



The High Prairian

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

Volume Three, Number One

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March, 2003

NOTICES

March 26: High Prairie Night at the Lyle Hotel Restaurant.

May 17 and 18: 4th ANNUAL FIRE HOUSE SALE!

May 16 – 23: High Prairie cleanup. Dumpster at firehall.

Fire Volunteers meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday 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.

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

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

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

HPNA FIREHOUSE SALE DATE SET

Sharon Aleckson

Now is the time to start collecting items for the 4th Annual High Prairie Firehouse Sale. May 17th and 18th has been set for this event. Sharon Aleckson has volunteered to be the chairman for this fundraiser that guarantees unbelievable bargains and delicious food. Dona Taylor Will be in charge of the Publicity Committee and Sharon Edwards will head the Set-Up Committee. Other committees are in the process of being formed.

Volunteers and donated items are needed to make our community fundraiser a success. There will be a Volunteer sign-up Sheet at the March and April HPNA meeting. You can also call Sharon Aleckson at 365-4429 if you are interested in volunteering but cannot attend the HPNA meetings.

After March 1st, CLEAN, USABLE items/clothing may be brought to the church at Doug and Dona Taylor's at 876 Centerville Hwy. Call ahead at 365-3242 to make arrangements for delivering items. If you are unable to bring your donations to the church, call Leslie Hayrynen at 365-4427 or Martha Hamill at 365-5459 and arrangements can be made to pick up your items.

If you have any questions about this event call 365-4429.

MAY 22, 2003 BARBEQUE

Prior to the May 22, 2003 High Prairie Neighborhood Association meeting, there will be a barbeque at the Tom Doll residence, 120 S. Prairie Road. Everyone in the community is invited to attend. The Dolls will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, with all the

trimmings, soft drinks, plates and eating utensils. If you like, you may bring a dessert or salad, or anything you wish, to share with the group. The barbeque will start at 6:00 PM. These are fun and you get a chance to meet your neighbors, besides the view is fabulous.

EDITORIAL

Douglas L. Taylor

A long awaited 8A insurance rating finally realized by Fire District 14.

The Washington State Survey and Rating Bureau made inspection on January 19, 2003 and we received an 8A rating. That will qualify homeowners within a 5-mile distance from fire hall with a lower insurance rate. This will take effect approximately the first of June. To take advantage of the lower premium contact your insurance company when renewing your insurance to advise them of this determination.

We would still like to get 2,500 gallon (or larger) tender placed on Schilling Road in order to qualify remaining district homes for the 8 rating. We do have two offers of land in that area to consider for building and housing fire equipment. More news on probable land dealings Schilling Road area will appear in the next newsletter.

Another volunteer in that area would help district tremendously on achieving that goal.

Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps.

—David Lloyd George

SPRING CLEANING

The Dumpster will be located at the firehall on May 16 for a week again for neighborhood convenience.



HIGH PRAIRIE NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN!

Audrey Bentz

The Lyle Hotel is reserving its dining room on Wednesday, March 26 for High Prairie residents to celebrate community and VERY good food and ambience. So call 365-LYLE to make your reservation and enjoy Jim and Penny's hospitality, Mike's (chef) great gourmet entrees and the fun in being with your neighbors and friends.

Want to know more about the High Prairie's Retreat Center/B&B? Check the new and improved www.morningsongacres.com.

The High Prairian

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IN MEMORIAN

compiled by Dona Taylor

Glen Mason

A High Prairie resident since 1994, passed away Monday, Dec. 9, 2002, in Vancouver. He was 88.

Helen Jewell

Our sympathy to Peyt Turner who lost her Mother, Helen Jewell of Bend, Oregon Sunday, February 7, 2003.

Our sincerest condolences to both families.

MORE BIRD HOUSES FOR SALE

Lozetta Doll

On a day of ice and rain in January, a group of industrious High Prairie woodworkers, i.e. Arlen Aleckson, Myrin Bentz, Tom Doll, Doug Taylor and Lowell Turner, met in Tom Doll's shop to make this year's supply of bluebird houses, fifty-one in all. The birdhouses will be on display in May at the annual Firehouse Sale. Hopefully the birdhouses will be snatched up like hotcakes at the sale and find their way around the countryside to encourage bluebird habitation. If anyone in the area wants to purchase their birdhouses prior to the sale, so the birds can have a home this year. Please contact any of the men listed above. This project is for firefighting equipment and our new community center.

