

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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CITY WILL HAVE BET- TER FIRE PROTECTION

Backed Up by Citizens of the Town,
the City Council Will Or-
der New Fire Truck.

Being extremely agitated over the matter of the recent fire losses in the city, a meeting was called at the Star Theater on Saturday evening last to consider the matter of additional fire protection for Heppner.

W. B. Barratt was chosen chairman of the meeting and J. J. Nys secretary.

A motion was made by W. P. Mahoney that a committee of five be appointed to examine into fire conditions, the extension of fire limits and the placing of new hydrants, and to make report thereon to the city council. This motion carried and M. D. Clark, E. M. Shutt, S. E. Notson, M. L. Case and Chas. Thomson were appointed. By motion of S. E. Notson, Mike Curran was added to this committee.

Upon motion of W. A. Richardson, the committee was instructed to report to the city council the advisability of appointing a fire chief for the city. Meeting then adjourned.

A special meeting of the city council was called on Wednesday evening to hear the report of the above committee. This meeting was also attended by Capt. Geo. W. Stokes, deputy fire marshal, who presented his report on conditions as he found them upon his survey of the city two weeks ago.

After hearing the reading of these two reports and some discussion from the committee and members of the council, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the recommendations made, and to at once order an auto fire truck and 400 feet of new hose. The truck will cost between \$3000 and \$3500 and will be fully equipped with hose, ladders, etc., as well as having two 40-gallon chemical tanks. The character of machine is highly recommended by Capt. Stokes who has been a member of the Portland fire department for the past thirteen years.

From the report of the committee it was learned that Mike Curran had been temporarily appointed fire chief. The council confirms his appointment and it will be officially made at the regular meeting of the council on Monday evening next and his salary fixed. Mr. Curran is well qualified for the position as he served many years in this capacity in The Dalles and is credited with having made one of the best volunteer fire departments that city ever had. He is enthusiastic in the work and promises that Heppner will not be long in having an organized force of fire fighters.

The new fire fighting apparatus should be on the ground at Heppner within a very few days.

SERVICE FLAG DEDICATED

A beautiful service was held at the Christian church on Sunday evening last in honor of the men in the Army and Navy, from the homes of the church, or who were members of the congregation. The Service Flag, prepared and presented to the church by the ladies of the C. W. B. M. contained 26 stars, and the presentation speech was made by Mrs. Gertrude Parker. There was a roll call by E. R. Huston, to which responses were made by the parents and relatives and friends present, giving a brief account of the men in the service, where located and just what branch of the service they were engaged in. The flag contained one yellow star, in memory of Harper Stewart, enlisted in the navy and who died of pneumonia at Navy Island, Calif., a short time after his enlistment. The entire program was very impressive and was worthy of the attention of a much larger audience than was present.

CARD OF THANKS.

To the good friends, neighbors and citizens of Heppner: I take this opportunity of extending my thanks and appreciation for the kindness and consideration tendered Mrs. Wilkins during my absence and the severe trial she had to undergo in the loss of our property by the fire. Our loss in property has been heavy; this we can eventually forget, but your kindness and neighborly assistance to my family shall never be forgotten.

J. L. WILKINS.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Having lost all my books in the fire, I am not able to make out my accounts. I will trust to those who are owing me to come to my assistance at this time and settle their bills. It will be greatly appreciated.

M. L. CANTWELL.

REUNION HELD BY FORMER MORROWITES

Prepare Also to Entertain Boys on
Way to Camp Lewis.

Portland, Oregon, July 8, 1918.
Heppner Gazette-Times:

The annual picnic and reunion of the Morrow County folk, took place in Laurelhurst Park on Saturday, July 6, 1918. Word having been passed about that twelve of the Morrow County boys who were enlisted for the army and on their way to cantonments, were to pass through the city that evening, it was decided to meet these boys at the train with machines and entertain them at lunch. The ladies prepared the tables and machines were dispatched to the train but we were disappointed as the train was late and the boys had to go on at once. Lunches were put up and the girls went down to bid them God-speed.

