

Happy Holidays!



# The High Prairiean

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

Volume Four, Number Four

Circulation: 520 • Subscription Cost: FREE

December, 2004

## NOTICES

**Betz's annual Christmas Party: December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**Fire Volunteers** meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.

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

**High Prairie Community Council** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. There will be no November meeting as it falls on Thanksgiving. The meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> will be a combined November and December meeting. It will be held at the Doll's on South Prairie Road.

**High Prairie Historical Society** is held quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December beginning at 2:00 PM. The December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at the Taylor's. Potluck snacks will be served.

**Lyle School Board** meets the next to last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

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

## CHANGING NAMES

Martha M. Hamil

Name changes happen daily; someone gets married, companies want to modernize a new venture, the old one sucks, etc. And, the High Prairie Neighborhood Association is changing its name to the High Prairie Community Council.

Although we started with HPNA by voting upon it and thought it a good name that described our agenda. (Actually, I wanted the High Prairie High Kickers. No one else did.) However, we soon learned that governmental agencies such as the Klickitat County Commissioners and other groups did not take us seriously. Moreover, we had to explain to residents that we do not have covenants that dictated use of their property to them.

Again, as we are attempting to apply for grants to build a community center and to enhance High Prairie, we are faced explaining "Neighborhood Association". Consequently, at the October 2004 meeting, we voted to change our name to High Prairie Community Council. Because this means a change in our Bylaws, we are also correcting grammar, spelling, and adding some IRS-mandated language. Those of you who have email already have a copy of the proposed, amended Bylaws. If you do not have email, copies will be available at the December 2 meeting.

## HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 17 is the date, Morning Song Acres (6 Oda Knight Road) is the place!



Come prepared to enjoy lots of tasty foods, egg nog, hot wassail, etc. Enjoy singing the Christmas carols. Children will have some special "Icey" entertainment. Bring any stories, music, instruments, speeches, and join in the celebration. Come anytime after 7 PM.

Will our volunteer firefighters carry on the "tradition" of a Christmas parade? Come and see! If you have a new neighbor who hasn't come before, bring them with you.

## WELCOME TO HIGH PRAIRIE

Sharon Aleckson

Since our last newsletter, two welcome baskets have been delivered. Bob Edwards delivered a basket to Don and Garth Olson who have a home on Clark Road, just off of Schilling Road. Sharon Aleckson presented another basket to Josh and Jennifer Machado and their children, Shelby, Morgan, and Joseph. Josh is employed at Hood River Dodge. Jennifer enjoys redecorating and caring for her family. Shelby and Morgan attend school in Dallesport. Joseph, age 2, keeps the whole family very busy. The Machado's live at 778 Centerville Highway. Both families are enjoying country life and look forward to meeting their High Prairie neighbors.



### The High Prairian

P.O. Box 592 Lyle, WA 98635

Publisher	Klickitat County RDC
News Editors	Douglas & Dona Taylor
Layout/Typesetting	Cindy Henschell, Cascadia Graphics & Publishing

Serving the community of High Prairie, Klickitat County, Washington.

Published four times per year (or as often as needed).

Subscription cost: FREE. Circulation: 520.

News Desk: Douglas L. Taylor,  
**365-3242**  
 email: [highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net)

The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie web site: [www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us)

## SHERIFF CHRIS MACE SPEAKS TO HIGH PRAIRIE GROUP

Lozetta Doll

At the October 28, 2004 meeting of the High Prairie Neighborhood Association, Sheriff Chris Mace spoke about neighborhood safety concerns and answered questions from the members. He reported a high incidence of problems with hunters this fall. Many hunters expressed frustration because in years past they had hunted this area but now are being told by residents and by way of no hunting and no trespassing signs that hunting is discouraged because there are many more people and homes here now. He said that if anyone sees anything amiss, whether it be firearm violations, drinking leading to dangerous situations, criminal trespass, reckless driving, vandalism, etc., area residents can call 911 and specify whether the reported activity is of an emergency or non-emergency nature. Another number that can be called is Sheriff Dispatch: (509) 773-4545 or (509) 773-4547.

