

## Heppner Gazette Times

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Official Paper for Morrow County

### A New Start

VAGARIES of Nature are many and varied for the man on the soil. It happens once in the lifetime of many people, though others may have the experience several times, that an act of God entirely wipes out all fruits of the year's labor and brings the stricken operator face to face with the necessity of making a new start.

As in the case of some operators who reached this point following Monday afternoon's cyclone in Morrow county, the new start is faced with little resource to fall back upon. With such prospect, it is heartening that those in the stricken area have their chins up, and the look on their faces which says, "we can take it."

There has been no cry for relief from the stricken area, though investigation has started to determine possible government loan sources which may be available to meet emergency needs. That the need is not present should not be concluded. Right now there is opportunity for that expression of practical Christianity that was taken as a matter of course among pioneer settlers. The most immediate need, as seen from a visit there Tuesday morning, is for stock feed. So complete was the storm's devastation on several farms that only a few days' feed was left in a radius of several miles. It may even be that some of those hardest hit will be in need of family provender. In any case, a sympathetic interest on the part of people generally will assist those stricken in bridging a chasm that otherwise would appear dark and ominous.

Many first generation farmers of the county have in the past seen promising fields of grain swept by fire or hail before it could be harvested, leaving them little or nothing to compensate for the year's labor and expense. Some of these had the experience repeated in Monday's storm while others witnessed it for the first time. An unusual feature of Monday's storm, however, was that in the area heaviest hit, fields were swept clean, leaving not so much as chicken or hog feed. Most storms in the past have left some salvage of this kind.

Harvesting in some fields had started the morning the storm hit. In one instance, the combine was

rolling out the grain after having turned out 30 sacks in the morning, only to stop on approach of the heavy black cloud, and 15 minutes later the operators looked out to see the remainder of the field swept as clean as that already covered by the combine.

Such was the suddenness and intensity of the shock that covered the stricken area. It was a severe jolt not only to those immediately hit, but to the county as a whole, for the section visited has long been a substantial part of the county's breadbasket.

No delay should be permitted in rendering succor where distress is present and in launching those, who might otherwise have difficulty, upon a new start eased of hardship as far as possible.

### A Park Suggestion

HEPPNER is completing and preparing to open a swimming pool where those who enjoy a plunge may indulge in that pleasure. It is to be hoped that many people will avail themselves of the facilities for this type of recreation and doubtless a large number of adults will join the youth of the community in making the new tank a popular place.

While the tank will afford relief from the heat for those who can enjoy that form of recreation, there are many who are unable to swim who might enjoy the privilege of lounging on the grass in the shade, where the family or a group of friends could spread a picnic lunch

and escape the heat. In other words, if the city had a small park this could be done.

There is a strip near the center of town, land that once harbored some of the most pretentious residences but for the past third of a century has been unoccupied as a residential district, which offers a possible solution to the park question. If the city were to take that strip of land over and convert it into a park it would erase all danger of a recurrence of the disaster which thirty-six years ago laid waste that area and claimed the lives of so many people. A modest amount of landscaping would put the park in

condition to serve the community as a gathering place for picnics or a resting place for individuals. The project might be developed so far as to include a bandstand and the installation of tables and benches.

A park may be of inestimable value to the town. At no great expense Heppner could add one more inducement for people to visit here, to spend their holidays as guests of the town. Such a facility provided by the city will not work to the disadvantage of the business interests. A little investigation of this project might reveal numerous definite benefits. Who will take the lead?

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