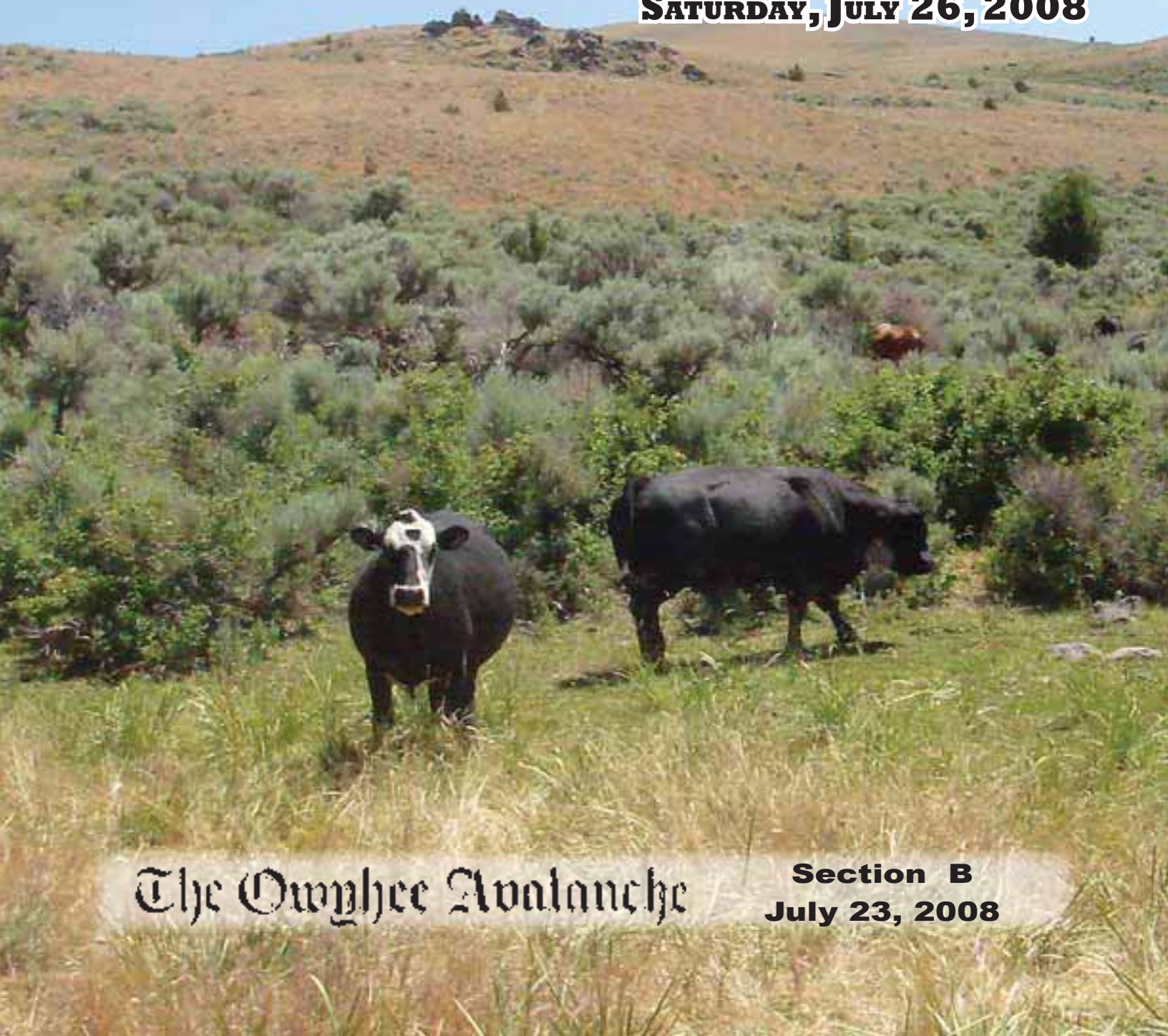


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130th Annual Summer Meeting ♦ July 26, 2008

Saturday, July 26

- 9:00 am **Registration**
- 9:30 am **Business Meeting**
 Pledge
 Membership Drawing, Bit
 Introductions and President's Report – Dana Rutan
 Election of Directors - Past President, Russ Turner
- 10:30 am **General Business Meeting**
 Life Member Awards
 Owyhee Initiative Update
- Guest Speakers**
 Peter Donovan, Soil Carbon Coalition
- LUNCH BREAK (Potluck)**
- 2:00 pm **Continue Business Meeting**
 Sage Grouse Working Group Update
 Presentation of Resolutions
 Old and New Business
- Deck o' Cards Raffle**
- Evening Activities**
- 5:00 pm Social, sponsored by OWYHEE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
- 6:00 pm Dinner, catered by H&M Meats, *BBQ tri-tip*, \$18 per person

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Please join us for the meeting of the membership and to see the finished restoration project.

