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RURAL LIFE

in Gem County

Emmett, Idaho
2019

- Homemade Products a Family Affair
- An Old Fashioned Barber Shop
- Generations on a Century Farm



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Photo by Brian Myrick Idaho Press

Horses run free

BLM Four-Mile Horse Management Area

By **DIANA BAIRD**

About 15 miles north of Emmett 25,806 acres of rolling hills, prominent buttes and ridge lines that make up the Bureau of Land Management's Four-Mile Wild Horse Management Area (HMA). Elevations vary from 2,500 to about 5,400 feet.

The Four-Mile population is at 128 horses according to Boise District BLM Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Raul Trevino. The objective in the Four-Mile HMA is to maintain a healthy population of wild horses in a thriving natural ecological balance with other resources and users.

Currently there are 128 horses in the HMA. The Low Allowable Management level is 37 head for the area, so the BLM is in the process of gathering and removing horses to meet the allowable number.



BLM manages a total of six wild horse herd management areas in Idaho on approximately 418,000 acres of private, public and state lands.

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The staff thanks all of
the local writers who contributed
to this publication.

Rural Life of Gem County

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Making Scandinavian Cookie Stamps



By AMY O'LEARY

Robin Rycraft is a Renaissance man. A self described reformed hippie. A book binder. He has studied ceramics, jewelry making and calligraphy and was a visiting artist, teaching book binding at the University of Oregon. He is a published author. He loves trains, and growing things. He and his wife Carol, even retired to Costa Rica for a brief 4 months. They live in Gem County now, on one acre. But one constant in his life, has been cookies. Cookie stamps, to be exact.

Robin grew up on a 100 acre farm in Corvallis, Oregon. His parents, Eleanor and Carroll, started making finely-detailed, handmade terra cotta cookie stamps in 1968, which coincided with the Arts & Crafts movement in Portland. What began as a way to make extra money by Eleanor at the Corvallis Art Center Christmas Show, turned into a lucrative family business over time. Eleanor created over 250 designs. Today, in Emmett, Robin continues to make the hand crafted cookie stamps.

The Rycraft cookie stamps were originally patterned after antique wooden Scandinavian stamps, which personalize shortbread cookies. If you have ever eaten a stamped shortbread cookie, you take a bite only after you look at the design; the stamps allow you to personalize your creativity. In Robin's organized workshop on Cascade Road, he carries on the family tradition. He uses some of his family's heirloom cookie molds, designs new creations, cuts them, smooths their edges, fires them in kilns, and glazes the handles, and ships them all over the world. They are 2" round or square terra cotta stamps with a 1" handle, which is glazed in blues, white and green. He still has the many hand carved wooden stamp tools his father made. Some of the hundreds of stamp designs he offers are everything from birds & animals, flowers, holiday fare, fraternal organization symbols, flags, to company logos and so many more. He also makes brown sugar softeners, which is a terra cotta tile you store with



Robin Rycraft in his workshop

the brown sugar to keep it soft. Each stamp has been carved by hand, and each individual cookie stamp, craft stamp, and Keep It Soft has been cut out, imprinted and glazed by hand using the traditional production process which began over 50 years ago.

These beautiful stamps aren't just for cookies. You can create paper and clay crafts, ornaments and more. The stamps have been featured in many magazines, and on television, including Martha Stewart's Living, and the Home Shopping Network. You may look at the hundreds of designs on the website www.Rycraft.com. The stamps come with a booklet of cookie recipes and care instructions. Robin and Carol work together, using requests and suggestions from their customers, to choose the new designs which they introduce each year. You may also reach them by email at RycraftStamps@gmail.com.

The business has changed much over the years; starting as a mom & pop operation, it grew into employing 30 people in the 1990's, and is now back to the mom & pop shop. There have been copy cats and knock-offs, but there is only one Rycraft terra cotta cookie stamp company that has been creating handmade designs in the USA since 1968.



Cookie stamp molds



Early wooden design tools



Finished product with handles

JUST ONE MORE SONG!

*Ukulele group
doesn't want to stop playing*

By DIANA BAIRD

A group of people who either knew how to play a ukulele or desired to learn how to play gathered together for their first practice. Organizer Bob Teeter and teacher Patti Jo Edwards were pleased as the group played and sang their first song "Deep in the Heart of Texas" together at the Gem County Senior Center.

Teeter said they welcome everyone interested in playing the ukulele from first-time to seasoned players. The intent is to have fun as they play old time easy sheet music. They also welcome those who just want to sing along or play percussion to the music.

The second time they met, new people joined the group. The music continued on and no one wanted to stop playing!

The group meets Tuesdays from 12:45-2:30 p.m., at the Senior Center, 710 S. Johns Ave. There is no cost if you have lunch at the Senior Center, but if you don't there is a \$5 cover charge payable to the senior center. Are you interested? Call Bob Teeter at 208-369-3081.



Bob Teeter organized the Ukulele group to play and have fun!



Patti Jo Edwards assists a ukulele player.



Anyone interested in playing the ukulele from first-time to seasoned players are welcomed.

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A renewed interest in rocks and minerals

Gem County Rock and Mineral Society



By **DAVID VAHLBERG**

Meeting Glen Schiller, president of the Gem County Rock and Mineral Society, is an unforgettable experience, due to his unbridled enthusiasm to anything related to rocks, minerals and their geology, as well as the locations they can be found locally. While I admit I too, share similar interests, Glen's knowledge is encyclopedic in comparison.

