

the MOSIER VALLEY NEWS

“...WHERE THE ANGEL OPENS HER PALM AND YOU’RE IN MOSIER.”

* Mosier Cherry Farmer former calendar guy

“The experience wasdifferent.” Grant Wilson

YOU KNOW HIM AS MR. OCTOBER

I thought it would be fun to re-visit our cherry farmers now that most of them have been hanging on walls all over the world as calendar guys. It so happened that Grant Wilson was delivering gravel to our place so I grabbed my camera, took a shot and interviewed him. Though much

of his history is written on the Mosier Cherry Farmers Calendar, there was much more to tell.

S: How was it you agreed to take off your clothes and let us publish you for the world to see?

G: You asked.
S: Oh, yea, I did. How



photo
by Suzi Conklin
Mosier by Sam Seskin

Imagine starting in the artful haze beyond the Coast Range. Move inland. Notice the Columbia, full to brimming. Follow it east, upstream where Spring is in the course of drying flowered fields broken by fist after fist of boulders tagged with charcoal and turquoise, where the angel opens her palm...and you're in Mosier

Grant Wilson fully clothed



Facts About Cherries *The Cherry is the state fruit of Utah.*

Broadway in New York City shifts west at E 10th because a cherry tree once stood there.

At one time it was against the law to serve ice cream on cherry pie in Kansas.

Earliest known mention of cherries was Theophrastus (372-272 BC) in History of Plants





Interview with Grant Wilson cont.

would you describe the experience?

G: Different

S: Was it what you expected?

G: Yea, pretty much. I'd seen the Hood River Calendar so knew pretty much what to expect

S: How did you end up in Mosier?

G: My grandparents settled here in 1908. They homesteaded above McVey Springs, the headwaters of Mosier Creek. My grandfather was working in timber up there, fire watch, and such for the timber companies. They sold that piece and bought a place west of Mosier Creek in town. That was around 1914 or 1915.

My father and two brothers grew up here. They went into business in a garage where the sail shop is now just west of the Mosier Creek bridge. In 1929, they bought the farm. Dad married in 1935 and I was born in 1936. I grew up on the farm and continued farming starting out with cherries.

S: How was it Mosier became so big on cherries?

G: That's mostly because of the drought. Mosier farmers grew apples early on in the teens but in the 20s and 30s as the orchards matured, soils were going down, dry years came on in the 30s and did the apples in. Cherries were an earlier crop, ready for harvest while the weather was still moisture. Apples were a later season crop.

We went through some hard times going through the depression. I was raised in the ethos of the hard times.

S: So how did that ethos affect your life?

G: Well, I guess by being conservative, self sufficient and yet community minded, I wanted to help. And you're a little more family oriented.

S: So now you don't just farm....

G: Well, I'm several things. I'm retired officially, out of farming...doing construction work.

S: When did you marry Donita?

G: 1991 The Huskys and Wilsons had always known each other and I'd known her when she was in high school, she worked for me, in college and later in life. One day it got to be a little more than that. We were pretty well known quantities to each other for a long time.

S: How do you see the calendar project on retrospect?

G: I thought the calendar was a good idea and a fun thing. I had a lot of fun with it as did the other guys and I hope it accomplished what it set out to do.

S: We raised over \$18,000 for the school, so I guess it did.

Mosier Gravel Pit

by Brent Foster

Community stops plan to re-open Rock Creek rock quarry: Developer continues to push Measure 37 claim

In the face of strong opposition to its plan to re-start major rock quarry operations next to Rock Creek in Mosier, Hood River Sand and Gravel (HRSG) has withdrawn its request to Oregon State Parks to allow it to build a new access road across Rock Creek that would have allowed the quarry to restart.

Despite this victory, the ultimate fate of the Rock Creek quarry could be decided by ballot Measure 49 which would reform the most extreme provisions of Measure 37 including those that HRSG is arguing give it the right to start new gravel operations at Rock Creek.

Under Measure 37, HRSG claims, that Mosier's restrictions on heavy truck traffic on the access road to the rock quarry entitles HRSG to either payments from the city for their inability to remove rock from the site, or a waiver of the city's rules. If passed, however, Measure 49 would amend the provisions of

measure 37 that HRSG is relying on in their challenge to the city of Mosier's truck travel restrictions and HRSSG's Measure 37 claim would be dismissed.