After lunch, our president, R. F. Hynd, gave us some warm words of greeting, followed by short talks by several of our good citizens. Mr. Mahoney told us of his experience as a soldier in the last war and how the reception given him at departure had cheered and stayed with him and urged us to do our best in this respect for our boys.

Mr. W. L. Mallory recommended to us how to make "Democracy safe for the world" by being and living as true men to each other.

N. C. Maris said that "Happiness had departed. War and its horrors had made us sober and thoughtful; each shake of the hand, as it were, had a heartache and through the smile there shines a tear. Sorrow has a deep hold on our souls, but there rises up undaunted courage and faith to take the sorrow by the hand—walk by the side of that other self—Love and Duty till we reach the good Reward which shall be the eternal brotherhood of man."

A solo by Miss Marion Ashley, "Keep the Home Fires Burning," with friends joining in the chorus was sung, also "The Long, Long Trail" was sung with much feeling.

Mrs. J. N. Brown talked on "Old Friends" which made us feel as one family.

Arthur Minor told of his boyhood days and how he made a trip to Umatilla Landing for supplies with his brother Oscar, and after he had spent all his money for candy, a pig had eaten all their grub and he had to go hungry. We feel as you feel, as everyone feels, that that pig should have had a medal for beating Art to it in turning a trick.

We were pleased to have Mrs. Margaret Emerson and daughter of Vermont with us.

Our good friends, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Becket, gave our sympathy in the loss of their two sons since we last met. Also Mrs. Albert Slocum and family in their recent loss of husband and father. Mrs. Swinburne has also gone from us this year.

We joined in the Old Glory song, "Star Spangled Banner" as the evening shades fell.

The following persons were present and offer sympathy to the "home folks" in their recent losses by fire.

Mrs. Mollie Andrews, E. H. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Howard, Wm. Warren, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Mahoney, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. D. Hornum, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Becket, Miss Mary Becket, Mrs. Della Hallock, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Minor, Miss Blanche Minor, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Minor, Mrs. J. N. and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Brown, V. Z. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Mallory, Augustus Mallory, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Maris, Ralph Maris, Mrs. S. P. Garrigues, Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes, Mrs. Dan Horner, Miss Nellie Horner, Mrs. Margaret Emerson and daughter, Mrs. Frank Roberts, Miss Anne Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Rood, Mr. and Mrs. A. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Hynd, Miss Gladys Hayes, Miss Lola Hayes, Miss Viette Hayes, Miss Marjorie Clark, Mrs. David Smith, Miss Georgia Shipley, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Day, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Warren, Miss Winifred Warren, P. M. Garrigues.

HELEN M. WARREN Secretary.

TO MY PATRONS.

Having had my place of business wiped out in the recent fire, I have decided to leave Heppner. All those who are owing me will please settle their accounts promptly as I need the money to clean up my accounts. Thanking you for all past favors.

LOUIS PEARSON

EAT POTATOES
SAVE WHEAT

HEPPNER'S SECOND FIRE WITHIN MONTH DOES DAMAGE TO EXTENT OF \$200,000

Disastrous as was the fire of a few weeks ago in Heppner, when a number of residences, public buildings and business houses were wiped out, it was only a beginning compared to what hit us on the afternoon of July 4th, when the little city was practically deserted and there was not enough men, women and children left to fight a box fire.

About 4 o'clock fire was discovered breaking through the roof of the Patterson & Elder barber shop adjacent to the north side of the Palace hotel, and being fanned by a strong wind it was soon whipped into a big blaze, rapidly spreading to the Pearson tailor shop, a wooden building just north and then into the hotel building, being able to reach the inside through windows that were open on the second and third floors, as well as through openings leading into the sample rooms and barber shop.

In an incredibly short time the entire upper stories of the hotel were a mass of flames. The alarm had been sounded but a very few minutes and a hose cart was hurried up and the water turned on but the flames could not be reached. Mrs. Wilkins, in charge of the hotel during the absence of her husband, J. L. Wilkins, soon realized the building was doomed and she rushed to the upper stories and roused all guests in the house. These all escaped but had no time to take anything with them. Mrs. Wilkins, herself, on going to the stairway found her exit cut off by the flames and rushed to the fire escape on the south side of the building getting out in safety. She received a cut on the chin as she struck the coping in her drop from the fire escape to the sidewalk, but the injury was not serious.