9:00 pm Dance 🎵 music provided by *"Relative Rock"*
 🎵 \$5/person

Sunday, July 27

- 7-9:00 am Breakfast at the historic Idaho Hotel:
 \$9.50 or \$5 ages 10 and under.
Hashbrown & sausage casserole, pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, muffins, fresh fruit, juice, coffee
- 10:00 am OCA Board of Directors Meeting at the Nettleton Horse Corral



Silver City, 1873

130TH SUMMER MEETING

OCA finally returns to schoolhouse



Back where it belongs

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association's summer convention returns to the Silver City schoolhouse for the first time since 2002. Photo by Marty Peterson

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association is set to celebrate its heritage and the historic buildings of Silver City when the membership gathers Saturday for the summer meeting.

The 130th annual summer convention takes place inside the familiar surroundings of the Silver City Schoolhouse, which was shuttered after the 2002 OCA meeting for an extensive renovation project.

After five years in the Silver City Masonic Hall, the OCA returns to the school on the hill for Saturday's meeting.

The event begins with registration at 9 a.m., followed by the business meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Association president Dana Rutan will make introductions and present his report after the traditional silver bit drawing.

After past president Russ Turner presides over the election of 2008-09 officers, the general business meeting begins at 10:30 a.m.

The general business portion of the day will feature an update on the Owyhee Initiative, which still awaits a vote from the full Senate, and the presentation of Life Member awards to Ernie and Sherry Bahem of Murphy of Walt Nilles of Bruneau.

This year's keynote speaker is Enterprise, Ore., sheep rancher Peter Donovan, who is a founding member of the Soil Carbon Coalition. The Soil Carbon Coalition strives to fight global warming through better management of rangeland and other nature-based practices.

After a potluck lunch, the meeting resumes at 2 p.m. with an update from the Owyhee Sage Grouse Working Group.

The Cattlemen will be asked to vote on two resolutions that were first introduced during February's winter meeting in Oreana.

One proposed resolution, if passed, would signal the OCA's support of a \$1-per-head assessment to the Idaho Beef Check-Off that also will accommodate any future increase in the National Beef Check-Off. The resolution also would allow producers to request a refund of the money paid into the Idaho Beef Check-Off increase.

Another resolution slated to be revisited Saturday is the clarification of Resolution 1994-5 pertaining to membership.

The resolution would establish membership in the OCA on a family basis, with both spouses given the rights of full memberships. Both spouses would each retain a vote in association matters.

Additional family members and operation employees 18 years old and older listed on a membership form would have full membership rights, including voting rights, for a fee of \$5 per individual.

— See *Meeting* page 23B

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INCOMING PRESIDENT

Clapier looks toward finding alternatives

Incoming OCA president sees challenges ahead

Bodie Clapier, incoming Owyhee Cattlemen's Association president, has been connected with the OCA and cattle for years. He's also taking the hotseat in the OCA as the industry faces challenges both old and new.

Clapier's family has farmed in Owyhee County since his grandparents started out in 1949. His parents, Gene and Ruth Clapier, have farmed the land they still work since 1969. Clapier and wife of 26 years, Tina, have built their house and run their own cattle just across Jump Creek Road. The Clapiers have a daughter, Lindsey, 25, who works for Delta Airlines and is studying at Boise State, as well as a son, Quincy, 22, who works at Bodybuilder.com in Boise.

Clapier grew up in Jordan Valley. His grandmother, Evelyn Loveland, is 96, and lives alone and independent in Jordan Valley to this day.

"She's my No. 1 mentor," Clapier said. "She's just an amazing lady — she's the oldest person in Jordan Valley. Our roots run pretty deep in this area. We know most people and are related to half of them."

Clapier became a member of the OCA about eight years ago. This year marks his fifth on the board of directors.

"It was always something I admired in Owyhee County, and I've always really admired a lot of the people involved," he said.

"One of my favorite people was past president Ted Kassel, who passed away about 10 years ago. He was our neighbor. He was a mentor growing up, and I admired his way of life," he said. "When I



Air Force One — OCA-style

Incoming OCA president Bodie Clapier and sidekick Lucy at a pasture between Marsing and Homedale where some of Clapier's heifers graze.

got out of high school, there wasn't a lot of opportunity for a guy to jump into the farming and cattle industry, so I learned how to cut meat. I was a meat cutter for 23 years. I know how to cut them up, and I know how to raise them."

Even while working for someone else, Clapier spent every weekend helping out on his father's ranch. It was a part of his life he refused to give up on.

"Eight years ago, an opportunity came up and I decided I wasn't getting any younger, so I might as well do what I love to do."

"I've worked with (outgoing OCA president) Dana Rutan for five years. He has an ambition like no one I know. He's so dedicated to the ranching industry and the people involved. I learned a lot from him; he's a great kid. He's very passionate about the whole industry, and that's what we have to have," he said.

"The beef industry always has a surprise around the corner, whether it's mad cow disease, e. Coli, grazing rights or the Owyhee Initiative," Clapier said.

"We'd like to see getting that (the Initiative) settled and behind us."

The Initiative is currently awaiting a vote by the full U.S. Senate.

"(The presidency) makes me a little nervous, but I really love the people. It's a great group of 350 members and 356,000 cattle. I'm really looking forward to it. Most past presidents have dealt with BLM, but I've never really had to deal with them a whole bunch, which is the one thing that makes me a little nervous."