Last winter HRSG surprised Mosier residents with a proposal to restart quarry operations next to Rock Creek and build a new access road that would result in at least 60 heavy truck trips a day using the section of Rock Creek Road that connects the Old Columbia River Highway trailhead to Mosier.

HRSG's historic operation of the rock quarry next to Rock Creek has won it many strong opponents who recall the incredible levels of noise, dust and heavy traffic that were caused by the operation of the rock quarry just a few hundred meters from Mosier Community School and local residences.

After Columbia Riverkeeper working with local activists such as Ron Carroll publicized news of the quarry plan over 80 local residents packed a hearing in strong opposition to the impacts the new gravel operation plan would have on the local community, as well as, threatened steelhead which are struggling to recover in Rock Creek.

HRSG had proposed

construction of a new bridge and road from the site of the Rock Creek quarry that would have crossed Rock Creek and extended close to the trailhead parking for the Twin Tunnels trailhead for the Old Columbia River Highway trail. The proposal would have posed a serious threat to struggling populations of threatened steelhead which have been returning to Rock Creek in greater numbers in recent years despite massive habitat damage caused by historic rock quarry operations by HRSG and the Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

After seeing the strong opposition to the proposed quarry Oregon State Parks said they would only consider allowing a new road across their property if it had community support. Shortly thereafter HRSG withdrew their plan and request for the new road which was a real victory for residents.

The start of new rock quarry operations at Rock Creek is seen by many as a serious threat to the future of Mosier given the significant levels of noise, dust and heavy truck traffic that the quarry operations would cause. Because of these and other impacts the City of Mosier has been locked in a long running legal battle with HRSG after prohibiting HRSG truck's from hauling rock down a local access road. Courts

have consistently upheld the City's actions but after the passage of Measure 37 HRSG filed a Measure 37 claim against the City that presents a significant new twist in the continuing battle over operation of a rock quarry at Rock Creek.

If HRSG was successful in its Measure 37 claim Mosier area residents and the children attending Mosier Community School could face major threats from the new quarry operation.

Measure 49, however, which voters will decide in November, would amend some of the most controversial provisions of Measure 37 while still providing affected landowners an expedited opportunity to build up to 3 homes on their property. If Measure 49 passes, HRSG's attempt to use Measure 37 to force a new rock quarry on Mosier would fail.

Regardless of what happens with Measure 49, however, HRSG's Measure 37 claim appears to be the company's latest effort to try to steamroll the City of Mosier's efforts to protect the quality of life in and around Mosier. While after years of legal battles the courts have agreed that the City of Mosier has the right to protect the City against a major rock quarry operation running heavy trucks on City streets, HRSG's efforts continue to drain scarce City

funds in the effort to stand up to a company that does not seem to understand the meaning of the word "no."

Community

by Suzi Conklin

What Community Means by Suzi Conklin

There is no question that our generation is reaching "old age" and with it, we will each take it on in our own very personal way. As a community we can do many things to help ourselves and those around us to cope better with aging, loneliness and feats that go along with becoming lost whether physically or emotionally.

I recently witnessed a woman in Mosier who clearly was not of sound mind. She is not a resident here but something had drawn her to our town occasionally. Maybe it was that she sees other women her age who are able bodied and of seemingly sound mind. Maybe there was something comforting about a small town, something that touched her and connected with her sentiments. Just two

minutes with this woman tells you

something's askew. That she is slipping into that fearful place the mind goes that no one truly understands. What we call dementia or Alzheimer's or senility. This woman has one foot deeply into one of these three. Imagine if she were you. How would you want to be treated? Who would you want someone to contact to find out if you had someone looking out for you? Who is there to turn to help protect someone like her? Maybe the only thing you can do is show compassion. Maybe you are connected to some social service that can be called to follow-up on the woman and see whether or not she has a home, a loved one worrying about her whereabouts or just maybe this troubled woman has a troubled husband at home who's deeper into mental decay. Who to contact then?

We have many hurdles to jump when it comes to helping each other out. Most are fear based; fear of invasion of privacy, fear of embarrassment, of

feeling a fool, fear simply from not knowing what to do and

often that fear manifests itself in anger. Anger that we have to be bothered to see that which we don't want to see.