The flames very soon burst out the south side of the hotel and reached the row of wooden buildings just across on May street. When the fire got into this block it appeared certain that the entire south end of town was doomed. The hotel also threatened the First National Bank building on the opposite corner of Main and May streets and it was only by the hardest kind of work this structure was saved. Had this caught there would have been little hope of saving that side of the street at least as far as the Masonic building.

The fire kept on spreading through the May street block, taking everything before it, and also to the east of the hotel, cleaning out the second-hand store of G. W. Verdort and the big implement warehouses of Gilliam & Bisbee and it was here kept from going any further to the north.

From the May street block the fire pushed on, crossing Main street and cleaning out the Natter buildings, the McNamee corner and the Star Brewery building, occupied by the Morrow County Chapter of the Red Cross, from this to the old Mountain House and the row of residences as far south as the power house and every thing in the block between August and Cannon streets to the residence house, with the exception of the power house of Dr. A. D. McMurdo. The wood yard of Heppner Light & Water Co. was fired and some 600 cords of wood consumed. Here the fire was held after hard work.

A valient fight was put up to save the property of the Light & Water Co., and aside from the loss of their big supply of fuel no damage was done to that immediate portion of the plant. They were heavy losers, however, in the loss of wire and poles.

Coming at the time it did, when the town was so thoroughly deserted by all those who could get away to various points in the mountains and at the lone celebration, has led a great many to think that the fire was of incendiary origin. While it has not been definitely settled as to this, and perhaps never will be, the prevailing opinion now is that the fire originated from some careless act on the part of parties who were in the rear of the barber shop not long before the fire broke out.

The fire is a hard blow to Heppner at this time. The loss would not be covered by \$200,000, and the proportion of insurance is very light, perhaps not exceeding in the total, \$70,000. Owing to the high insurance rates many had failed to provide this sort of protection and their loss falls heavily. We are informed that Mr. Wilkins had but \$12,000 insurance at the time on the Palace hotel property, and this will go to the mortgage, thus leaving him without anything to fall back on. Victor Groshens had no insurance at all on his property and puts his

loss at \$3000. Many other smaller losses can be mentioned. Our friend Pattison, of the Heppner Herald, lost all, both in printing office and household effects. Willis Stewart, of the Red Front Livery Barn, saved some harness and vehicles and got the horses all out, but is looser to the extent of the building as he carried no insurance. Two horses perished with the barn. These belonged to outside parties and after being driven from the barn they turned back into the flames. There were numerous small incidents in connection with the fire, and some slight accidents that might be mentioned but nothing serious occurred, which was indeed very fortunate in all the excitement incident to fighting the fire and getting out household effects and valuables.

The water held out well and there was at all times a good fire fighting supply on hand. As stated in the beginning, a great many people were out of town when the fire started, and this of course made it hard to get necessary work done. Hurry-up calls were sent out in all directions, and it was not long before outfits were rolling in from the mountain camps up Willow creek, from Parkers Mill and from Lexington and Ione. By most of these arrived too late to be of real assistance. Besides, much of the fire fighting apparatus was found to be in bad condition, nozzles were missing and hoses were so tight in many instances that it required two men to get the knuckles broken, and all the while the fire was eating up the homes and business houses in that section of the city.

Much property was removed from the buildings in the May street block across the street to the Natter sidewalk and later caught fire and burned, and thus it was in numerous places, it being hard to get the household goods out of reach of the flames. Two men carried out the 1100-pound player piano from Oscar Borg's residence and then pushed it some seventy-five feet up the sidewalk when the flames became so hot they had to abandon the job and the instrument burned up. Several hose carts and hundreds of feet of hose were destroyed, and it was generally a hot time in the old town.

The list of sufferers follows:

Louis Pearson, tailor shop and most of contents. All tools and a large stock of goods destroyed with many suits of clothes about ready for delivery. His loss is about \$2000. \$1000 insurance.
Crow & McAtee, real estate and insurance. Office fixtures, \$250.
Patterson & Elder, barber shop, total loss, \$2500, with some insurance.

