxide is used." This was reportedly some of the purest naturally occurring carbon dioxide gas in the United States. In addition, the railroad connection to the SP&S line at Lyle made shipping financially feasible. Newbern obtained a ninety-nine year lease on the Langdon holdings and incorporated the Klickitat Ice-Gas Company. They eventually drilled a total of 45 wells, at a depth of 300 to 1,100 feet. They began to manufacture dry ice and continued to bottle Klickitat Mineral Water for some time.

The process for making dry ice had been perfected and became commercially feasible in about 1925. Period newspaper articles explained the process. The gas which was piped from the wells was first dried, then compressed and condensed under 150 pounds of pressure per

square inch, dropping the temperature to 0° F. It was then water cooled to 48° below zero and compressed under 500 pounds of pressure, ammonia cooled, and reduced to a liquid. The pressure was then cut to 150 pounds. During the final phase, the carbon dioxide was sprayed into a snow chamber, and hydraulically compressed into eighty pound blocks, 10 x 10 x 15 inches in size. The temperature of the compressed block was minus 109° F. The cakes of frozen carbon dioxide gas were stored in large vats at the plant and shipped away in quantities when ready. In 1936 it was estimated that the plant produced four tons of dry ice a day, and couldn't keep up with demand. Production increased from there. Dry ice was touted as being ten times as efficient as water ice which was the trade term for natural ice, at 142° colder, with no mess due to the sublimation or evaporation process. It was also advertised as a replacement for salt ice, water ice which had been salted to lower the freezing temperature to about 11° F, thus lengthening the time it takes ice cream to melt.

**CARBON DIOXIDE:** When America entered World War II, the Klickitat Gas-Ice Company started a new production phase. While they continued to produce dry ice, they also began to market pressurized carbon dioxide cylinders for the war effort in cooperation with the United States Navy. When dry ice is sealed under pressure, then released, it has the ability to expand at a rate of 450 to 1. The cylinder used to inflate a typical Mae West type life preserver is only about two inches long and three quarters of an inch around. Carbon dioxide from the Klickitat wells inflated the life preservers of downed pilots, it inflated the rubber boats of our troops in the South Pacific, it was used for fire suppression on ships, and to neutralize gas vapor in planes. Klickitat Gas-Ice had entered a new era.

A 1945 *Oregonian* newspaper article ends with this prophetic statement. "In a new and improved type of gas mask, CO<sub>2</sub> is credited with making still another worthy contribution to the war effort. And when the war is over, and the country once more launched on a program of development, with science blazing the trail of new ideas, carbon dioxide as an extinguisher of enemies and a preserver of friends will doubtless be somewhere near the top of the list."

**VAUX SWIFT REFUGE:** In 1957 the Newbern

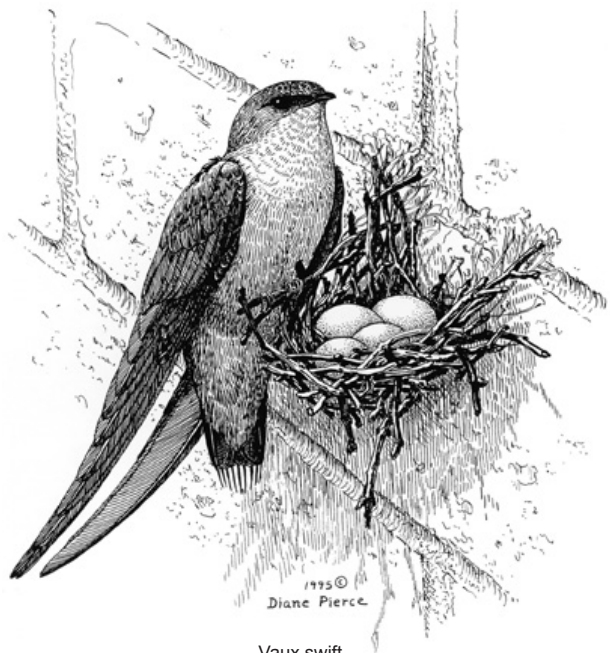
family moved the dry ice plant to Kennewick, where carbon dioxide was a plentiful byproduct of a new fertilizer plant. When Ray Newbern drowned while fishing, the family sold the Klickitat buildings and grounds. The buildings sat empty and derelict for many years. The Washington State Parks Department took over the property and razed all but one of the buildings in the early 1970's. Langdon's original Italianate office building had yet to be destroyed. Local residents had watched the small birds dart in and out of the tall chimney and realized it had become home for between well over a thousand migrating swallows or Vaux Swifts, as they were later identified. Birders have come from far distances to see these birds that nest while clinging to vertical surfaces and have made the Gas-Ice Plant chimney their home. In 1973, in response to a petition circulated by local residents, this building was preserved as a bird sanctuary. It is located on the river bank, about two miles north of Klickitat and down a short access road to the right. It is ineffectively boarded over, and dangerous to enter but is a great "photo op." Another interesting view of the building and the remains of the bridge is from the far side of the river, reached by walking about a mile south from the Klickitat trailhead.

