



The High Prairian

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

Volume Two, Number Four

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December, 2002

NOTICES

HOLIDAY PARTY at Morning Song Acres: You are invited to High Prairie's *fifth* annual holiday party at the Bentz's (6 Oda Knight Road) on Friday, December 13 anytime between 7 and 10 PM. Come meet new neighbors, and renew conversation with the rest! Get an update on the latest developments on our Community Center. You may wish to bring a snack to share, and if you have a special song, instrumental number, poem, dance or story to share, let us know! Call if questions: 365-3600.

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 7:00 PM. The November meeting has been moved to December 5th because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The meeting will start at 7:00 at the Taylor Church.

January meeting: Lowell & Mary Turner will host a pie social/HPNA meeting at 6:30 PM on January 23. Their address is 440 Schilling Road.

High Prairie Historical Society is held quarterly on the 4th Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1st Sunday of December (this year on the 1st) beginning at 2:PM

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

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

COMMUNITY CENTER

IT'S A REALLY IMPORTANT MEETING!!! The Turners at 440 Schilling Road have invited us for a pie social at 6:30 PM, January 23. At 7 PM, there will be a final presentation of several different options for building the Community Center, and those attending will have the privilege of voting on a decision as to which type of building would be best for our needs and financial capability. If you miss this opportunity, your personal expertise will be too late.

So come and break up the dull January with homemade pies and hot drinks, and vote your wishes for this High Prairie venture! In the event of a snowstorm, call Mary 365-2252, Martha 365-5459 or Audrey 365-3600 for rescheduled time. SEE YOU THEN!



Happy Holidays

EDITORIAL

We wish to thank all the local neighbors that have so unselfishly spent their time creating reports, thinking of ideas and the general creation of this paper. Some have even spent time traveling to Goldendale folding and labeling the paper for mailing. We would also like to thank the County Commissioners for funding of the paper and mailing expenses. Also the Economic Development crew for their input, especially Kathy Norton for her expertise and unwavering support. And last but not least we extend our gratitude to Cindy Henschell for her formatting and putting this paper together in a very professional matter. Without any one of these we would not be able to continue with the size or quality of the distribution.

This is your paper, if you have ideas or changes you would like to see, or if you would like to contribute please contact one of the crew.

This will be the last issue for this year, so would like to extend a very joyous and prosperous holiday wish to all. May we be so ambitious next year.

—The News Committee



The High Prairian
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News Desk: Douglas L. Taylor,
 365-3242
 email: highprairie@gorge.net

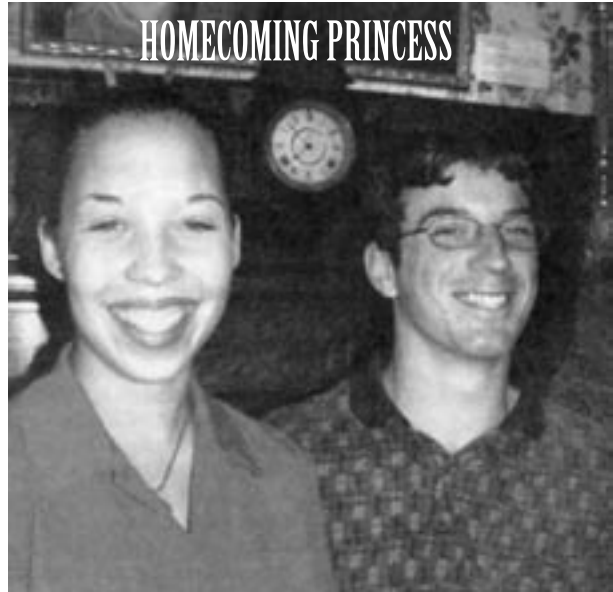


Photo: Goldendale Sentinel

Princess Simone Woods and Escort Caleb Young.

Congratulations to Simone Woods on being selected one of Goldendale High School's home coming Princesses in October 2002. Simone is the daughter of Mike and Ruthie Woods.

THANK YOU NEIGHBORS

Bev Edwards

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom and Lozetta Doll, Doug and Dona Taylor, and Myrin and Audrey Bentz for so graciously allowing us to use their shop, church, and home for the HPNA meetings.

Editors note:

We have used many homes for our 4-H, Historical Society, Neighborhood Association, Cemetery Association and other meetings and we are grateful to all.

