



Heppner Gazette Times



OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PUBLIC AUDITORIUM
PORTLAND, ORE.

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, August 12, 1943

Volume 60, Number 20

Our Men In Service

WAC TRAINING GIVES LITTLE TIME FOR PLAY

Training in the motor division of the Women's Army Corps is serious business, according to Aux. Marie S. Wesch, daughter of Mrs. Elbert Cox of Heppner. Aux. Wesch's company is composed mostly of school teachers, which he states is a fine group. The group is busy every minute with scarcely time to get out and buy a stamp. She was scheduled for 14 hours KP duty (and thankful it wasn't 24) the day after writing.

Transition from WAAC to WAC is causing some confusion and delay in girls being assigned to officers' school. Many have gone home but she expects to stay right on and finish her course, Aux. Wesch states.

SILICIANS EMPLOY ANCIENT METHOD OF HARVESTING

Cpl. Marvin Casebeer writes from Sicily to his parents in Heppner that he is seeing many interesting things. Of special interest to the Morrow county boy is the method of harvesting grain employed by the Sicilian agrarians. Two horses were used to tramp out the grain, then with sticks the straw is raised so the wind can separate the grain from the chaff. The grain is then sacked. (This method would require considerable time if used in Morrow county this season.)

RED CROSS REAL HOME

American soldiers in England find the Red Cross the nearest approach to home of anything offered there, writes Pfc Guy Moore in a letter to his mother, Mrs. L. D. Neill of Heppner. Since landing in England the first of June Guy has seen many sights but he appears more interested in what the Red Cross has to offer. He had had his first free meal at the Red Cross canteen and stated that he felt like the family at home was feeding him. He says the organization is indispensable—feeding the soldiers and entertaining them. "It is a real life saver to the fellows over here away from home."

TAKING ENGINEERING COURSE

Kay Ferguson is attending the North Dakota Agricultural college at Fargo, where he is taking a course in engineering. He recently was sent to Grinnell college in Iowa for special tests before he was assigned to the advanced work at N. D. A. C. He and "Dubby" Aiken were two of six men in their company selected to take the tests at Grinnell.

TRANSFERRED

Jimmie Ledbetter, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Ledbetter of Heppner, who has been training in radio at Farragut, Ida., the last six months, has been transferred to Los Angeles to take six weeks advanced training in radio, his parents have been informed.

HOME TO STAY

G. Riley Munkers has been given permanent leave from duty with the navy due to the illness of his father and has returned home to stay.

FORMER BAKER HERE

Arnold Sharp, whose rank was not made known to this newspaper, was a brief visitor in Heppner Monday. He is on shore duty as a baker with a navy unit at Pacific City, Wash.

FROM CAMP BEALS

Robert H. Davidson, in training at Camp Beals, Calif., is visiting this week with his mother, Mrs. Mabel Davidson.

Continued on Page Eight

Isom Selected as Oregon War Chest County Chairman

Heppner Business Man to Head War Fund Drive in Fall

Blaine E. Isom was selected Tuesday evening to head the organization in Morrow county for the forthcoming Oregon War Chest, Inc., campaign for war relief funds. Isom has accepted the job and is working on a list of committee assignments for the several districts.

Plans for the campaign were discussed Tuesday evening at the office of Frank W. Turner and it is likely that a plan similar to the one recently followed by the Blue Mountain Camp and Hospital association will be adopted. This involves a thorough organization in each community so that the entire county may be covered locally and require the minimum use of cars. Results obtained by the Council drive seem to justify adoption of that plan.

Since more has been learned of the purpose of the Oregon War Chest, Inc., there is a tendency to support the campaign. Too many relief agencies were getting in the field, creating conflict in the various drives and causing confusion in the mind of Mr. John Public who eventually foots the bill. Under the war chest plan, 19 worthy causes are being supported and the cost of obtaining funds and administering them is greatly reduced through a centralized agency.

Under the organization plan, the county chairman becomes a director of the state group. This goes into effect as soon as the chairman notifies the state chairman that his county organization is complete. In turn the state chairman informs the local chairman what his quota will be. Until all of this business is cleared up there is no definite knowledge regarding the sum to be raised in October. It has been hinted, however, that it will be based upon a dollar per capita, which would approximate \$4500 in Morrow county.

Commissioner Says Car Drivers Should Have Licenses Handy

Commissioner L. D. Neill is in hearty accord with the regulation covering the possession of a driver's license—that is, having it in one's immediate possession while driving an automotive vehicle.

The commissioner was enroute to his summer sheep camp near Walla. He had a few sheep in his trailer. When too far from the home base to turn and go back he discovered he did not have his driver's license. As he drove along he meditated over the laxity of the state police in picking up unlicensed drivers and was formulating a definite opinion of what he would say if the opportunity presented itself. In the midst of his cogitations a car approached and he was asked to pull over to the side of the road. A burly minion of the law began questioning him about his outfit—car, trailer, sheep, and other all-too-personal matters. Finally he was asked to produce his driver's license. Fortunately, his card case which did not contain the license held sufficient other identification cards to convince the law that was L. D. Neill. But he was told he should carry his driver's license at all times—and the commissioner heartily agreed.