### NEED HOUSE CARE?

A good friend of some of us High Prairians is employed in Portland Monday through Thursday, but she might be available to house sit out here 3 to 4 days each week if you plan to head south during the winter (or anywhere else any other time of the year). If you wish more information, please contact Audrey Bentz at 365-3600.

### WHOSE DEAL IS IT ANYWAY?

Lozetta Doll

Now that winter is near, maybe some of us High Prairians would like to get together for a friendly game of pinochle, bridge, scrabble, or what have you? There are a few bridge players in the community who would like to know if anyone else would be interested in an occasional game. Likewise, there are people who enjoy pinochle and other games. If anyone is interested, please call me at (509) 365-0010 or send me an e-mail: [tomloz@gorge.net](mailto:tomloz@gorge.net). Maybe we can even schedule a High Prairie Game Night!

## HIGH PRAIRIE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Douglas Taylor

The High Prairie Boosters was the first community group to organize after our fire district was formed in the early 1980's. Its purpose was to support the fire district through fund-raising and community events. The Boosters eventually disbanded and a non-profit, non-political organization was founded for the benefit of all Highprairians to work together to shape the future of this growing community. Over the last five years the association has been ably led by Martha Hamil, whom is retiring this year.

The association has undertaken projects that benefit the community as well as the fire district. Two committees were appointed to work on both building design and grant funding for a community center. This project was undertaken originally to separate community functions from emergency operations at the fire hall. Other projects include a new, insulated addition to the fire hall, siding, finishing the electrical, and walk way for the firehall. The members have cleaned and hauled rubbish from the water fill up site, installed fence posts, and designed the community building.

Volunteers have built picnic tables, and built and sold birdhouses and feeders to raise funds for other community projects. They have contributed many hours to the annual firehouse sales which has built a considerable fund toward the making the community

center a reality as well as equipping our fire crew and supporting other community organizations. The association has donated funds to send 4-H members on a national sponsored trip, send the youth group to OMSI in Portland, and contributed funds for the annual Christmas basket sponsored by the Lyle Lion's Club. The organization was instrumental in working with the county to install guardrails and stripe a fog line on our local county roads.

At the September meeting of the HPNA a different suggestion was presented to the group that included building a four-bay fire station and meeting building on Struck Road and a separate fire hall on Schilling Road. This would be funded, in part, by issuing a 25-year bond. With this plan the present firehall on Centerville Highway would be declared surplus and sold. Any funds obtained from the sale would be put toward the new building. The community association requested additional research into costs be done and the results would brought back to the January meeting.

The October meeting finalized the change of name from High Prairie Neighborhood Association to High Prairie Community Council. The nominations of officers was also accepted to be voted on in December.

To see minutes of HPCC and Fire District visit the High Prairie web site: [www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us).

### REAL CHEAP

Submitted by Douglas Taylor

After being away on business for a week before Christmas, Tom thought it would be nice to bring his wife a little gift.

So entering the department store he said:

"How about some perfume?" he asked the cosmetics clerk. She showed him a bottle costing \$50.

"That's a bit much," said Tom, so she returned with a smaller bottle for \$30.

"That's still quite a bit," Tom groused.

Growing disgusted, the clerk brought out a tiny \$15 bottle.

Tom grew agitated, "What I mean," he said, "is I'd like to see something real cheap."

So the clerk handed him a mirror.

### TRAINING AND VOLUNTEERISM PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS

Douglas Taylor

A life was saved at the senior meals this fall because of the quick action and training of one of our volunteer fireman/first responder, Cal Edwards. Cal recognized the problem and helped the person in distress. One of the attendees at the meal was choking and he administered the "heimlich maneuver" thus saving a life. Thanks to the local community support for the aid volunteers and to the volunteers taking the hours of training, we have a first class group here on the Prairie.

We are all indebted to the all of the volunteers.