DECORATING BIRDHOUSES

Audrey Bentz

If we decorate perhaps half of them, we might increase the revenue. You need no artistic talent if you come join us at the Turner's (440 Schilling Road) to help decorate the birdhouses, making them appropriate for gift-giving and better profit! And the bluebirds might even be impressed! So come at 9 AM April 1 —no April Fools— but good fun! If you have questions or suggestions, call Audrey Bentz at 365-3600.

HIGH PRAIRIE STUDENT WILL "STAR"

Cal Edwards

Alex Herschbach has been selected to be the lead in the Dallesport Middle school's Spring Musical. This years production is titled "King Artie And The Knights Of The Rad Table." Director Gail Farris and assistant director Cathy Wood already have the cast busy at practice. Alex's talent added to the professional performances from past years make this a must for your calendar. Mark March 21 and 22.

Glad to hear Rolf Steffen was not seriously injured in an auto accident. He has a pretty new Red pickup.

WELCOME...

We wish to welcome new Prairie residents **Jimmy and Lynn Griffith** who reside west of the Alecksons on Centerville Hwy.

Also welcome **Ray and Roxanne Cline** and family who purchased the former Pat Eiesland property on Centerville Hwy.

... AND CONGRATULATIONS

Peter and Molly Strait the proud parents of a new baby girl, Annika Jan, born March 6 2003 in Hood River. Weighing 7 pounds and 15 ounces, she joins brother Caleb and sister Addy at home. David and Judith are paternal grandparents and Paul and Gladys are paternal great grandparents. We have four generations of Straits making their home on the Prairie.

LINDSEY BLAINE

Dona Taylor



Congratulations to Lindsey Blaine of High Prairie. She was offered and has accepted a full scholarship, up to 5 years, to the University of Purdue in Lafayette, Indiana. She was also pursued by the universities from Washington, Tennessee, and

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Douglas Taylor

GEORGE W. FRENCH

I am a member of and have been attending many local historical meetings where much High Prairie history is discussed. Often much of this information is also new and of interest to me. When lo and behold, I find I have almost been sitting on a story for years. In our area there is a property that has always been known as the French Place. To the east of my home probably a couple hundred yards, a road was built many years ago going up the side of a draw, through pine and oak and in many places made wider by excavating into the earth.

This road extends approximately ½ mile and is wide enough for a team and wagon.

This road tops out into an open area and across a field with a tremendous view. To the south and behind the trees to the west of this open field is the homestead of George W. French. Here years ago I explored the house that was still standing with its fireplace and staircase leading to the upper floor. Many newspapers of the times were glued on the inside walls for insulation. Below the main floor was the basement which was not finished.

The outbuildings were mostly deteriorated but I found the remains of a large barn and what I assumed to be a chicken house. There also were remains of fencing and other buildings, which would have been used to contain the animals.

The hand dug well was still intact with its rock cribbing. Beside the house was a huge purple lilac.

I also found a couple apple trees and a plum tree. As I recall, one apple and the plum were still bearing fruit.

It has been of interest to me that this property has always been referred to as the French Place as so many others have long lost their identity.

This French property was one time owned and farmed by my folks, the Ben Taylors, so I had many occasions to explore and traverse the property. One time in the fall I was hunting deer in the vicinity of the French house and farmstead when a huge downpour came up. Taking refuge in the house I found other hunters in the area had the same idea. We eventually decided a warm fire was in order and utilized the huge fireplace, which worked perfectly.

Recently to my surprise and gratitude the great great grandson of George W. French (Steven Ericson) contacted me by e-mail.

The following is much of the information forwarded to me by him through email:

G.W. French was born in 1828 in Massachussets. He was a carpenter by trade. He moved with his family first to California, then to Washington. Two of the sons were born in California. The family was in residence in Washington by the time of the 1880 census.

George helped rebuild Goldendale after the fire of 1888, and he was a County Commissioner at the time of statehood. He then switched to the Prohibitionist party and was soundly defeated in the next election.

He also built much of The Dalles, including one of the historic churches that still stands (I don't know which one).