**Klickitat Trail:** During this post-war time other changes came about. The locally owned Neils Lumber Company merged with St. Regis Paper Company in 1957 and eventually closed its doors. The railroad, which was built in 1903 by River and Northern Railroad Company, and connected to the SP&S line at Lyle in 1908, had hauled passengers, wheat, wool, mineral water, dry ice, and lumber out of the canyon and into the national market for many years. With both the mill and the Gas-Ice Company closed the line was no longer profitable. The tracks and ties were removed in 1993, leaving many miles of railroad right-of-way unused. The rail line was purchased by the Rail to Trail Conservancy and donated to Washington State Parks. There was much local dispute over this new concept of a linear park but in about 2001 the Klickitat Trail Conservancy was formed, and in conjunction with the U. S. Forest Service and Washington State Parks maintains the thirty one miles of trail from Lyle, up the Klickitat River past the town of Klickitat, then up Swale Canyon to end near Warwick, Washington. This is mainly a volunteer

effort and they regularly sponsor hiking activities on the trail.

To bring us back to the beginning of this saga, a short drive north from the Gas-Ice building, you can turn right and cross the Klickitat River. Directly past the bridge, again to the right, is a trailhead. Park and secure your vehicle, then hike south for about a mile. This will take you along the river bank, and put you directly across from the Gas-Ice building, in the middle of one of the fields of springs and wells. You will see the remains of the bridge which connected the facility properties, concrete bunker-like structures which housed wells, pools of bright rust-red mud with clear mineral water bubbling up through them, and unidentifiable pipes and other detritus. Dripping water on some of the pipes has calcified into strange shapes. From this east riverbank the swifts' refuge has the appearance of a castle nestled in the trees. Although this story has come full circle, I am willing to bet this is not the end. With the development of the trail, the next step almost has to be some restoration of the springs. Let's hope so. For information on the Klickitat Trail, log onto the Klickitat Trail Conservancy website at <http://www.klickitat-trail.org>.

In closing, I owe the Presby Museum staff a great thank you for helping make this and the previous article more interesting and accurate. When you visit the museum and leave a generous donation. It is an excellent and most professionally presented museum.



## DOGS OF THE GORGE

Jocelyn Weeks

In September of 2007, Mary Jane Beer, Lisa Mabrey, and Mary Melton started D.O.G. (Dogs of The Gorge). Like other folks who live in Klickitat County, they felt there was a huge need on this side of the Gorge for; "A non-profit organization committed to the welfare and health of dogs and cats in the Klickitat County area."

The mission of D.O.G. is: "to raise money through fundraising, donations and grant writing." They are dedicated to domestic animal population control, promoting pet adoption/fostering, and reducing the incidence of abandonment.

"D.O.G. also recognizes the critical need to enhance awareness and understanding ...of such issues as general pet care, training, spaying and neutering, disease prevention, and animal behavior that will help to strengthen the human-animal bond."

These women worked for many years with the Home At Last shelter in The Dalles and are very dedicated, experienced dog and cat people. They were well received in several meetings with county and city officials from Goldendale and White Salmon. After one meeting, a couple from White Salmon donated \$1,000. Their first fund raiser, a "Barking Lot Sale", raised \$1,900.

Soon after D.O.G. started, they were called to help a stray dog (Cookie) in Goldendale with a serious gunshot wound through his right front leg. He ended up losing that leg, but three very kind people from Goldendale helped pay the vet bill. He is now healing, adapting well to his new condition, and waiting to be placed in a loving forever home. The Mid-Columbia Veterinary Hospital donated much free care to Cookie, which helped immensely in reducing his medical expenses.

