

Heppner Gazette Times

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE.
Established March 30, 1883;
THE HEPPNER TIMES.
Established November 18, 1897;
CONSOLIDATED FEBRUARY 15, 1912

Published every Thursday morning by
CRAWFORD PUBLISHING COMPANY
and entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as second-class matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year	\$2.00
Three Years	5.00
Six Months	1.00
Three Months	.75
Single Copies	.05

Official Paper for Morrow County



1937		MAY							1937	
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A Retraction.

THOUGH it may be bitter medicine, and a sign of weakness to retract an editorial opinion, we believe such a course wise when such an opinion appears unfair.

There is really too much at stake for all of Oregon in the Bonneville power project for any interjection of personalities, and the Gazette Times eats humble pie for having done so in its recent editorial entitled "Pierce and Power."

More in the spirit of friendly repartee than with thought of slighting our esteemed representative, there was interjected personal reference which, had we known Mr. Pierce was about to undergo a serious operation, would have been omitted. We wish to apologize to Mr. Pierce, and declare ourselves as honoring the representative for standing firm in his position on this important issue, and to wish him Godspeed to return to health in his convalescence.

We are indebted to none other than Cornelia Marvin Pierce, Congressman Pierce's wife and able secretary, for correcting some mistaken impressions which may have been received from the editorial referred to.

Mrs. Pierce says the Representative's position does not advocate state or federal government retail distribution of power. That is a point which needed clarifying for us. His position seeks solely the building of transmission lines to key spots for delivery to such power districts, retail distributors and others who do provide distribution facilities. For the building of the transmission lines and fixing of the rate structure, Mr. Pierce would have the authority vested in a civil administrator as opposed to such authority being vested in the army engineers as asked for in the bill supported by Portland interests.

Possibly, in our former view, we were led astray somewhat by figures we heard quoted by Colonel Robins, district army engineer, as to the cost of building transmission lines. Mrs. Pierce says the figure of \$50,000 a mile given by Colonel Robins on various occasions has been disapproved. She says, "The three great electric power engineers of the country all disagree with him."

It may be, too, that Colonel Robins was wrong in asserting it would be five years before all the power produced by the first two generating units would be absorbed and, hence, we were led to take too lightly the Pierce fear of private monopoly.

However, since there appear conflicting opinions as to facts and figures, the Bonneville power question is still debatable. There is still question as to whether the construction of distribution lines by the government would increase the rate structure to a point where industrial de-

velopment might be discouraged while not bringing the cost within easy reach of general farm and suburban consumers. There is also the question of whether establishment of a civil authority for the distribution might not make more of a political football of the project than it would be under the army engineers. We cannot yet readily see why the technical training of the army engineers would not equip them to figure the mathematics needed to be figured in arriving at an equitable distribution rate, and as we see it, there is little need or call for preference being shown in who buys the power from Uncle Sam. We have laws already to safeguard the public against usurious rates by private distributors.

Whether the power is applied on farm or in industry, it will reflect benefits to the entire state. However, if Representative Pierce can bring cheap power to eastern Oregon by government construction of transmission lines, more power to him.

Realizing an Asset.

INCREASED flow of Willow creek this spring due to completion of the Ditch creek diversion channel, is bringing to Morrow county people a fuller realization of the value of the timbered regions to the south.

If Willow creek continues to flow each spring as it has this, Millard Rodman of the Soil Conservation service estimates, and probably conservatively, that the income of lower creek farmers will be augmented by \$25,000 a year.

That is putting in dollars and cents but a small part of the benefit to the entire county of the timberland watershed. The watershed, in fact, is the county's greatest asset for, largely, the conservation of the winter's precipitation there brings showers later to the lower country and keeps the streams supplied with the life-giving fluid that makes habitation of the lower lands possible.

Water running through the diversion canal at present is a grand sight. But when we learn that almost an equal amount of water is being poured through the mouth of Willow creek into the Columbia, it makes us think again of advisability of constructing storage facilities to hold the water back for use when it is badly needed later in the season.

Morrow county people, while being awake to the matter of realizing the utmost from the large stand of ponderosa pine timber in the region, now ripe and ready for cutting, should ever be zealously on their guard to keep the wooded hinterland intact. Arrival now of fine picnicking days affords the opportunity to realize much personal enjoyment from the region, as well as to form a deeper appreciation, first hand of the true value of this great asset.

RHEA CREEK

Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Edmondson left Tuesday for Portland where they will make their home. The grange and community regret to lose these neighbors and we all wish them success in their new home.

Clair Meisle, bridge inspector for the state highway commission was a caller Friday at the Clive Huston home.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl V. Bergstrom visited Sunday at the John Hanna home.

Sunday, May 9, Mrs. Ray Wright entertained her mother, Mrs. Chapin, George and Harry Chapin and Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey Boyer, all of Monument.

Mrs. B. O. Anderson is entertaining the H. E. C. at her home Thursday, May 27. It is hoped that all members will be present.

Saturday night, May 22, there will be a dance at the hall. This is the last dance before the hall undergoes some repair work in the shape of a new foundation and hardwood floor.

CARD OF THANKS.

We sincerely thank our neighbors and friends for their kindness and help to us when our home was destroyed by fire. Also for the many lovely gifts.

RAYMOND BLAHL,
LENA MATTESON.

G. T. Want Ads bring results. The cost is small—try one.

LIONS HEAD VISITS



Ralph Kletzing of Salem, district governor for Oregon of Lions International, with Mrs. Kletzing. They were visitors here Sunday.

FRACTURES FAVORITE.

A varied assortment of fractures, including splintered arms, legs, spines—were the favorite injury tolled by automobile accidents in Oregon last year, the Oregon Motor association finds.

Adjustment Service Helps Farm Debtors

County Farm Debt Adjustment committees are performing a public service in helping farmers and their creditors arrange settlement of excessive debts, and in recommending adjustments which will make farm foreclosures unnecessary.

Both sides respond more readily to the suggestions of an impartial committee. Suspicion and the conflict of personalities are absent. The plan works out to the advantage of both sides and the community as well. Under the adjustment plan, the farmer's debt situation is analyzed. If a new loan can be secured through a federal or private agency his creditors will receive cash for their claims. Additional operating funds may sometimes be secured through the Resettlement administration.

Farm Debt Adjustment service is available in every county. Resettlement supervisors are detailed to assist in this work whenever they can. No charge of any kind is made for service and your problems are kept confidential. Anyone desiring information or assistance from these county committees may do so by applying through the county agent's office, your Rural Rehabilitation su-

pervisor, or by writing to "District FDA Supervisor, Federal Building, La Grande, Oregon."

TOWNSEND CLUB MEETS.

A get-together meeting of the ladies of the Heppner Townsend club was held at the home of Mrs. Minnie Furlong Wednesday evening, May 19, at which time the ladies auxiliary of the club was organized with Mrs. Ellen Moore, president, and Miss Katie Minert, secretary-treasurer. Various plans for the future activities of the auxiliary were discussed, and it was emphasized that the object of the club was to be useful, educational and helpful. Mrs. Alta Brown received the quilt, given by the club. Delicious refreshments were served and a good time enjoyed by all. The June meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Brown. All members and friends of the Townsend movement are invited to come and bring a friend. The date will be announced later.

BANK OFFICIALS VISIT.

C. F. Adams, chairman of the board of the First National Bank of Portland, and E. A. Wyld, retired, who served on the bank's board for 25 years, were visitors in the city Tuesday afternoon, calling at the local branch of the Portland institution.

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