The rock club was organized in February of 1950 and boasted at times as many as 120 members. Glen joined the Society in 1957 and has been a continual member ever since, for a total of 62 years. He has been the president off and on for 30 years or so and says membership had dwindled to six or eight people until recently, when renewed interest

was spurred, with an influx of new people moving here from California, Florida and other states.

The rock club now numbers 38 members, and anyone is welcome to join. Meetings are at the Emmett Public Library, every first Thursday, at 7 p.m.

Glen said although many of the areas near Emmett have been made off-limits to the public, due to private ownership and the owners' concerns about personal liability. However, many areas nearby are still accessible to rock-hunters and he knows them all.

The club makes one-day outings to Shell Rock, Farewell Bend, Succor Creek, Marsing and Homedale, in search of agate, jasper, petrified wood, garnets and fossils as well as many other desirable rocks and minerals.

Glen's home is a veritable treasure trove of his acquisition of more than 50 years of rocks and



Glen Schiller and some of his personal collection of rocks.



The first rock that Glen cut and polished in 1958, the beginning of his rock journey.

minerals ... and he remembers where and when he found each and every one of them! If you have an interest in joining the Gem County Rock and Mineral Society, see you at the meeting!



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The Homestead Store

Handmade drying racks ... their specialty



By DIANA BAIRD

Seeking a self-sufficient lifestyle, Mark and Kristy Gunderson of Sandy, Oregon produced their own food from farm to table. They traveled to trade

shows marketing products from their online Homestead Store website.

While returning home after a trade show, looking for a future place to move their family, the two drove through the town of Emmett. After watching their area in Oregon decline, Mark and Kristy sought a better place to raise their five children. After discovering Gem County a couple of years ago, they moved their family to Emmett.

Mark and Kristy's 28 years of marriage has been living a "simple lifestyle." They enjoyed having friends come to dinner and discover that every item on the table was from the Gunderson's home-grown garden. They raised all kinds of vegetables, blueberries, eggs and more.

Now living in Idaho, everything is new and different than the lush rainy Oregon environment. Kristy soon found the local 4-H Ag Extension office and had answers as to why her crops were not growing properly. Instead of Oregon snails, she had Idaho bill bugs to deal with. Instead of the frequent rain, she learned to irrigate and water her plants. But, the family continues their passion and learned to adjust to a new living environment.

The couple's website, "The Homestead Store," caters to those who desire to live a rural life of self-sufficiency. They are a small family-owned business to assist those desiring the self-sufficient lifestyle. The website carries instruction books and videos, as well as cast iron cookware, farm supplies, freeze dryers, beekeeping, healthy oils, herbal products, oils, grains, home canning items, baking, dairy, farm décor, kitchen and laundry items, old fashioned toys, stainless steel cooking, stoves and water pumps, filters and lanterns and more items for those living a rural lifestyle.



Photo of Racks old fashioned Big.

Handmade drying racks, a family affair

The biggest seller at the Homestead Store is the Gunderson's own design of the highest quality wood drying racks on the market. Building the racks is a "family project." Kristi says the drying racks are so well built, they will "outlast your life." Everyone in the family helps in the production from putting the hardware into little packets, sanding down the wood, or packaging them for mailing.

"We feel it is important to teach our children integrity and a solid work ethic," Kristy said.

The Eastern White Ash wood 6'x4' Homesteader drying rack is for every day drying extra-large loads of wash, sheets and blankets. They also carry other sizes as well and a retractable wall mount dryer.

The Homestead Store online

Most of the products are made in the USA or are from small family companies in business. They also have an online Homestead Community where hundreds of families are there to answer your questions or offer helpful hints when you need them the



Mark and Kristy Gunderson and family.



Two photos canning and food together.

most for gardening, raising livestock, dairy products, canning, preparedness, sharing recipes, penny-pinching, home-schooling ideas, holistic medicine, family and marriage and more. Join them at homesteadcommunitypost.ning.com.

The Homestead Store is online at homestead-store.com or see their Facebook Page "Homestead Drying Racks." You can email them at: gundersonhomestead@gmail.com.



Life on the homestead.

Family of 12 builds heritage



By SUE COLLINS-VAHLBERG

Curt Christensen had a fascination with wood since he was in junior high school. Like a typical artist, he wanted to know “what’s inside every log.”

His woodworking began when a friend needed a simple desk. He soon began making cigar trays from wood that he had gathered locally. One of the small cigar trays was made from a silver maple, wood rescued from a tree taken down at the Emmett City Park. That was the beginning of the Christensen family home woodworking shop.

With a large family of ten children, everyone wanted to participate and ... they have. They make small projects for personal use and gift giving but have plans for their family company called Tresen (meaning son of trees) to sell items. All of the funds they make from selling wood

items, go directly back to the family wood shop, to improve and increase equipment. It is a great family plan.

Everyone in the Christensen family pitches in when it comes to the workshop. Some children love to sweep, and some love to sand. Curt takes much pride in the safety and cleanliness of the shop and teaches his children to do the same. In doing so, he believes the equipment will last longer and maintain a safer environment for the family.

Curt and his son participate each year in a national weeklong project in Boise, turning wood to make custom ink pens for veterans doing what they can for veterans and others.

Woodworking is more than a hobby to Curt. He says woodworking is “my release,” as he holds the position of City Fire Chief in Emmett. This spring, he will be working at home on a big wood project ... a fire truck from wood, of course!



Building a custom desk for a friend.



Curt Christensen uses local donated logs to create custom wood products.



Cigar tray wood rescued from a tree taken down at the Emmett City Park.

