

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AND DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF MORROW COUNTY

VOL. 36, NO. 19.

HEPPNER, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1919.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER YEAR

MR. GATES REPLIES TO OUR EDITORIAL

Company's President Thinks We Were Unfair in Telling What He Had Already Acknowledged.

The following letter, which will be of interest to the people of Heppner, now that the water issue is up for settlement, was received the first of the week by The Gazette-Times from H. V. Gates, president of the Heppner Light & Water Company. It is in answer to our editorial of last week entitled "A Time for Action."

"Editor Gazette-Times,
Heppner, Oregon.

"Dear Sir:

"Your editorial of 'Time for Action' in issue of July 31st, refers to the Light & Water Company and myself in very uncomplimentary terms, which not corrected works both a permanent injury. So permit me to offer a few facts.

"The water plant has, since the beginning, been a losing investment, its revenues never equalling the expenses. The light plant paid dividends and made up the water deficit until about seven years ago, when all dividends ceased, and since 1914 both plants have been operated at a loss; the public service commission finding that during the year 1917 the water plant lost us \$4950. The stockholders have been loaning money to the company until its indebtedness to them amounts to \$6000 and all interest to date has been defaulted.

"Our contract with the city is that all water must come from deep wells, not Willow creek or any other source. To drive a deep well and equip it costs us about \$6000 each. It cost the city \$6000 to drive the first well and no equipment. Our present supply of water is, and always has been, sufficient for domestic use. The shortage is during irrigation season. To overcome that shortage would require two additional wells, giving a total capacity of 170,000 gallons per day, costing \$12,000, producing revenue of \$800 with operating expenses of \$1800, creating a deficit of \$1000 and the use and depreciation on \$12,000 for each irrigation season, thus multiplying our loss.

"We instituted a 24-hour electric service, which has increased our losses. We can cease to operate that service at any time and when considering such a course we have, on the ground of inconvenience to users of 'Day Juice' and the odium to the city, continued the service at a sacrifice to ourselves. We have just agreed to dispose of the water plant to the city at a loss of \$9000. To build the plant today would cost \$75,000, and we had invested in it, \$35,000. We have been losers in the flood for \$10,000, in the fire for \$5,000, have always responded to all demands for public good, individual or city. We have made proposals which would have brought Willow creek water to the city without any expense to the city and without any increased cost to users. We made a proposal to sell water works to the city and erect a \$60,000 hotel. I think our hanging on with continuing losses deserves something more than condemnation. At least we have shown more public spirit than any other in the city. If not please point them out that we may give credit.

"Willow creek is the only possible practical solution of a water supply. Whoever brings it in must strain their finagles to the limit of endurance. Had we increased the cost of the water works by drilling more wells, it would have increased the fi-

nancial difficulties in securing the Willow creek water. This we have explained to every city council for years. We have advised them there would be a shortage of irrigation water. There has always been plenty for domestic use or fire. The public service commission censured us for the large investment we have in the present plant. What could we have done in addition to what we have done? You say 'water is a God-given element.' True, and in His plan it was distributed in rivers, lakes and underground. The city of Heppner, not being there to enter protest, got left in the distribution. I admitted that it forced to do, we could get water. Of course, if forced to do so, we could get it as I have shown. You say 'it is a shame to commercialize water.' True, but no water works, public or private, does so. They commercialize that which is not God-given: the wells, pumps, pipe, reservoirs, etc., and if the city furnished water to its people, it must commercialize, not the water, but the use of the water works, or go broke. And any bankrupt, be it water works, is a liability, not an asset, to the city. We have by strenuous sacrifice, escaped bankruptcy. Now do you think such attempts as yours are conducive to other investors? Did I think your ideas prevailed I certainly would quit. Disastrous as has been our business, we still have courage and faith. Do not destroy it.

Yours most respectfully,
(Signed) H. V. GATES."

Portland Man Buys Interest In Local Automobile Garage

Dean T. Goodman, formerly transportation expert with the Godyear Tire & Rubber Co., has purchased an interest in the Heppner Garage and that firm will hereafter conduct the business as Vaughn & Goodman.