Clapier relies on irrigated pasture in the valley, so he's been lucky enough to avoid fights with the BLM, at least up until now.

He isn't too worried, with outgoing president Rutan and the board to lend an ear or advice when needed.

"My main thing is a concern for the cattlemen in the upcoming year is the cost of fuel — the cost of doing business. I've talked to several farmers and ranchers in the area, and they're thinking

— See *Clapier*, page 6B

INCOMING PRESIDENT

Clapier: Ready to listen to what the Association has to say

From page 5B

“Wow, do I sell my cows or feed them \$200 hay this winter?” If you penciled out what it costs to raise a calf, keep her as a heifer, feed her, breed her and keep her until her first calf, you think “This sure isn’t very feasible, is it?” So I think there’s a lot of concerns there. It’s crunching everyone, but (ranchers are) really seeing an effect.”

“You’ll have to offset your costs somewhere — wherever you can you have to find ways to save,” Clapier said.

“You look at corn prices — how are these guys going to even feed cattle this year? It’s more than doubled since last year. Same with fuel. I’m sure cattle

haven’t increased in price this last year, probably at all.”

“If I was going to put it (his goals as president) in a nutshell, we’re going to try and help people offset costs in any way we can. It really is my biggest challenge. I’ve thought and thought — this is real and it’s hitting everybody, and I think the majority of people are living day-to-day, not sure where it’s going to go.”

As to what makes a good president, Clapier said it boiled down to listening.

“You have to listen to what the association has to say. And that’s what I’ll try to do — I’ll try to listen. It’s hard for one person to do it all. It’s all volunteers, and without the board and the associa-

tion committees we come up with it’d be hard to do.”

The quality of the people involved with the OCA is a strength of the organization, Clapier said.

“We’ve got great people on the sage-grouse committee, the (beef) check-off group, the first woman on our board, Brenda Richards, who’s phenomenal, Winston Gammatt, all of them.”

He handed out special thanks to Scott Jensen and Debbie Titus at the county Extension Office.

“I’m not sure when the relationship started, but it’s been a great one,” he said. Jensen acts as the OCA secretary.

“They do a great job, and enough can’t be said about them.”

One thing does need doing before Clapier will be ready to step into the presidency.

“I’m going to have to brush up on my parliamentary procedures,” he said. “It’s been a while.”

— MML

Below: Clapier at one of his hayfields. 2008 has been a good year for alfalfa.



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Fighting global warming with land management

Coalition says new practices can reduce carbon

Contrary to the opinion of radical environmentalists, cattle ranchers are — by nature — conservationists.

With the concept of global warming taking root, a man who has herded both cattle and sheep in northeastern Oregon will visit the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association summer meeting Saturday to discuss how ranchers can help reduce the buildup of greenhouse gases.

Peter Donovan, Soil Carbon Coalition board member, has written several essays on the idea that intensive grazing and combining cropland and pasture can help knock down the amount of carbon released into the air by tillage.

By reducing tillage and rotating clusters of cattle on a pasture, Donovan says, ranchers have improved their grasslands, increased their herd's beef yield and even brought back once-dry wells.

Donovan writes that all but 3 percent of the carbon released into the atmosphere comes from combustion reactions, such as respiration, decay of organic compounds and burning of biomass.

He says ranchers and farmers can knock down the amount of carbon released into the air by locking it into the soil through the reduction of tillage and the development of abundant grasslands.

In the essay, "The Other Side of Global Warming," Donovan tells of an Australian producer who doubled the carbon in his soil in a little more than a decade by planting cereal crops into his pasture. Pasture cropping, which is accomplished with a no-till drill, reduced tillage and chemical usage, Donovan writes.

He also cites a New Mexico ranch at which intensive grazing and herd rotation to allow land recovery reduced snake-weed by 90 percent, more than doubled the beef produced-per-acre ratio, reduced

costs and raised profit.

The practice improved the ground's ability to hold rainwater and recharged a well dormant since the 1950s.



Peter Donovan

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**Owyhee Cattle and Horse
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(no list available prior to 1935)

1935-41	Frank Gusman
1942-47	Lynne Bachman
1948-50	Milford Vaught
1951-52	Earl Bachman
1953-54	Dick Gabica
1955-56	Jim Nettleton
1957	Gene Davis
1958	Frank Maher
1959	Ed Riddle
1960	Alvin Benson
1961	Frank Baltzor
1962	Arsen Alzola
1963	John Malmberg
1964	Walt Morgan
1965	Walt Yarbrough
1966	Don Davis
1967	Lee Stanford
1968	Bill Tindall
1969	John Tyson
1970	Ernie Bahem
1971	Dick Bass
1972	Ben Panzeri
1973	Bob Collett
1974	Pete Jackson
1975	Bill Ross
1976	Don McKay
1977	George Earll
1978	Ted Cossel
1979	Ray Colyer
1980	Frank Davis
1981	Ted Gammett
1982	Gene Tindall
1983	Elias Jaca
1984	Rand Collins
1985	Forest Fretwell
1986	Eric Davis
1987	Craig Malmberg
1988	Dave Tindall
1989	Frank Bachman
1990	Vern Kershner
1991	Tim Lowry
1992	Bill McBride
1993	Ted S. Blackstock
1994	Ted Hoffman
1995	Jerry Hoagland
1996	Michael F. Hanley IV
1997	Peter Jackson Jr.
1998	Chris Black
1999	Richard Brandau
2000	George Bennett
2001	Martin Jaca
2002	Kenny Tindall
2003	Charlie Lyons
2004	Tony Richards
2005	Brian Collett
2006	Brad Huff
2007	Russ Turner
2008	Dana Rutan