Petco in Portland donates dog and cat food. D.O.G. also received a free dorm sized refrigerator through an ad on Gorge Net.

Most of the money they raise, goes to their spay and neuter fund At Dr. Nunn's office in the Dalles. Tami Newman, another valuable member of the Shelter team, sends out applications and vouchers for this service. She also helps to get cat and dog food to households with pets in need.

While the shelter has no place for cats right now, it will help with spaying, neutering, and food.

"Dogs Of The Gorge" is off to a great start but still needs help:

🐾 At the very top of the list is a dire need for people willing to offer Foster Homes for dogs, especially puppies, waiting to be placed. The shelter in Goldendale has only eleven kennels and they fill up fast. D.O.G. will not euthanize for space, so this is very important. They will supply all food, vet costs, dog houses, or crates to the Foster Home.

🐾 Sponsors for animals. For those who want to help an animal but can't adopt.

🐾 Corporate and Organizational Sponsorship: Are you involved in some type of organization or school that can raise/donate funds or host a speaking event or adoption day?

🐾 Attend D.O. G. fundraising events and monthly meetings

🐾 DONATIONS:

🕒 Fleece, flannel or some other type of light weight, easily washable blankets.

🕒 All sizes of dog chews or bones

🕒 Bleach and other cleaning supplies

🕒 Thank You-calling cards, and postage stamps

🕒 Canned dog food for helping underweight dogs gain weight

🕒 Cat and kitten food

🕒 Cash: Folks can make cash donations directly to the D.O.G. account at:

\$ Riverview Bank in Goldendale. 412  
S. Columbus Ave., Goldendale WA,  
509-773-5719

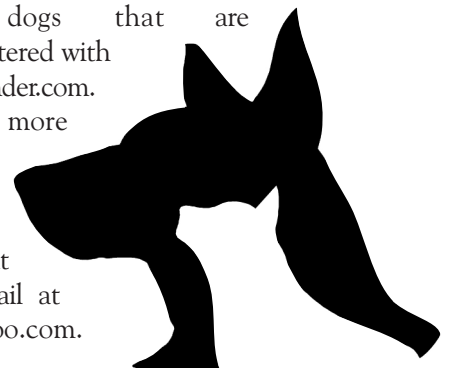
\$ The Mid-Columbia Veterinary Clinic, 417 E  
Broadway St. , Goldendale, 509-773-4363

\$ Columbia Veterinary Hospital/Dr. Nunn,  
1000 W 6th St., The Dalles, 541-296-5059

Any Grant writers out there who would like to donate their knowledge and time? D.O.G. has a future ambitions for building a bigger and better facility to shelter both dogs and cats.

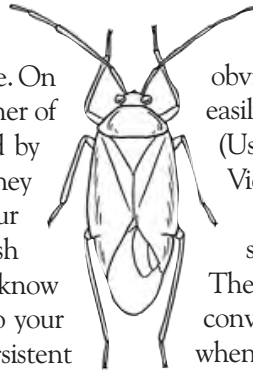
To see photos and read about some of the adoptable dogs that are being fostered and sheltered with D. O. G., Google petfinder.com.

If you want more information or would like to help in any way, you can contact Lisa Mabrey at 509-748-0456 or e-mail at [dogsofthegorge@yahoo.com](mailto:dogsofthegorge@yahoo.com).



## TALES OF THE BROWN HORDE: SOME SAGE (BUG) OBSERVATIONS

Gwen Berry



It's like something out of a Hitchcock movie. On a warm autumn afternoon, you turn the corner of your house, and suddenly you're confronted by hundreds of crawling insects. Yaaaaaa! They blanket your wall, seeking to infiltrate your home. Some fly up as you approach. You brush them out of your hair and clothes, but you know you won't find them all and they'll ride into your house with you. One by one the whole persistent mass will find the weak spots in your home's defenses. They'll be inside before winter.

Then, all is quiet, you don't see them anymore. You breathe a sigh of relief.

Until spring. Until one day, one warm spring day, you'll see a few on your windows. Now you know you haven't escaped the horde after all. They've been silently waiting, hidden in holes and crevices, waiting to emerge en masse to blacken your windows and drop from lamps into your food, and they smell terrible! Once again they're massing for movement — this time on the inside trying to get out so they can mate and come back even stronger. They are the brown menace known locally as SAGE BUGS.

