

Heppner Gazette Times

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE
Established March 30, 1883
THE HEPPNER TIMES
Established November 18, 1897
CONSOLIDATED FEBRUARY 15, 1912
Published Every Thursday by
CRAWFORD PUBLISHING COMPANY
and entered at the Post Office at Heppner,
Oregon, as second-class matter.
O. G. CRAWFORD, Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	\$2.50
Two Years	4.50
Three Years	6.00
Six Months	1.25
Three Months	.65
Single Copies	.05

All Hail the AWS!

Borrowing a phrase from one of our contributors, the orchids this week go to the Aircraft Warning Service, not that that branch of our system of defense has done anything more outstanding than common this week but because the Ninth Corps Area Command has designated this as "Aircraft Warning Service Week" in recognition of the invaluable service rendered since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Inland sections of the state may not have a proper appreciation of the service performed by the personnel of the AWS. If you lived west of the Cascades you would have a better understanding. There you would find observation posts manned the full 24 hours by volunteers whose only remuneration is the satisfaction of doing their bit in helping protect our state and nation from attack from without. Many of these volunteers are business and professional people, who, aside from faithfully fulfilling their personal obligation to the AWS, arrange schedules of those in their employ to permit them to serve at the posts. Many women arrange their household affairs so they can do their stint, some of them already seemingly overburdened with Red Cross, USO, church, lodge and other civic and social affiliations. During the school year, many high school and college students take their turn.

Stories of valuable service performed by observers are numerous. More than one plane has been brought safely to port or directed back to its proper course through efforts of the Aircraft Warning Service. It is impossible to estimate the saving in life and material damage credited to this source.

Through the efforts of this great volunteer organization, the rest of us are privileged to pursue our daily lives little disturbed by the thoughts of war. We may be called upon to give of our worldly goods to help alleviate the suffering of those who have met the enemy face to face, or for the entertainment of those who are preparing to meet the enemy, but beyond that we have little active part in the promotion of the war. When we are called upon to contribute a little of our money we should remember that that is about all we are asked for. In other sections there are thousands who are not only giving of their time but of their substance as well—and doing it uncomplainingly—and in the case at hand we say "all hail to the Aircraft Warning Service!"

We Can Defeat Ourselves

There is a tendency when everything is going well to relax and kind of let the old ship drift along. This tendency is evident in everyday life, in business, in competitive sports and as in the present situation, in war. Fearing defeat, we work feverishly to supply the munitions of war. When victory appears to be on our side, we let down.

Letters to The Editor

HEPPNER Ore.
July 31, 1943
O. G. Crawford, Editor
Heppner Gazette Times
Heppner, Oregon
Dear Mr. Crawford:
Recently Heppner has had several fires either within the city limits or on their edge; more may reas-

onably be expected before the summer is over. The writer feels that two suggestions herein offered would contribute materially to the safety of the community and to more prompt control of the fires.

Undoubtedly Heppner has a ruling whereby all irrigation from city water mains must cease immediately when the fire siren is blown. This ruling should be publicized. Lack of pressure endangered numerous residences along the hill during today's fire, yet thoughtless

people in other portions of town failed to cease sprinkling their lawns and gardens.

Grassfires on the hills in panoramic view from Heppner's main street would be less spectacular as well as less dangerous if more of the men standing on the streets discussing the situation and watching the blame were up there helping to control it. The recent organization for fire call in no way relieves other able-bodied men of responsibility. The available supply

of young men is enormously dwindled by the number in the armed services. Heppner's fire department has recently lost several of its veterans to the farming industry. Every healthy man who is not more urgently needed elsewhere should be contributing more than his kibitzer's judgment to fighting the fires, particularly grass fires where a quicker response by many more could so often curtail the blaze before it reaches serious proportions. A dangerous fire is everyone's responsibility. Who knows upon whose property one may be burning tomorrow?

The conference, called for the advancement of the "Forward March" movement of the Episcopal church, will be attended by the clergy and their wives and the lay leaders of the Eastern Oregon diocese. Those desiring to attend have been asked to get in touch with Bishop Remington, Box 296, Pendleton.

Miss Marjorie McFerrin, who has been employed at the Heppner Variety store for some time, has accepted a position with a Pendleton grocery store and left for the neighboring city Wednesday to take up her duties.

LEAVES FOR PENDLETON

Mrs. Mabel Hughes drove to Pendleton Friday and brought A. L. Ayers home from the hospital. He is doing fine after an operation performed about three weeks ago.

HOME FROM HOSPITAL

Mrs. Ida Fell and Mrs. Elsie Lassiter of Pendleton were week-end guests of Mrs. Mabel Hughes at her country home at Lena.

WEEK-END GUESTS

A conference for adults has been scheduled to open Tuesday, Aug. 31 and continue through Sept. 3 at Ascension Campus, Cove. Leaders of the four day conclave will be Bishop W. P. Remington, members of the clergy and Dean Charles McAllister of Sokane.

Sincerely
(Name withheld by request.)

ADULT CONFERENCE DATED FOR AUG. 31 AT COVE

There is no apparent reason for this state of affairs other than that the North African and Sicily campaigns have led many unthinking people to believe that the war is almost over and that they no longer need to assist the war effort. Also there is a possibility that many others are being lulled into an indifferent stage by the offerings of the Nazi school of propaganda. These offerings are purposefully broadcast to create the impression that German morale is breaking down—that a collapse of the Nazi machine is not far off. The situation in Italy is so muddled that the Germans themselves can not see far enough ahead to predict the outcome, but they are taking advantage of the confusion to strengthen their positions where they can most effectively block Allied progress.

We cannot safely relax for one minute. Undoubtedly the Allies are on the offensive. Perhaps the grand offensive has not started and it will not go far enough once it does start if the people at home continue on the theory that the war is all over but the shouting. Now, more than ever, our efforts will have to be directed toward establishing a supply line to meet all requirements of our fighting forces and to establish a reserve to care for an emergency.

Don't be fooled by Nazi admissions. There is still a powerful Germany to dispose of. The enemy is not as formidable as he was prior to Pearl Harbor but there is enough of him to put up a hard fight. If you must listen to his propaganda, consider it as nothing else and roll your sleeves a little higher. It is a long road to peace, the kind of peace we are fighting for, and we will do well to listen to our own leaders rather than the false mouthings of the enemy.

Why So Much Noise?

This newspaper has no quarrel with people who like to have a good time and would put no straw in the way of those seeking to enjoy the lighter side of life. There must be recreation and diversion to uphold public morale and the newspaper or any individual who would deprive others of a reasonable amount of either should be classified as a "crab."

There are limitations to recreation and diversion of the community are willing that other have a and that is the purpose of this article. If the people good time, and even help provide recreational facilities, is it not reasonable to expect that courteous consideration be given in return? We refer specifically to the obnoxious habit many car drivers have of honking their horns in the middle of the night. Is it not enough to have had the opportunity to dance several hours, enjoying the time thoroughly, without closing the evening by rendering the night air hideous with the screeching of automobile horns? If this constitutes having a good time a lot of us have missed the boat. Again we say, we don't want to be crabby. All we ask is sportsmanship. We like a good time as well as anybody but we don't believe we should do so to the discomfort of others.



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