Mr. Goodman has had years of experience as a salesman, having made Heppner for the Honeyman Hardware Company in years past. He is a progressive young business man with up-to-the-minute ideas and he and Mrs. Goodman will be a welcomed addition to our city.

Daughter Writes From Australia to Mother Whom She Was Told Was Dead

Mrs. Mae Gray of Hamilton has just received a letter from her daughter, Nellie Ann Robinson of Western Australia. Mother and daughter have not seen each other for 16 years. The girl was an infant of two years when she was taken from here by her father, George Robinson, formerly a stockman of Morrow county. She says that she has tried repeatedly to get letters to her mother, but for some reason they failed to reach their destination. The letter was written through the Salvation Army and she says "Father tells me mother is dead, but something tells me she is still living." The daughter now lives at Albany, western Australia.

Returning to California.
Andy J. Stevenson, pioneer Morrow county resident, who has been spending the past three months in Heppner, will leave in a few days for Oakland, California, where he will spend the winter. Mr. Stevenson will go to Pilot Rock for a few days visit with his son John and from there he will go on to Oakland. Mr. Stevenson spent the past year in the south and he likes the climate of the San Francisco Bay country fine. He makes his home with a daughter in Oakland.

CECIL WOULD HAVE FINE NEW HOTEL IF SHE COULD HAVE THE COURT HOUSE ALSO

Cecil, Ore., Aug. 6. (Special)—Owing to the good roads and the John Day project, and to the further fact that Heppner is without accommodations for the weary travelers, Cecil is bound to come into her own.

Numerous offers and applications for business locations have come to hand during the past few days, Oscar Otto and Pat Crow of Heppner being the latest business men who would become affiliated with Cecil's future.

These gentlemen were in Cecil last Sunday, their excuse being that they were on their way to Boardman, but before they left town, Mr. Otto had tried to purchase a piece of ground suitable for an up-to-date music store. During this time, Pat Crow walked up and down through the main thoroughfare and finally remarked to a citizen that he had heard it rumored that Cecil, "the oasis of the desert," was about to build a first-class hotel, and on the strength of the same at once put in his application as manager of "Cecil Hotel."

A few evenings prior, the business men of Cecil held a meeting and decided to build a hotel, contingent upon the possibility of getting the court house moved to Cecil. A committee

was appointed to interview Judge Campbell and the commissioners, to see if they would grant such removal and if so, the new hotel would be built immediately. Mr. Crow was very much disappointed when he was informed that Joe Wilkins had already sent in an application as manager, but his offer, (Mr. Crow's) will be considered along with other offers received.

Move Made To Form Chapter Of American Legion Here

A move is now on to get a post of the American Legion established in Heppner. R. E. Crego and Dr. Harold Bean, returned service men, having started the preliminary ball rolling so to speak. All ex-soldiers who are interested in seeing a local post established, should leave their names with Mr. Crego at the local telephone office and such information as may be obtained from either Mr. Crego or Dr. Bean. It is necessary to have 15 signers at least on the petition for a charter. A meeting of ex-service men will be held in Heppner within the next two weeks. All men who have been in any branch of the service will be urged to attend that meeting.

SWEAT OF THE HARVEST



GAZETTE-TIMES ENLARGES IN SIZE AND NEW FEATURES ARE ADDED TO NEWS INTEREST

With this issue, The Gazette-Times enlarges from six to seven columns, thereby making it possible to add new features which we hope will prove of value to our readers and advertisers alike.

The change, in effect, now makes the paper equal in size to our former paper of ten pages six columns and in reality carries a greater number of inches of printed matter than was formerly carried in ten pages of the smaller size paper.

The continual growth of the paper and the desire on the part of its publishers to make a better paper with each succeeding issue, has called forth the enlargement of The Gazette-Times. New features will be added from time to time, and if the paper has been filled with news interest in the past, our readers will find that interest increased in the future. It is not our desire to "toot loudly" but we only want to call your attention to these improvements which are of a permanent nature and which are taking place as the paper expands with the growing community. We trust that a "bigger and better" paper may meet with your approval and satisfaction.

