

Heppner Gazette Times

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Spencer Crawford, Publisher, Given Tribute at Last Rites

Long Service With Gazette Times Ends at Portland Hospital

The greensward, wet with the morning's rain, glistened in the bright sunshine of a beautiful spring afternoon, as the body of John Spencer Crawford, Gazette Times publisher, was lowered into the earth for its final rest last Monday afternoon. American Legion buddies with whom he had long worked fired salute. Jack Merrill sounded taps. Then last of the Masonic rites were pronounced.

Beautiful were the flowers that profusely banked the graveside, part of a magnificent tribute to one whose life work had been centered in the community, and whom Death chose to visit to conclude a hard-fought battle of three months duration at the U. S. Veterans hospital in Portland last Friday.

Rites at the Church of Christ preceding commitment at Masonic cemetery were in charge of Heppner lodge 69, A. F. & A. M., of which Spencer was secretary at time of death. Martin B. Clark assisted Frank S. Parker who officiated for the lodge. Russell McNeill, Frank Turner, Frank C. Alfred and Ray P. Kinne, in quartet sang "One Sweetly Solemn Thought" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

Pallbearers were Earl W. Gordon, Alva Jones, Garnet Barratt, Harold Cohn, D. A. Wilson and Archie Ball.

The large attendance included many friends from outside the county as well as those from every part of the county. Ione Masons assisted the local lodge in the ceremonies, and delegations were present from Heppner post, American Legion, the Legion auxiliary, high school faculty and students.

Born in Heppner, August 12, 1896, John Spencer was the fourth child of William Vawter and Cora Dale (Spencer) Crawford. Departing this life at Portland, Oregon, March 29, 1940, he was aged 43 years, 7 months and 17 days.

With his life spent almost entirely in this city, he was graduated from both Heppner grade and high schools, the latter event occurring in 1915. His newspaper apprenticeship started in the Heppner Gazette office when his father became publisher in 1910. He was then 14 years of age, but soon was making a regular hand in the shop while completing his school work. From that time his life's work was centered in the Gazette Times.

The only interruption in his work here came in 1918, when on September 14, he was inducted into his country's service while the World war was in progress, at Camp Lewis, Wash. He received his honorable discharge at the same place from the 43rd Co., 11th Battalion, 166th Depot brigade on January 11, 1918. Part of his service work was as clerk of the conscription board here in Morrow county.

Upon receiving his discharge he was taken into full partnership in the newspaper business by his father and continued as co-publisher until his father's passing in 1934. He since had full management.

Always active in community affairs, Spencer at various times held leading offices in the Masons, American Legion and Lions club, being a charter member of the latter. For the last several years he served as secretary of the Masonic blue lodge, and when taken away was serving his second term as a member of the board of education of School district No. 1. He had served as commander of the sixth Oregon district, American Legion, and was once a member of the state executive committee of that organization.

NOSE COUNTING STARTS IN COUNTY

Enumerators Begin Work in Six Eastern Oregon Counties Last Tuesday Morning

The long-awaited counting of noses, otherwise taking the census, got under way in this district Tuesday morning when 83 enumerators working out of the supervisor's office at Pendleton started making house to house calls. Work was expected to commence in Morrow county Wednesday morning. Another group of 29 enumerators will enter the field, completing the quota for the six counties coming under the jurisdiction of W. W. Serrine, district supervisor.

Assignments were virtually complete Tuesday morning and portfolios were being issued to enumerators for Morrow and Walowa counties. Expectations were that the population count would be completed in about two weeks and the agriculture count in 30 days.

Morrow county assignments were completed by Mr. Serrine Tuesday morning as follows: Alpine and Pine City, Frank M. Lundell; Boardman and district, Minnie McFarland; Cecil and Ione, Mary K. Thompson; Eightmile and Gooseberry, Lewis C. Batty; Hardman, Ted L. Burnside; Ione (outside), Joel C. Engelman; Irrigon, Arvilla P. Bleakney; Lena and North Heppner (outside), Louis D. Brown; Camp Heppner CCC, Lieut. Marius P. Hanford; Lexington, Emma H. Breshears; Heppner, Mary C. McIntyre; South Heppner (outside) Robert A. Jones.

'Soup to Nuts' Makes Hit With Audience

The title of the play, "Soup to Nuts," presented by the junior class of the local high school last Friday night was only an indication of the "concentrated foolishness" that kept a large crowd laughing heartily throughout the performance.

Many compliments were received by the twelve members of the cast after the final curtain. The audience was particularly high in praise of the work of Don Bennett as Doctor Manny Pilski, the Hebrew health specialist, and Kathryn Thompson who played the role of Trudy Trudello, an exotic movie queen.

A futuristic farce written by Austin Goetz, the play delved into future scientific developments and revealed the actions of the cast when under the influence of "hate," "love" and "truth" pellets.