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	Ralph Sampson		Ray Pershall		Everett	Dick Benham	
1968	Ralph Stanford	1973	Al Mackey	1982	Townsend	George Johnstone	
	Norman	1974	Walt Adams		Joe Turner	Henry Brandau	
	MacKenzie	1975	None		Grant Strickland	1986	Al Curtis
1969	Henry Hatton	1976	Marion Wroten	1983	Cliff McMahan	Jay Thompson	
	Albert Harley	1977	Elmer C. Johnston		Dick Gabica	Clayton Turner	
1970	Jonas Bass	1978	Pearle Davis		Albert Harley	Bill Tindall	
	Kirby Forman		Marvin Jess		Paul Black	1987	Harold Markley
	Earl Bachmann		Joe Nettleton	1984	Bob Gluch	Curley Heath	
	Hugh Nettleton		Albert Black		Walt Yarbrough	Willie Panzeri	
1971	Milford Vaught		Frank Baltzor		Noy Brackett	Bob Harris	
	Omar Stanford		Adam		Johnny Miller	1988	Frank Maher
	Angel Bilboa	1979	Blackstock	1985	Jim Alzoa	Owen Barton	
	Zack Montini	1980	None		Bill Maher	Fostino Alzola	
	Bill Burghardt		Lee Stanford		Art Bahem	Bob Davis	
			Ed Muller		Emeline Nettleton	1989	Monk Stimmel
						Don McKay	
						Rufus Lequerica	
						1990	Arsen Alzola
						Bill Swan	
						Chuck Dougal	
						Gertrude Anderson	
						Gusty Elordi	
						(in memory)	
						1991	Chet Tindall
						Bill Tindall	
						Ruby Staples	
						1992	Roy Hoagland
						1993	Ted Cossel
						John Malmberg	
						Don Davis	
						1994	LeRoy Beaman
						Walt Morgan	
						1995	Calvin Johnson
						Joe Churruca	
						Bill Lowry	
						1996	Bob Collett
						Bus Cummings	
						Gene Davis	
						Hazel Hanley	
						Tom Skinner	
						1997	Frank and Natalie Davis
						Ray and Bonnie Colyer	
						Frances Field	
						1998	Tom and Celia Hall
						Jack and Elvira Potter	
						Gene Stanford	
						1999	Joe Black
						Ronald Hutchison	
						Herb Mink	
						Merv Robinson	
						2000	Bud Greeley
						Clarence and Virginia Miller	
						2001	No one chosen
						2002	Richard Bennett
						2003	Ace and Marilyn Black
						2004	Frankie Dougal
						Virginia Stanford	
						Dick and Karen Bass	
						Curt Strickland (In memory of)	
						2005	Juanita Johnstone
						Dick and Barbara Jayo	
						Virginia Belknap	
						2006	Fred and Lodice Grant
						Bob Kelly	
						Barbara and David Lahtinen	
						2007	Elias and Inez Jaca



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BACK TO SCHOOL

Restoration chugs along

After eight years, the Silver City Schoolhouse is ready for occupation. Organizers say the interior still must be tackled, but the windows and doors are ready to bring in sunlight and welcome the OCA. Photo by Marty Peterson



Long process reaches milestone

OCA's return marks partial completion of schoolhouse project

If restoration work on the Silver City Schoolhouse seems like an eternity to the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, imagine what it must feel like for Marty Peterson.

A Silver City resident, Peterson is president of the Historic Silver City Foundation, which launched the ambitious project.

"We've been working on it for eight years," Peterson said. "All of the structural work is completed and nearly all of the exterior."

"... We do plan on beginning restoration of the first-floor interior later this summer."

With the harsh winter weather closing the Silver City Road, the project really has only lasted about four years because conditions allow for just six months of construction work each year.

The foundation has raised \$325,000 for the project, and Peterson said about \$150,000 must be brought in to complete the work.

The OCA will hold its summer meeting in the National Registry of Historic Places building Saturday, the ranchers' first visit since 2002.

But, Peterson said, the 116-year-old schoolhouse won't have a bell until the annual Silver City Open House when a belfry-setting ceremony has been tentatively scheduled for Sept. 13. Plans are still in the works, Peterson said.

The OCA began using the building for its annual summer convention after 1942, when the last class left the school.