Calling all music lovers

Opportunities for singin' bowin' and blowin'



By SUE BEITIA

Do you have an old instrument in that closet that needs dusting off? Are you missing that choir you used to sing with? Well, Emmett has some wonderful opportunities for all

you amateur musicians out there!

Every Christmas many churches gather together to provide a holiday Christmas concert for the community. Singers can join this yearly event that is under the direction of Terry Gardner. Instrumentalists can join the accompanying orchestra under the direction of John Bolden. Weekly rehearsals begin in mid-September on Sunday afternoons. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Terry Gardner at gardnerct@msn.com or 208-230-

3528; instrumentalists by audition can contact John Bolden at jbolden@me.com.

Another choral opportunity is the Emmett Women's Choir organized through the LDS Church. This choir gives seasonal concerts with proceeds going to local charities or causes. Under the direction of Jane Dahlstrom at jane-dahlstrom@yahoo.com, this group is open to all ladies 16 years and older.

Ben Dee is the director of music for the Emmett Stake LDS Churches and invites both singers and instrumentalists to participate in events such as the Christmas pageant and the Easter Cantata. Ben's contact info. is ben-jamindee@gmail.com or 208-963-5000.

continued on page 10



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The old fashioned Barber Shop

Going the extra mile for customers



By SUE COLLINS-VAHLBERG

Going the extra mile for their customers is what E&J's Barbershop strives for. Located in historic downtown Emmett, co-owners, and barbers alike, Jessica and Erin Hagadorn, work side-by-side each day to deliver special services to men and boys, not commonly found in every current day barbershop. The smell of thick, creamy lather on faces, steaming hot facial and head towels, straight razor shaves, shoulder massages and a lot of charming conversations, are among personal touch items that they offer.

The couple's clients age from the toddler's first haircuts, to their older, repeat customers. "Most men stick with their favorite barber for life," stated a current customer at the shop. Another customer said, "They make you walk out happy."

Living in Emmett for ten years, Erin always knew that he wanted to be a barber. When he and wife Jessica were ready to open their business, their "dream" building became available. Erin had been scoping it out for years. Located at 301 W. Main St., the building and location has the look and feel they deeply desired. The Hagadorns say they are "very blessed for everything they have," including two of their four grown children who are now pursuing barber careers themselves!



Co-owners and barbers Jessica and Erin Hagadorn.

On a sunny day, Erin finds it satisfying to sit on the outside bench, under a beautiful old cherry tree, and look at the two Buttes, seen from their front porch at the shop. He speaks proudly of his family, business and community.

E&J's Barbershop is a no appointment-based business, with walk-ins from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday thru Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. They are closed Sunday and Monday.



Regular customer Miguel Ramirez gets a cut and a shave by barber Erin.

Continued from page 9

Just recently a new chamber ensemble has developed under the leadership of Jennifer Spicer. This group of strings, woodwinds, and brass meets at the New Life Christian Center. If you are interested you can contact Jennifer Spicer at 208-901-4908.

Music opportunities are available through Sagelands Music at 125. E. Main from Greg

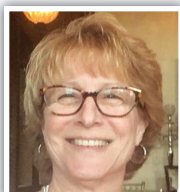
Goodell. Guitar, piano, bass, voice, drums, ukulele, sax and woodwind lessons are offered here. Sagelands phone is 208-398-8153. Greg also organizes a musical opportunity for youth called Rock Academy. This group meets on Thursday evenings and, by audition, all ages are invited. Sagelands phone is 208-398-8153.

Lastly, our local schools do a great job with music education. Your involvement is always

welcome. By attending concerts, music programs and fundraisers, your support of the arts in Emmett and surrounding areas is greatly appreciated. Also, you can certainly lend a helping hand by mentoring senior projects that are music related.

So, music lovers, get to singin', bowin' and blowin' and having a great time through these music opportunities right here in town!

It's Blaser with an "S"



By **BARBARA HUGUENIN**

Blaser Park. Formerly known as the Railroad Park. Across the street from the Messenger-Index on Washington Avenue and Park.

Such a gorgeous park. Gazebo. Fountain. Mature trees. Beautiful lawn. A fence covered in Virginia Creeper plants. Just a great little park!

Blaser Park's beginnings actually started over by Valor Health, formerly known as Walter Knox Memorial Hospital. One day, Marguerite Blaser, born 1902 in Illinois, was residing in a skilled nursing facility, located near Walter Knox Hospital, and looked out on an open area through her window. She shared her thoughts with her caregivers that she would like to make a baseball and family park for the kids to use. Her idea was that

the residents could enjoy watching the kids from the nursing home playing games.

The beginning of Blaser Park began around 1987 from a donation from the Blaser family for the creation of a park ground. With the creation of the original tree committee, a tree master plan for the original site was developed, and underground sprinklers were installed from ICF grants.

Approximately 1999, Walter Knox Memorial Hospital was expanding and needed the area where this park was developed. During the same time frame, the Union Pacific Railroad sold off part of the property they owned and offered the City of Emmett first choice to purchase the current Blaser Park location. The City of Emmett proceeded with the purchase and re-named the park, Blaser Park.

To our knowledge, there are no immediate family members residing here in Emmett who are directly related to Marguerite. Blaser Park is



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used often by our community for professional photo sessions, location for the Emmett Farmers Market and so many other family activities.

Thank you to Laina Smalley, Bruce Evans, Hartley Cole for your helpful information.

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Kids loved the Library ‘Story Lady’



By LORETTA LEWIS
Emmett Public Library

Where were you Tuesdays at 2?

Let me introduce you to a “True Gem” of this community!

Carmen Nichols is one of the familiar faces still about town. Many still remember her from her years of service at the Emmett Public Library.