Woodson & Sweek, law office; all contents destroyed. Loss \$5000, with \$2500 insurance. Besides the firm's loss, numerous abstracts were destroyed which Mr. Woodson estimates in the aggregate at \$1500. Their safe contained many valuable papers and just what condition these are in will be revealed when the safe is opened. The Palace hotel, the property of J. L. Wilkins and wife and Creston Maddock, valued at \$30,000. A total loss of building and contents. Insurance \$12,000. The barber shop building was owned by them also, and there was small insurance on this.

Mike Curran, billiard parlors in hotel building, loss \$3500; no insurance.

G. W. Verdort, second hand dealer, building and all contents. His loss of building and stock is \$1500. Small insurance on building goes to Wm. Pleis, mortgagee.

Gilliam & Bisbee, two large warehouses filled with machinery and implements. Loss \$25,000 with insurance of \$13,000. This loss is serious owing to the large quantity of farm machinery and extras destroyed. Large shipments had been but recently received and stored.

Vic Groshens, five buildings on corner of Main and May streets. His loss was complete as he carried no insurance. Buildings and contents around \$5000.

The P. O. Borg estate had two buildings in this block, one of which was occupied by Mrs. L. G. Herren, millinery. Loss of buildings, \$2000, covered by \$700 insurance. Mrs. Herren's loss is \$2500. Andy Hayes had rooms in the Borg building also and lost all his personal effects. Was covered by \$200 insurance.

Mrs. Ida M. Warnock, building unoccupied, loss \$1500.

Eliza Ayers estate, building occupied by Heppner Herald, also Star Lodging House and small residence in the rear. Loss of buildings approximately \$4000, with some insurance.

(Continued on Page 8.)

LONE RED CROSS HAD NICE 4TH CELEBRATION

The celebration at Ione on the Fourth passed off in a very pleasant manner. It was carried out under the direction of the Ione Red Cross Chapter and no preparation had been made for a spread-eagle affair. The attendance was good, quite a number going down from Heppner, and the program featured many interesting events. The address in the forenoon by J. W. Brewer of Portland, was perhaps the leading feature. Mr. Brewer delivered the address at the celebration at Ione a year ago, and felt highly complimented in being called to officiate in this capacity again this year. It was a speech full of patriotism and good sense; the speaker and pro-German got his without any mixing of words, and we are sure that all who heard Mr. Brewer could understand fully what he meant. Dinner was served in the basement of the Christian church by the Red Cross, and supper also, and when all events had been pulled off and the results counted up, the Red Cross was ahead almost \$800. Having to leave early in the afternoon, our representative did not get a detailed report on the program, and the receipts were perhaps cut a little short by large numbers of the people rushing up to Heppner when they received word of the big fire. The Red Cross ladies naturally feel proud of the results, however, and appreciate the splendid crowd their efforts brought together.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to extend to the people of Heppner our most sincere thanks and appreciation, who worked so hard to save our property, many of whom endangered their own lives while working towards that end. We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to those who suffered losses by the fire.

DR. AND MRS. A. D. McMURDO
LULU M. HAGER

WOODSON & SWECK OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

Although they suffered the entire loss of their furniture and fixtures, and a splendid library, Messrs. Woodson & Sweek, attorneys, are smiling, and they are now open for business again in the Masonic building just across the street from the telephone office. These gentlemen had one of the best law libraries in Eastern Oregon, besides all their office equipment was modern and up-to-date, but this all burned just as well as though it had been of different nature. They will gradually rehabilitate their offices, but a great deal they possessed can never be restored, and a large number of valuable papers, abstracts, etc., were consumed in the flames that licked up the Palace hotel in such a very few minutes.

ENJOYED THEIR VISIT HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Blackman departed Monday for Portland and expect to spend about a month in that city before going on to San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Blackman enjoyed a very pleasant visit among their friends and relatives in Heppner during the past three weeks, and expect that they will return here at regular intervals in the future. The one distressing feature of their sojourn in Heppner, was the witnessing of the disastrous fire on the Fourth. Having been so long identified with the community, Mr. and Mrs. Blackman feel very keenly this blow, and their sympathy goes out to the sufferers, many of whom were old time friends of theirs.