Douglas Taylor

## High Prairie History

*This summer, the High Prairie Historical society lost a valued member and dear friend. We would like to dedicate this edition to her memory.*



### VICKI LEE KOCH

Vicki Lee Koch, age 63, died suddenly on September 27, 2004 while hiking with her husband Jim in Indian Heaven Wilderness.

Vicki was born to Harry and Maxine Long on February 22, 1941 in South Bend, Washington. She spent the majority of her childhood in Renton and later lived in Enumclaw, Spokane, and High Prairie.

Vicki was an accomplished horsewoman. She and her son Scott traveled extensively throughout the western states in competition. In 1980 Vicki and her horse Stormy won the Canadian National

Championship in the amateur English event. Vicki was an avid hiker and nature photographer. While photographing wildflowers near White Pass she first met her husband Jim Koch who was hiking south on the Pacific Crest Trail from the Canadian border. From this chance encounter, a relationship developed and soon the couple began hiking the Pacific Crest Trail from White Pass to the California border, a distance of 575 miles. At the time of her death, Vicki was doing what she loved best, hiking and photographing the scenery in one of her favorite places.

Vicki and Jim made their home in Spokane, Washington but spent their summers at High Prairie, near Lyle, Washington. A talented photographer and ardent naturalist, Vicki photographed the vistas and the wildflowers of the Prairie and recorded their treks through the wildernesses of the Northwest. Vicki and Jim became interested in the Prairie and exhaustively researched pioneer families and established the location of homesteads. Vicki collected early photographs of the people and places of High Prairie and painstakingly transcribed letters, dairies, and census records to weave together a history of this special place. Her knowledge of early High Prairie earned her the position of President of the High Prairie Historical Society. Vicki's contribution to this small community will be greatly missed.

Vicki is survived by her husband, James Koch; her son, Scott Demarco and special friend, Herb Johnson, both of Enumclaw; cousins, Karla Frodsham of Vancouver and Don Hall of Florida; aunt, Alice Hall of Vancouver; second-cousins, Emily, Allison, and Laurel of Vancouver.

A celebration of Vicki's life was held on Sunday, October at the High Prairie pioneer church located on the Douglas Taylor property.

### Prairie Christmas



# THE FAIRY PRINCESS MEETS HER PRINCE

## A FAIRY TALE

Carol Shuster

There once lived a lovely fairy princess named Michelle. She lived in a pretty little cottage next to the seashore. She loved to look, out her window and watch the waves crash against the shore. But with all this beauty around her she was still very lonely. She wanted someone with which she could share her life. She wanted a companion, but she could not find him.

Michelle's only friend was her beautiful stallion named Storm. He was a beautiful white horse. Michelle enjoyed riding him along the seashore.

One day she was feeling lonely so she saddled her horse and went riding. She rode for miles along the shore. As night fell she decided it was time to turn back. But she found she could not find her way. It was growing darker. She urged Storm on down the shoreline but he could not see very well in the dark. Finally, Michelle said, "Okay, Storm we will stop here tonight." But she was not sure where she had stopped. Then she thought she saw a light coming from a house. She rode on until she came to the house.

This place belonged to an evil wizard named Morgan. He did not like visitors or intruders. They had a way of disappearing. But Michelle was tired and so was Storm. So she decided to chance knocking on the door. The door opened slowly and a voice said, "Enter at your own risk." But Michelle was not scared she was tired. As she entered the living room of the house she noticed a cozy fireplace and a chair. She sat down by the fire and soon she was fast asleep. While she was sleeping someone came in and brought her a plate of food. Then the

same person slipped outside and took care of her horse. Storm had clean stable and good hay to eat. Michele awoke and found dinner waiting for her. She ate her fill and then went in search of her host. She wanted to thank him for being so kind and gracious. But she could not find him.

Michelle thought, "Maybe I should leave this place." As she was trying to think what to do, a voice said, "Please wait one more night and all will

be revealed to you." She was not sure where the voice came from or if she should listen. But she

decided to wait. She went outside and found the stables. She wanted to make sure Storm was okay. There she found him inside a clean stable. He walked up to her and she petted his nose. He was happy to see her.