Carmen began working at the library in 1976. She was so much more than just a book processing clerk. She was from the era of typing catalog cards and having to file hundreds in the card catalog. When I began working with her, she was using an old manual typewriter. Oh, how her fingers could fly on that old machine! She eventually got an electric typewriter, and how funny it is today when kids still see us using one and ask “how does that thing work?”

Carmen began so many of the programs that we continue today at the library. One event was the annual fall fundraiser. She suggested celebrating the library’s birthday with 12 birthday cakes. This became a yearly tradition many still remember.

Carmen, along with Idaho’s First Lady, Teresa Little, was the force behind the creation of the Friends of the Emmett Public Library in November of 1986. The Friends are still a strong organization today, providing essential volunteer and monetary support to the library.

Carmen is remembered for being the library’s “Story Lady.” She held the kids spellbound. They sang songs, celebrated Christmas in July, held teddy bear picnics, watched puppet shows and made jelly bean soup. Mother Goose rhymes and animal crackers were only a part of the zoo that visited during story hour. Carmen had many guests helping with story hour. Melissa Merrill joined

Carmen on a weekly basis and played the piano for every story hour. Carmen also had special guests such as her husband Bob Nichols, who played the guitar and sang to the children, and Miss Mary Alsager of the television show “Romper Room.”

The highest number of children attending Carmen’s story hour was a whopping 100 kids. Wow! She is remembered by a lot of children in this community who attended her “Tuesday at 2.” Carmen retired in 2007 after 31 years. Thank you Carmen for building character in our community, serving the public and bringing such joy to families!



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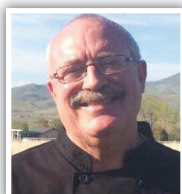
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Twice Baked Potatoes *A firehouse staple!*



By **MARTY HUGUENIN**

4 large baking potatoes cooked
1 cube of butter
1 cup sour cream
1 bunch green onions
chopped up
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350

Cut baked potatoes in half lengthwise. Spoon out the insides into a medium-large mixing bowl. Set the 8 potato skin halves aside. On the stove, melt the butter on low heat until completely melted. Add the chopped onion and mix thoroughly, turn off heat. In the mixing bowl containing the potato insides, add the sour cream, Parmesan cheese, melted butter and onions, and half the shredded cheese.

Mix together by hand or electric mixer on low. Add salt and pepper to taste. Spoon the mixed ingredients into the potato half shells. Top each with the 1 cup of shredded cheese remaining. Place them on a cookie sheet. Bake for approximately 30-40 minutes or until contents are completely heated through. Serve while still hot. Go wild, it's impossible to make these wrong!

In my 31 years in the firehouses, this was a staple. We were mostly meat and potato type guys. This filled the latter category perfectly, and sometimes both.

The recipe above is very simply the bare bones "twice baked."

This is a list of ingredients I have either used or seen used in the preparation of these tasty plate adornments: Bacon bits, ground beef, shredded beef, prime rib chunks, pork chop cubes, pulled pork, diced chicken, cream cheese,

heavy cream, any and all types of onions, mushrooms, broccoli, cauliflower, corn, and green beans.

Add or subtract anything you do or don't like accompanying a potato. Make the mixture super chunky or whipped velvety smooth.

There is also the option of not stuffing the potato skins and just mashing the entire peeled or skin on potatoes and putting the mixture in a casserole dish. This is a simpler presentation but still has the comfort food factor covered. Often times there was a gravy on the table you could pour over them. Again, use that creative imagination of yours. It's your call! Enjoy!





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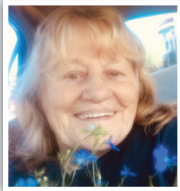
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The Pen Back Crew



By **BRENDA STEINEBACH RAAEN**

The Emmett Livestock Commission was purchased in 1966 by Ken and Roma Troutt and family.

What a great asset to Gem County as well as the surrounding area. Selling cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs. The Troutt family were wonderful folks, friendly helpful and ran a great business as well as treating the crew like family!

As a farm mom, I spent time at the sales yard bringing my livestock to market. In the early 80s, I saw a help wanted sign and applied. So for the next 10 years, I was what was known as a rider in the "pen back crew."

Once a week I got a chance to actually use my horses to work. The crew moved the sold cattle to pens where the new owners took them to their ranches by cattle trucks. Seems simple but could get a might crowded in those alleys at times.

There were six of us in the pen back crew Rube Graham, Larry Morsette, Dave Ray and Rudy Cada, Nola Krahn and me. We worked very well together and rode many miles moving cattle up and down the alleys.

Cattle would come into the side corrals and be sorted into groups and sizes. The sorting crew had a very difficult job and must be able to move the cattle without much stress on the animal. From there they moved through the sale ring. The hub of the sale, the center if it all. The place where the wonderful voice of the auctioneer rang out for all to hear.

The sale ring held many people, buyers, sellers and small family farm folks. The arena-like seating was a place to sit comfortably and watch the animals be auctioned off. Many wonderful heartwarming stories came from years of bringing the farm stock to market.

The smell of coffee coming from the cook shack was very welcomed along with great food. From the sale ring, animals were penned according to the buyer. Another crew member was in a small shack on top of a cat walkway up above the pens. This per-



The photo from left is Rube Graham, Larry Morsette, Dave Ray and Rudy Cada. Brenda Steinebach Raaen and Nola Krahn.

son called out by microphone pen numbers as the animals came out of the sale ring.

