

## Hepner Gazette Times

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Official Paper for Morrow County

## Making a Better Place to Live

**JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY** and Chic Sales immortalized an American institution that will soon be relegated to the limbo of the past in Hepner. The city has long had an ordinance outlawing the old backhouse within a restricted district. Monday evening city dads extended the district to include the entire city.

The provision that "no toilet, privy or urinal may be constructed or maintained within the corporate limits of the city unless it is connected to good and sufficient cess-pool or septic tank" was interpreted by the city attorney to mean that condemnation of noncomplying facilities is in order.

Hepner has moved slowly in eliminating completely what health authorities long have contended to be a most serious menace to public health. There is no need here to discuss the contaminating factors involved. It is sufficient that as fly breeders alone the old open back-houses have been thoroughly convicted and given death sentence by authorities everywhere. And while some citizens may be thrown up against unexpected expense in complying with the extended ordinance, they will be many times rewarded in future by added convenience and betterment of conditions generally within their homes.

Someday, barns, chicken houses and other unsanitary structures, too, will find no place within the city unless they come up to standards far more exacting than most such structures now attain. Livestock raising, generally, is incompatible with congested living conditions such as prevail in town. This has been recognized by progressive towns everywhere. Sufferance by townspeople in past is the result of economic necessity. This factor is at all times present in moves of community betterment, but if those who find it necessary to keep stock in town will keep sanitary conditions the best possible, they will help themselves from being forced to move livestock outside the city limits.

City dads have moved slowly in taking steps that may work economic hardship upon anyone. They appreciate the fact that some unsatisfactory conditions now existing would readily be amended if property owners had the means. Again, they face the prospect of considerable expansion in living facilities due to coming of a new industry. Some of this expansion must come outside the former restricted district, and they feel it is their duty to see that any new construction comes up to generally approved social standards. To do this, there must be enforced a correction of offending conditions now existing, for any law must be applicable generally.

Many things may be done in Hepner toward making better living conditions without great cost. The council has shown the way for one. Recently organized Hepner Garden club is helping with others. They are promoting regular garbage disposal service, something much needed. They have gained consent of the county court to install tables, benches and garbage cans at the courthouse park for convenience of picnickers. They are assisting churches in beautifying grounds with trees. They are seeking permission to beautify surround-

ings of the new swimming tank. The aesthetic appeal of trees, flowers and greenery helps to raise the moral tone of a people.

Beautification of homes, streets and surroundings generally will become contagious once it gets under way. These things help greatly in making a town livable. They tend to hold people. Had Hepner kept stride in this respect, much more retired capital would have remained here to help stand the cost.

## Weed Control, a Vital Factor

**NOT** news to Morrow county farmers is the devastating effect of weeds. They know how tough morning glory is to eradicate through years of experience. More recent arrival of white top and Russian knap weed, two more serious offenders on creek bottoms, has given cause for further worry.

At Monday Lions luncheon County Agent Clifford Conrad told of weed control work as a major part of the agricultural extension program. He said that eradication could be effected only through application of chemicals, of which sodium chlorate now appears to be most effective. Cultivation practices can only aid in control of the more serious perennial offenders.

Thus it is that Congressman Walter M. Pierce's H. R. 196 seeking establishment of a federally-operated chemical manufacturing plant at Bonneville to produce sodium chlorate for sale to states at cost seems most opportune. If, as he said in a speech written into the record on February 7, the chemical could be made available at 4 cents a pound, and the cost of application thus be reduced more than fifty per cent, surely great strides could be made in overcoming the annual loss to agriculture from weeds, which he estimates at about one-third of the total farm income.

Congressman Pierce likens the devastation by weeds unto that of erosion in the "Dust Bowl" area. With federal financing agencies refusing to loan on lands badly infested by weeds, certain it is the problem is of no little magnitude.