Mr. Blackman informs us that all the interests they have in the world, outside of their boys, are located at Heppner. This place is home to them and they have a lot of faith in the future of the city. This has been manifested by the purchasing of an additional interest in the Henry Heppner estate. While here, Mr. Blackman took over a number of shares in the estate belonging to heirs living at a distance and he intended to purchase more. It is gratifying to have people who made their money in Heppner in the years gone by, still show their faith in the town by keeping their money at work here, and this is what Mr. Blackman is doing. Furthermore, he is supporting our quotas in the Red Cross, Liberty Loan, W. S. S. and other war activities. Mr. Blackman states that so long as he lives he will call Heppner home.

FOOD WILL WIN
THE WAR

DOWNPOUR OF RAIN DOES SOME DAMAGE

A Miniature Flood Passes Through
Heppner Tuesday Evening.

Following a long continued spell of hot and dry weather, Heppner was visited by a terrific downpour of rain on Tuesday afternoon, and our citizens were treated to a miniature flood which lasted for some thirty or forty minutes.

The storm gathered about three o'clock and seemed to center right about town and the main portion of the rainfall was on either side of Stansbury canyon and extended from about a mile and a half south of town and then across the hills into Blackhorse.

A lot of water ran off the hills into the little creek at the bottom of Stansbury canyon and this was swelled into a good sized stream by the time it struck the south side of town. The W. E. Mikesell place was hit and here much damage was done to fencing and gardens and his well was filled up, the pump being washed out and carried off.

H. D. Mikesell also had a lot of fencing carried off and his nice young orchard was damaged by having a number of choice trees broken down and washed out. No water got into the house though it reached the windows on the south side.

Andy Cook was hit pretty hard, his big chicken house being rather badly dislocated and a number of chickens carried to a watery grave. His orchard and garden also were damaged as well as a portion of the fencing.

The Stephens place and the Baird place were not much damaged, being so situated that the water drained off pretty well, and this was largely true of the other residences of the Albina district.

Several bridges along the creek were taken out. The bridge near the J. J. Adkins residence was washed down to the corner of Mrs. Bartholomew's place on Chase street, where it lodged against the big trees and helped turn the water away from the residence. By the time the waters reached the bridge near the Farnsworth barn it had gained such proportions that that structure was put up on edge and carried away. This threw a large force of water towards the home of Mrs. McDaid and her floors were flooded, leaving a deposit of several inches of mud. A lot of rubbish was also piled up around the office and main building of the Heppner Light & Water Co., as well as a deposit of mud on the floor of the engine room. No other apparent damage was done here and the waters passed on, taking out the bridge at the upper end of Chase street and carrying it on to the main channel of Willow creek. At this point the water was largely diverted down Chase street, doing but little damage to the property along the street. Where the water broke through a number of lawns and gardens were swept over and some fencing and wooden sidewalks carried out and this constitutes the material damage done. A bridge was taken out in front of the residence of Mrs. Emmille Kelley. Mrs. Mary Bartholomew seems to have been the worst hit of any of the residents along this street, and yet the water did not get into the house.

Numerous cellars and basements about town were filled with water while the store of Gilliam & Bisbee received a deposit of several inches of mud that came in through the rear end of the building. They have been busy since cleaning the place out and getting the mud out of a large number of ranges and other stoves that were standing on the floors.

So far as we have been able to learn, there was no very serious damage done to any of the places along the creek. Ralph Benge has suffered pretty much by the deposit of a lot of rock and debris on his alfalfa from the water coming down Dutton canyon, and the Alex. Cornett had some damage to small buildings in the way of the water coming down the draw back of his place.

A lot of water fell in the Blackhorse section and this made a pretty good sized flood at Lexington, but no damage is reported.

The rain has freshened up the atmosphere and cooled the temperature to a considerable extent as well as making a lot of dirty streets and back yards. This latter, of course will be all fixed up in a few days, and we trust that our little city will be spared any more excitement of this order for all time to come.