He died in The Dalles at the home of his third son, Richard, who was my great-grandfather, two days after his 80th birthday. He and his wife Abby are buried in the Lone Pine Cemetery on High Prairie.

Richard W. and George R. were the two youngest sons of George W. and Abby. Richard worked as a postal clerk in The Dalles for many years and is buried in a Wasco County Cemetery. He was my great-grandfather. George R. had tuberculosis at one point,

and passed it to Richard's first wife and infant daughter, who both died of it in 1912.

Abbie is listed as buried in Lone Pine Cemetery in 1901. George died May 15, 1908. Steven sent me a copy of his death certificate which lists High Prairie, Washington as his burial place, and May 17, 1908 as the date of burial. The undertaker was Crandall of The Dalles.

George French would have been here prior to the 1880's and probably helped build the High Prairie school house mentioned by Nelia (Tate) Binford-Flemming in her book *Sketches of Early High Prairie*. I noticed in the 1913 ownership map two of his sons were listed as owners of 160 acres each, one of which, is still owned by the Taylor family.

LINDSEY BLAINE

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Kansas, Brown University, Michigan State and Air Force Academy. The United States Naval Academy also pursued Lindsey

This prestigious TRACK award is the result of her outstanding ability to throw the javelin. She was first in Washington State and fourth in the Nation with a throw of 155' 6" last year. Blaine's goal for this coming season is 170 feet and led the nation. She's also good at the shot put and discus.

This young lady has a ton of talent. She is a 4.0 student and an outstanding basketball player. Last season she was an All-Greater Columbia B League selection and became the second player in Lyle girls' basketball history to surpass 1,000 career points. Each week we read in the sports section where this star is top point maker for her team. She went on to being named to the Class B all-state hoop team.

Lindsey's coach, Rick Knowles says she has all the qualities to be successful, athletically and academically.

The Lyle High School senior's parents are Kevin and Lisa Johnson who lives just off Mott road

The Community is proud of your achievement and we wish you the very best.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Daria Johnson

I've been meaning to write about all these birds I've seen at our bird feeders for a long time. My husband started feeding the birds a couple years ago. Since I'm able to stay at home, I've been able to recognize a lot of the birds on our Prairie. I used various bird books to help me identify some of the most unusual birds at our place. The books I used were the "*National Geographic Field Guide to the BIRDS of North America*". Also a couple of "*Backyard Birds*" booklets I picked up around town.

My list of birds seen at feeders:

- Spotted Towhee
- Nut Hatches
- Stellers Jay
- Western Scrub Jay
- Black Capped Chickadee
- Dark-Eyed Junco
- Black Headed Grosbeaks
- American Goldfinches
- House Finches
- American Robins
- Chipping Sparrows
- Lark Sparrows
- Hairy Woodpeckers
- Bluebirds
- Yellow-Rumped Warblers
- Tree Swallows
- Hummingbirds

Other birds I've sighted on our property:

- Mallard Ducks
- Wild Turkeys
- Mourning Doves
- California Quail
- American Black Crows
- Black Billed Magpies
- Turkey Vultures
- Osprey
- Hawks
- Prairie Falcons
- Owls

We even had a Blue Heron land in our driveway last fall. I don't know how it got here or where it went. It didn't stick around very long.

Has anyone else seen other birds on the Prairie?

GARDENING CALENDAR

From *WSU Gardening Calendar*

Compiled by Judi Strait, Master Gardener

Tips for March

This month you can plant onion sets, shallots, flowering perennials, herbs, landscape trees and shrubs, berry plants and fruit trees.

Treat lawns for crabgrass or annual bluegrass problems. These are both annual weeds and can be controlled with early season use of pre-emergent weed killers.

Resist the urge to remove the mulch from spring flowering plants such as daffodils and tulips. It can be loosened, but the shoots will still benefit from protection against cold, drying winds.

Fertilize rhododendrons, azaleas, roses and other ornamental trees and shrubs as well as fruit trees. Any standard lawn or garden fertilizer will do.

Tips for April

You can now seed or sod lawns. Newly seeded lawns may take two or more weeks to germinate. Fertilize lawns for the first time this month.

Remove protective mulches from roses, clematis, azaleas and other tender shrubs. Hold off pruning on these plants until May to prevent cold damage.

