

Heppner Gazette Times

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE
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THE HEPPNER TIMES
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O. G. CRAWFORD, Editor
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THE GAZETTE HAS A BIRTHDAY

If our readers will turn to the first page and glance at the date line they will discover that with this issue the Heppner Gazette is observing its 60th anniversary. Reference is made to the Gazette because it had been in circulation 13 years before the Heppner Times was founded and yet another 14 years before consolidation of the two papers was effected.

It would seem that such an occasion would call for a celebration of some kind and under normal conditions doubtless there would have been a special edition. In truth, such a number was contemplated a few months ago but the manpower shortage entered into the picture and the idea was abandoned. The time necessary to assemble data, pictures, advertising and other factors entering into preparation of such a number was all too brief, to say nothing of the mechanical effort involved. Furthermore, wartime conditions are not conducive to special editions and it is the desire of the Gazette Times to contribute to the war effort in every possible way. Be that as it may, it is worthy of mention that the Gazette, and later the Gazette Times, has weathered the 60 years with never a thought of laying down on the job of recording history as it was made from week to week and today, instead of being 60 years old it might better be said it is 60 years young, for it not only has a commendable record of achievement behind it but a firm grip on the future.

Again referring to the front page, we would call attention to a notable fact concerning establishment of the Gazette. There you will find a letter from the man who put together, or "set up" the first issue of the paper. So far as is known he is the only surviving member of the first crew of the Gazette. Scattered over a wide area are a few former owners and employees. Of the former there are but two known to the writer, E. P. Michel and Jasper Crawford. Of former employees we have less knowledge. Two or three of the older "prints" include Jack Mills, Garfield Crawford and Heppner Blackman. There were numerous others, of course, and we could list several journeymen who long since have gone to that land from whence there is no return. One of the budding young "devils" was Bob Notson whose activities in the old Gazette Times shop fanned the journalistic flame which later drew him into newspaper work with the position of city editor on the Morning Oregonian. The present editor "learned the case" and other fundamentals of newspaper work and printing in the Heppner plants, first at the

Times and then taking a regular situation at the Gazette office. The two shops flanked the Willis Stewart livery barn, one on the north, the other on the south. Shortly after Vawter Crawford consolidated the two papers, his son Arthur returned from the University of Oregon where he studied journalism. "Art" didn't take to printing like some of his younger brothers but had a flare for writing and took two or three turns at editing before settling in California permanently. With few exceptions, the Gazette and later the Gazette Times has been operated within the Crawford family since 1910. More recently, when Jasper Crawford took over publication of the paper, services of June Smith in the news department and Don Woelfer as printer were employed.

So far as memory serves us the Gazette has been published by comparatively few people. The names of J. H. Stine, founder and first editor, J. W. Redington, Rev. Henry Rasmus, Otis and Alva Patterson, Warnock and Michel, Vawter and Spencer Crawford, Jasper Crawford and for a brief period, Mrs. Cora Crawford and Mrs. Lera Crawford, comprise the list of owners and publishers prior to the acquisition of the Gazette Times by the present publishers. The Times, established in 1896 by E. M. Shutt, was published by him for about six years when upon being elected to the office of sheriff, he sold the paper to A. J. Hicks. Shutt later bought the Times back and after publishing for a year or so sold to Vawter Crawford, the deal resulting in consolidation of the two plants under the name Gazette Times.

HE WAS HERE FIRST

Although the Heppner Gazette has been in continuous operation for 60 years, it is not the oldest established business in Heppner. Inquiry this week revealed that the Noble Harness and Saddle shop had been in operation three years when J. H. Stine started the newspaper.

The late George Noble put in the harness and saddlery in the spring of 1880. Six years later his son, E. G. Noble, started to work learning the trade. On April 1, 1894, he took over the business and has conducted it ever since. In that period the fame of Noble saddles has spread over the west wherever cowboys were interested in comfort and durability in riding gear. There has never been a period, even with inroads of the automotive industry, when the firm of E. G. Noble was without saddle orders, and today, with a tendency to revert to the employment of the horse on farm and ranch, the same story holds true—cowmen and farmers want Noble saddles if they can get them. So, this 71-year-old artisan, one of the few good saddle makers of the present day, puts in long hours plying his trade to meet the demands placed upon him for products in leather.

Another firm of long standing, although the original proprietors have passed, is Gilliam & Bisbee. Ownership remains in the same families, however, and this firm has been in continuous operation for 57 years. Throughout this long period, we believe it is safe to say that relations between these three oldest establishments have been harmonious and each has made valuable contributions to the upbuilding and welfare of the community.

Mr.-Mrs. Heppner Are Kindly Folks, Indeed!

Lumber Snatcher: "What is yore boy doing these days? Camp Wetmore is his name, ain't it?"
Log Roller: (Shifting his snooze to a speaking position in his lower lip.) "Aw, he got himself married a couple of years ago."
Lumber Snatcher: "He living with you folks?"
Log Roller: "Naw, he went and got himself a little eddication and when he got married he said he wasn't going to have his wife drinking out of the same dipper as the rest of the family."
Lumber Snatcher: "These here kids shore get funny ideas."
Log Roller: "Yep, dangdest thing you ever saw. To get elbow room he moved out about 11 miles from our homestead. Yep! He settled down out by Wineland Lake. Did quite a bit of work too. Threw a dam along the face of the lake, then bailed out all them dang tule stems and roots."
Lumber Snatcher: "Where these kids get all their ambition I don't know."
Log Roller: "Yep! Howsomever that ain't all. He scratched himself out a trail twelve miles to connect with that tote road goin go Heppner. Then I'll be dangd if he didn't put gravel on the whole stretch."
Lumber Snatcher: (Reaching for his own can of Copenhagen.) "Must not have had much time to make shakes and get logs out for his cabin with all those monkey-shines."
Log roller: "I don't know how he done it but he not only made shakes but also whipsawed the logs into lumber for a house, he calls it. And do you know what? He put a white tub with spring water running into it to take baths in. The old wash tub should rise up on its hind legs 'at being slighted like that."
Lumber Snatcher: "You mean one of those new fangled rigs like you see in the catalogue?"
Log Roller: "Yep, and not satisfied with that he put in sidewalks all over the place so his missus wouldn't have to walk in the mud. Dangdest thing you ever saw!"
Lumber Snatcher: "Have any neighbors up there?"
Log Roller: "Nearest neighbor, except for us home folks, is Mr. and Mrs. Heppner and their kids."
Lumber Snatcher: "Nice people, the Heppners."
Log Roller: "Shore is. They took Camp Wetmore and his missus right under their wing and made them right welcome. The kids shore appreciated it and like those folks a lot. No wonder though, cause the Heppners loaned them flour, bear grease, and even a horse or two when they needed it."
Lumber Snatcher: "'Makes life worth living having such fine people around.'"
Log Roller: "Makes me a lot easier in my mind, and takes an awful sight of worry off my wife's mind knowing that Mr. and Mrs. Heppner are keeping an eye on the kids."
Lumber Snatcher: (Hearing a call in the distance). "I guess that's Maw calling me to supper, and I'm always ready to come and get it."
Log Roller: (Shutting his whittlin' knife.) "Bout time I do my chores too, see you tomorry!"
—Pine Log, Kinzua Pine Mills.

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