Medical Aid For Soldiers.

Chas. Ayers, recently returned from overseas service, was sent to Seattle Monday to receive further medical treatment from the United States government. Mr. Ayers has been in poor health since leaving the service, in fact he has not felt well since doing duty on the Mexican border in 1917. It is the policy of the government to give all ex-service men all the attention and care possible, according to N. White of Spokane, who represents the government and who was in Heppner last week to confer with the civilian relief committee of the Red Cross.

Many men who were quite anxious to get out of the service after the armistice, waived all rights to any disability clause when they received their discharge, and these men will also be helped by the government if their case can be called to the government's attention.

Another boy who has been sent away for further medical treatment, is Guy McFerrin. He was in the hospital for several months after being severely wounded and his condition is not improving as fast as it should. It is the government's intention that he be given the best possible attention.

Rooms Are Scarce.

Every day, especially after the arrival of the local train, there is a great scramble for the traveling public to find rooms. This is a condition that has existed in Heppner for more than a year, and it is a lamentable condition. Several homes where extra rooms could be spared have been thrown open to the public but now, since there is only one rooming house in the entire city, the situation is growing acute. Rumors are in the air regarding the construction of rooming houses and hotel and the general hope is that these may materialize in the near future.

Miss Fern McCullough of Bridal Veil arrived in Heppner Wednesday and is a guest of Miss Gwendolyn Darbee.

PROJECT ELECTION IN TWO WEEKS

Favorable Action Toward This Project Will Mean Opening Up of a Vast Acreage to Development.

Morrow County Names Directors.

The John Day Project election is just a little more than two weeks away. The purpose of the election is to decide whether or not the area comprised under the proposed project shall be divided into districts and organized for the purpose of carrying out a bonding issue. There is no question about the result of the election, casting the ballots is only a matter of form and a procedure which is asked by law. It is believed by those who have been close to the project movement that the election will go almost unanimously in favor of the project.

If one stops to consider the magnitude of the proposed project, he will soon realize that it is going to mean to Gilliam, Morrow and Umatilla counties, and most of all to Morrow county, because a greater part of the acreage under the project lies in this county.

There is nothing of an adverse nature about the project. Engineers who have reported on it have added their endorsement. What water has done for the Stanfield, Irrigon, Hermiton and Echo sections and is doing for the country in and around Boardman, is only a slight indication of what can be accomplished in the heavier soils included under the proposed project. It will add millions to the wealth of this county and the increased productivity of the land will pay for the entire cost in a very short time.

L. A. Hunt, Michael Kenny and F. R. Brown went to Cecil last Saturday and attended a convention of the John Day Irrigation District. John Kilkenny and Jack Hynd were nominated for directors from this county. Gilliam county will also name one director.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth K. Mahoney Are Spending Honeymoon in Seattle

Kenneth K. Mahoney and Miss Josephine Mae Richardson were married in Portland last Sunday evening, according to announcements which have been received by their Heppner friends. They will spend a two-weeks honeymoon in Seattle before returning to Heppner to make their home.

The bride is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Richardson, pioneer Heppner residents, and a very popular young lady. She is a graduate of the Heppner high school and has ever been prominent socially. The groom is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Mahoney and holds a position with the First National Bank of Heppner. The Gazette-Times joins with the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Mahoney in extending congratulations and best wishes.

Lieutenant Miller Returns.

Lexington, Ore., Aug. 6.—First Lieutenant Edwin H. Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Miller, arrived at the ranch Tuesday evening. He has been two years in France with the 525th Engineers. His company had charge of the building of the largest postoffice in the world and it was finished in 8 days. Mr. Miller visited days. Lieutenant Miller visited with his sister in Chicago and several other relatives, on his route to Camp Lewis, where he was discharged last week. He visited with relatives at Salem and Corvallis while on his way to Eastern Oregon.

Fire Destroyed Barn at Lexington.