So far Morrow county is not so seriously afflicted but what con-

certed action can forestall the all-devouring weed ogre. Lack of such action, however, can only result in increased inroads and the gradual but vicious consuming of fertile lands by the destructive demon.

The federal government has a duty here, for every state in the nation has the problem to face. Such chemical plants as Mr. Pierce suggests should be not only a great benefactor in peace time, but their quick adaptability for making explosives in case of war would discourage private war-making concerns as well as be notice to foreign aggressors that Uncle Sam is not one who may be easily bullied.

## Hobby Show and Tea Slated by Auxiliary

A woolen hobby show and tea to benefit 4-H club work will be the unique and entertaining presentation of Morrow County Woolgrowers auxiliary at Episcopal parish house, March 25. Beginning at 2:30, the attraction will charge 25 cents for admission, proceeds from which will be applied toward helping 4-H club work. Miss Clinton, home demonstration agent of Umatilla county, will give demonstration of refrigeration storage of meats, fruits and vegetables.

Details of this event were discussed at the auxiliary luncheon meeting at the Lucas Place last Friday when various committees were named. It was voted to sponsor a 4-H club scholarship for 1939, and plans were talked for a woolen exhibit at the coming Rodeo.

The illustrated talk of Miss Clinton's at the coming hobby show will be of vital interest to every housewife, says Mrs. H. A. Cohn, president. A musical program will also be presented. Committees named for the event are: Hobby show, Anna Bayless, Leta Humphreys, Sylvia Beymer, Nora Rasmus; tea and solicitation, Blanche Paterson, Eppa Ward, Amanda Duvall, Grace Cleveland; decorations, Margaret Bennett, Cyrene Barratt, Hazel Mahoney, Annie Shaffer; program, Wavel Wilkinson, Elizabeth Blankenship; ad-

vertising, Grace Nickerson, Josephine Mahoney, Helen Cohn; favors, Sophrona Thompson, Agnes Wilcox, Sara McNamer, Mabel Denny.

## Furlong-Payne Nuptials Announced

A wedding of interest to a wide circle of friends was that of Miss Ruth Vestal Furlong to Jesse C. Payne at Prosser, Wash., on February 25, announcement of which was made this week. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. H. McMeekin with the bride wearing midnight blue traveling suit with black accessories.

Mrs. Payne, recently employed at the local forest office, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Furlong of this city. Graduate of Hepner high school, she served for several years as secretary to the school superintendent, and for the last year has corresponded locally for the Walla Walla Union.

Mr. Payne, with the soil conservation staff at Camp Hepner, is the son of Mrs. George Perry of Baker.

## HUNTERS-ANGLERS MEET

A postponed meeting of Morrow County Hunters and Anglers club will be held at the Elks club at 7:30 next Wednesday evening for the purpose of electing officers and discussing program for the coming year announces J. Logie Richardson, president.

## Cooperative Plans Told at Rhea Creek

More than forty people attended the meeting at the Rhea creek hall Tuesday evening to hear Mr. Summers of Hermiston and Mr. Oldfield of Hepner speak on cooperative possibilities for this district.

Guests at the D. S. Barlow home Sunday included Mrs. Ella Hern, Emanuel Barlow, Lucy and Fred Hern of Seattle. Mrs. Hern and Mr. Barlow are sister and brother of D. S. Barlow.

The entire community extends its sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Harley Anderson on the death of their infant son which was born prematurely Wednesday morning.

Mrs. John Bergstrom and Mrs. B. O. Anderson were visitors in Ione Wednesday.

Mrs. Julia Clark departed Sunday for her home at Hillsboro after spending the week with her sister, Mrs. Walter Becket.

A dance will be held at Rhea Creek grange hall Saturday, 11th, with Jack Merrill's orchestra playing.

Miss Eva Smith, teacher of the Liberty school has been confined to her home with a severe cold.

The Homer Green family are moving this week to the Clark place in the Liberty district.

Miss Mary Monahan is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Monahan.

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