

Heppner Gazette Times

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Official Paper for Morrow County



WHY?

LIKE a bolt out of a clear sky news came this week of the removal of Jack Coblantz as maintenance man on the Oregon-Washington highway in Morrow county. Coblantz was not transferred. He was discharged, and Heppner people are up in arms. They want to know why.

The sector from the Morrow-Umatilla county line to Ione, that maintained by Coblantz, has been one of the best maintained sections of highway in the state. It has been the pride of Morrow county people, and many people driving from Pendleton to Heppner have been heard to remark that they could tell when they entered Morrow county immediately by the better condition of the road on this side of the line.

Absolutely no complaint has ever been heard locally of Coblantz's work. He has the reputation of always being on the job at the proper time, and of being courteous and considerate to the public at all times. Further, local people who have worked under him and others closely concerned, say he has a habit of expecting an honest day's work from those working under him, and permits no loafing on the job, at the same time never shirking any task himself.

He has not been a conspicuous public figure in Heppner, being loyal to his job first of all, and when not on the job, the little time he may be found down-town he is generally "talking shop."

A man with a family, Coblantz has been interested in making a home, purchasing a house in Heppner which he stands a good chance of losing because of losing his job. If the state highway commission puts a premium on good work it will immediately investigate the conditions under which Coblantz was discharged, and lose no time in complying with the unanimous desire of Heppner people to keep him on the job here.

BACK UP THE PRESIDENT.

WE CAN think of no better advice to give everybody at this time than to say: "Keep cool and back up the President." It makes no difference whether one is a Republican or a Democrat. The fate of our nation is in the hands of the man in the White House, and he is entitled to the sincere support of everybody. We think every good Republican will follow the example of the former President, Mr. Hoover, who has publicly expressed his approval of Mr. Roosevelt's actions thus far and has called upon the people of the whole country to place their confidence in him.

Nobody knows better than Mr. Hoover what a serious condition confronted the United States on the day when he turned over the keys of the White House to his successor, Mr. Roosevelt's hands were tied. As the outgoing President he could not initiate actions which could lead to carry out. It would have been unfair to the his successor's hands. But he could, and did, lay the situation so clearly before Mr. Roosevelt that the new President did not have to waste time after his inauguration before going into action.

Of Mr. Roosevelt's policies, as disclosed by his actions thus far, we think most will agree that they have met the approval of the people as a whole in a remarkable degree. The country was facing a situation which called for drastic remedies, and Mr. Roosevelt did not hesitate to apply those remedies. We do not think it is fair to criticize what some regard as his dictatorial attitude. Nobody can seriously believe that Mr. Roosevelt intends to set himself up as an American Mussolini, even if it were possible for him to do so. But in an emergency only single-headed leadership can be relied upon for prompt action. When the ship is sinking the captain cannot wait to take the advice of his officers and crew; he must take the responsibility upon his own shoulders.

A LESSON IN HUMILITY.

HOW petty and futile all human affairs appear in the face of such a catastrophe as the earthquake which shook the California coast, bringing death and destruction in its wake! Against such a convulsion of Nature man has so far evolved no defense.

In countless other directions humanity has conquered the powers of the earth, the sea and the air. The whole history of civilization is the history of mankind's conquest of its environment. The fundamental quality which distinguishes man from the beasts is the ability of the human race to overcome the handicaps which Nature imposed upon

It. The records of ancient days, disclosed by the geologist and the archaeologist, prove that countless varieties of animals unknown today lived in successive eras on every part of the earth's surface. They are extinct today because they did not have the faculty of altering their environment when conditions changed.

Man alone has continued to increase and multiply, to grow in physical and mental stature, to become the conqueror of the very powers of the earth and air. The sea offers no obstacle to Man. No bird of the air can equal the speed with which Man today can travel through upper space. Arctic cold and tropic heat do not drive him from his domicile; he has learned to protect himself against the elements. To no other form of life is it given to be able to build securely against the storm, to protect his body against the cold, to make fire his tool and the lightning his servant.

Man has a right to be proud of his superiority to all the other animals of land and sea and air. But in the very height of his pride Nature shrugs her shoulders and Man's proud edifice topples into dust. It is almost as if the Guiding Power which rules over us all had said: "Thus far shalt thou go and no farther."

Out of the horror and the pity of such catastrophes as the earthquake perhaps we may learn a lesson of humility. Perhaps we have been too vainglorious in our pride of achievement. And perhaps—we feel that this is certain—out of such experiences as that through which Long Beach and its surrounding communities have passed man may learn in time to conquer that mightiest force of Nature, the earthquake.