A barn, 40x60 feet, belonging to Mrs. J. M. White at Lexington, was destroyed by fire shortly after 1 o'clock today. While at times it appeared that the fire would get beyond control, by valiant efforts of the fire department, the blaze was finally controlled without doing further damage. It has not been definitely established just how the fire started. A vulcanizing plant in the garage, which was in one end of the barn, was in use earlier in the day, but as the fire seemed to have started burning in the hay mow in the opposite end of the barn, it is not believed that the blaze had its origin from the vulcanizing plant.

Parents Of Local Teacher Made Auto Trip To Illinois

Six thousand miles and better registered on the speedometer of their car, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Reynolds are not home yet. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are father and mother of Mrs. Nita Douglas, a teacher in the Heppner schools. Their home is in Chico, California, and they passed through Heppner Tuesday, enroute to their home after an extensive auto trip which took them as far east as Illinois. They were met at Pendleton by Mrs. Douglas and she will accompany them as far as Albany, before returning to Heppner.

Shutts Encountered All Kinds Of Roads On 1200-Mile Trip

Sheriff E. M. Shutts and his family returned Friday evening from their three-weeks' trip to the coast by auto and they all report the most pleasurable trip of their lives. They went by way of The Dalles and the Columbia highway to Astoria, thence to Seaside, Rockaway and Newport, spending ten days on the coast. They returned home by way of Eugene, the McKenzie Pass, Bend, Prineville, Shaniko, Fossil and Condon. Mr. Shutts says that one thinks more of Heppner and Morrow county after making a journey of this kind, which covered 1263 miles.

They encountered all kinds of roads, good, bad and indifferent, largely the latter kind—the best hard surfaced road, of course, being the great Columbia highway, and the best dirt roads in Sherman county, where they are mostly all graded and are dragged after every heavy rain. Fixed as they are, they are more satisfactory to travel over than are most of the hard surfaced roads.

The lower Columbia river, coast and Willamette Valley counties are just now engaged in extensive construction work, the autolist having at times to travel over miles and miles of sharp crushed rock, but these counties are way ahead of Eastern Oregon for decent permanent roads.

Marion county has woefully neglected her macadam roads, they being the worst in the Willamette valley, and the same condition exists in the vicinity of Rainier, in Columbia county. These neglected macadam roads prejudice one against this kind of material.

A government engineer whom the Shutts met on the McKenzie Pass, and who had traveled by auto 30,000 miles over seven Western states the past six months, stated that the worst permanent roads he had encountered in the entire distance were between Heppner and The Dalles. Mr. Shutts did not enter into a vigorous dispute over this question, for he had just been over these roads himself, but he was glad to inform the gentleman that so far as Morrow county was concerned he had just voted bonds for good roads and that before a great while the present bad condition would be remedied.

Four Truck Loads Of Trout Were Placed In Willow Creek

A carload of trout fry was received in Heppner from the state fish car Rainbow last Monday night. The fish are shipped in cans and these were loaded onto four trucks and taken to the waters of upper Willow creek, where they will make their future home. Local sportsmen assisted in the distribution of the fish.

Man Charges Desertion.

Ida V. Gray is charged by her husband, Roy A. Gray, with desertion in a complaint for divorce filed at Pendleton, according to the East Oregonian. He asks that the custody of their two children, aged 12 and 10 respectively be awarded jointly to both plaintiff and defendant. The Grays formerly lived in Heppner, where Mr. Gray operated the transfer business. They were married here in 1906.

READ THE TELEGRAM.

Portland's big daily, The Telegram delivered 6 days a week for only 10 cents. All the news from all the world for 10 cents. Phone 772. CHARLES NOTSON.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON WATER DEAL

City and Water Company Virtually Agree on Price of Plant at \$23,500.—Proposition Re-Submitted to Mr. Gates.

The city of Heppner and the Heppner Light & Water Company have virtually come to an agreement on the purchase price of the water plant. After considerable dickering Mr. Gates has finally come down to something very near to what the city, upon the strength of their engineers' reports, had first offered the company. The agreed price is \$23,500, with the understanding that all supplies on hand will be taken over by the city at invoice price. This is additional and not included in the price for the plant.