Fertilize spring-blooming shrubs after flowering is complete.

If you have raspberries you can apply a delayed dormant spray of lime sulfur when the buds begin to show green. This will help control caneblights, powdery mildew and other fungal diseases.

You can plant new berry plants this month but you should not fertilize strawberries until August.

Transplant cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower starts. Fit stems of cabbage and broccoli plants with stiff paper disks to help control root maggots.

Sow seeds of carrots, greens and beets. Plant seed potatoes and onion bulbs. Cover planted areas with



Master Gardener Judi Strait

row cover to keep insect pests out.

Tips for May

Tackle lawn weed problems on warm days in May and continue to mow regularly. Do not use weed and feed products near trees or shrubs.

Fertilize the lawn using a balanced fertilizer with a 3-2-1 or 3-1-2 ration.

Now is the time to start infrequent deep watering of lawns. New lawns must be watered daily until they germinate. Then it is time to cut back and water deeply but less frequently.

Put bedding plants in moist, fertile soil after breaking apart their roots. Keep them well watered.

Prune flowering shrubs after they have finished blooming. Flowering forsythia and lilacs stay more compact and bloom better with annual pruning. Cut out dead or broken branches and up to one-third of the stalks.

Sow perennial flower seeds outdoors in early May. You can also set out new perennial plants now.

Start pumpkins and melons indoors this month to transfer the first of June. Plant peas and potatoes.

Check for aphids, especially on firs, roses, arborvitae and maples. Some symptoms to watch for include distorted new growth and honeydew (sticky sap) or sooty mold on the leaves. Wash foliage with a strong spray of water.

ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNITY SERVICE: CHRIS & LORELEI PATRICK

Lozetta Doll



Back Row: Drew DeWalt, Paul Robinson; Middle Row: Lynn DeWalt, Lorelei & Chris Patrick; Front Row: Iseah Lee DeWalt & Lori Patrick.

I visited with Chris and Lorelei Patrick one “dark and stormy night” in January but the Patricks made me forget about the weather as we sat in their cozy kitchen and chatted. Chris and Lorelei bought their 40 acres on July 4, 1980 because they liked the area and also because it was halfway between Portland and the Tri-Cities, as Chris worked in both cities. They initially stayed in their 40-foot 5th wheel while they were here. The next few years found them moving around quite a bit. In 1985 they came back to the area for a couple of years and 13 years ago they came back for good. Four years ago they put up their present home and shop. Some years before that, with the help of Roger Dickinson and some neighbors, they had put up a barn.

Lorelei was one of this area’s first EMTs and she served in that capacity for ten years. She and Cindy Dickinson were the first Fire District 14 Boosters. She was active in 4-H and the Gleaners. Chris has been involved with the fire district since 1990. He became a Fire Commissioner in 1991 and has been the Fire Chief for roughly the last six years, a position he is now relinquishing. He has been regularly attending four Fire District-related meetings per month.

Chris was born in Los Angeles, California and moved to Florida at the age of six where his father was a lineman and a part-time real estate developer.

Lorelei is a native of Tacoma, Washington. In their respective youths, they both developed a love of the outdoors. They met at The Harvester Restaurant in Tacoma where Lorelei was a waitress and Chris was a bachelor (eating out.) They have two daughters, Lori & Lynn. Lori is a senior at PSU where she is on the Dean’s List, majoring in Biology. She is presently doing research in Hepatitis C at OHSU. Lynn lives in White Salmon with her husband Drew DeWalt and their eight-month old son, Iseah Lee. Lynn works at the Emporium in The Dalles and her husband works at Luhr-Jensen, manufacturers of fishing equipment. Lorelei’s two sons by a former marriage are both deceased. Chris’ parents, Arthur and Celestine Patrick, bought 40 acres adjoining them in 1983. They are presently splitting their year between High Prairie and Fort Pierce, Florida. Lorelei’s mother, Florence LaMont, still lives in Tacoma.