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Mariah Gutierrez	Tom Richards
Carlen Hipwell	Dally Rutan
Chris Hipwell	Lewis Rutan
Elias Jaca	Riatta Rutan
Josune Jaca	Ruthie Rutan
Maialen Jaca	Shailee Rutan
Matea Jaca	Ethan Salove
Travis Jackson	Kacie Salove
Bryce Kershner	Noah Shaw
Catie Kershner	Lee Stanford
Patxi	Wyatt Stanford
Larrocea-Phillips	Zachary Tindall
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IN MEMORIAM

Political ally, industry giant among those who passed

Owyhee cattlemen mourned in the past year the passing of two men who were instrumental in the beef industry from decidedly different perspectives as well as three people whose families have long-standing ties to ranching in Owyhee County.

Betty Brandau

July 18, 1922-Feb. 3, 2008

Betty Berdeen (Backer) Brandau and her husband, Henry, lived on Reynolds Creek for more than half a century.

Three years before marrying Henry in 1944, Betty began her career as a school-teacher. During the 1942-43 school year at the Wilson schoolhouse, she met her future husband while boarding with Clifford and Gertrude McMahan, who was Henry's sister.

Being the youngest of Byrdie (Laura Ann) Samuel and Chris (Christopher John) Backer, earned Betty the lifelong nickname "Babe". Born in Boise, she was raised in the Lone Tree Community and attended Nampa schools. After completing high school she attended Lewiston State Normal School in Lewiston, Idaho and received her teaching certificate August 14, 1942 and her college diploma on May 24, 1943.

Her first teaching job was in Nampa as an instructor for eighth-grade boys physical education. She would remain active in schools, either as a full-time or substitute teacher or school secretary, until 1980.

After marrying Henry on May 29, 1944, in Nampa, the couple moved to



Betty Brandau

Melba, where they farmed. The couple's daughters — Becky and Merle — were born on the Melba farm.

In 1946, Betty and Henry bought a home on Reynolds Creek from his parents. Two weeks after the 1948 birth of their son Richard, the family moved into the house in which

Betty and Henry would live for the next 55 years.

Betty was a devoted wife and mother, serving as a 4-H leader and shuttling her children between sporting events, 4-H meetings and the county fair.

She was a charter member of the Wilson Sage Hens, which formed in 1949, and she was a lifelong member of the

— See *Memoriam* Page 24B

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LIFE MEMBER AWARD

Nilles remains proud of OCA efforts

Walt Nilles is a cattleman of the old school. At 74, he's still running cattle, though more often from an ATV's seat than from a horse, he said.

"It's just a way of life I enjoy, I guess," Nilles said. "I like cows and horses — always had a few really good horses, but now I do more riding on a four-wheeler. It's just easier to move stuff, and they stay where you leave them."

The Owyhee Cattlemen's summer convention will see Nilles bumped to Life Member status with the OCA, which surprised him.

"I really haven't been in too long, maybe 10 years," he said. He has been a fixture in the local cattle business though, and has lived near Grand View since 1973. He winters in Grand View,

and runs about 100 head of cattle during the summer in the Hill City area, he said.

Nilles moved to Owyhee County, along with his brother Robert, and they settled on adjoining plots southeast of Grand View. Walt and Robert, who passed away in 2004, were born and raised in Belle Fourche, S.D., a cowtown northeast of Rapid City in the Black Hills. Belle Fourche may be remembered by movie buffs as the goal of the cattle drive in *The Cowboys*, the 1973 movie starring John Wayne.

"I went to work for a ranch when I was 16 years old. By the time I was 18, I started running my own — started buying a few cows and renting a place to keep them," Nilles said. He's been at

it ever since, for 54 years as of 2008.

He's tried a few angles over the years, and raised no steroids/no drug natural beef.

"Sometimes I didn't have a buyer for all of them (by time for slaughter), but at the sale they're always a few cents above the other cattle," he said. Regular customers used to call for the natural beef from Owyhee County and the Nampa and Boise areas, he said.

"I think everyone owes some time and effort into the industry that supported you," Nilles said of the OCA. "I think that all the committee work has been really good." He praised the efforts of the OCA especially on the sage-grouse issue and land use.

— see Nilles page 23B

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LIFE MEMBER AWARD

58 years in the OCA saddle

Ernie and Sherry Bahem of Murphy are being inducted into the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association's life member list this year. Both said they were pleased to be so honored, though Ernie pondered the criteria with a chuckle.

"I was on the board when they started that back in the late '60s, and we were trying to figure what age to award this at. Bill Kendall said, 'Well, why don't we wait until they start looking a little shaky?' So I guess I'm to that stage," he explained with a laugh.

Ernie has been involved with the OCA for almost 60 years. He was on the board for six years, was president in 1970, and has been a member since 1950.

"I've really enjoyed it, it was a great bunch of guys to work with, everyone's been really active — and if they wouldn't have been, the livestock would have been put off the range years ago," Bahem said.

Rangeland and the never-ceasing discussions with the Bureau of Land Management are still foremost in the Bahems' concern for the future.

"I think probably the biggest thing is like Mike Hammond said: We haven't stopped them from putting us off the range, but we've bought a lot of time. The people in the Bureau (of Land Management) would have had us off back in the '60s."

"He's been on I don't know how many committees ever since we've been married, fighting to keep the cattle on the range," Sherry said.