The valuation of the plant as set forth by the engineers' reports, is increased in the amount finally agreed upon, due to the fact that some property is included in the purchase from the company which the engineers failed to include in their report. One of the chief items is the house in which the water plant is located. This was considered a part of the light and power plant by the engineers when they reported, but Mr. Gates has agreed to turn the building over to the city when the deal is consummated.

Although Mr. Gates told in public meeting, just of what terms he would deal with the city, when his proposition was finally submitted in written form the council found that there were certain strings attached. Therefore City Attorney Nys was instructed to draft a new agreement. This was done and that agreement has been submitted to Mr. Gates for his consideration.

The ordinance calling for a special election for the purpose of voting water bonds, was read for the first time at the regular meeting of the city council last Monday evening. It is the intention of the city council to have all preliminaries attended to in order that the election may be held in the early part of November.

Oregon Man Devotes Time To Building Up Legion

George A. White, an Oregon man who lives in Portland, and who has just returned from military service, has given up a two months' vacation which he had planned, in order to help build the American Legion. He was recently demobilized at Camp Dix as a Lieutenant colonel of the Army after eighteen months of continuous service in France and Germany. He was one of the founders of the Legion abroad and was the one to suggest the holding of the Paris caucus at which the Legion was launched. It is a commentary upon the nonpartisan aspect of the Legion that Mr. White, who has been known as a staunch Republican, was nominated by Bennet C. Clark, son of Champ Clark of Missouri as a member of the Executive Committee and Secretary.

Suit Filed Against County.

Morrow county was made defendant in a suit filed this week by the O-W-R & N. Co. and Mike Marshall of Castle Rock, restraining the sheriff from collecting taxes as levied against plaintiffs' property in District No. 25. This district comprises Boardman and surrounding territory and the taxes were levied for the erection of school buildings.

REPORT SAYS "HEPPNER BAD ENOUGH BUT PENDLETON IS WORSE" IF THAT HELPS

A few days ago the Baker Herald printed a brief paragraph on the subject of camp-grounds in which the tourist parks of various Oregon cities were compared and contrasted, much to the disadvantage of Pendleton. Today information was brought to Pendleton by some loyal citizens, on the same subject. L. E. Penland and wife and niece, Miss Nita Clark, have just returned from a camping trip of six weeks, during which they came in contact with scores of other tourists, motoring over the state, and they report some startling things.

Briefly, they make the following statement:

Tourists of the northwest pronounce Pendleton's "free camping ground," which is so prominently advertised on signboards at the edge of the city, where the different highways come into town, as the "worst in Oregon." "Heppner is bad enough"—so says the verdict, "but Pendleton is worse." One man who, incidentally, contributed a neat little sum to the thriving business life of Pendleton for auto supplies, etc., said that 15 or 20 carloads of tourists came through the city while he was here, and upon visiting the campers' park, went on without stopping, because the place was so dirty and unsatisfactory. Some are planning to leave Pendleton entirely out of their itinerary, solely because of the poor accommodations provided for tourists. The consensus

of opinion regarding Pendleton's tourist park is that it is "rotten."

Talk like this travels, and who can estimate the hurt it will do to the city by deflecting tourist travel to other parts of the state and the northwest. Cities of far less fame than Pendleton are becoming popular with summer vacationists, who are giving Pendleton a black eye—blacker all the time—because of this one alleged failure.—Pendleton Tribune.

Livestock Exposition Will Be Held, Portland, In November

The Ninth Annual Pacific International Live Stock Exposition will be held in Portland November 17-21. The exposition will be held in the new \$250,000 building which is now under construction and over \$65,000 in cash premiums will be given to exhibitors. Entries close on the 15th of October. O. M. Plummer is general manager with offices at 431 Northwestern Bank Building, Portland.

Bonnars Ferry People Visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Mathison and two children of Bonnars Ferry, Idaho, are guests at the W. P. Mahoney home in this city. Mr. Mathison is a banker at Bonnars Ferry.