Suddenly, the princess was aware that someone or something was behind her. She turned to see a very handsome prince standing there in the door of the stable. Michelle was the first to speak. She said, "My name is Michelle,

what is your name?" The prince said, "My name is Daniel." Then Michelle said, "What are you doing in such a creepy place?" Daniel replied, "I was brought here by the wizard that lives here. He is evil."

Daniel and Michelle were making plans to escape that night. But Morgan overheard the plans and took action. After Michelle had her dinner she got very sleepy. Morgan had poisoned her drink. She fell asleep right after dinner. He then came and took her to the deepest, darkest dungeon in the lower part of the house. There were no windows and no light shone anywhere. She was all alone. Daniel waited



Ivan Yakovlevich Bilibin, illustrator (1876 - 1947)

*continued p. 6*

from p. 5

for her in the stable liked they had planned. But as time wore on Daniel began to worry that something was not right. He waited until midnight and then went in search of Michelle.

He searched the upstairs but she was not there. He went back downstairs. He thought he heard a voice calling him. At first he could not figure out where it was coming from. Then he saw an opened door. He went in and followed a long staircase down to the bottom of the big house. When he finally got to the basement he looked for a light of some kind to help him find his way. The only thing he found was a torch. He used it and he found the dungeon. There was Michelle still under the influence of the poison. The dungeon door was locked. He had to find a way to awake the girl. He called her name but she did not awake. He tried yelling her name, "MICHELLE!" He cried. "Please wake up."

Then Daniel became aware of a presence. He turned to see Morgan behind him. He told him to unlock the door or else. Morgan only laughed and said, "No one orders me around." "If you want the girl, you must find a way to open the door yourself." Then he vanished as quickly as he had appeared.

Daniel was left alone with his love still in the cell. Suddenly, she started waking up. Daniel tried once again calling her name. This time she heard him. She got up and walked over to where Daniel stood. He took her hand and said, "How do we get out of this creepy house?" Michelle answered, "We will find a way because we love each other." Daniel smiled at her answer. Michelle called for her horse. Storm came immediately to the dungeon door. As Daniel opened the door he noticed something shiny in the horse's bridle. It was the key to the cell. He unlocked the cell door and set Michelle free. She hugged Storm and then kissed Daniel. Then she and Daniel mounted the horse and rode back to Michelle's little cottage by the sea. Daniel was going to leave the next day. But some time during the evening Michelle persuaded him to remain with her. He did stay and they were married in the summer. They continued living in the little cottage. They were as happy as two people could ever be.



## NEW WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS

Martha Hamil

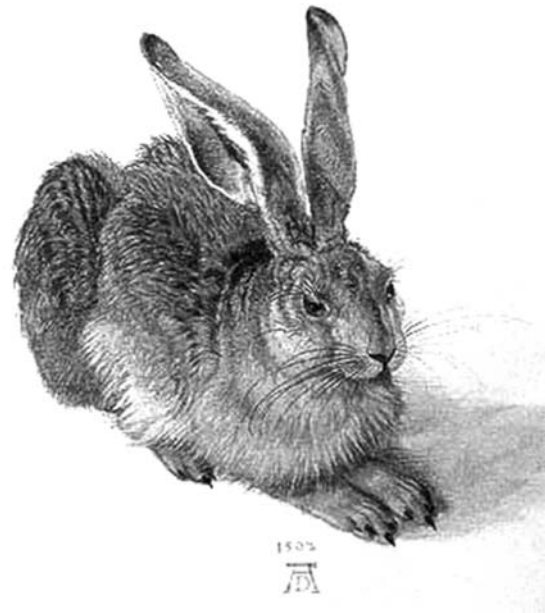
Neither Myrin Bentz nor I have heard of a sighting of these creatures in recent times. They are here and, hopefully, they have come to stay. They rarely attack. They eat plants. They are cute. Children love them (coyotes do to). They reproduce rapidly (a good thing if coyotes love them). What are they?