IN MEMORIAN
compiled by Dona Taylor

Ted Struck, former High Prairie resident moved here with his parents in 1946 and passed away September 19th 2002.

He was buried in the Lyle-Balch Cemetery September 23rd 2002.

Our sincerest condolences to their families.

WELCOME COMMITTEE REPORT

Gail Amery

The Welcome Committee contacts new folks who are moving into homes in the High Prairie area. New arrivals are presented with a basket of preserves (complements of Martha) or fresh bread, and coupons, a Welcome Letter, Gorge Happenings (compliments of the Lyle Hotel) and "Country Tips."

Businesses who have donated coupons to our new neighbors include Margie's Personal Touch Hair Salon (Lyle), Country Café (Lyle) Columbia Hills RV (on Hwy. 197, north of The Dalles Bridge) and The Lyle Hotel who also shared a recipe with us from their chef.

Following is a list of the names of the welcome committee and the area being covered:

Sharon Aleckson – Centerville Hwy. From Hartland Road west

James Archuleta – Struck Road

Martha Hamil – Oda Knight Road

Gail, Sally, James Amery – Hartland Road

Batya & Ron Momb – Centerville Hwy. between Hartland Road & Schilling Road & south

Cindy Dickinson – Mott Road & Centerville Road from Schilling Road east

Bob Edwards – Schilling Road south from High Prairie Road

Peyt Turner – Schilling Road north from High Prairie Road

Fred Henschell – High Prairie Road

We all would appreciate any ideas you may offer.



GARDENING TIPS

Judi Strait, Master Gardener

Considering the weather we've had the last couple of weeks, it feels like winter is here. My gardening is pretty much done for the year except for canning the rest of the carrots that are still in the ground.

Actually, there are some gardening/plant tips to keep in mind during the winter months. Water your houseplants sparingly and don't fertilize again until April. They will benefit from a period of slower growth and will do better in the spring.

A heavy snowfall can damage shrubs and trees. Brush the snow from the limbs with a gentle upward sweeping motion.

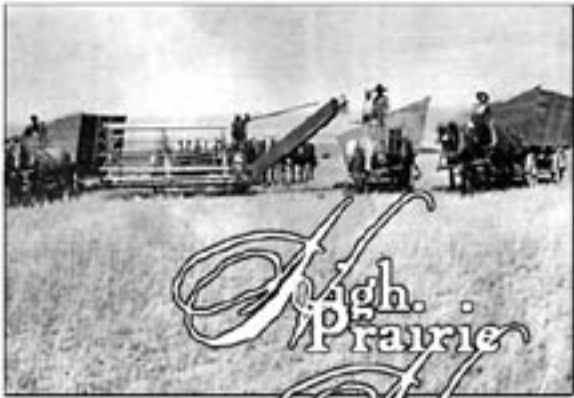
Be careful when using de-icers or rock salt on your frozen walks. Most de-icers have a high salt content that can burn plants and turf if not used carefully and can also damage cement walks and steps. Sand is a better alternative.

There are a couple of things you can do to enrich the soil in your garden over the winter. I usually spread 3-4" of straw on it or plant a cover crop. Just plow them under in the spring. You will need additional nitrogen in the spring if using straw, as nitrogen in the soil is depleted somewhat as the straw decomposes.

Another tip to remember is to water plants under the roof overhang and fruit trees, shrubs, etc. on sunny winter days. This will help them especially if we have a dry winter.

As the new seed catalogs start arriving, it is fun to begin planning next summer's garden on paper. Think about things that didn't work last summer and new things you'd like to try. Late February is a good time to start tomatoes and peppers indoors. All you need are fluorescent lights and an inexpensive timer so they will get 12-14 hours of light per day.

If you haven't done it before, start a garden notebook this year. Keep track of what you plant and when, where you purchase the seeds and/or plants, the date of the last frost in the spring and first frost in the fall, etc. It is really helpful to keep these notebooks and compare year to year.