Complete financial returns cannot be obtained until next week but the amount turned in by the students who sold tickets has already assured a profit, according to Bud Blakely, class treasurer. The play, an annual event, was presented to raise money for the junior-senior banquet and the junior prom.

RANCHES SOLD

A number of realty transactions were consummated in the county last week in the disposal of properties by Federal Land Bank of Spokane. The Noah Clark place in Eight Mile was purchased by Floyd Worden and the Ray Young farm in the same territory was acquired by Frank Anderson. On lower Rhea creek the Glenn Boyer place, occupied by Walter Rood the past year, was sold to Noah Pettyjohn, who has taken possession. Rood moved his family to Ione.

Spencer married Lera Georgian Githens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh C. Githens, in this city June 3, 1920. To them were born three sons, John, Hugh, and Calvin, who, with Mrs. Crawford, survive. He is also survived by the mother, Cora Crawford, and eight brothers and sisters: Mrs. J. O. Turner, Mrs. R. B. Ferguson, Mrs. Leonard Schwarz and J. V. Crawford of this city; Arthur R. Crawford of San Rafael, Cal.; Mrs. LeRoy Jones of Montesano, Wash.; Mrs. Everett Hayes of Joseph, and William V. Crawford of Portland.

Benefit Saturday To Help Band's Trip To Annual Contest

Past Laurels Cited as School Organization in Tenth Year

On Saturday, April 6, the Heppner school band will sponsor its sixth annual dance to raise money for its trip to the district musical festival at La Grande on April 12. The band will appear in a street concert at 4:30 on Saturday afternoon and will also appear at the dance at 11:30 to play their three concert numbers. The warm up march is Sousa's "Semper Fidelis"; required number, "The Traveler," overture by Forrest Buchtel, and the selective number, "Hero," overture by Harold M. Johnson. The dance starts at 9:30 at the Elks hall. Music will be furnished by Merrill's orchestra.

The band was organized just ten years ago by Harold W. Buhman and attended its first contest in the spring of 1935. Since that time the band has made an impressive record for itself. In 1936 the band walked away with top honors in class "D" division at the state contest. In 1937 the band again journeyed to Corvallis to gain the only superior rating. In 1938 the band duplicated their previous record by winning the only superior rating in their class. Nineteen thirty-nine brought a change in the contest rules. In the district contest held in La Grande, Heppner took a superior rating which enabled them to attend the national regional contest in Portland. Against contestants from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, Heppner drew an excellent rating among the bands of the nation.

This year the band goes to La Grande to compete in the district contest. Should Heppner gain a superior rating there, the bandsters will be entitled to go to the regional contest in Spokane.

The roster of this year's band includes 47 members, two majorettes and a director. Instrumentation of personnel is, trumpets, Jack Merrill, Don Frederickson, Kemp Dick, Kay Ferguson, Nelma Hanlon, Dick Ferguson, Merle Burkenbine, Howard Gilliam and Raymond French; clarinets, Omer McCaleb, Richard Hayes, Don Jones, Paul Doolittle, Clifford Faye, Kathryn Thompson, Laura Warfield, Elizabeth Healy, Dorothy Wilson, Kingsley Chapin, Jack O'Hara, James Barratt, Jr., Dick Edmondson, Loma Mae Jones, Laurell Ball, Betty Cunningham; trombones, Henry Aiken, Don Evans, Robert Pinckney, Calvin Crawford; baritones, Hugh Crawford, Walter Skuzeski; saxophones, Lowell Ashbaugh, Phillip Cohn, Louise Green, Harold Armstrong, Wilbur Worden; horns, Jackson Cantwell, Don Wehmeyer, Jack Aiken; bass, Don Bennett; oboe, Peggy Tamblin; flute, John Skuzeski; percussion, Warren Blakely, Jr., Ted Ferguson, Shirley Wilson, Helen Healy, Mary Lou Ferguson; drum majorettes, Dorothy Huit, Norma Prock; director, Harold W. Buhman.

FERGUSONS BUY PROPERTY

Ferguson Motor company closed a deal this week for the Natter residence, purchasing it from Katie Minert. No changes in the newly acquired property are contemplated for the present, it is stated. Miss Minert has moved to a cottage on Chase street which has been remodeled. The Natter house is one of the older properties of the city.

Mrs. H. C. Woods of Portland is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. Albert Rea.

Business visitors in Heppner Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Falconer of Pendleton.

TOWN FOLKS EAT AT GRANGE HALL

Chamber of Commerce Has Pleasant Meeting With People of Butter Creek Section

Heppner people to the number of 48 met at the Lena Grange hall last evening where the regular meeting of the chamber of commerce was held. The Home Economics club of the Lena grange served the dinner and the reputation of Little Butter creek cooks was well sustained. More than 80 people were served, for while the grange program was suspended, a goodly number of the grangers were present to greet the visitors from town.