I don't have any answers to these questions. Each of us chooses to do what we can or not based on who we really are inside. But in our community we do tend to look out for each other. Through our friends and families we talk, we discuss and we act when the need arises. I do hope the lady I saw has a community somewhere that's keeping an eye out for her and I hope our community will do the right thing for her if the need arises. She is not far from being a danger to herself and others by the way she spoke of driving the freeway at 55 staying close behind semi trucks so their draft would carry her along. She is one example of someone who could enter an on-ramp the wrong way in a moment of distraction. To her I dedicate this poem and to her I promise that if our paths cross again I will attempt to find out who else is in her life

that I may be able to connect with to make sure she has a support system.

DEAR LADY LOST

Dear lady lost to all but expectations Bent, diminutive mind

in another world. Consciousness black hole turning into itself filling with fantasies extracted from dimensions long gone. Where are the eyes to truly see you? Where are the compassionate hearts to cushion you? To give you a steady hand as you gradually sink into your abyss?

Byrkit News

Jan Byrkit announces the launching of her new web site

www.byrkitwear.com

Check it out.

Beautifully designed and fun to use, this is a model web site.

Jan resides in Mosier and sells her clothing at fairs all over the country. Check her out at the Mosier Christmas Fair this year.

How low can we go? By
Hollie Lund, October 26,
2007

It's been almost a year since Mosier residents received that infamous water shortage flyer, the one that informed us that our "one and only aquifer" has been "dropping at an average rate of 4 feet per year since 1974" and that other water sources "will require exploratory drilling and expensive water treatment." And then the bottom line: "This is why we need to meter! This is why

How Low Can We Go?

Hollie Lund delves into Mosier's Water situation.

CONSERVATION WORKS

How low can we go? By Hollie Lund, October 26,
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Over the next weeks, homeowners could be seen all over town digging holes in their yards, trying to find and fix leaks in an effort to bring their newly metered water bills back to a reasonable level. (My boyfriend and I had apparently been leaking over 20,000 gallons of valuable drinking water each month, and we had a very well-irrigated but unused corner of our yard to prove it.)

As a result of these efforts, though, household water use this summer was much lower than your typical residential community, with peak usage levels at 641 gallons per day per home. The city also has a new well which eliminates an old problem, where water from the Priest Rapids aquifer—the City of Mosier's water source—was being allowed to overflow into (or "co-mingle" with) the Pomona aquifer. A large-scale leak of sorts.

Even with these improvements, though, Mosier Valley aquifers are still declining, according to groundwater data being collected as part of the USGS Sustainability Study. So the question now becomes: with domestic water use within the City already at lower-than-normal levels, how do we

continue to reduce our water consumption? Some of the biggest problems, according to city engineer John Grim, have to do with private wells.

The owner of a private well, for instance, can legally use 15,000 gallons of water per day without a water right. Furthermore, with very few local well drillers qualified to drill into the Priest Rapids aquifer in locations where there is still artesian pressure, new poorly constructed wells are likely causing continued co-mingling of aquifers and—as a result—a further loss of groundwater from the Priest Rapids. The risk of co-mingling becomes even greater as homeowners drill deeper due to declining water levels.

So again, what can we do? Mr. Grim recommends that public education programs regarding domestic water conservation need to expand beyond the City of Mosier to include the entire Mosier Valley. He is also working with the State Department of Water Resources to adopt new well inspection and drilling requirements. Within the City, though, we can't become complacent, especially as new homes are built and older ones turn over. Will new homeowners, for instance, have the same appreciation for brown lawns? Maybe, but I'm not sure I want to chance it.

Continuing to educate residents about drip irrigation techniques, drought-tolerant plants, xeriscaping, and other water-saving strategies could go a long way, but the City could also go a step further by adopting a code requiring that water conservation measures be incorporated into the building and landscaping of all new construction and remodels, and requiring that any new development be able to demonstrate adequate water supply before they are approved. (The city engineer has estimated that Mosier has only enough water capacity to support 100 new households—an estimate that was based on

Mosier's current level of water usage, and that already *includes* the 34 Mosier Creek townhomes, the 28 approved units of the Mosier Bluff project, and the anticipated re-application of a new subdivision on the south side of town.) In other words, we don't have a lot of wiggle room left; if we're going to preserve what's left of our water supply, we need to act now.

