



The High Prairian

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

Volume One, Number Two

Subscription Cost: FREE

December, 2001

NOTICES



Christmas Celebration. Myra and Audrey Bertz invite everyone for singing carols and potluck snacks on December 14 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at Morning Song Acres (just off Olds Knight Road). Bring your favorite Christmas carols & poems.

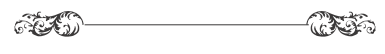
Fire Volunteers meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.

Fire Commissioners meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Fire Hall.

High Prairie Neighborhood Association meets the 4th Thursday of each month at various homes at 7:00 PM. No meeting in December. January meeting: PUD representatives will be present for a discussion about the rate increase. This meeting is tentatively planned to be held at Tom Doll's shop, South Prairie Road.

High Prairie Historical Society meets the 1st Sunday of December at Taylor's church. Meetings are held quarterly on the 3rd Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1st Sunday in December beginning at 2:00 PM.

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



When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

The nice part about living in a small community is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.

HIGH PRAIRIE HOEDOWN HUGE HIT

Martha Hamil

High Prairie's first Hoedown on October 13th was a roaring success for those who attended and those who worked on it. We didn't make much money but we had a great time. Between the food, the hayrides, the band, the kiddie games, and the cakewalks, everyone had a fun night. And the decorations transformed the firehall into a perfect setting. There were even people from Redmond Oregon.

The live music was furnished by *The Crossing*, a four-piece band from The Dalles. Al Aleckson did a commendable job cooking up the bratwurst that had been prepared by the Bentz family and local helpers.

Next year it will be even better. The planning committee examined the successes and losses and will change some things next year. First, we won't have it on opening day of hunting season but rather the Saturday before. Second, we will schedule events better. Third, we will still have a live band. Fourth, we expect the word will be spread about how much fun it is, especially amongst the kids as they are great word-of-mouthers. And finally, we hope everyone in High Prairie will participate. Peyt and I are already planning to grow pumpkins so that we will not have to buy them. So please start planning to have a great time the first Saturday in October (p.s. and maybe help also).

KLICKITAT COUNTY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Douglas Taylor

The folks at the Klickitat County Resource Development (KCRD), especially Kathy Norton, help us print and distribute *The High Prairian*. The County has had problems getting contracts for someone to lay out the paper. so we offered to do that ourselves if KCRD would assist us with the printing and mailing. It will still be printed in black and white with inserts. Without KCRD and Kathy's personal help we would have been left without a paper.

We work very closely with the KCRD to have *The High Prairian* delivered before special events. A news committee consisting of Audrey Bentz, Cindy Dickinson, Dona Taylor, Douglas Taylor, Cindy Henschell, and Patrice Archuleta work together to get the news out as close to a quarterly basis as possible. If you would like to submit news articles, photographs, ideas or have comments please contact one of the following.

Audrey Bentz	365-3600
Cindy Dickinson	365-3647
Dona Taylor	365-3242
Douglas Taylor	365-3242
Patrice Archuleta	365-5458
Cindy Henschell	365-5283

The High Prairian

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COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Dona Taylor

Thanksgiving may have passed when we're reminded of our blessings, but it's not too late to thank the people who have donated their time or money on our behalf. It is maybe old fashioned to write a thank you of appreciation, but it's still a welcome gesture today.

SEVEN MAKE NATIONAL DEAN 'S LIST

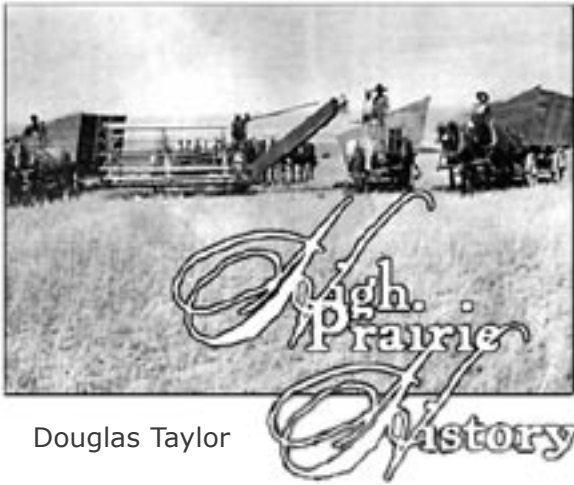
A total of seven students from this area are among the approximately 140,000 students including in the annual edition of The National Dean's List. 2000-2001. The National Dean's List is the largest recognition program and publication in the nation honoring high achieving college students. Students are selected for this honor by their college dean's, registrars or honor society advisors and must be in the upper 10 percent of their class, on the school's dean's list, or have earned a comparable honor. Local students selected include White Salmon, Klickitat and Lyle. Lori Beth Patrick, daughter of Chris and Lorelei Patrick who is attending Portland State University received this honor. Congratulations!