Chris is a journeyman electrician, licensed for all types of electrical work, including work in nuclear power plants. Lorelei has worked as a home health care provider and in retailing. Chris unwinds in his well-equipped machine shop when he has the time. He is a member of the Portland Model Engineers. His next project is a replica of the last working Shay Logging Locomotive in the Northwest. It

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HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE DISTRICT

FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES 2003 GRANT

Fred Henschell, Fire Commissioner/Volunteer Firefighter

The High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department received a \$22,970 Community Development Grant from Klickitat County. These grants are awarded annually for projects that benefit local communities; the funding comes from revenues generated by the county landfill. This years proposal requested funds for communications equipment, additional personal protective clothing, and additional equipment for emergency vehicles.

Approximately \$16,000 will be used to purchase new pagers and hand held radios. Some of our older radios will also be serviced or rebuilt. The pagers are really key to our effectiveness as volunteers. When 911 calls are received in Goldendale, the paging system is used to dispatch firefighters and first responders to deal with the situation. Up to now we have not been able to provide a functioning, reliable pager to each volunteer. We kid about string and tin cans but they don't work very well in the wind. Hand held radios are very important for personal safety. In wild fire situations, personnel may become deployed over a large area; maintaining contact becomes critical for both safety and effectiveness. Besides having enough portable radios on each vehicle for crew members, the new radios

FIRE PREVENTION

Cal Edwards

Our Fire Department has been asked by its citizens to include fire prevention in its duties.

On November 21 we had an opportunity to have the Lyle Middle School "After School Program" visit the High Prairie Fire Department. This was a good time of learning for both us and them. One question did surprise us. A student ask, "Where do you sleep?" Something for us to think about in the future I suppose. We had several students tell us they want to become volunteer fire fighters in a few years. This would be good.

This was a positive experience and the students are invited to return again.

will be more compatible with other nearby fire organizations.

Personal protective clothing and equipment for firefighters is an expensive necessity. Approximately \$2,700 will be used to purchase additional helmets, boots, gloves, and other clothing items, The safety of our volunteers is highest priority. Firefighters come in all shapes and sizes and they all need to be properly equipped.

The last part of this year's grant provides additional equipment and accessories for our existing emergency vehicles. Approximately \$4,500 will be used to purchase additional hand tools, fire hose, fittings, and nozzles.

Community development grants have been a tremendous help in upgrading the High Prairie Volunteer Firer Department. Over the last five years we have rebuilt/refurbished three large trucks, purchased breathing apparatus and protective equipment, and developed a water storage facility. These major improvements, combined with an aggressive training program have increased our effectiveness, boosted morale, and made us one of the best volunteer departments in the County.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESISTS TEMPTATION

Cal Edwards

A long standing tradition of American Fire Departments is to help other fire departments when possible. From High Prairie Fire Departments beginning, other departments have often helped us. A few years ago the Lyle F.D. sold us an American-LaFrance pumper for one dollar because it was surplus for them and they knew we had a real need for a second pumper. This purchase also included a second pumper to be used for parts. This has been a very useful fire engine for us including its use on the Stacker Butte fire.

After receiving our new Urban-Interface Engine

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PATRICKS

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spent its working life in the mill at Klickitat and is now on display at Point Defiance Park in Tacoma. Lorelei enjoys sewing, machine embroidery, cake decorating, reading, her houseplants, and most of all, her grandson! The Patricks host an annual community Labor Day get-together. This past year a New Year's Eve party was substituted for the Labor Day event due to Lorelei's surgery.

The Patrick's have been supporters of High Prairie for many years and we thank them for their commitment to the area. We are lucky to count them as residents and friends.

SHANNON VOLUNTEERED

Shannon Hess has volunteered to become a High Prairie Fire Department First Responder. Although Shannon has a medical background she will attend the First Responder class this spring enabling her to be state certified. This is a real benefit to High Prairie, so give Shannon a big thank you next time you see her.

TEMPTATION

cont'd. from p. 8

last summer these two American-LaFrance pumpers became surplus for us also. There was a strong temptation to try and sell these trucks and use the money for other fire department needs. Then we became aware of a fire department in Skamania County which had a need for a pumper. After much discussion it was decided to sell these trucks for one dollar each to the Mill-A fire department. Was this a good decision? Well a few weeks later the Appleton Fire District offered to sell us a four wheel drive Ambulance which is newer and in better condition than our old two wheel drive ambulance. So yes, the fire department tradition has treated High Prairie well again, and I'm glad we resisted the temptation to try and make a fast dollar.