Douglas Taylor

CARLTON GWEN PARRISH

On March 12, 1957 Carl moved with his family to High Prairie where, in partnership with his brother William, they established Parrish Ranches,. They purchased 3,000 acres of land from J. J. Chisholm, an absentee owner. The property ran from Centerville Highway up Schilling Road one mile past High Prairie Road on the east side. Carl and his family lived in the Bill St. Lawrence house now owned by Roger and Cindy Dickinson. Their operation included raising alfalfa, grain crops, and livestock. This included purchasing many heifer feeders in the spring and reselling them in the fall. They continued this operation until selling the ranch in 1976 after almost 20 years farming. When the property sold, Carl kept 60 acres which four of the children still own jointly. After selling the ranch he placed a trailer house and shop on the property he retained on the north east corner of Centerville Highway and Schilling Road.

He continued to run the operation of the ranch until it was resold. At that time Carl went to work as a mechanic for Hassing Implement in Goldendale until he retired due to health problems, although he continued to do mechanical work for friends and neighbors in the area for many years. The partnership also owned what was then called the Clyde Houston property, which included property on both sides of Mott Road, extending to the ranch complex where Bill Parrish lived. The Houston house has been torn down and replaced.

Carl served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945, as a special vehicle operator for the 1613th Engineer

Forestry Company on Leyte Island in the Philippines. Injured in 1944, Carl received the Purple Heart as well as the Liberation Medal, the Bronze Service Star and the Good Conduct Medal. From 1945 to 1947, Carl was a commercial truck driver then from 1947 to 1957 he went into partnership with a brother and his father where they farmed in eastern Oregon before coming to the Prairie. The area farmed was Cold Springs Canyon where they were the first Oregon wheat farmers to use the federal government's new soil bank program. The family was always involved in community affairs and the children were quite active in 4-H programs.

During his later years after slowing from steady farming he worked on neighbors' equipment some times for pay and often times for free. He was one of our first firemen after we organized District #14 where he performed most of the maintenance on equipment. He contributed many hours and was the one who took responsibility to see that trucks were either drained or contained anti-freeze in winter. Carl also donated to the Fire District the 1,000 gal water tank we have on the 8 x 8.

Every one thought very highly of him and he never refused help to anyone. Carl was a friend to everyone and he was a great friend of mine. He was exceedingly generous, friendly, and honest. He left big footprints, which one can only hope to fill.

Carl spent the last few years of his life living at his daughter Carla White's home in Battleground, Washington. He was also in a nursing home for part of that time in Vancouver, Washington.

Carlton Gwen Parrish, 75, of Lyle passed away on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, February 14, 1996, at the Veterans Hospital in Portland. He was born on June 19, 1920 in Albee, Washington to Stanley and Nellie Parrish. Carl was preceded in death by his sons, John, who died in 1976 and Tom who passed away in 2001.

He is survived by sons, Paul Henry of Lynwood and Ben of Beaver Creek, Oregon, daughters Gwen Smith of Boise, stepdaughter Sherry Barringer of Parkdale, Oregon, and Carla White of Battle Ground and 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grand children. He was put to rest in Hartland Cemetery on High Prairie next to his sons John and Tom Parrish.

ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNITY SERVICE: MARTHA HAMIL

Lozetta Doll

Martha Hamil has been chosen as this issue's High Prairian Featured Volunteer. You will often find Martha working at community events, attending meetings, and at the business end of a paintbrush or rake. She is always ready and willing to help anyone out and has a common sense, businesslike way of getting things accomplished.

Martha was born in rural Arkansas where she was raised on a cotton farm until she and her family moved to Mississippi. She attended Mississippi State College for Women for one year, switching to Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge where she earned her master's degree. She spent four years working in communications in the United States Navy, stationed in Pensacola, Florida, Naples, Italy, and Washington, D.C. where she was stationed at the Pentagon. While at the Pentagon, she delivered to President John F. Kennedy the top-secret photograph from which the Cuban Missile Crisis developed! Following her stint in the Navy, she went back to college and received her PhD in Geology at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Following two post-doctoral fellowships, one at Virginia Tech. and the other at the University of California in Berkeley, she taught geology for seven years at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The next 17 years were spent working in private industry as a senior research scientist for Engelhard Corporation in New Jersey.

Martha has no regrets about moving to High Prairie. She bought her property in 1995, along with her trademark GMC Suburban, and retired to Washington one year later. She has family in the Pacific Northwest and wanted to be near them but on the dry side of the Cascades. The only other place she vaguely considered living was Virginia City, Nevada, because of the intriguing local history of that area. She lived in a travel trailer while her house was being built, moving into her home right after an early November blizzard dropped three feet of snow in the area. She shares her home with two Doberman pinschers, Michael and Savannah, and Arnold, the cat, who is the boss.

