

Heppner Gazette Times

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O. G. CRAWFORD, Editor

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An Apology Due

Editors, like other people, are human (or at least they should be) and are subject to the frailties characterizing the race. They even suffer from memory lapses and their sins of omission are glaringly evident in the news columns. This would not necessarily be a serious matter were it not for the fact that such omissions often bring disappointment to those who might have figured in the news. But while others may feel uncomfortable in their disappointment, consider the plight of the person responsible for their unhappiness. When he wakes up and realizes he has left out an important story he feels lower than an unsuccessful lover. If he were working for another he could look for a good cussing. As it is he has to curse his own stupidity and hard luck.

Thus it was that after the Gazette Times was off the press last Thursday evening it was discovered that nothing had been said about the commencement exercises for the Class of 1943. It was not purely an oversight. It was a lapse of memory induced by too many long hours at job work, at bucking a cranky linotype and the thousand and one other chores that beset the country editor—when he has to be relief operator, machinist, pressman, makeup-man and a few other tasks included in getting together the weekly grist of news. Consequently, the fine program, including Archdeacon Blunt's invocation, James Kenny's tenor solo, Dr. Pennington's enlightening address, girls' trio—Patty O'Harra, Jean Turner and Dorothea Wilson—and the presentations by James Burgess, former superintendent, class by Supt. Corwin, plaque by Coach Lyle Swenson, diplomas by Charles N Jones, the prelude and procession-al by Norbert Peavy, was conspicuous by its ab-

sence, and we hereby make humble apology.

Student and faculty judgment was invoked in making the awards of the honor plaque and the Norton Winnard cup. The young people receiving these awards, Dorothea Wilson the honor plaque and James Barratt the cup, were outstanding students throughout their school careers. They were worthy recipients.

The Class of 1943, faced with conditions that perhaps no other class graduating from Heppner high school has faced, goes out into a world torn with strife and bitterness. It will be up to the young people to make the best use of the knowledge they have acquired in establishing themselves. They have shown initiative in meeting problems confronting their school life and we have no doubt about their ability to "ride along and make the best of what life offers." In closing it is our desire to offer congratulations to James Barratt, Wade Bothwell, Kingsley Chapin, Phillip Cohn, Claude Drake, Claudine Drake, Glen Fell, Bette Finch, Helen Fortner, Rosetta Healy, Eunice Hiatt, Dee Jones, James Kenny, Colleen Kilkenny, Helen Knowles, Marshall Lovgren, Leon McClintock, Rita McIntyre, Hugh McLaughlin, Patricia O'Harra, Eunice Osmin, Josephine Smart, William Snow and Dorothea Wilson.

Hazard Greater Than Ever

Warnings are being sounded by forest officials and rural fire control groups relative to the extreme hazards confronting forests and grain fields this season. It is pointed out that frequent showers are deceptive insofar as fire protection is concerned. They are temporary at best, and present another phase which really increases the danger from fire. Each shower refreshes the grass and gives it ranker growth. After a day or two of dry weather it will burn readily. The heavier grass makes successful fire fighting just that much harder.

But it is not the difficulties presented by nature that are causing all the worries of fire officials. There is the matter of manpower shortage to contribute its share to the headache. In a region like this where our very existence depends upon range, field and forest, there is strong reason for giving thought to the protection of these resources against the ravages of fire. A measure of protection may be accomplished through exercising care during the danger period. That, at least, will lessen the responsibility of those in charge of the forests and the rural fire organizations. It may be necessary to exclude all people not actually engaged in timber work from the forests. If that is necessary the least we can do is to not grumble. This is a matter in which all are interested—it is not up to the officials alone.

FORMER HEPPNER WOMAN JOINING UP WITH WAACS

Mrs. Marie S. Wesch, nee Marie Scrivner, of Long Beach, Calif., has been a visitor at the home of her mother, Mrs. Elbert Cox, the past week, leaving Wednesday to return home. She has been in government

service as an air force inspector and was enjoying a furlough prior to being called to duty in the Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps.

Mrs. Wesch's husband, Lt. (jg) Harry A. Wesch, was killed in action Oct. 5, 1942, while on duty with the Maritime service.

HOME FOR SUMMER

Miss Carolyn Moyer has returned to Heppner to spend the summer at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Moyer, after finishing her year's teaching in the Portland school system.

DRIVING PERMITS ESSENTIAL FOR UNDER-AGE YOUTHS

Under-age youths, boys between the ages of 16 and 18, who contemplate driving grain trucks, are reminded that the law requires them to obtain driving permits before starting to work.

Sheriff John Fuiten stated Wednesday that sufficient notice is being given and that failure to obtain permits will mean a delay in getting to work. He urges all boys to make application now and be ready when the job of grain crop handling begins.

GOES TO HOSPITAL

Mrs. Cora Crawford is resting easy at The Dalles hospital to which she was taken Sunday. Word from the hospital this morning was to the effect that she is showing a slight gain. Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Turner and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Ferguson accompanied her to The Dalles returning late Sunday night.

GUESTS RETURN HOME

Mrs. Raymond Drake Jr., and little daughter Nancy, departed Sunday on their return trip to their home in Glendale, Calif., after a week's visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Drake in Sand Hollow. The visitors came at this time primarily to attend the graduation of Claude and Claudine but missed connections and arrived in Arlington too late to connect with the Heppner stage so missed the exercises.

VISITING FROM PORTLAND

Victor Johnson and family are visiting at the home of his mother, Mrs. Bertha Johnson. Victor is in defense work in Portland. Their children will remain here for the summer.

COMING ON VISIT

Mrs. Everett Hayes and daughter Mildred of Joseph will arrive in Heppner to day to visit relatives and friends. Mrs. J. O. Turner drove to Pendleton this morning to meet them.

DINE OUT
It isn't unpatriotic

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WE'RE HELPING HIM

Strike 'em Out

UNION PACIFIC

"KEEP 'EM ROLLING"

THE RAILROADS ARE THE BACKBONE OF OFFENSE