Story of L. A. Quake

Told by Mrs. Poulson

Earthquake stories do not lose their interest, especially when they come from friends or acquaintances this week the Gazette Times takes pleasure in relating another as told by Mrs. W. R. Poulson, who, with Mr. Poulson, former superintendent of local schools, is located at Los Angeles. Under date of March 19, she writes:

"This last week has been more or less a reign of terror for people with shaky nerves. After the first six shocks I got so I could stay still and not run out-doors."

"We were eating dinner a week ago Friday night when I felt the floor begin to vibrate—and there was a rumble like thunder or an immense truck going by. I thought at the time it must have been an awfully big truck to cause such vibration, as we are in a three-story brick building. Just then the lights went out—the building weaved and shook, and Bill (Mr. P.) yelled 'earthquake.' We got out of the building as fast as we could. I can't describe the sensation—you feel so absolutely helpless and sort of wait for something to come falling down on you, and when it doesn't you sort of feel foolish for getting so upset. In any case I don't like them. Then the news of the terrible tragedies started to come in over the radio. We sat around that night listening, and experiencing earth shocks—hard ones, too—up to midnight. By the way, we were working jig-saw puzzles; so you see we have the bug—even during earthquakes. Well, that night was really awful—there were so many quakes—not hard enough to cause damage, but the bed would shake as though someone were standing there and shaking it—the windows would rattle and the pictures swayed on the walls. I'll be perfectly frank and tell you what I was petrified. Morning finally came and I was really surprised to find myself alive. I was thankful, however."

"We have had small shocks ever since. Had two today—not bad, tho. I guess I am getting acclimated. Thursday we went through the districts that were so badly hit—Compton, Long Beach and Huntington Park. It is certainly a tragic sight to see all those buildings, with no walls, and the rooms exposed to the street—apartments, schools and office buildings—and then these open markets seemed to suffer the worst. The schools are the worst wrecked of anything. We had always remarked about the wonderful schools of California. They may have been on the outside—but they were poorly constructed as this quake proved. There wasn't one in the whole city of Long Beach that isn't almost a total wreck. I shudder to think what would have happened had that quake come a few hours earlier. Walls were out, roofs were fallen in, archways and domes crashed as though they were made of paper. I forgot to mention, too, the churches. They were badly damaged. Over a million and a half damage to Protestant churches alone in Long Beach. The First Christian had a wonderful building—but it is condemned and there is talk of dynamiting it. The big hotels on the beach seemed to escape damage. Apparently they were either built better or else the quake was not strong enough at that point."

"The homes were certainly turned awry, too. We saw them with the porches all moved to one side—roofs with big dips in them—houses about six feet off the foundations. I must mention a big concrete apartment house that had just moved back enough to settle behind the porch on front. The whole building just dropped back enough to bring the top of the first story windows even with the porch floor. The outside seemed all right, but of course there must have been damage on the inside from the force of the drop."

"Many are homeless—people are living in tents—and being fed by the Red Cross with the help of the Salvation Army, the American Legion, churches, etc. We saw women with fur coats standing in the breadline."

"Los Angeles as a whole suffered very little. Strange that here, too, the biggest damage was done to the schools. Downtown windows were out—cornices were shaken down—and some bricks from real old buildings fell, but nothing like these other places. The city hall tower was damaged to the extent of broken windows and plaster falling, but they say it is earthquake proof. I wonder. They said the building we are in is practically so because the walls are two feet thick—concrete by the way—with brick on the outside. I was consoled about that until I went to Long Beach. I saw enough there to tell me that if there was a strong enough quake no building can stand it. I may be wrong, though."

"For several nights after the quake we could see people going to the parks to sleep, carrying blankets and pillows. We are just two blocks from Echo park—across from Angeles temple. That park was full for several nights. 'Really, you haven't experienced anything until you've been in one of these disturbances. I prefer Oregon rain. I sure love California sunshine, though, and we have been having ideal summer weather—so warm that we have been going to the beach—previous to March 12. People have sort of feared a tidal wave since then. 'I just thought of something more to tell you. One of the nurses who was driving to Long Beach right after the big quake said that as they were entering the outskirts of Long Beach a big pack of dogs was leaving the town as fast as their legs would go. The oil fields there are closing down as they have discovered the wells were badly damaged, too. At first they said they had escaped, but after yesterday came that announcement. Plasterers, bricklayers and contractors will have some work now. There are some contractors in hot water over this school proposition. The papers aren't saying much, but people are, and the school boards are getting plenty of lambasting."

hand a line of hardware and coal in addition to the feed they now have.

The Boardman Athletic club baseball team was defeated in the first game of the season when they played the Arlington town team at Arlington Sunday. Next Sunday the Blalock team will play the local team here.

A party was given for Mrs. Bill LaLonde (Selma Ayers) at the home of Mrs. N. A. Macomber. About forty ladies were present and enjoyed the afternoon. Refreshments of sandwiches, cake and coffee were served by the high school girls.