"I think it's a continuing thing, really," Ernie said, adding that he believes it to be a fight that the OCA will be waging for the foreseeable future.

Ernie and Sherry have been married for 43 years.

While Ernie and Sherry don't run cattle any more, they spent many years on the Ernie Bahem Ranch doing just that. The ranch was a family operation, running about 200 head, and consisted



Active members honored

Ernie and Sherry Bahem will both be inducted as OCA life members this year. Posing with them here is x, a 17-year-old gelding, named after the ranch the pair lived, worked and raised their children on.

of three small ranches, two of them on Flint Creek and one on Deer Creek.

In an article Ernie wrote for the Owyhee Outpost in 2002, he laid out his family's history with the ranch and the county, which began with the purchase of the lower Flint Creek ranch in September 1936 from Art Birmingham. The ranch's roots go all the way back to a record of James Denny turning over rights to Abraham Denny in 1886.

In October 1955, George and Art Bahem added the second and third ranches, purchasing them from James Liddel. The total area came to just shy of 1,200 acres.

Ernie ran his first cattle, 19 head, in 1952. He ran his cows in lieu of wages, he wrote, kept the heifer calves and built his herd up to 50. When his father, Art, and his uncle George shifted to running cattle full-time in 1955, Ernie ran the ranch for his father and uncle, who lived in Homedale.

His first few years on the ranch predated the county keeping the roads open to the ranch area, so he'd lay in enough supplies to last out the snow and stay until spring. In the late '50s and early '60s, Ernie wrote, there were fewer private allotments and fences, and thus a lot more riding.

— See *Bahems*, page 21B

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Bahems: Turns out you can rope a bobcat

From Page 19B

"In the fall, the buckaroos from the Murphy side would come over and stay. We always had a good time," he wrote.

In the era before satellite TV, you had to find your own fun, and Ernie, along with friends Dick Jayo, Otis Ando and Vern Kershner managed to rope a large bobcat at Louse Creek.

It started out fun, at least.

They wound up bundling the angry cat in a jacket, which worked until the animal managed to get its head loose, at which point it bit Jayo in the leg, as Ernie reported in his memoirs.

What possessed the friends to rope a bobcat?

"Well, we thought we ought to catch him," Ernie said with a laugh.

Ernie married Sherry in 1965. They have two sons: Brent (who goes by Jake) is the owner of Apple Valley Electric in Parma with wife Candi and sons Dustin (14) and Dillon (9), and young-

er son Scott who works at Waldo Insurance in Nyssa. Scott and his wife Lindy have four children, daughters McKinney (15), Sierra (10), KimberLeigh (8) and son Ty (7).

From 1965, the family (with the boys being born in 1967 and 1969, respectively) lived in a small ranch house of three rooms with no running water. They purchased the ranch in 1971, and in 1972 they built a new house, going "from an out-house with a path to one-and-a-half baths," as Ernie wrote.

Ernie became an appraiser for the Owyhee County Assessor's Office in 1987. In 1997, he became county assessor. In 2004, the Bahems sold the ranch.

The Bahems are glad to see the Silver City school-house repairs completed and

the building back as the OCA's official meeting spot as of this year.

"I thought that was great, just wonderful," Sherry said.

What have the Bahems taken away from their decades with the OCA?

"I suppose just the satisfaction of being able to help," Ernie said.

— MML

The Bahems lived in true frontier fashion in the early years, which was well and good, and was a wonderful way to raise children; though Sherry does have fairly rough memories of washing diapers with no running water.

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Nilles: Keeping business and concerns local is the best way

From page 18B

"That's been a big problem for cattlemen," he observed.

"I haven't been too proud of the national association," he added, "but the local association I'm very proud of. I think that any time you have local control you're better off."

Nilles has seen changes, both good and bad, in the industry over the years.

"I think that (meat) packer consolidation has not helped the cattle industry," he said. He argued that if buyers buy out the few remaining independent businesses and consolidate, "we'll be hurting even more."

In the past, "the cattle were butchered where they were fed, in general. There were probably 20 packing houses in Treasure Valley," he said. Now there are fewer, if larger, with far fewer owners.

"It's different now," Nilles said. "Not necessarily tougher, though the environmental requirements have made it harder. The things you can and can't do on BLM and forest land are so complicated that I stick to private ground."

Working with federal management, he said, had too many hassles. His first efforts at grazing cattle on U.S. Forest Service land was a bad enough experience that he gave up on it, he said.

In contrast, his experiences with grazing on State lands have been very positive.

"I had a State Ground lease, and I got along fine. Like I say, that's local (rather than federal). The State people were good to deal with," Nilles said.

"It's always best when you can keep it local."



Meeting: OCA social to follow

From page 3B

Family members and employees younger than 18 will be listed as Youth Members at no additional charge. Youth Members would have full membership rights, but wouldn't retain a vote.

After the deck o'cards raffle, the meeting will adjourn to make room for the 5 p.m. social sponsored by the OCA and then a 6 p.m. dinner catered by H&M Meats. The barbecue tri-tip beef meal will be available for \$18 per

person.

Saturday's activities end with a 9 p.m. dance inside the schoolhouse with music provided by Relative Rock. Admission is \$5 per person.