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Icey Sheeran's daughter Lauren Raupach is stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sue Robert's son Troy, is in Texas. We are proud of these young folks and thank them for serving our country.

NEW GRANDPARENTS

Congratulations to Cindy and Roger Dickinson on the birth of a new granddaughter, born to Clinton Closser and wife, a baby girl born September 26.



Douglas Taylor

THE GREAT HARTLAND FARMING SECTION

This precinct which is 12 miles from the Lyle railroad depot and the Columbia river, 11 miles to The Dalles and 22 miles from Goldendale, the county seat, is essentially an agricultural country, which produces all kinds of grains, grasses and vegetables as well as fruit. The average yield of wheat is 25 bushels to the acre and often 30 or more. Oats and barley do very well also, and some of the farmers have sown alfalfa which promises to be a success. Several of the old-timers have orchards consisting of apples, peaches, pears and cherries, and notwithstanding the lack of attention, a wonderful yield is obtained.

We've had requests to include some articles of historical interest. I noticed this article posted on the web by Jeffery Elmer of Portland that he found in the *Agriculturist* printed in Klickitat County in 1910.

We believe that the time has now arrived when much of this land will be planted in fruits and the experimental stage has now been passed. The land as well as climate is equal, if not superior to Hood River, and the price of land, most of which is cleared and under cultivation, is such that an unusual opportunity is presented to homeseekers or investors. Of recent years, prices have advanced, and the end is not yet in sight. Large tracts have just been disposed of, at all the way from \$20 to \$40 dollars per acre and even at the maximum price, it is very cheap indeed.

This article seemed more of an advertisement for investors than a news article. Nevertheless, it listed High Prairie as having lots of potential. I would like to point out the major changes from the article are land prices and water depth; also it would be harder if not almost impossible to make a living the traditional way from just a few acres. Notice the 11 miles to The Dalles mentioned, which would cross the Columbia Hills to the south and not the road we now travel to Lyle.

This precinct familiarly known as the High Prairie country, contains many farm homes which are handled by intelligent farmers, but some tracts are owned by non-residents, and as a general thing need more and better attention, and as these farms come into the custody of owners who will reside on and care for the land, the response will amply remunerate for the care and attention given it, and anyone in quest of a good home makes no mistake by purchasing in this district.

IN MEMORIAM:

Paula Dickinson passed away on Oct. 7, 2001 at her home in California. She had been a resident of High Prairie from 1988 to 1992 and had served as secretary for Fire District #14.

Our sincerest condolences to the Roger Dickinson family.

Sadness flies away on the wings of time.

—Jean de La Fontaine

There is a post-office, store and many of the homes have telephone communication, and an effort is being made to extend the benefit to every home, and the accomplishment of this

most desirable addition to the requisites of civilized life is now in sight. There is a Baptist and Methodist church edifice and occasional preaching, a commodious schoolhouse, and the school will soon be in session under the tuition of an able and experienced instructor.

Water is plentiful, excellent in quality, and obtainable in most places at 10 to 25 feet. Formerly this country was covered with bunch grasses of which some yet remains where fenced up, but most of the land is employed in raising grain.

We have the benefit of a daily mail and an effort will be made to get an R.F.D., and a few more residents would be a decided help in this respect. We need no J.P. our people being all law abiding citizens, and if necessity should arise to transact business, our neighboring town of Lyle can furnish the needed accommodation.

Thousands of people in the congested sections of the East are looking for a place where, with their small accumulations, they can acquire homes. Here the balmy breezes of the Chinook winds waft over the land in the winter, dispelling the cold, and the cool mountain breezes in the summer temper the heat. That pure mountain air is permeated with ozone from the evergreen forests, and people who are afflicted with lung and throat trouble find this a haven of rest. The atmosphere is pure and invigorating, the water it is the very best, the land is cheap, easily cultivated and produces well.