Then they were moved out from the pens to waiting trucks or trailers. One buyer may buy 100 cows and another buy 500 so all must be organized. One person opened the gate to let the cattle out, another to herd them down the alley to a pen where another person held the gate open. Once the cattle were "penned" the process repeated all day or until the last animal was sold, penned and on a truck headed down the road. It sounds rather easy and repetitious, but let me tell you there were wild moments and scary times.

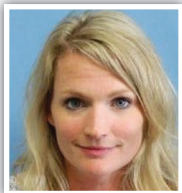
My horse once stumbled and fell on me in the rocky alley. I had someone take me to the hospital and I had a broken collarbone and three broken ribs. If my memory is correct, in about four to six weeks I was back on the same horse and back to work.

Often we would get on our horses at eleven in the morning and short of a break on occasion, not get off our horse until dark. Once a week, we worked, we had fun and made wonderful friendships.



Brenda on horseback taken from the catwalk in the main alley.

Gem County Hospitals: Past to Present



By STACI CARR

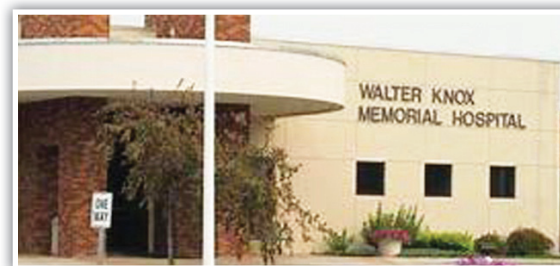
In the early 20th century physicians rode horse and carriage from “over the hill” to visit sick patients within our rural valley. In 1915, Gem County was established, but it wasn’t until June 1937 that a local physician named Dr. Cyril Ellis Carver opened the first Emmett hospital. The hospital was built in the place of old livery and feed building that was located on the corner of First Street and Washington Avenue, where the Emmett Fire Station currently stands. The 13-bed facility offered a small nursery and operating room. By the hospital’s second anniversary, a second story wing was added to accommodate the growing community. It was at this time, in 1938, that the hospital was officially named the Mary Secor Hospital, in honor of Dr. Carver’s mother. In 1944, Dr. Carver offered to sell the hospital to Gem County for \$45,000, half of the current valued price. The County eagerly purchased the facility, where it continued to serve the Gem Community for many years.



Mary Secor Hospital

In 1963, Gem County received a generous land donation from the Knox Family and purchased the remaining and adjacent Knox property to build a new and larger hospital. The Mary Secor name was retired and the new hospital was named Walter Knox Memorial Hospital, in honor of the family patriarch, pioneer, and politician.

In 2015, the hospital name would once again change to represent the growing and evolving community. Named Valor Health for the strength and perseverance of the people it serves, the hospital has evolved into a complete healthcare system, offering a hospital, urgent care, family practice and specialty medicine services. Still owned by Gem County, Valor Health continues to grow offering



Walter Knox Memorial Hospital



Valor Health

more services and outreach than ever before, focusing on quality, building trust with our community and looking to the future.

Doctors on call

The community was first serviced medically by midwives and woman using remedies with herbs, mustard plasters and fat pork poultices. Doctors came from surrounding areas on buckboard, in a one-horse buggy, on horseback or in a winter sleigh to assist early settlers. They rode through the foothills carrying medicines to their patients year-round.

Dr. Reynolds drove a buggy with a team of Hamiltonian horses who were high-spirited and always ready to go. Reynolds also rode the handcar with the railroad crew to make calls

to the upper country. He set broken bones, removed appendixes and performed minor surgery. He also had the only car that could go up Freezeout.

Dr. Swisher kept his office at the Farmer’s Feed and Seed store. Their back porch was used as a small animal hospital. Swisher often worked up to fourteen hours a day helping cats and dogs.

Some old time doctors and dentists

Dr. Rudy Anderson 1968 (dentist); Dr. N. B. Barnes came in 1900s and practiced osteopathy; Dr. William E. Bohn; Dr. Bothwell of Placerville pioneer physician; Doc William Burdge; Dr. Burton Clark was a partner to Dr. Cummings 1908-1914; Dr. Cyril Carver was instrumental in building the first hospital on the corner of Third Street and Washington Ave-

nue; Dr. Eugene Clymer physician and surgeon worked day or night 1890; Dr. Robert Newton Cummings; Dr. O. H. Davenport 1893 traveled to Emmett worked 2 days a week; Dr. F. K. Forman; Dr. Ralph Goodwin 1940; Dr. Green 1904-1919 served Emmett, Sweet and Ola; Dr. William Jewell 1954; Dr. Alvin Judd 1901 dentist; Dr. Henry Kuckoo 1903 veterinarian; Dr. Ralph Kniseley 1975; Dr. W. F. Loder 1890; Dr. Fromholz McFahey; Dr. Parkinson from Payette; Dr. Ronald P Rawlinson 1935; Dr. James Reynolds 1906-1954; Dr. O. H. Smith had a doctors office in 1894; Dr. William Smith travelling dentist 1894; Dr. C. T. Swisher 1937-1967; Dr. James Thielges 1953 dentist; Dr. Clinton Titus 1917 dentist practiced for 41 years; Dr. Fred Whitsell 1922 dentist for 42 years; Dr. J. A. Woods 1914-1938; Dr. Jim Zarybinsky dentist was partners with Dr. Anderson.

Century Farm & Ranch Program

What qualifies as a century farm?

The Century Farm and Ranch Program with the Idaho State Historical Society are designed “to honor those farm and ranch families who persevered through physical hardships, natural disasters and economic hard times to settle this great state. The program recognizes a farm or ranch owned or operated by the same family for at least 100 years, with 40 acres of the original parcel of land maintained as part of the present holding.”