On Sunday, breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Idaho Hotel. The price is \$9.50 for adults and \$5 for ages 10 and younger.

The association's board of directors meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Sunday at the Nettleton Horse Corral.



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Memoriam: Gannon, Johnstone, Skinner remembered

From Page 16B

The Melba community selected her as Citizen of the Year, and she served as grand marshal in the town's Fourth of July parade.

Tom Gannon

Dec. 14, 1945-June 24, 2008

State Sen. Thomas Curtis Gannon married into a ranching family and fought for the advancement of the agricultural and ranching industries during his time in the Idaho Legislature.

A retired naval officer who was deployed to Vietnam twice, Gannon was in the midst of his third two-year term in the Idaho Senate when he succumbed to liver cancer earlier this year. He had undergone bile duct surgery in Salt Lake City in May, days before winning the Republican primary and a shot at earning a fourth term in November's general election. No cancer was found at the time of the surgery.

Born in Twin Falls, Gannon wed Jeanne Davis, a member of the ranching family that started the Bruneau Cattle Co.

"With Tom's background, he was uniquely qualified," District 23B Rep. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson) said. "He worked with the military bureaucracy and with Buhl Planning and Zoning and with land-use planning.

"He was uniquely qualified (for discussion on confined animal feeding operations) CAFOs because he knew the need to protect adjacent landowners. He also knew — from his experience and his wife experience from growing up in production agriculture — the need to protect agriculture and the related activities that go along with it."



Tom Gannon

Gannon was chair of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee.

In serving District 23, he helped bring about the establishment of the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies, which will be built near the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

"That has real, real long-reaching implications in terms of dealing with the industry's CAFO situation. That could be his legacy," Brackett said.

The center will be a joint effort between CSI and the University of Idaho, Brackett said, and it will encompass the agricultural resource service and place an emphasis on dairy and small feedlot operations.

Brackett, who has been selected by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to finish Gannon's term, and he will also run for the Senate seat in November, said the idea of

naming the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies for Gannon would be a fitting tribute to the senator's work for the industry in Idaho.

Juanita Johnstone

Oct. 22, 1923-Sept. 4, 2007

Juanita Johnstone was named an Honorary Life Member of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association in 2005 after spending most of her life in the Homedale area.

Johnstone moved to Ridgeview, Ore., with her family as a young girl. On her 18th birthday in 1941, she married James (Jim) Johnstone and moved to the Johnstone ranch near Homedale. Juanita and Jim welcomed two sons, Alan and Bruce.

Jim died in April 1953, and Juanita continued to live on the family farm. She married George Johnstone on June 3, 1955, and seven years later gave birth to daughter, Anita. George later was named an honorary life member of the OCA.

During her marriage to George, Juanita helped fix fence and rode the range in South Mountain as well as keeping family as her focus. She kept hired farm hands and sheepherders fed, too, always

bringing hot lunches to the fields or the lambing sheds.



Juanita Johnstone

Tom Skinner

Aug. 16, 1917-May 2, 2008

Thomas "Tuck" George Skinner grew up as a link to Jordan Valley's pioneer families. He was raised on the Billie Parks Ranch west of Jordan Valley, Ore.

After graduating from Jordan Valley High School, Skinner earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Husbandry from Oregon State University in 1940. He worked for the federal Division of Grazing, which would become the Bureau of Land Management, in Lakeview, Ore., before entering the service prior to World War II.



Tom Skinner

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See Next Page

Memoriam: J.R. Simplot, head of an empire, passes

Receiving an ROTC commission in field artillery from OSU, he was placed on active duty from May 1941 to March 1946, and took part in the Peleliu Invasion. He was honorably discharged with the rank of major.

He married Peggy (Mary Genevieve) Eubank on July 12, 1942, and the couple had six daughters.

After the war, Skinner returned to Owyhee County to run the family ranch.

In 1972 he entered the real estate appraisal field in Boise, a career he followed until his retirement in 1999.

Skinner was active in the Owyhee County Republican Party and was active in protecting property rights. He served on several Owyhee County committees and organizations, including the Owyhee County Historical Society board of directors, the Natural Resources Committee, the Owyhee Sage Grouse Local Working Group and People for the Owyhees. He

was the first person to be placed on the Board of Commissioners' Roster of Outstanding Citizens in June 2004.

Skinner also gave crucial testimony about water in the Pleasant Valley ranching region during the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

J.R. Simplot

Jan. 9, 1909-May 25, 2008

Some knew him as Jack; others J.R. No matter what handle he had, one thing was clear about John Richard Simplot: He loomed large in Idaho agriculture because of his potatoes and — as a by-product of his potato empire — became an important name in the Owyhee County cattle business.