The date for the Senior Frolic has been set for Saturday evening, April 9, and will be given in the school gym. A large crowd attended the dance given last Saturday by the athletic club. The music was furnished by Bert and Tom Rose, Eldon Wilson, John Steelhammer and Nate Macomber.

HARDMAN

MRS. ELLA FARRRENS. The board of directors of District 40, in session last Saturday afternoon, hired the teachers for the grades for the ensuing year. Mrs. Bill Johnson was re-elected for the third successive time to teach the lower grades. Mr. De Moss, a graduate of E. O. N. S., now teaching at Reith near Pendleton, was elected for the upper grades. He will take the place of Mrs. Ethel Knight who has taught two successful terms of school here.

Miss Ruth Nyland and Miss Freda Myers, students of the normal school at Monmouth, spent a few days of their Easter vacation visiting the Misses Zetta and Elvira Bleakman at the B. H. Bleakman home here.

Quite a number of the younger folks attended the dance at the Rhea Creek Grange hall Saturday night, going down in a truck driven by Jim Stevens.

Kinnard McDaniel, who has been working for some time near Lone Rock returned to his home here last week.

Miss Ruby Corrigan and Ben Crisman of Heppner were visiting Mr. and Mrs. George Samuels the first of the week. Miss Corrigan was enroute to her ranch near here to attend to matters of business.

Mrs. Ethel McDaniel and children have moved to their mountain home where the children will attend the summer school at Burton valley.

Love Johnson spent the week end with her aunt, Mrs. Blaine Chapel, at her Rood canyon home. Mrs. Chapel and niece visited the former's sister, Mrs. Lorena Isom, at the L. Marquardt ranch near Lexington.

Mrs. Floyd Adams was visiting Mrs. Harlan Adams one day last week. Elwood Hastings is working for Lotus Robison in the Burton valley district.

Mr. and Mrs. Carey Hastings and Pearl Howell were attending to matters of business in Heppner Monday.

Mrs. Sam McDaniel, Sr., was reported to be on the sick list a few days last week.

IRRIGON

MRS. W. C. ISOM. Rev. Taylor and family, colored evangelists, will hold services at the community church all of this week.

Mrs. Fred Markham was taken quite seriously ill Thursday night. She is somewhat better at present.

Bob Smith, Jess Oliver, Clair Caldwell and Chas. Benefield left for Butter creek Saturday to do some hay baling.

Several of the local men worked with teams on the baseball grounds Saturday preparing it for the season games.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brown of La Grande have moved in with Mrs. Brown's grandfather, Mr. Sparks, where they will remain for the summer.

Otto Benefield was a Hermiston business visitor Saturday. Miss Heath and Mr. Atkin spent the week end with Mr. Atkin's parents at Walla Walla.

Vern Jones and Fank Brace were calling on Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Isom Friday evening.

Reports from farmers in this vicinity state that the majority of the alfalfa has winter-killed, necessitating reseeded.

Leola and Otto Benefield, Joyce Puckett and Mrs. Bullfinch motored to Athena and spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. Merton Dawald Sunday.

SCHOOL RELIEF

STEPS OUTLINED

(Continued from First Page)

debt to accumulate against the district. "Every reasonable effort should be made to consistently maintain the excellent work of the Oregon schools. Unreasonably low standards of salary and of working conditions will ultimately result in irreparable damage to the state by discouraging the ablest and most ambitious young people from entering the vocation of teaching. In choosing teachers, as well as in making other plans for next year, it is advantageous to consult directly with the county school superintendent.

"Below are set forth a number of recommendations and suggestions for consideration by school boards and school administrators in working out their plans for the coming year. They are practical and deserving of careful study. In view of existing financial conditions it is urgently suggested that these emergency recommendations be given immediate attention and study by school boards, school clerks, and others connected with the schools in order that constructive plans be carefully made for next school year."

General Recommendations—All Schools. It is recommended that: 1. Each

school clerk carefully check on the total of the district's outstanding indebtedness, both warrants and bonds, as well as the amount of delinquent taxes and cash on hand and inform the board before it contracts for school expenditures for the coming term. In districts with a very large warrant indebtedness (a year or so behind), it would be preferable to plan for less than 8 or 9 months of school rather than ruin the district's credit by piling up a greater warrant debt. A minimum number of months might be contracted on condition that if finances improve more months would be added to the school term.

2. Payment of taxes, in part if not in full, be encouraged as a patriotic duty of every citizen in order that children may not be deprived of their right to attend a school and in order that government may continue to function. It is recognized that there are people in each community who absolutely cannot pay their taxes in full but there are those who might pay a part of them at least.

3. Careful studies in the several counties be given to the provisions of the "County School District" law endorsed by taxpayer organizations, teacher organizations, and others as a measure to materially reduce school costs without crippling the efficiency of the schools. (Information concerning the operation of the "County School Law" may be had upon request.)