For more information on xeriscaping and other water-saving techniques that are specific to the dry climates of central and eastern Oregon, go to www.thegreenspot.org, click on *Enviro-FAQs*, then scroll down to *Landscaping and Gardening*.

OCTOBER BY SAM SESKIN

cold boulders in the orchard
the smell of fallen pears
one frog shouting in a bucket 'why this why this'



The Mosier Library

by Grace Preston Melody

I met an old friend at the library last week. A very old friend, indeed. I had first met her when I was a youngster – and that meeting was also in a library. In those days, I knew little about the way libraries are organized and, thus, spent many wonderful hours simply browsing up and down

the narrow, dusty aisles of the Mosier Public Library. I stumbled onto "*Old Yellow Eyes*," the story of the life of a cougar cub which had me laughing at its kitten antics and crying buckets of tears at the sorrows it encountered in life. Carolyn Keene mysteries were in great demand by all my girlfriends. We could barely wait for the newest one to hit the library shelf – much like Rowling's Harry Potter, Nancy Drew did more to encourage reading than any school textbook – though girls were the main audience.

But the friend I speak of was my heroine. Her book, "*I Married Adventure*," was one of the first "page turners" that influenced my love of reading and books. Her name is Osa Johnson. Although she passed away in 1953, there she was in the pages of a book that her husband had written, "*Safari*," in 1928. I marveled at how wonderful and clear the old black-and-white photographs were, even after all those decades. There was Osa, bathing in an African watering hole, looking ever-so-much like Jane in a Tarzan movie! Poem lyrics of *There Is No Frigate Like A Book*, by Emily Dickinson, came to mind:

"There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!"

Not only can books transport us across space, but also across time—and they can even defy that ever-grim concept of "death." They teach us, they challenge us, they inspire us to become more than what we think we can become.

Martin Johnson's book, "*Safari: A Saga of the African Blue*" was just one of many donated books that came across my work space as Library

Director for a small, private library in a retirement community in Arizona. Unfortunately, it was too fragile to place in the regular collection, but I perused it eagerly from cover to cover – and Osa Johnson lived again for that brief time.

It gave me pause to think of how many students from that little town of Mosier eschewed alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, and “hoodlumism” and entertained themselves with reading. A significant number of my graduating class of 12 went on to college and others on to important careers as well. Perhaps it was partly because of that little one-room building filled with books. There is a Professor, a Teacher, a Forester of the year, a Nurse, two Boeing employees (retired), one who made it onto national TV because of her long career as the official “fish counter” for the Bonneville Dam. There are Mothers and Fathers who are dedicated to being the very best of parents.

Now, it saddens me no end to hear that “my” childhood library is no longer serving the community, but falling into neglect because of POLITICS! Shame, shame, shame upon any officials of any organization who place their egos above salvaging this noble little building! I would suggest to them that they make a trip to the nearest library – and perhaps they, too, could meet an old friend, as I did. Or perhaps they could meet a new friend or be inspired to take some pride, not in themselves, but in what they could help achieve for the community.

Grace Preston Melody attended Mosier School from first through twelfth grade and graduated in the class of '57. She has a Master of Fine Arts Degree from the University of Arizona and is a recently retired librarian. She is married to Marty, has three children and lives in Arizona.

NEWS FROM CITY HALL

The Mosier kiosk, at Second Avenue just northeast of the Good River Café, may get a major facelift as part of ODOT’s improvements along the historic highway. The concept plan includes a viewing deck, restroom, water fountain, picnic table, car and bike parking, vegetation management and expanded maps and information illustrating sites around Mosier. The kiosk area was previously a gas station and a tavern. The site is owned by the city.

In honor of Janet Nelson, trees will be planted and benches will be painted along Rock Creek.