Never has the time been when the importance and the significance of the farmer as a commercial factor in the industrial development of a county been so congenitally realized as now. Large sums of money are being spent in literature people in an endeavor to lure back to the farm the thousands of young men who seek the congested centers of population, expecting to make a livelihood without much work, and finally become discouraged, drop down the scale of usefulness, while if they would only acquire a few acres of mother earth, they could live a life

of independence. Here in Hartland, we have broad acres of land that needs development; we are not crowded, there is still room for many. There is comfort compared with Eastern conditions, we are exempt from the great extremes of temperatures, torrential rains and great atmospheric disturbances. Come and enjoy our happy lot.

Source: *The Klickitat County Agriculturist*, Goldendale, WA., April 30, 1910, page 8.

Note: Jeffery Elmer has his roots here in Klickitat County, having grown up in Trout Lake. He has posted many items of interest that relate to this area on his web site including burials lists and obituaries of local cemeteries, pictures and much more. The address for this site is:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~westklic/index.html>



METEOR SHOWER!

Audrey Bentz

How many High Prairians were up at 2 a.m. Nov. 18? The Leonid show was spectacular! We are so fortunate to be out here in the country where the visibility affords the best show anywhere, and if we keep those all-night bright lights at a minimum, we can continue to enjoy the otherwise disappearing milky way, northern lights and amazing constellations!

NEXT ISSUE: LOCAL COUGARS!

Audrey Bentz

Let's all send in our "cougar stories" for the next 2002 issue. It appears they are getting more common, and we'd all find it interesting to know who is seeing them and where and

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Cal Edwards

SPRINT CONTRIBUTION VERY WELCOME

While developing of the Fire Departments water point (the Bentz property) we decided that Sprint needed to move an underground telephone cable. Sprint's original estimate was for several hundred dollars. Dave Burton, a Sprint employee, asked Sprint to donate this to High Prairie. Thanks to the efforts of Dave, Sprint agreed. In return for the donation Sprint has hopes that the High Prairie property owners will continue to cooperate with them as they bury additional cable in the future.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING

On November the 10 the Lyle Fire Department invited the High Prairie Fire Department to join with them on a large training exercise. Under the leadership of Doug Hutchinson, Al Aleckson and Wayne Trosper we received lots of training on going into a burning home and putting out the fire, only to have one of our leaders restart the fire so we could do it again. Most of us have experience fighting brush fires but none of us except our leaders have ever actually gone inside of a home that was on fire. We did not actually have fun and do not want to do this again in the near future. I know that when we do have a structure fire this training will prove to have been very helpful. The new safety equipment the department purchased last year for structure fires worked flawlessly. The close working relationship we have with the Lyle department is improving all the time and I am very glad to have them as our partner district.

You can still obtain reflective address signs and road signs. Contact Cal Edwards: 365-3563.

WATER POINT UPDATE

Real progress is actually happening on the Water Point property. We thank Al Aleckson for a fast trip to Tualatin to pick up the culverts. Tom Amery has completed the two access roads, a fire truck pullout on Struck Road, and has partially buried the tank. The large crew of High Prairians, which turned out to help lower the tank into the hole and begin burying it, was very much appreciated. We had so many people helping that none of us managed to earn a blister or sore back. Fred Henschell, with assistance of Al Aleckson, Doug Taylor, Cal Edwards, and Wes Edwards are building a small building on top of the water tank so that we will have access after the tank burial is complete. We will be adding plumbing and electrical in the near future. Like everyone else we are enjoying the badly needed rain yet hoping for enough good weather to have the water point operational before the end of the



Above: Loading tank on Schilling Road prior to move to Struck Road.

Below: Tom Amery surveying tank as he gets ready to lower in hole for water storage

ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNITY SERVICE: AMERYS

Douglas Taylor

Tom, Gail and family moved to High Prairie from Calgary, Alberta, Canada in 1976 where they were engaged in farming and cattle raising. They moved to their present location here where they continued with cattle and farming operations. Tom eventually sold the cattle and started custom farming for hire and his own construction business along with continuing his farming activities.



Tom, being a very innovative fellow, brought crops to the prairie that were unheard of here, such as canola, peas and newer varieties of wheat. He has practiced a soil improvement program of sub-soiling and liming his fields. By his conservation methods, he has substantially increased water retention and crop yields.

