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Smith P. Devin, 53-Year Pioneer, Passes at Home

Rites Today From Masonic Hall; Was Long Police Chief.

For the second time in two days, Heppner's Masonic hall is the scene this afternoon of funeral rites for an honored pioneer who reached his reward this week.

S. P. Devin, for many years city chief of police and a resident of the county for 53 years, passed away in his sleep at his home in this city early Tuesday morning, culminating a career active until the very last. The day before he had tended to his duties as usual as janitor of the Masonic building, and on leaving the W. O. Dix store just as Mr. Dix was preparing to leave, he told Mr. Dix, "Well, I guess I've done all the damage I can for one day, so will hit for home." Though advancing years had made their mark to notify his family and friends that his health was declining, his passing in the sudden manner came as a shock to everyone.

The large floral tribute at the rites this afternoon, including special floral pieces from city government and various fraternal organizations that he served so faithfully, and the large attendance of friends testify the high esteem the departed gained in the hearts of all.

Heppner lodge 69, A. F. & A. M. in which he was raised as a member Dec. 22, 1909, is officiating at the services, with Alvin Kleinfeldt, Christian minister, assisting. Special music is being provided by Mrs. J. O. Turner at the piano, and a quartet composed of F. W. Turner, Charles Barlow, Joseph Belanger and Allen P. Schuck. Pallbearers are John and Robert Wightman, Clarence and Harvey Bauman, E. R. Huston and F. S. Parker. Lodge rites are being held both at the hall and at the commitment in Masonic cemetery. Phelps Funeral home is in charge of arrangements.

Smith P. Devin was born in Polk county, Mo., July 11, 1867, to Joseph B. and Elvira (Pickle) Devin, natives of Pike Co., Mo., and Nashville, Tenn., respectively. The family first came to Morrow county 53 years ago, and the original farm was located in Blackhorse.

Mr. Devin married Sylva Shaner at Hardman, May 16, 1900, and for a time the couple lived on a farm on McKinney creek, shortly moving into Heppner where Mr. Devin became engaged in the shoe business with Mat Lichenthal, one-time county treasurer. He then worked for a time for Norman Kelley on Willow creek, before acquiring the farm now owned by R. I. Thompson, near the Kelley farm, where the family home was made for a number of years.

Retiring from the farm to Heppner with his family, he served as chief of police for 13 years, in which position he served faithfully and well. He left that position about a year ago, and for the last few months has served as janitor at the Masonic building.

Like that other pioneer, Jesse J. Wells, who was buried from the same hall the day before, Mr. Devin saw Heppner grow from the grass roots, and in many ways contributed to its progress. He was affiliated with Masons, I. O. O. F., Rebekahs and W. O. W. fraternal orders.

Surviving are the widow, three daughters, Alma D. (Mrs. John Clouston of Lakeview), Etta D. (Mrs. Loyal R. Parker of Heppner), Leora D. (Mrs. Adolph Hayden of Stanfield), and one son, Harlan Devin of Condon; also two brothers, M. J. of Heppner and Charles of Corvallis, and two sisters, Mrs. D. O. Justus and Mrs. Irena Straight, both of Heppner.

All members of the family are present for the funeral services.

New Police Signal Assists Doctor In Beating Stork

As the stork hovered over the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Gonty last Thursday evening, vandals crossed the path of Dr. L. D. Tibbles who was hastily preparing to race the bird.

Going upstairs to his office to complete preparations before making the dash, the doctor had left his medicine case open in the car, and beside it the instrument case. In a few minutes he returned to find the instrument case missing, and contents of the medicine case in a mess. Also missing were a shotgun and flashlight he carried in the car.

A hurried look up and down the street revealed no sign of Homer Hayes, policeman, so he immediately bethought himself of the new police signal—a red light located at the corner of Main and Willow streets, lighted from the telephone office to tell the police when needed. He called, and in a very few moments Hayes responded, helping the doctor on his way to beat the descending bird.

Who the vandals were has not been revealed, but the missing articles were located at the school grounds. The instrument case had been thrown on the playground, its contents scattered, and the gun and flashlight were pitched thru a window into the gymnasium. Also found were articles which were ascertained to have been removed from the Billy Cox car, probably by the same vandals.

3.02 Inches Rainfall For June Nears Record

Rainfall at Heppner had reached 3.02 inches for June yesterday morning, reported Len L. Gilliam, government weather observer, nearing the record for the last 25 years for which figures are available. While no precipitation has taken place since the reading was reported and clear skies were the order this morning, there remains time yet for this to be the wettest June of record.

The wettest June recorded at Heppner was in 1912 with 3.14 inches. June, 1916, was second with 3.12. Last June, with 1.67 was the wettest since 1916. Both 1912 and 1916 were heavy crop years in the county.