Cottontail rabbits. Myrin and I spied one at the intersection of Oda Knight and Knapp late on the Sunday of Vicky Koch's memorial service as he trundled me home after my truck died. Myrin slammed on his brake. We stared in amazement at the single mesmerized cottontail staring back. Suddenly, it hopped away. Our reaction, "Did you see what I saw"? We agreed— a cottontail. Hopefully, if there was one, there was another of opposite sex, and we will soon be sighting more on High Prairie.

PS. We couldn't ascertain gender at this sighting.

*Ed. note: There used to be many jackrabbits on the Prairie even on through to Centerville. I have even seen cottontails down closer to Centerville Highway years ago although few in number. Glad of the sighting and report.*

—D.T.



Albrecht Dürer, 14<sup>th</sup> century illustrator.

## THE SAILOR POET

This is the second and last installment of the epic poem by Paul Strait documenting his voyage in the south Pacific in 1977. As a sidenote, the original version of the poem was written on the only spare paper available to the crew of the *Jubilee*, a Safeway paper bag. Paul illustrated his poem and carefully bound it for presentation as a gift to his family.

### THE CRUISE OF THE JUBILEE

by Paul Strait

#### Struck by a Whale

A swelling surge and he did emerge,  
Close starboard did he glide.  
With glinting eye on us did spy  
His intent he did not hide.

His lungs he purged and then submerged  
Quartering from port beneath he passed  
How the ship did shudder as he hit the rudder  
And the helmsman stood aghast.

From his sure firm grip the wheel did slip  
How far would this monster go?  
Was it malicious intent or mere merriment  
I suppose we will never know.

With lines hook to the stays'l clew  
Self steering did we fashion.  
It looked upon the helmsman wan  
In merciful compassion.

With wind decrease it would increase  
Its angle of attack  
On previous day 'twould fall away  
But now it pulls her back.

Line, block and cleat, the job complete  
With bifurcated action  
Computer figured with feedback triggered  
But what an infernal contraption.

The amorous moon did Saturn swoon  
We watched as he drew near.  
In celestial tryst her lips he kissed  
And then did disappear<sup>1</sup>.

Oh wretched man on earth is he  
These wonders to behold  
What God hath wrought, yet seeth not  
His love to us unfold.

An event rarely seen is the glint of the green  
Just as the sun drops from view.  
A green gleam glimmer as its beams shimmer dimmer  
But to see it your chances are few.

Mercury sleeps and seldom peeps  
From out behind the sun  
But on this morn she did adorn  
The sky 'ere day begun.

On this starlit night with moon so bright  
In all her majesty.  
Earth's shadow cloud came to enshroud  
And veil her royalty<sup>2</sup>.

Alone, alone, all all alone  
Alone on the wild wide sea.  
No light or mast, no ship we passed,  
Never a soul saw we.

December ten, I remember when  
And seventy nine the year,  
Our sights were true and we passed into  
The Southern hemisphere.

Bright Jupiter's wake did the ocean strew  
As closer each night to Mars it grew  
'Till in between could scarce be seen  
The spacing 'twixt the two<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Total lunar eclipse – September 6, 1979.

<sup>2</sup> Eclipse of Saturn by moon. December 12, 1979.

<sup>3</sup> Conjunction of Mars and Jupiter. December 13, 1979.

When fate the wind it did recind  
 The jenny it we flew.  
 It did indeed increase our speed  
 And haste our journey thru.

If you would be on the briny sea  
 I will you this inform.  
 On clothes and hair and everywhere  
 These salty crystals form.

Far, far away, far, far away  
 From shipping track was she.  
 Nor moved ahead but lie as dead  
 This ship of mystery.

'Twas very queer as we drew near  
 True greetings to exchange.  
 She put on speed and then indeed,  
 It circled out of range.