Or grass bugs, or grey bugs. Entomologists call them "Over-Wintering True Bugs," of the Hemiptera order of insects/suborder Heteroptera/infraorder Cimicomorpha/superfamily Miroidea/family Miridae/possibly of the genera *Irbisia* or *Ahryssa* — which clearly explains why entomologists also call them Plant Bugs.

Entomologists have a lot to say about them. They love bugs! Take these items, for example:

*Many Hemipterous true bugs over-winter as adults in shelters.<sup>1</sup> Duh!*

*Although many insects are referred to as "bugs," only the insects in the order Hemiptera are "True Bugs."<sup>2</sup> I guess the others are just faux bugs or wanna-bees...*

*The Miridae are the most species rich family-level grouping of true bugs, with approximately 10,000 described species recognized as of 2000.<sup>3</sup> I'll skip the family reunion, thanks.*

*True Bugs undergo incomplete metamorphosis, with their young looking much like adults, but without wings.<sup>4</sup> This is probably important.*

What makes a bug a True Bug? First, the wings. If it's a True Bug, the outer pair of its two sets of wings have leathery sections at the base and thin, membranous ends. Plus, there's almost always an

obvious triangular structure at their base. You can easily see these features on our beloved Sage Bugs. (Use a magnifying glass if you can remember the Viet Nam war.)

Second, True Bugs have little piercing-and-sucking mouthparts, which work like a straw. The clever design of the proboscis allows it to be conveniently folded under the body of the bug when not in use. While most True Bugs use their drinking straws to suck the juice out of plants, a few use them on other animals, including (uncommonly) mammals. Think bed bug. Fortunately for us, Sage Bugs are strictly of the plant juice persuasion.

If you went looking for True Bugs you'd find them everywhere, with an amazing range of appearances and life habits. The ranks of True Bugs are filled with stink bugs, assassin bugs, cicadas, aphids, sage bugs, planthoppers, leafhoppers, shield bugs, bed bugs, sage bugs, giant water bugs, and lots of other unusual insects. There are tiny ground-dwelling True Bugs less than 1 mm ( $1/32$  inch) long and huge 110 mm ( $4\text{--}3/8$  inch) water bugs!

Sage Bugs are one variety of Plant Bugs, which are one variety of True Bugs. Plant Bugs are special because they only have one pair of bug eyes, the faceted kind; while many bugs have two. A couple of closed wing cells also set them apart. And Plant Bugs are small, less than 1 cm ( $3/8$  inch). The University of Kentucky Entomology Department adds, significantly, "...plant bugs are able to secrete foul-smelling, foul-tasting fluids from pores on the sides of their bodies." No kidding! "These secretions help to protect plant bugs from predators. Plus, many species are camouflaged with brown, green, and gray markings. Even with these defenses, plant bugs are often eaten by birds, spiders, assassin bugs, and other predators." This is good to know. Think of Sage Bug population numbers if the predators were more fastidious. Heroic local birds have actually been seen gorging on them. And, finally, WSU offers these observations: "[Sage Bugs] seek layered places such as shingles, newspapers, firewood, folded fabric, etc. They are social and like to be together. Individual grass bugs emerge on warm, sunny, winter days to seek water droplets or house plants to obtain moisture. They do not feed while hibernating, but live off of their body fat." Bugs have body fat?