The program also honors a family farming or ranching continuously for 100 years in Idaho, but not necessarily on the same land according to the ISHD.

There are Four farms in Gem County are recognized by the ISHS as Century Farms:

1885 — Robert and Julie Upson Farm. The Upsons are the current owners. First generation owners Katie and Christian Kjerrsgaard. The homestead was 160-acres.

1888 — Highland Livestock Land Company. Current owner estate Jessie Little Naylor. First generation owners were Robert and Mary Aikmen.

1889 — Howard R. Wilson. Current owner Howard R. Wilson. First generation owners were William and Lena Wilson.

1890 — Harold B. Williams and Howard D. Williams Farm who are also the current owners. First generation owners Horace and Leticia Baker.



Original home of the Upson-Kesgard family.

Our living legend ... Kenny Keene



By STEVE NEBEKER

What is a legend? In the dictionary it is defined as "one that inspires legends or achieves legendary fame," "a famous or important person who is known for doing something extremely well" and "a collection of stories about an admirable person."

Kenny Keene was born and raised in Emmett. He attended his school years here and graduated from Emmett High School. At the age of 14, Kenny was led to the boxing sport by his father and he followed in the footsteps of his brother Joey, who also boxed professionally.

During Kenny's first year as an amateur boxer, his record was 1 win and 9 losses. Kenny dedicated himself to train hard and get better and the following year he won the National Junior Olympics in the 14 to 15-year-old class. Kenny later attended the U.S. Olympics training camp and was ranked No. 3 in the U.S. for his weight class.

Kenny's first professional fight was in August of 1990. On March 5, 1994, with a record of 25

wins and no losses, Kenny won the World Boxing Federation (WBF) Cruiserweight Championship belt. During the 16 years of his professional boxing career, Kenny also collected the International Boxing Council (IBC) and International Boxing Association (IBA) cruiserweight championship belts. Kenny last fought on July 29, 2006 and he finished his boxing career with a very impressive 51 wins and only 4 losses.

After retiring from boxing, Kenny remained active in Emmett and he started his own business called Keene's Cash. Kenny later started Keene's Bail Bonds which he still operates today. Kenny and wife, Megan, have three children and they enjoy living in our great little community.

Kenny is a world champion boxer, but one of the most impressive things about Kenny is his great personality and his humbleness. To meet and talk with him is always rewarding and full of great stories and laughs. He is easy to talk with, and it is very obvious he has a genuine and deep love for his family and his faith. Kenny has a passion to help other people and for me, he highlights the definition of a true "Legend."



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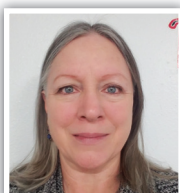
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All in the Family Upson-Kesgard Homestead



By DIANA BAIRD

The 1885 Upson-Kesgard Homestead on Vanderdasson Road is one of the Gem County Century Farms registered with the Idaho State Historical Society. The farm has always been handed down to the family. The current owners Robert and Julie Upson still live on the property in the original 1800s home. The building is one of the few remaining buildings from Gem County's 19th Century pioneer past according to the ISHS who says it is the best preserved in the county. There is another home on the property, a square blockhouse, built in 1915.

The ranch diverts its water from an old river channel, the Seven Mile Slough. It is said the old barn a mile to the west was once a stage stop and may possibly have been part of the pony express network.

Robert's mother Edna Upson, was born and died in the home. Robert has lived there all of his life. The lumber for the home was brought in by wagons with teams of horses in 1892. Robert is a descendant of the original owner Katie Kesgard, his great-grandmother.

Christian and Katherine Kjerrsgaard (Kesgard)

The 1885 family homestead was in the name of Katie Kesgard. But, who were these homesteaders?

Katherine was born Kate Bindrup on Dec. 28, 1835, in Denmark. There she married Christian Kesgard Aug. 2, 1858. Christian was also born in Denmark on May 17, 1824. They were both from substantial families. They had two daughters born in Denmark. Their other seven children were born in the U.S.

In 1862, the family left Denmark and landed in Castel Garden, New York. Traveling by train to St. Louis, Missouri where they joined an emigrant wagon train. Katie bought a cow for milk which was a God-send as it was distributed among the children in the wagon train and saved many lives.

continued on page 26

Remembering Montour

From those who lived there



By AMY M. LINVILLE

If you drive along Hwy 52 from Emmett to Horseshoe Bend there is a road sign that indicates Montour to your south. Today, it is a nice place to enjoy walking your dog or hunting pheasants. It is officially called a Wildlife Management Area. But, did you know Montour used to be a town? It seems to be a common thread in our Western culture; we hear about a town that once was thriving but now is gone.

Montour certainly used to be a thriving town. One famous longtime resident Esther Palmer recalled her childhood years there; her family had a farm and raised some cattle, poultry, and had an orchard. Her mother grew a garden, dried and canned fruits and vegetables and milked cows. Esther's family moved there in 1913. Her father worked for the railroad. Montour was like most small Idaho towns; it had a pool hall, a restaurant, store, butcher shop, bank, Doctor's office, drugstore and a railroad depot, livery stable and a school with grades through high school.

When Esther was 17, and all the fit young men went off to WWI, she began working at the local store run by Mr. Volkmer. She cleaned windows and waited on customers. They sold tobacco, which was cut into plugs. There was a hardware section and a post office. She was paid \$1 a day. Supplies were brought in on the train and unloaded at the depot. Later, after she left the store Esther bought the Pugh's office building and set up the Post Office there. She ended up running the Post Office for 40 years.