It seemed foul play and the strangest way  
 Our courtesy to greet.  
 Like guilt concealed but when revealed  
 A fast withdrawal beat.

### What is your Aim?

Your sights are well groomed, your position  
 assumed,  
 The mark of your timing exact.  
 But choose the wrong star, 'twill your destiny mar.  
 You could wander forever in fact.

So when at last, with the doldrums past  
 We as glad as glad could be,  
 For 'twas in our mind to search and find  
 That isle of infamy.

Where a single man from an outlaw clan  
 True patriarch became.  
 On a lonely rock, he raised his flock  
 And taught them in God's name.

From a hellish mast, two centuries past  
 These gentle people came.  
 Can they withstand or now disband  
 In this world of greed and shame.

But care they less for this worldly mess  
 Their isle's but a stepping stone  
 To a home in the sky in the sweet by and by

Where Jesus sits on the throne.

One feels misplaced on this great ocean waste  
 Could this speck on its vastness be found  
 As ahead we did gaze through the cloud and the haze  
 There appeared this phantom-like mound.

We saw it first as its high bow did burst  
 Thru seas did it pitch and slice.  
 These men reveal their nerves of steel  
 And their timing it is precise.

These longboats tough are sturdy enough  
 To stand the roughest sea.  
 To us was sent, so on it we went  
 To the landing under the lee.

On their isle so fair, far from anywhere  
 These people of the sea,  
 Without flare or fuss bestow on us  
 Rare hospitality.

With meticulous passion, the men they do  
 fashion  
 Artful carvings of birds and of fish,  
 Basket weaving too, the women still do,  
 Rare trophies for which people wish.

These things they have made, they barter and trade,  
 To the ships should they chance to pass by,  
 Their long boats they tend to the deck they  
 ascend,  
 On ladders that seem oh so high.

Now it's many a mile to Henderson Isle,  
 Open longboats in sunshine or storms,  
 Just a canvas spray hood, they go for the wood,  
 To sculpture their artistic forms.

From your dear Uncle Paul, in debt to you all  
 I this long letter have writ.  
 Though not assailed, robbed, beaten or jailed,  
 Our likeness is kin unto it.





## ANNUAL COLUMBIA GORGE SWIM—September 6, 2004

As experienced by Gary Turner

I heard about the annual “Gorge Swim” from some source that escapes me and became intrigued. The swim is sponsored by the Hood River JC’s, the Sternwheeler, and the Best Western Motel in Hood River. This event has been going on for well over 40 years. I got on the Internet and signed up sending in my \$45 entry fee that included the swim, refreshments, and an Orange tee shirt.

The 450 registered swimmers boarded the stern-wheeler at about 6:30 AM at the Hood River dock near the Center. The boat crossed the Columbia and anchored near the log cold decks at Bingen. We were given instructions and some statistics. Statistics of note included the youngest swimmer to be 7 years of age and oldest 80. They advised us the water would be 71 degrees with little wind. And they told us for the lebbenty-twelfth time that it was not a race – that the object was to finish and have fun. Guess that is why most swimmers were wearing watches and making bets with each other.

So, I hunkered down and waited for things to start. One fellow came around with 1/1 on his swim cap (being swimmer #1 of flight #1). He said he had been standing in line since 2:30 AM just for the privilege of being first and had done so for several years previous.

At the appointed time, the flights of ten swimmers were called and they went to the port bow and lined up. On cue, they jumped in as one and began swimming. I was in flight 16 so there were about 150 swimmers in orange caps making their way across the river ahead of me. I did not have much time to enjoy the view as we were told to jump, and we did. It’s about 10 feet to the water so it is feet first and it takes a little while to surface.

I swam with a facemask and snorkel for less strain on my neck when breathing. Some swimmers were in wet suits and for the first 50 strokes or so, I envied them. But the water although cool was not numbing; it was actually rather quite refreshing. I soon settled into my normal strokes.