Martha has been president of the present-day High Prairie Neighborhood Association since its inception in January 2000. She is also an active member of the

High Prairie Historical Society, and belongs to the Lyle Gleaners and a local book club. She filled in as secretary for Fire District 14 but was glad when she could give that job back to Cindy Henschell! She wrote a couple of grant requests for the Fire District.

Martha is a gourmet cook and enjoys making Moroccan, Oriental, Indian, Italian, Mexican, South American, and "Southern" dishes. Her garden is experimental in nature and she tries lots of different plants. Many in this area look forward to her annual July 4th Picnic – last summer she hosted her fourth Fourth! Martha is a regular patron of the library and bookmobile. She is an avid reader, particularly liking mysteries and history, and gets a little panicky if she doesn't have any unread books in the house. Along with the above pursuits, she enjoys refinishing furniture and fishing. She has traveled extensively but for now she is staying busy and enjoying this area. She thinks the people in High Prairie are "just great" and the people in High Prairie think likewise of her!



THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

Doug Hutchison, Training Officer

Well here it is fall, and as the seasons change, it looks like we made it through another fire season without a wildfire in High Prairie. On behalf of all the firefighters, a big thank you to all of you for your vigilance.

Your Fire Department has been very busy though. We've responded to 39 calls so far this year, here in High Prairie as well as helping our neighboring District's and DNR with their fires and emergencies. We have also been busy training for the different types of emergencies and fires we may encounter, as well as getting everyone trained to operate the new fire engine. For those of you that haven't seen it yet, it's big and beautiful and all our members give it a big thumbs up.

As we move into winter, wildfires become less likely but please continue to be cautious with outdoor burning until we get SIGNIFICANT moisture. We don't want to mar our good record so far.

Also as we approach the cold months and the Holiday season, we'd like to offer some fire safety tips for this time of year.

Chimneys should be cleaned and checked every year to avoid creosote build up. Every year, poorly

maintained chimneys are responsible for numerous house and structure fires.

Please keep combustible material, such as paper and cardboard well away from heaters, woodstoves and fireplaces.

If you do heat with wood or gas, as many people do, please consider installing a carbon monoxide detector. Every year many people are sickened or worse by this odorless killer that comes from sources of burning.

As the Holidays approach, please be careful with candles and the many decorations, as many are very combustible. Christmas trees dry out very fast. Please keep them well watered and never use candles on or around them. Also please check any decorative lights for frayed or exposed wires.

Well, that's about it for now. I hope everyone has a good, safe winter and Holidays. If you can remember, please say thank you to one of your local fire Department members. These folks put in long, hard hours, for no money and little recognition. While most want neither, a simple "Thanks" would be great and make their day.

HOT NEWS

Sharon Aleckson

On October 19, our High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department participated in the first Klickitat County Volunteer Fire Department chili cook-off. With the help of Doug and Laurie Hutchison (High Prairie volunteer firefighters), and High Prairie resident Michael Dority, a "spicy" chili recipe was created and prepared for this event. Judges for the cook-off presented HPVFD with the 4-ALARM FIRE award. "It wasn't that spicy, and I like the hot stuff," commented Laurie. And when asked what made this chili so spicy, Michael replied, "I just used the usual chili ingredients (meat, beans, tomatoes, etc.), but I added some different spices: Chipotle (a smoked jalapeno pepper, packed in adobo sauce) and cocoa powder."

A special THANK YOU to Michael and to the

people who manned the HPVFD booth at the cook-off: Cal Edwards, Laurie and Doug Hutchison. To all the other good cooks in High Prairie, the challenge is out for next year's competition. Spend the winter perfecting your chili recipe to present at Lyle Community Action Council's Second Annual Chili Cook-Off

Reporter's Note: Because of Michael's excellent culinary credentials, he was hired to be the new chef at the Lyle Hotel. Originally from North Carolina, he has worked and traveled extensively throughout the U.S. However this is the first time that he has been In the Pacific Northwest. Michael loves the beauty and peacefulness of High Prairie. He really enjoys country living. "Come on down to the hotel" says Michael, "I'd love to cook a meal for you."