During the early 1900s, kids would boat and swim on the river. They had dance parties at the granary with its smooth floor. Esther was fascinated watching the logs float down the river with loggers using poles and walking across them with cleats on their shoes. The logs were going to the Emmett Mill. This was a common practice before Black Canyon



Dam. In the winter kids would skate on the frozen river, build a fire and eat a homemade lunch. The school put on a Christmas program.

Esther said they had a good irrigation system, and they had the oldest water rights on the Payette River. There was a dirt canal, but it would regularly break, and water would run out. Townspeople gathered to watch Morrison-Knudsen work with horses and scrapers to fix the problems. After the Black Canyon Dam was constructed, about 1921, silt began building up in the Payette River and that's when the flooding occurred in the flatlands of Montour. If there were freezing temperatures there were ice jams, which blocked off the town one Christmas and no could get in or out, including supplies and mail.

Her parents were required to sell their flooded place to the government and move to higher ground. Esther fought to get a good price for her land because it was her best land; pasture and hay ground.

In 1936, Mr. Stewart McCutcheon was hired as the Montour School Principal, grades 1-12. He was paid \$100 a month, his rent was \$10 month



for a very small duplex with no inside plumbing. It was his responsibility to buy all the books and supplies for the year as part of the job. Soon he and his family moved to Emmett. It was a very nice house with an acre of backyard where he put in a garden, chopped wood and enjoyed the shade tree all summer. He and his wife Julia invited relatives from Boise for picnics and swimming at beaches along the Payette River. The store was down the street where his six-year-old daughter would walk to buy candy with her weekly allowance, "stepping in cowpies all the way." Mr. McCutcheon was my

continued on page 19

continued from page 18

uncle and shared his stories of living in Montour in his memoirs he sent to me after I moved to Emmett in 1982.

A life long Montour resident, Tom Gatfield recalled his history of Montour. His family has resided there since the early 1900s. Today they live on Gatfield Lane, the higher ground above the flatlands.

He remembers where nearly every house was in the small rural Idaho town. He remembers his family "haying" the fields of Montour before it was evacuated. These were summer jobs for Tom and his brothers. Today, he operates a backhoe and works locally. He said, "If I don't know you (in Montour) it's because I haven't done any work for you."

Tom went to school in Montour for 5th through 8th grades, as did all the kids in the Sweet/Montour area. The school was located where the campground is today, the area included a football field, baseball field and an open ditch that ran along one side.

"Every spring older kids would dunk younger kids in the ditch," Tom noted, "usually they were siblings." Tom graduated from Emmett High School in 1974, when the school was on Main Street in Emmett.

Montour was evacuated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation around 1979 because the ice flows backed up against the sandbars in the river behind Black Canyon Dam and pushed water into the area. Also, the water table was high and the ground was saturated. Tom related a story about getting his farm equipment bogged down in a waterhole near one of the hay fields in the early 70s. He estimates there were about 37 residences that were moved out of the Montour area by the Federal Government in the 1970s and '80s.

The BOR was required to conduct archaeological excavations on sites in the area that had been identified in a report by the Idaho Historical Society in 1975. Interestingly, five of the six sites investigated produced artifacts; stone projectile points, tools, flakes, bone fragments and grinding stones from cultures living between 4,000 BC to 1,300 AD. Also discovered was a house pit, from this time period, built of logs and branches covered with animal hides or mats of woven cattails. These were significant archaeological discoveries.

Esther Joines Palmer of Montour sued the US Government for the right to remain living there. Her family has documented her story and their



lives in Montour. Esther won her Condemnation case in January 1980 which allowed her to remain living with her daughter Frances in Montour. She was 80 years old at the time. She was a celebrity after that; People Magazine portrayed her as a feisty anti-government rebel and she was even invited to the Johnny Carson Show. She got a lot of fan mail including a letter from the notorious "Squeaky Fromme" who was in prison!

Esther was interviewed by the Idaho Historical Society in 1985 when she described herself as "still able to go ... I have exercised all my life ... I could climb a tree if necessary." Her house was located in downtown Montour on Broadway Street, in the middle of the flood plain, according to her son John Palmer, who grew up there. Esther lived there until she died in 1997 at 99 years old. In 2008 her house was burned down by the BOR and the huge tree she had planted years ago next to the house was cut down and hauled away. Her son John said he was very disappointed to hear about that.

Today, across the old hay fields there are swamp lands in the spring and dry reeds and grasses in the winter. Managed as a Wildlife Management Area by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the land has good bird hunting in the fall with pheasants, geese, quail and other waterfowl and in springtime, there are restrictions and off-limit areas for dogs while birds are nesting.



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The old homestead.



Tim and Julie Campbell

SEVEN SPRINGS RANCH

Along the Payette River Scenic Byway



By **DIANA BAIRD**

When Tim and Julie Campbell first set eyes on the Seven Springs Ranch near Black Canyon Dam, they knew it was the beginning of something special.

Married for three years, this Californian couple were looking in the Emmett area for a place they could call home and begin their non-profit.

The unique property at Seven Springs Ranch and homestead was just what they had prayed for! This quaint little cowboy town felt like it was 100 miles from nowhere but it is only a seven-minute drive to Emmett. The western outbuildings include a chapel, corrals, blacksmith shop, general store, garden, hay storage, machine shed, tack rooms hiking trails, access to the Payette River and pastures.

The sellers of the property, from Arizona, had owned the property for 18 years. They were looking for a Christian couple to fulfill their dreams of making the ranch into an event center. They had been praying about for two years until Tim and Julie found the property online.