The current was significant. One had to aim well upstream of the picket line of boats in order to stay clear. The water was turbid and really quite cruddy. I was glad I was using a tube rather than breathing through my mouth and ingesting the stuff. Lots of algae. Other swimmers were overtaken and had to be avoided and swimmers went by me. Some good-

natured banter and there were some cases of people going very slowly and being helped by their mates. For me there were no collisions and I did not see any mermaids or giant sturgeon.

After being in the water 35 or 40 minutes, I came to the beach at the Best Western. Those rocks were slick and sharp and there was a fair growth of algae to make my way through to get out of the river. On the shore, the first thing required was to check in which I did. I came in about at about the middle of my flight which were all pretty young, so I felt good about my time (even though it was not a race).

Best Western had catered snacks and drinks and made available four rooms for showers. The hot water and getting the green smell off was wonderful! Of course, I donned my Orange tee shirt proclaiming that I had done the swim! I wandered around for a while sucking in hot coffee and yakking with fellow swimmers.

Only two casualties. Two of the younger swimmers (10 or so) had hypothermia and needed help getting out of the river. Of course the Hood River Fire Department seized on the opportunity to practice and they were hauled out on gurneys. Other than that, 450 people of all sizes shapes, ages, and physical conditioning made it across 1-1/8 miles of Columbia River.

For me, it was like nothing I had anticipated. It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed meeting the people. The swim was not particularly demanding however, the current did require some adjustments. Open water swim routes do not have lane lines to follow and turns every 25 meters. That makes for a need to change strokes to rest muscles. And one has to navigate as opposed to following the painted lane line on the bottom of the pool. It was fascinating to see the 450 or so orange swim caps around all headed for the other side. Must be like what salmon see when they are going upstream, huh? Only we were only headed for a hot shower rather than something more visceral. And, I want to do it again. Only this time I will get better used to swimming the river. With this in mind, Peyt has volunteered to coach me during a few laps across the Columbia. She plans on taking our Livingston boat with the 5 hp engine, her megaphone for giving instructions and stroke directives, and a fishing pole so that she can troll along as I swim. How can I go wrong?

Anybody else want to join me to represent High Prairie next year?

## A NOTE ABOUT THE HIGH PRAIRIE PICNIC

Douglas Taylor

Special thanks to Earl and Dorothy Kemp for loaning and helping set up the canopy on the community property this summer. We enjoyed a couple of picnics and the canopy kept us dry for the one that wasn't so dry. Also a special note of appreciation for those who helped install and take it down.

Tom Doll used his tractor for leveling and moving in tables stored at the firehall. We tied up Fred Henschell's ratchet binders for the duration and Cal Edwards yellowjacket traps at least slowed the yellowjackets down.

The following individuals were involved in the installation and removal of the canopy.

Fred Henschell  
 Bob Dove  
 Cal Edwards  
 Bob Edwards  
 Mike Chabbert  
 Myrin Bentz  
 Earl Kemp  
 Tom Doll  
 Doug Taylor

If you missed one of this year's picnics you missed some great entertainment and great cooking. The various potluck dishes were sumptuous and demonstrated the local gourmet-cooking.

At one picnic had the pleasure of hosting one of our local County Commissioners, Joan Frey and her husband Dan. Commissioner Frey gave us an update on the County.



## IN MEMORIAM

Compiled by Dona Taylor

Walter F. Sexton, Sr. of Goldendale father of Walter Sextonm passed away Oct 30, 2004,

A celebration of life was held at the home of his son Walter on Nov 12 2004.

## FOND FAREWELL

Dona Taylor



Long time friend and area resident Mildred (Bonnie) Anderson at 656 Centerville Hwy will be moving to a retirement center in Vancouver, Washington on Saturday, November 13th, 2004. She will be living near her six children living in the Vancouver, Washougal/Camas area. In 1978 She and her husband Merlin put in a nice singlewide home, thinking they may only stay for a short time on High Prairie. After living here for a while and seeing the marked improvement in Bonnie's sinus problems, which was caused by the Washougal smog, they built their present home here in 1985.