Reports from over the county show that rains this week have covered the county generally, and crop prospects have been brightened everywhere. Up to last week end, a strip of country north of Lexington thru the Swaggart butte district had been almost completely missed by previous rains, it was reported.

C. N. Jones Named School Director

C. N. Jones was elected school director for the three-year term at the annual meeting of School District No. 1, Monday afternoon, receiving 25 votes to 13 for Harold Cohn, the only other nominee. Mrs. Muriel Vaughn, unopposed, was elected clerk with 41 votes. Jones succeeds Dr. A. D. McMurdo on the board, and Mrs. Vaughn succeeds Mrs. Merle Becket as clerk. Both Dr. McMurdo and Mrs. Becket declined further service, Dr. McMurdo having served six years on the board, and Mrs. Becket a year as clerk. Spencer Crawford, chairman, J. J. Wightman and C. N. Jones will compose the board for the ensuing year.

The budget, calling for \$21,230.17 to be raised by special tax the ensuing year, was passed with two opposing votes. The budget report showed the district bonded indebtedness to be \$34,000 and warrant indebtedness \$20,000. Total estimated expenditures for the ensuing year were shown as \$40,350, with estimated receipts not including proposed tax of \$19,119.83.

Edward Chinn was reported ill at home this morning.

Special Election To Decide Bonds Set for July 14

\$7000 Issue Asked for Street Surfacing; Talk Camp Site

The special election to decide on the issuance of \$7000 in bonds for street surfacing will be held July 14. The date was set by the council Monday evening on adoption of a resolution to present the matter to the qualified voters through amendment of the city charter.

Discussion revealed that the \$7000 will be used along with \$6000 provided in this year's budget, to surface the principal streets of the city with oiled macadam, and other streets with crushed rock where needed. Estimated cost by the engineer for the work is \$13,000.

Gravel only will be placed on Riverside drive and streets on the hills.

The bonds will be issued on the basis of repayment beginning after five years and retirement at the rate of \$1000 a year thereafter, linking onto the city's present bond retirement program.

The council was waited upon by a committee of citizens and taxpayers in the interest of locating the proposed forest camp at Heppner, toward providing a site for which the city voted at its last meeting to contribute \$250. The matter was held up by the council and county court being unable to get together on footing costs of the site. Council and the delegation agreed to have representatives present at a meeting with the county court as soon as such meeting could be arranged, to discuss the site matter on an amended basis.

Jack Milsom was present and on behalf of Ed Dick made application for temporary permit to construct a 6 x 8 foot wooden structure on the old Palace hotel corner to be used as an office until their proposed garage and service station building reaches a point necessary for its removal. Council granted the permit until January 1, 1938.

All members of the council and other city officers were present at the meeting.

FOREST CAMP SITE ASSURED THROUGH CITY AND COUNTY

Definite agreement was reached by the city council and county court this morning in providing a tract of land adjacent to Gilliam & Bisbee's store as a site for the proposed forest camp at Heppner, when the court agreed to accept the \$250 voted by the city dads as half the purchase price. A large delegation of taxpayers from inside and outside the city were represented in a delegation waiting upon the court to urge immediate action.

F. F. Wehmeyer, ranger in charge of the local district, was absent from the city this morning and could not be contacted up to press time to ascertain what effect he believes the action may have upon location of the camp here, though he recently reported that representatives from the state office who looked at the site had suggested that the site acted upon might be acceptable. Tentative estimates were that the government might spend between \$30,000 and \$50,000 in establishing the camp.

Mr. Wehmeyer recently received word that authorization had been given for the government standing ground of abstract at a stated amount in case the proposed site were given.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Gonty at 11 o'clock last Thursday night, Raymond Edward, weighing 8¼ pounds. Both mother and babe are reported to be doing nicely.

Henry Heppner Visits; But Not Ghost of City's Godfather

Henry Heppner visited in the city several days last week. No, it wasn't the ghost of the city's godfather, and so far as the gentleman knew, none of his relation.

This Henry Heppner, initials E. H., hails from Lincoln, Neb., and drove to Heppner from Spokane on a tour of the northwest just to learn something of how the city came by its name, and if, perchance there might be a family connection.

Though he knew of Jewish antecedents in his family, he was unable to determine whether the Heppner from whom the city's godfather hailed were in any way related to his own family. While in the city he called at the Gazette Times office and viewed such pictures of the historic man who gave Heppner his name as were on file.

While not making any family connection, he asserted he was proud to carry the same name as Heppner's founder, complimenting the city on its progressive appearance.