The Campbell's short and long-term plans include an event center for weddings, reunions and

other events, housing, a dining hall, RV area, and many recreation activities.

"Our goal is to create a place people can go and see the beauty of the surroundings," Julie said. "For serenity, no matter what season."

Both Tim and Julie have diverse business and life experiences.

In January over 60 people came out to the ranch for a "Prayer Walk" around the property. Seven Rivers Ranch is already becoming a place where the community can come together. The ranch is located on the beautiful Lower Payette River Scenic Route.



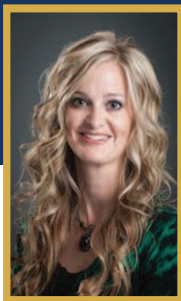
Seven Springs Ranch, nestled in the foothills.



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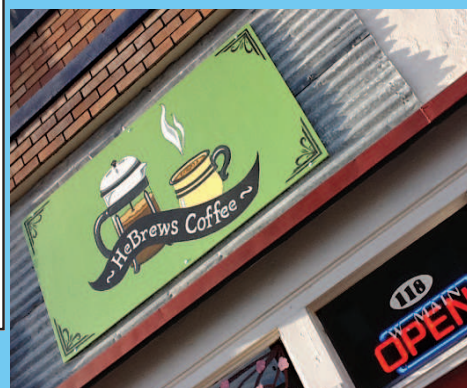
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The Highland Sheep in Gem County.

Early lambing at Clinton's ranch

Originally published Thursday, Feb. 25, 1915

A scene of big business and of great activity is to be found at the James E. Clinton ranches near Hanna, where over 4,500 ewes are assembled for the lambing season, which is now on in full blast. The Gilenwater Sheep Company, of which L.D. Gilenwater is superintendent and in which James E. Clinton of Boise has the controlling interest, maintains here one of the most modern and up-to-date lambing equipment to be found in our state. The superintendent of the rancher is J. I. Carter, who is now busy with a force of men completing the fencing of these ranches.

The lambing shed is 300 feet long by 32 feet wide and nine large tents that are in use. There are two main aisles running through these sheds and tents and small pens are built, which each ewe and her lamb or lambs occupies by themselves. These are all planned for warmth, sanitary conditions and convenience. The success of the business can

be judged by the fact that there are few losses of lambs and that so far most of the ewes are having twins rather than singles. About 150 lambs are arriving daily. The lambing season will last about 6 weeks after which the ewes and their lambs will be taken out on the range.

The water system in use is quite an elaborate affair and a water trough runs through the partition between the double sets of stalls. The same plan is operated in the feeding trough which is placed below the water trough. The food is largely ground or chopped and in and in addition to the alfalfa and grain used two silos supply nutritious food.

As soon as the lamb or lambs are dropped the mother ewe and her offspring are loaded on a sled with compartments for the accommodation of four ewes and taken at once to the lambing shed where they are put into individual quarters.

In this work of caring for and feeding of the flock, upwards to 25 men are busily occupied.

The company have plans on foot for largely increasing the capacity. New sheds will be built and room prepared to take care of from eight to 10,000 ewes and their lambs next spring.

It is no wonder such an extensive business as this should attract attention and that the number of daily visitors are quite large.

The carpentry work is in charge of M. M. Bonifant, who has, with his assistants been steadily employed since November 16.

This is but a suggestion of the largeness of the sheep industry and the possibilities our Emmett valley as a home for their winter care and early lambing. At the present time there are probably 20 or 25 thousand head of sheep being fed in the Emmett section.



Gem County

COMMUNITY PHOTO GALLERY



Gem County

COMMUNITY

PHOTO GALLERY



Continued from **page 17**

In Preston, Idaho, on the Oregon Trail, she gave birth to a son. They traveled on and decided to take a shortcut across the Payette valley to Washington. The shortcut was the Tim Goodall Hill (Freeze-out). As the ox team dragged the wagon with its chain-locked wheels down the steep incline to safety in the valley below, Katie walked down the steep

hill carrying her three-week-old baby boy.

Christian and "Kate" moved to Utah then on to Washington but returned later to homestead in Idaho. Their nine children were born in Denmark, Utah, Idaho and Washington.

The family settled on a ranch in Ada County that joined one they had previously occupied. Later the county division made their ranch part of Can-

yon County and finally, the same land became Gem County. So, the same land was located in three counties! Their first home was made of native cottonwood logs.

During those days, Indians were seen in neighborhoods and deer and bear were numerous in the area. These early pioneers laid the foundation for the prosperity and prestige of their family name in the Emmett Valley. Their youngest son

James A. Kesgard was one of the progressive farmers in the valley and a life-long resident of Emmett.

The death of Katie's husband Christian occurred March 18, 1882, on the family homestead. His team of horses ran away throwing him under the wagon which ran over his chest. He died March 1882 from the incident. His widow Kate then occupied the 100-acre ranch which adjoined

her son James' property. In the 1920 History of Idaho, it was said that Katie Kesgard was one of the valued pioneer women of Idaho.

At 88 years old, Katie, a resident of the Emmett valley for 56 years, died in on the family homestead in 1924. She had lived there continuously during her entire time in Idaho. She was believed to be the oldest settler at the time of her death. Her obituary

said she was a mother whose life and character influenced her children to grow up into worthy citizens; a patriotic American whose love of country led her to urge her sons to be ready to serve in the war whenever time came that they were needed; a neighbor who wept with those in sorrow and rejoiced with those who rejoiced. No greater tribute to a life well spent could be paid.

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