All this information may make Sage Bugs marginally

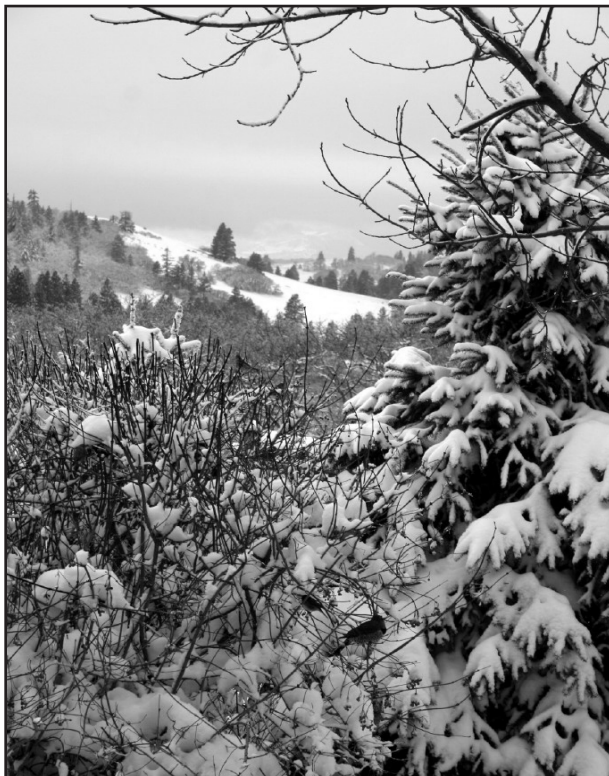
more interesting as individuals, but it still doesn't tell us what to do when they're mobbing our homes. Local wisdom says you can put a pan of water on the ground below the wall where they are massing and bunches of them will dive in and drown. A suggestion gleaned from an online forum is to spray them with a solution of detergent and water. It's supposed to kill them. Bug spray works, too. One technique is to set off a bug bomb in your house after they've all come inside in the fall, and then again in six weeks. Should result in a bug-free home next spring. But the experts at WSU Entomology warn, "They are easy to kill with products labeled for use in dwellings. However their little smelly bodies are still there! Our WSU suggestion? Vacuum them up in your home! Change vacuum bags because they stink after being filled with bugs." Experienced bug-snuffers insist you should seal up the bags or burn them. They're taking no chances! Sage advice.

1 Quote courtesy of the WSU Entomology Department. ([entomology.wsu.edu/insectoftheweek/archive/documents/overwinteringtruebugs.doc](http://entomology.wsu.edu/insectoftheweek/archive/documents/overwinteringtruebugs.doc))

2 This comes from the University of Kentucky Entomology Department. ([www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/insects/bugs/bugfile.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/insects/bugs/bugfile.htm))

3 Found this in The Planetary Biodiversity Inventory (PBI) for Plant Bugs. ([research.amnh.org/pbi/bugs/true\\_bugs.html](http://research.amnh.org/pbi/bugs/true_bugs.html))

4 Encyclopedia Smithsonian provided this tidbit. ([www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmnh/buginfo/truebugs.htm](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/buginfo/truebugs.htm))



High Prairie winter scene. Photo: Gwen Berry

## COYOTE WATCH

Doug Taylor

One morning before Christmas, while getting breakfast, Dona (my wife) called my attention to a very trim, majestic coyote with a beautiful fur coat that came walking into the yard off the hill behind the house. It walked to the top the diversion ditch and stood and watched the cats for a while. Its full attention was on procuring a meal and its only way doing this was do it yourself or do without. Standing perfectly still except for the direction change of its ears to pickup any sound and the occasional slow shifting of its head to either detect game or enemies. The coyote stood this way for several minutes until a cat walked around the house to drink out of the water bowl.

The coyote immediately dropped to its belly and lowered its head with ears pointed forward and eyes intently on the movement of the cat. As the cat slowly walked further out of range the coyote checked the area again with ear movement and head shifting to observe any encroaching danger. Soon another cat came into the coyotes view and it continued its crouch with full attention on the cat with no movement.

The area where the coyote chose to lay partially hidden is where the cats generally travel themselves to do their daily excursions for playing, toiletries or searching for a mouse.

Watching the antics of the coyote for several minutes without rousing Julia our aging border collie who had been on the night shift outside during the night and was welcomed into the house to warm and sleep during the day.

I finally awoke Julia and opened the sliding glass door; she ran out sensing something exciting, let out a woof without seeing the coyote, while it jumped up ran several yards further up the hill and turned watching to see what all the fuss was about. The coyote eventually left the vicinity and Julia finally caught scent of it and started barking letting us know she was doing her duty and protecting the premises with her usual awareness and gusto.

No cats or guinea chickens lost today although we do have an over-supply of cats and the guinea flock has already been decreased by half this fall.

P.S. The guinea chicken population has now been totally annihilated.

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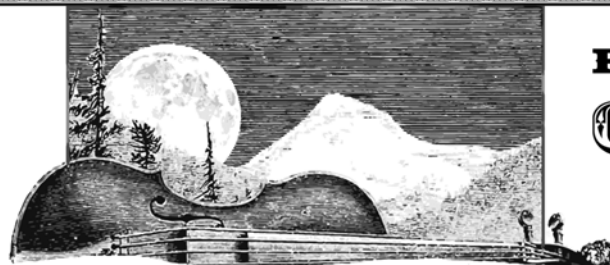
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