Prospects Bright For Grazing District

Marvin Klemme, regional grazer at Burns, was in the county Monday to go over the land in Oregon district No. 7 with G. L. Hankins, forest range examiner, and Joe Belanger, county agent. R. G. Johnson, professor of range management; E. L. Potter, head of the department of agricultural economics; Millard Rodman, junior administrative assistant of the Soil Conservation service at Heppner, and Waldo Frandsen, in charge of range survey work in that area, joined in the inspection tour.

Condition of the range this year, largely due to favorable moisture conditions, is far better than it has been for several years, according to range operators in the area. The heavier than normal rainfall, coming as it does on the first year of controlled grazing in the area, should be a big help in improving the condition of the range, Mr. Belanger reports.

According to the date set by the directors of the grazing association this year, June 15 is the last date on which sheep or cattle will be permitted on land handled by the association. In the past, there have been a few bands of sheep kept in the lower country throughout the summer which have made a practice of getting as much grass as possible wherever it could be found. This practice, according to Mr. Klemme, will be highly hazardous from the operator's point of view since adequate policing of the district has been arranged by the grazing service.

Final Checks Come, 1936 AAA Compliance

Checks totalling \$10,433.60 have just been received at the county agent's office as final payments under the 1936 agricultural conservation program.

In addition, \$10,751.99 for payments under the range program have been received. The county committee is meeting Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week at the county agent's office to definitely outline with range operators the practices which they intend to follow in 1937 to comply for payments under the agricultural conservation act, and to give tentative approval prior to the range examination for such practices as will qualify under the docket. Nearly 500,000 acres of range land are included in applications already made, giving Morrow county one of the largest range allotments of any county in the state.

License to wed was issued at the clerk's office Tuesday to Lydia B. Ulrich and George W. Burroughs, both of Heppner.

Jesse J. Wells, Assessor 26 Years, Dies at Portland

County Pays Tribute at Final Rites; Was Born on Rhea Creek

Jesse J. Wells, Morrow county assessor for the last 26 years, died at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon in Portland where he had gone ten days before for medical attention in an illness of several years duration. Son of pioneers, he was born on Rhea creek at what is now known as the Emil Groshens ranch, and his entire life was spent in this county.

The affection and esteem in which Mr. Wells was held was evidenced by the overflow attendance at funeral services at Masonic hall at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, with Heppner lodge 69, A. F. & A. M. officiating, and Case Mortuary in charge. Alvin Kleinfeldt, Christian minister, gave the funeral address in which he paid fitting tribute to the deceased. Honorary pallbearers were Frank Roberts, T. J. Humphreys, J. G. Thomson, W. E. Pruyn and C. Darbee of Heppner, A. C. Barnekoff of Portland, and H. O. Ely of Ione. Active pallbearers were J. O. Rasmus, F. S. Parker, A. E. Johnson and L. L. Matlock of Heppner, Harry Jayne of Boardman and Bert Mason of Ione. Special musical numbers were sung by a quartet, Mrs. Alvin Kleinfeldt, Mrs. R. B. Ferguson, Russell McNeil and John Anglin, with Mrs. J. O. Turner presiding at the piano. The beautiful lodge funeral service was read by the officers with J. O. Turner, worshipful master, presiding, and the lodge commitment service was also read at the graveside in Masonic cemetery. The floral tribute was profuse.

Mr. Wells was going on his 41st year as a Mason, having been initiated Dec. 5, 1816, passed Jan. 2, 1897, and raised Feb. 6, 1897. He served as worshipful master of Heppner lodge in 1902.

Mr. Wells was also a member of Heppner lodge 358, B. P. O. Elks, with which he became affiliated many years ago.

All immediate members of his family from out of town were here for the funeral services.

Jesse Jacob Wells was born April 18, 1875, to Abe S. Wells and Betty (Yocum) Wells, natives of Arkadelphia, Ark., and St. Jose, Mo., respectively, who were among the first settlers on upper Rhea creek. He was reared to young manhood on the farm, and received his schooling in the Heppner schools, attending school in the old building which once stood on the site of the Edward Chinn residence on Gale street.

He first married Alice Leatherman, also a native of the county, born on the same farm on Rhea creek, at Hollister, Cal., November 21, 1903. To this union were born four children, Thomas J., Helen, Myra and Harry. For many years the family home was made in south Heppner near the Cowins ice plant. Mrs. Wells passed away March 16, 1925, and on June 28, 1931, Mr. Wells married Bertha Otto at Heppner, and the family home was made on the little farm just north of the city limits, which had been acquired by Mr. Wells a few years before. To this union was born a daughter, Betty.

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Assessor Applicants Sought by Court

The county court announced this morning that the successor to the late Jesse J. Wells as assessor will be named within the next few days due to the importance of the office.

Anyone intending to make application is advised to make the same in writing and present it to the court within the next two or three days.