THE BEAUTY OF HIGH PRAIRIE

Bev Edwards

We have lived here on the prairie for five years now and it seems that the beauty just keeps growing on us. No matter what season it may be, there is always the beauty of nature for us to enjoy.

About mid-July the deer start arriving in the high areas such as ours. They come to our yard to graze on the green clover that we have planted for our yard since grass doesn't do too well during the dry summer months. This year we have not had to mow since the first week in August - we have the "deer mowers" who do it for us. After eating the clover and anything else they can reach that is not fenced

off from them, they head for the birdbath for a fresh drink of water. We have seen doe and their fawns drinking from the birdbath at the same time. What a beautiful sight to see. We have seen as many as eleven deer in a herd roaming through our yard. We stand at our dining room window watching them, amazed at how close they come to the house. We can almost reach out and touch them.

Then in the mornings we are awakened to the songs of the meadowlark. The birdbath needs to be refilled since the deer drink it dry during the night. The birds flock to the birdbath, many species at the same time. We have seen a flicker, bluebirds, purple finches, and goldfinches all drinking and bathing together. Then they fly to the nearest perch, be it on the fence, a branch, shrub, or a dried stem from the daylilies, and preen. We put a sprinkler out where they love to play in the water where the cats cannot get to them. Sometimes in the evenings we can hear the call of the killdeer when they are in the area.

One day we heard a different type of chirping and it sounded really close. We went to the dining room window and there on the fence close to the house were two baby goldfinches with their short stubby tails and their feathers all fluffed up trying to feed one another. We watched them for several minutes before they flew away. How privileged we felt to be able to witness something like this that few people have probably ever been able to see.

All this to enjoy here on the prairie - but wait there is even more. Early mornings the sunrises are spectacular and in the evenings the sunsets are beautiful. Sometimes the whole sky is in shades of pink, blue, and lavender with Mt Adams in pink tones. The other times the colors have more of an orange and golden hue.

Then there is the peace and quiet that comes with living here away from the crowds, traffic, sirens, etc. And the neighbors we have met from all over the area are a special kind of people. Everyone seems to be willing to help each other when the need arises.

So we thank God for leading us to this very special place in this world.

MEMO FROM MICHAEL

CHIPOTLE: SOME LIKE IT HOT...

Chef Michael Dority, The Lyle Hotel

And I am one of them. If you join me in the feeling that sometimes, good food should bring out a little sweat on the brow, then chipotle chilies are right up your alley.

Mi Amigos, who live south of the Rio Grande, often laugh at us "gringos" who don't know the difference between a pepper and a chilie. Basically, to a Mexican, pepper is black, white or cayenne, and is ground. Chilies are vegetables that come in many varieties, red, green, pablano, habenero, jalepeno and many more.

The chipotle is actually a smoked jalepeno. They are usually found in cans, and packed in adobo sauce. The flavor is somewhat hot to American tastes. The added dimension of smokiness adds a pleasant twist.

I like to use chipotles in Remolades, flavored mayonnaise, scrambled eggs, and in hot/sweet glazes for meat and fowl. Remember to save the sauce that the chiles are packed in. It usually comes in handy. Remember, there are no rules. Try chipotles anywhere you want that EXTRA boost of flavor and heat.

Enjoy and eat well.



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

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEETS SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST
CAROLING PRECEDING MEETING AND ELECTIONS**
Sally Amery

The High Prairie Historical Society is open to all who share an interest in High Prairie history. We meet the fourth Sunday of every quarter, except in December. We meet the first Sunday in December. The most recent meeting included a driving tour to 14 historic sites in High Prairie, followed by a lively account of the historical significance and anecdotal information. Potlucks generally coincide with the meetings and all are invited to bring a savory dish to share. All active members receive copies of meeting minutes and access to all historical materials. Dues are \$5.00 per person per year or \$8.00 per family per year. The next meeting is Sunday December 1st at the Taylor Church at 876 Centerville Highway at 2:00PM. It will be the annual Christmas extravaganza. The meeting will kick off with holiday caroling in the historical church. Elections will transpire at the meeting. Contact Doug or Dona Taylor for the Christmas Sing meeting directions



Carl Parrish – see inside story

at 365-3242 or highprairie@gorge.net. For general or membership information contact Sally at 365-4010 or sally@netcnct.net. It is always a lot of fun. Hope to see you there.