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J.R. Simplot

— JPB



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Clarification of "Membership"

RESOLUTION 1994-5

WHEREAS, the successful operation of livestock businesses today usually requires a family rather than an individual commitment; and,

WHEREAS, successful association activities in today's political climate require a large informed membership capable of acting in a rapid and unified fashion; and,

WHEREAS, some confusion exists as to the membership eligibility, dues, and voting rights of members' spouses and children;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT membership in the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association shall be on a family basis. Specifically,

- For family, corporation, and partnership members, both spouses shall be listed as members on the membership application and shall have full membership rights and responsibilities, to include voting rights.
- Additional family members or employees, 18 years of age or older, can be listed on the membership application and shall have full membership rights and responsibilities to include voting rights, for an additional fee of \$5 per individual. Separate mailings of correspondence for these members will be available if so requested on the membership application.
- Additional family members or employees under 18 years of age can be listed on the membership application as Youth Members, at no additional dues expense, and shall have full membership rights and responsibilities with the exception of voting rights.

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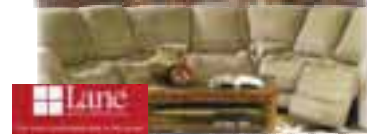
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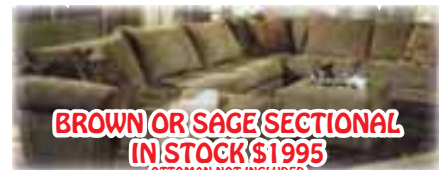


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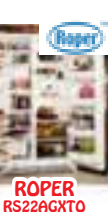
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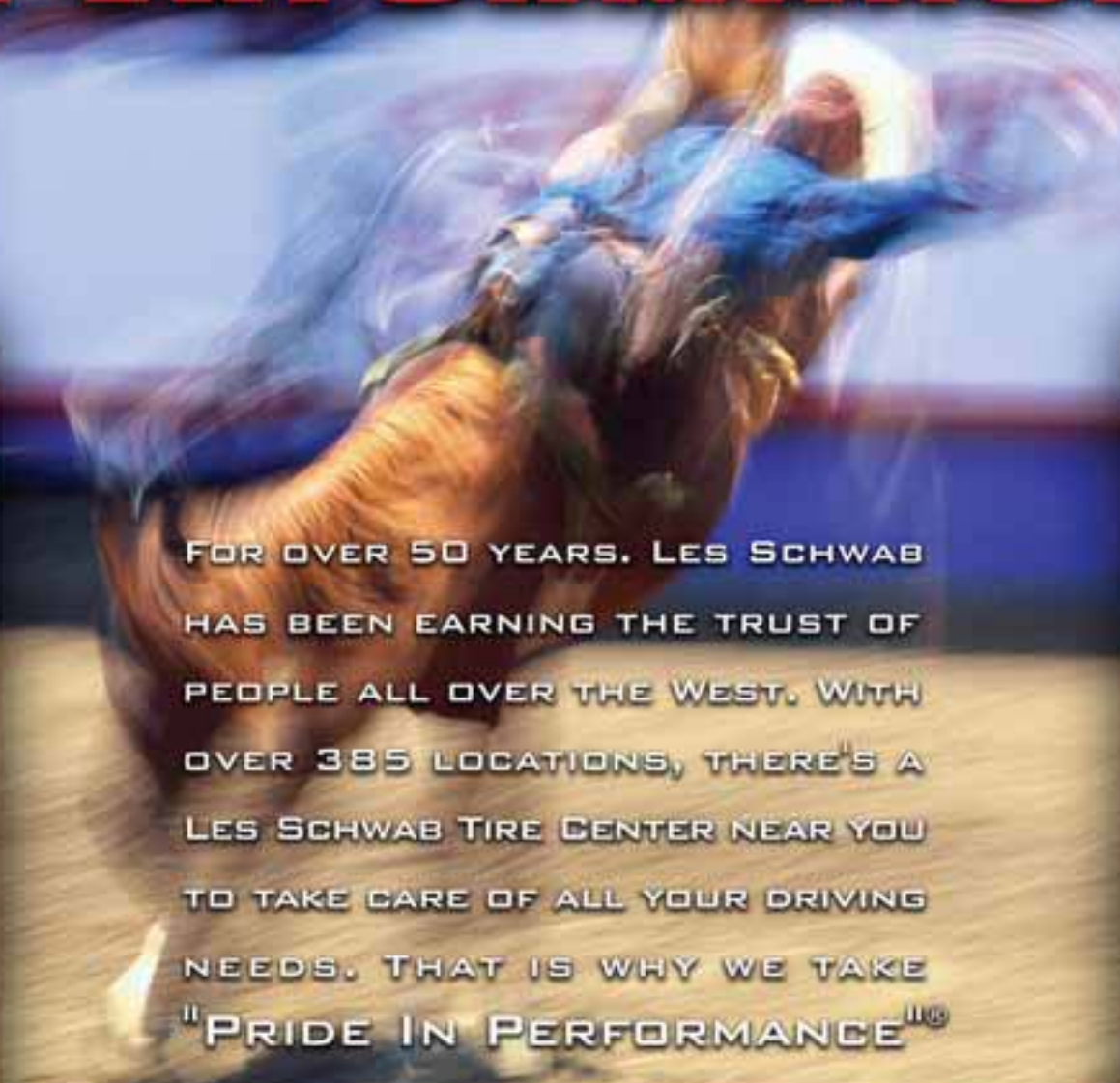
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