Columbia Area Transit (CAT) stops at Pocket Park by the bridge over the railroad at 7:04 am and 5:27 pm Monday through Friday. Cost is \$2 each way. The fixed schedule is as follows:

6:00 am Park-n-Ride @China Gorge Restaurant
6:26 am Hwy 197 Hwy 30 intersection The Dalles
6:33 am Transportation Network (marina, Hood River)
7:04 am Mosier Pocket Park
7:12 am Hood River Inn
7:16 am Hood River Hotel
7:23 am Walmart
7:29 am Rosauer’s
7:45 am Mormon Church 18th and May → Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital Main
4:45 pm Providence Hospital Main → Mormon Church, 18th and May
5:00 pm Rosauer’s → The Dalles – Fixed Route
5:06 pm Walmart
5:12 pm Hood River Hotel
5:17 pm Hood River Inn

5:27 pm Mosier Pocket Park
5:56 pm Transportation Network (marina, Hood River)
6:04 pm Hwy 197 Hwy 130 intersection The Dalles
6:30 pm Park-n-Ride @China Gorge Restaurant

CAT also offers special pick ups for those who are unable to get to the designated bus stop. Call CAT at 386-4202 for more information.

Verizon's proposal to site a cell tower in Mosier was not discussed at the last City Council meeting. The council is scheduled to address the issue at the November 7th meeting.

The citizen input portion of the hearing is still open, Mosier City Council Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Mosier Terrace. The city is looking for a volunteer to help with design and administration of their website. Please call City Recorder Jean Hadley at 478-3505, email her at mosiercityhall@gorge.net, or stop by the City Office, 208 Washington Street. City Office hours are 9-1, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Mosier Volunteer Fire Department is looking for volunteers. Call Fire Chief Dan Garcia at 490-1252

Pear, Gorgonzola, Candied Hazelnut, Smoked Salmon salad with Pear Vinaigrette

Serves 4

4 servings of mixed greens
1 ripe pear of choice
4 oz. gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
candied hazelnuts (see below)
4 oz. or more of smoked salmon, flaked
WildFlower Café Pear Vinaigrette (see below)

Make the hazelnuts:

This recipe makes more than you need so you have them on hand for cooked fish, other salads, snacks, etc.

2 C hazelnuts
4 T melted butter
4 T brown sugar
1 T light corn syrup

Toast and skin hazelnuts by placing them on a baking sheet then into a pre-heated oven at 350°. Bake until fragrant and starting to brown. Remove from oven, let cool. Skins can be removed in one of two ways. Either place toasted nuts in a metal strainer and rub the nuts against the mesh to loosen the skins or place toasted nuts in a rough towel and rub nuts in the towel. On a windy day you can toss the nuts in a basket once they've been rubbed and let the wind carry away the skins.

Chop the skinned nuts coarsely.

Melt butter in a fry pan, add the nuts fry for a few minutes to coat well then add the sugar and corn syrup. Stir until sugar is melted and corn syrup has a chance to coat the nuts. Stir for 30 minutes or so on medium high heat. Remove from pan, allow to cool. Separate nuts and store in air tight container what you don't use on the salads.

Place greens on 4 salad plates. Sprinkle cheese and hazelnuts around greens. Sprinkle salmon on next. Slice the pear into thin slices and evenly distribute around salads.

VALLEY FOOD

Suzi Conklin

Drizzle with pear vinaigrette to desired amount. Remaining dressing can be kept in refrigerator up to 2 weeks.

WILDFLOWER PEAR VINAIGRETTE

Makes approximately 7 cups

2 C apple cider vinegar
1 C light brown sugar
1 Tablespoon dry basil
1/2 tablespoon dry mustard (1.5 teaspoons)
fresh cloves garlic
1/2 Tablespoon salt
1/2 Tablespoon black pepper
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
3 C canola oil
1 Cup olive oil
1/2 fresh pear

Place all but oils into a blender. Blend well. With blender running on med. speed, slowly drizzle the canola and olive oils in thin stream into blender. Oil will emulsify and thicken.

PARTICIPATE IN THE MOSIER VALLEY NEWS

This newsletter is for all of you. Send comments to Suzi Conklin at s1conk@gorge.net

If you wish to participate with an article let us know. We welcome suggestions for articles.

We are accepting donations so we can print hard copies of the Newsletter to be made available to those in Mosier without email. Send donations to Suzi at PO Bx 228, Mosier, 97040 Make checks out to Suzi Conklin. Copies of newsletter will be made available at The Mosier Market. Thank You.

Contributors to this issue were: Editors Celyne Camen and Hollie Lund, Brent Foster, Glenna McCargar and Grace Preston Melody, Sam Seskin and yours truly Suzi Conklin/photographer & editor.