4. The cost of transportation, necessary supplies, equipment, and plant operation expenses be closely scrutinized for all possible savings.

5. School warrants be issued in small denominations in order that they may be more easily marketable and so they may be conveniently used for the payment of school district taxes in accordance with the provisions of the new law (chapter 324, L. 1933).

6. An item be included in the budget for yearly payment on outstanding warrants as well as bonds.

Rural Schools.

Note—Nearly one-fourth of the 2200 school districts in Oregon this year are maintaining schools with 10 pupils or less in average daily attendance.

It is recommended that: 1. Small schools join together temporarily as an emergency measure in districts where transportation and tuition can conveniently be provided for the pupils at less expense than running separate schools.

2. School boards of town or rural schools in which there is room for additional pupils invite the pupils of some adjoining school or schools at a reasonably low tuition charge.

3. Wherever feasible, two or more adjoining districts merge permanently into a larger district looking toward better schools at less cost. (The trend toward large, county-wide districts is a definite step toward lower school costs. This has been clearly demonstrated in Crook, Klamath and Lincoln counties, which now operate under the county school district law.)

Town and City Schools.

It is recommended that: 1. The ratio of pupils per teacher be increased where practicable. Suggested ratios: Rural and elementary schools: From 20 to 25 pupils in average daily attendance, 1 teacher; from

26 to 50 pupils in average daily attendance, 2 teachers; from 51 to 75 pupils in average daily attendance, 3 teachers; over 75 pupils, 1 teacher for each 30 to 35 pupils in average daily attendance.

High schools, from 20 to 25 pupils in average daily attendance add here to the basic program for one teacher in high schools and employ one teacher; from 25 to 50 pupils in average daily attendance use the basic program for two-teacher high schools and employ 2 teachers; from 51 to 75 pupils in average daily attendance use the basic program for three-teacher high schools and employ 3 teachers; over 75 pupils, 1 teacher for each 25 to 30 pupils in average daily attendance.

For basic high school programs see "Manual for Officers and Principals of Small High Schools," published by the State Department of Education.

2. Small buildings in the larger school systems be closed temporarily whenever the pupils can conveniently be absorbed into the other schools at less expense.

3. Small elective classes in high school chosen by only a few pupils be eliminated entirely or offered only in alternative years.

Extreme Emergency Measures.

Note—The following suggestions are intended for the guidance of only those districts which are in such dire financial straits that the maintenance of a school next year seems practically an impossibility.

Rather than close school in any district entirely, it is recommended that: 1. Schools be operated on a one-half day basis with each teacher handling a grade or several grades in the morning and another grade or several grades in the afternoon. Each group spend the alternate half day in home study or in a specially arranged study hall at school.

2. The rural schools employ one teacher between them to teach in each school in alternative weeks. Definite assignments for home study in intervening weeks.

3. The rural schools employ one teacher between them to teach in each school in alternate weeks. Definite assignments be made for home study in the intervening weeks.

3. Part or full receipts from community entertainments be donated to the school for the purchase of needed textbooks and other necessary equipment.

APRIL FOOLS Dance AT ELKS HALL SAT., Apr. 1 MISSILDINE ORCHESTRA Elks, Ladies and Friends 45c-30c

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned have been appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County executors of the estate of Olive J. Campbell, deceased, and that persons having claims against the said estate must present the same to us at the office of our attorney, S. E. Notson, in Heppner, Oregon, duly verified according to law within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice, which date of first publication is March 30, 1933. LEALA ANDERSON, LULA MCCARTY.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County executrix of the last Will and Testament of James G. Doherty, deceased, and all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased, are hereby required to present the same to the undersigned, verified as required by law, at the law office of Jos. J. Nys, at Heppner, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof. Dated and first published this 2nd day of March, 1933. CATHERINE DOHERTY, Executrix.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed her final account as executrix of the estate of Joseph F. Eisenfelder, deceased, and that the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County has appointed Monday, the 3rd day of April, 1933, at the hour of 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, as the time and place for hearing and settlement of said final account. Objections to said final account must be filed on or before said date. CORA L. L. JAMIESON, Executrix.

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Executor of the estate of Lizzie Humphreys, deceased, has filed his final account of his administration of said estate with the County Court of the State of Oregon for Morrow County, and that said Court has set Monday, the 3rd day of April, 1933, at the hour of 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon of said day at the County Court room at the Court House at Heppner, Oregon, as the time and place for hearing objections to said final account, and all persons having objections to said final account or the settlement of said estate, are hereby required to file the same in said court on or before the time set for said hearing. Dated this 28th day of February, 1933. FRED ROOD, Executor.

Professional Cards

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