The chamber presented the evening's program, including address by B. C. Pinckney, president, who told of the club's program, its aims and the desire of the town to serve its surrounding territory. Russell McNeill favored with two vocal solos, accompanied by Mrs. McNeill. P. W. Mahoney spoke on the road program, reporting the results of the recent meeting of county commissioners and himself with the state highway commission and prospects for highway improvement in the county, pointing out that the commission's fiscal year starts July 1 and that some of the local projects will be up for consideration on the 1940 schedule.

Following two numbers by the Lions club quartet, J. O. Turner spoke on the proposed rural route from Heppner to Lena via upper Blackhorse, Sand Hollow and lower Butter creek, returning over the Lena-Heppner sector of the O.-W. highway. Turner said that Heppner feels that mail service, where practicable, should be handled within the county and that Lena should be getting its mail out of Heppner.

Mrs. George Currin, president of the Lena Home Economics club, expressed pleasure of the club in having the chamber of commerce as guests.

Seed Peas Ordered for Trial in County

Contract have recently been signed by three Morrow county farmers with the Morrison Seed company, of Spokane, for the growing of 420 acres of Perfection peas for seed.

Frank Anderson and Al Bergstrom of the Eight Mile community and Orville Cutsforth of Lexington will grow the peas this year, more or less as a trial.

Representatives of the Spokane company who were in the county last week stated that they are interested in finding a locality for the production of Perfection seed peas which is free from weavils. In checking the soil conditions, rainfall and frost records, the representatives feel there is very good possibility for this crop in Morrow county.

C. D. Conrad, county agent, states that if these trials turn out successfully the growing of peas for seed may furnish an opportunity for farmers in the locality to further diversify their crops.

Other farmers who are interested in trying out these peas on a small scale may obtain seed from the county agent's office free of charge.

EAR INJURED IN ACCIDENT

While engaged in woodcraft work at his residence Monday evening, Martin Clark, Christian minister, was the victim of an accident which came near to causing him to lose an ear. He was turning out vases for the Leighton high school play and when he speeded up the motor the block he was sawing hurtled from the lathe and struck him on the side of the head. Mrs. Clark rushed him to a physician who took six stitches in the wound.

Edison Morgan and family of Ione were transacting business in Heppner Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Smith drove to Yakima Tuesday on a short business trip.

Branch Warehouses Combined Under Cooperative Deal

200 County Producers United in New Storage Enterprise

A deal claiming the attention of officers and directors of the Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc., Lexington enterprise, was consummated Saturday when warehouses and facilities of Farmers Elevator company of Ione were taken over. On Monday, April 1, the business was opened on a cooperative basis with all warehouse properties at Heppner, Lexington, Ione and McNabb, formerly the property of the two concerns, placed under one management.

Approximately 200 grain growers and livestock producers of the county are affiliated with the Morrow County Grain Growers as a result of the merger. All are stockholders and will participate in the affairs of the concern.

Morrow County Grain Growers Co-operative association was incorporated on April 2, 1930. It was successor to the Lexington Warehouse company and its policy has been one of expansion throughout. During the past winter the concern bought up some of the smaller warehouses at Ione and following that transaction began working on plans to place most of the warehousing facilities of the branch under one management. The Farmers Elevator company at Ione was approached relative to selling its properties and after an agreement had been reached the Lexington concern set about to bring the deal to a conclusion. Financing was arranged and it was necessary to secure part of the money through sale of shares to grain growers and stockmen of the territory to be served. With this job behind them, officials of the MCGG completed the transaction with the Farmers Elevator and assumed control of the major part of the warehouse and elevator facilities of the county, with a total storage capacity of 500,000 bushels.

Proposed plans of operation will be submitted to the stockholders at a special meeting called for Monday, April 8, at the Leach hall in Lexington. Further business, including election of officers, will come before the annual meeting in June. Present officials are George N. Peck, president; Henry Baker, vice-president; R. B. Rice, secretary-treasurer, and O. W. Cutsforth, Werner Rietmann, E. C. Heliker and Lee Beckner, directors. G. J. Ryan is manager.

Open House at CCC Camp Next Sunday

Sunday, April 7, will be "open house" day at Camp Heppner CCC and an invitation has been extended the public to visit the camp between the hours of 1 and 5 p. m. Generous refreshments will be served, the visitors will be shown about the camp and all who wish will be given an opportunity to inspect various projects completed and under construction by the Soil Conservation service.

Fifty-three enrollees of the local camp and 39 from the SCS camp at Monument who have completed their service period, left Heppner by rail Saturday evening for Portland. Most of the boys were from Portland and surrounding communities. Replacements sufficient to bring the camp's strength up to 190 enrollees are expected to arrive here about April 20.

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Fortner and son Robert of Grass Valley were guests at the home of Mrs. Fortner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Lucas, the past week.