Her husband Merlin was a charter member of the High Prairie fire department and put in many hours building the first new fire hall and being a volunteer fireman. Merlin passed away in July of 2001.

Our very best wishes to Bonnie in her new home, we will miss this special friend and neighbor very much. On November 18, Bonnie will be celebrating her 82nd birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## SUMMER FIRE SEASON MISSED HIGH PRAIRIE

Cal Edwards

An unexpected thing happened on High Prairie this summer. We did not have any fires. Whom should we thank for this good news?

1. Our creator helped with more cool weather than normal, some well timed rain, and less lighting than normal.
2. Our fire department was well trained and prepared.
3. However, and most importantly I believe, it was the High Prairie citizens who made the difference.

You observed the summer long burn ban and you were cautious with your use of dangerous equipment such as grinders, welders, chain saws, and off road vehicles.

For those of us that followed DNR's (Department of Natural Resources, Washington State, 1 888 783-9548) suggestions about creating "DEFENSIBLE SPACE" and cleaning up combustible debris, it was a lot of work but lets do it again next year. Remember Defensible space is 30 feet on level ground if the only combustible material is grass of less than 2 inches high. If your ground is moderately steep (more than 21%), the space should be increased to 100 feet. If you have trees or shrubs near the space, it should increase to 200 feet. It is OK to have tall trees inside your defensible space.

NOTE: These are recommendations from DNR. They proved to be too small in Southern California last summer because of a high wind. So be generous when you design a plan for your buildings. Also please make sure your drive way and turn around

space is large enough for High Prairies fire trucks to use safely. It is also helpful if your house address is plainly marked so that it can be read even in the dark. The Fire Department sells the blue reflective address signs for \$20, \$25 if you need a post.

## HIGH PRAIRIE FIREFIGHTERS ARE HOT STUFF

Tim Darland

On October 30, the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department participated in the 3rd annual firehouse chili cook-off and fireman's muster held at the old Lyle elementary school. The day began with a fun-filled parade of fire trucks and rescue vehicles. Shortly after the parade, the chili chefs from four fire departments (High Prairie, Lyle, Appleton, and Dallesport) were busy setting up their booths and creating masterpieces. Fred Henschell represented High Prairie with both a special meat chili and a meat substitute chili. The sign above the High Prairie booth read; "High Prairie is known for its wild turkeys and this chili was made by one of them." Not to anyone's surprise, the judges for the cook-off presented High Prairie with the "Best Gourmet" award. Congratulations Fred! Also, A special Thank You to Fred and Chris and Lorelei Patrick for manning the High Prairie booth.

Following the chili cook-off was the fireman's muster. Three departments (High Prairie, Lyle, and Appleton) competed in a series of four events. The events were: 1. Turnout Relay, 2. Make and Break, 3. Hose Cart Relay, and 4. Bucket Brigade. Six volunteer fire fighters including Chris Patrick, Philip Haner, James Amery, Nick Miles, Tim Darland, and Fred Henschell represented High Prairie. Doug Hutchison, High Prairie's Fire Chief and Training Officer, officiated and timed all races. There was lots of cheering from the crowd as each team strutted its stuff. All four events were dominated by your very own High Prairie volunteer firefighters. Their specialized training and hard work had paid off. High Prairie received "First Place" in all events and their name will once again be added to the plaque for "Best Overall" in the fireman's muster for 2004. As one 9-year-old spectator put it, "You guys are the bomb!"

Remember to be safe this holiday season. Chimneys should be cleaned and checked every year to avoid creosote build up. Keep Christmas trees well watered and check decorative lights for frayed or exposed wires. On behalf of the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department, HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

## THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS

I wish to thank the High Prairie emergency response team for thier fast, efficient and professional performance in caring for Gladys after her accident.

She is doing quite well with her new stainless steel hip joint, while convalexcing at the Hood River Care Center and hopes to be home by Christmas.

We are very proud and fortunate to have a fine team like this in our community.

Thanks again to all of you.

—Paul Strait