It was not long until the Amery family was engaged in community activities. including family support for the 4-H program. Tom has served in various county associations. He has been a Lyle School Board member and a charter Commissioner of Fire District 14 formed in 1983. He has served as Commissioner, firefighter, and legislative representative of the Fire District and on various other committees and has been instrumental in acquiring grants for the local Fire District.

He and family have been community supporters from the beginning. Tom has been instrumental in acquiring, servicing, fabricating equipment. His shop has been a virtual beehive of activity for District equipment over the years

When fire threatened, Tom not only was

available himself, but he sent his whole crew. He has always been generous donating for moving supplies, buildings, equipment, using equipment for leveling, digging, moving etc.

Our first fire hall was a donation from Rural

7 District in Golden-dale. It was located at Maryhill where we used Tom's expertise in getting it moved to High Prairie where our main station is now located. Tom donated his equipment to later move this building it's present location on Schilling Rd. He used his equipment to haul tanks from Oregon for District use. He was Commissioner when we purchased trucks from Goldendale City, Centerville District and Wishram District. Tom was involved in our first state grant to purchase the Chevrolet fire truck from Goldendale. This truck was purchased for \$2000 and eventually sold for \$4500.

He leveled much of the ground at the present fire hall. He helped design and build the main fire hall on Centerville Highway. He has hauled rock and equipment only charging minimal amount for fuel and rock; often even donating the fuel.

He recently retrieved our fire truck, which had broken down near Tonasket, taking many hours of time, fuel, and only charging a minimal amount for fuel. As has been the custom, this truck was sent to his shop for repairs. There in his shop, many of the firemen past and present have assisted Tom with the many community projects.

Tom has always been an inspiration for many

of us, while enjoying his great knowledge and gentle nature. He always seems to accomplish more with less effort, although I know he is thinking on the run.

Lately, Tom has donated his equipment, time, and crew to work on the property donated so graciously by Myrin and Audrey Bentz so the community may have a large available water supply and a future community building

The community owes a great debt to Tom and Gail. Their contributions to us are worth many thousands of dollars and I have never heard them say they begrudged one minute or one dollar of it.

I know there were many times during their harvest they shut down their crew so that fires could be stopped, even when it jeopardized their loss of income. Some crops only have a short window of opportunity for quality harvest and after that the value rapidly decreases.

We are so fortunate to have so many willing contributors such as the Amery's with donations and helping hands giving of themselves to the community over the years. It is impossible to name the greatest supporters, as you all are great. High Prairie has been blessed with so many willing contributors and various talents. All working toward the same goal, (taking a phrase from the 4-H slogan) to make the best better.

It is our goal to honor worthy participants in our paper from time to time and your input is welcomed.

No one knows what he can do until he tries.
—Publilius Syrus

MORE NEW GRANDPARENTS

Fred and Cindy Henschell welcomed their first grandchild, Bryce Johansen, on November 8.

FIRE DISTRICT AWARDED FEMA GRANT FOR NEW FIRE TRUCK

Douglas Taylor

Fire District # 14 has been awarded a major grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) for the purchase of a new all purpose 4 -wheel drive vehicle with 750 gallon water capacity. This grant was a 90/10 match with the District funding 10 percent of an estimated total cost of \$230,000. This has been one of our largest grant requests to date. Although we applied this spring and were notified that we were unsuccessful, FEMA later contacted us to let us know that we would be receiving the grant after all. We will be requesting bids and hopefully have this new truck in service late next year.

Are you getting calls to support fire departments/fire fighters in other areas? Everyone is welcome to do so, of course, but some of us decline with this explanation: Our local volunteer fire department and our fire fighters have many financial needs, so we prefer to give our support to them.

Thanks— if you are doing the same!

SPRING FIREHOUSE SALE

Martha Hamil

Our spring fundraising event is just around the corner; first weekend in May that is. We will need donations and we are rethinking the “No Clothes” rule. Remember we are now a 501.c3 organization and you can deduct donations from your Federal Income Tax. And those donations will go toward worthy causes such as your Fire District, High Prairie Youth, and building a community center. Please let us know as early as possible if you are donating larger or more valuable items, so that we can advertise appropriately. An old piece of junk cluttering up your property may be a Collector's Item to others. If the weather looks good and the mud is not too deep, we may even be able to hold it on the new property on Struck Road.