The pay-off came when Neill was told that some Future Farmer of America had lost eight head of fancy sheep and it was thought they had been stolen. Neill admits he felt a bit uncomfortable for a few minutes and was thankful that the camp paraphernalia in the car identified him as a sheepman rather than a black market operator.



U. S. Treasury Department

RATIONING OFFICE MOVED TO HEPPNER HOTEL

Bear in mind, folks, the Morrow county rationing board office is now located in the Heppner hotel, between the office of Mayor J. O. Turner and Lois' beauty parlor. The move was made Wednesday evening and the place was opened for business this morning.

The new location consists of three rooms, is steamheated and just as conveniently located as the former room next to the Gazette Times office.

Harley Richardson, OPA administrator for the district, is in town assisting in getting the new office set up.

George Evans Laid To Rest Tuesday

George Evans, native son, passed away at 3:30 p. m. Sunday at the family home eight miles north of Heppner following a brief illness induced by a heart attack. He had suffered from a bad heart condition for a number of years but feeling quite good of late had been quite active about the ranch. He suffered an attack Saturday night from which he did not rally.

Funeral services were held at 2 o'clock p. m. Tuesday from All Saints Episcopal church, Archdeacon Neville Blunt reading the prayer service. Mrs. Ture Peterson was soloist, accompanied by Mrs. J. O. Turner. The services were attended by a large number of relatives, neighbors and friends.

George Evans was born Oct. 30, 1886, in Lexington. On Jan. 29, 1908 he was married to Emma Iler at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Iler, northwest of Heppner. The young couple moved on to the ranch which lies between Willow creek and Blackhorse valleys which has been their home since.

Surviving are the widow, Emma Iler Evans, two sons, Howard Ray and Harold Evans; his father, Marion Evans; two brothers, Walter J. Evans and Earl M. Evans, and three grandchildren, all of Heppner.

LIKES COUNTY

Jay Huffman, cattleman of Walla Walla county, was a Heppner business visitor the fore part of the week. Huffman was favorably impressed with Morrow county and indicated that he might return here later to invest in property.

County Would Gain From Enactment of McNary Measure

Hearing on the measure submitted to congress by Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon seeking to reimburse counties for taxes lost by withdrawal of public and private lands for military purposes is being held in Salem today. Notice of the hearing was given the chamber of commerce at the weekly luncheon meeting Monday by P. W. Mahoney who had been asked by the county court to attend.

With the conversion of some 96,000 acres of Morrow county grazing land to an army air corps bombing field in 1941, the county lost a considerable slice off of the tax roll. The land acquired by the government is in the lower value bracket but it has been estimated that the revenue loss to the county amounts to approximately \$5,000 annually. Over a period of years this will run into real money. Withdrawals of timber lands, the bombing base and the comparatively small slice taken for the ordnance depot have placed about one-fourth of the county's land on the tax-free list.

HOLT-BAUMAN RITES SAID AT VANCOUVER

The marriage of Hazel Cantwell Holt and Clarence J. D. Bauman was solemnized Friday, Aug. 6, at Vancouver, Wash., according to word received early this week by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Cantwell.

Both contracting parties are well known former Heppner people, the bride being a native of the town while the groom served the county as sheriff for several terms and is on leave from that office for the duration. He is a special police in the navy, at present assigned to shore duty at a railway police working out of Seattle.

BOND SALES DIRECTOR HERE

Burt K. Snyder of Lakeview, in charge of the farm division of the bond sale set-up in Oregon, was a visitor in Heppner this morning conferring with B. C. Pinckney and P. W. Mahoney, county chairmen of bond sales. Snyder says he is finding Oregon rather a large territory but is enjoying the work.

Bomber Crash Near Cecil Claims Eight Lives Tuesday A. M.

Wreckage Strwn For Half Mile on Jack Davies Place

War was brought close to home this week when a large bomber, apparently manned by a crew of eight men, crashed in a summer fallow tract owned by Jack Davies near Cecil. The accident occurred at 3:53 a. m. and the impact exploded the gasoline setting the wreckage afire and starting a grass fire which burned over six or seven acres before brought under control by people from Cecil who rushed to the scene. So intense was the fire that witnesses were unable to approach nearer than 100 yards, thus frustrating any attempt at rescue.

Upon hearing of the disaster, County Attorney P. W. Mahoney drove to the scene but ere he arrived there a cordon of guards from the Pendleton base had been thrown around the wreckage and no one was admitted. Pendleton base officials were checking up to ascertain if the ship, presumably a B-17 bomber, might be from that field. Another crash near Patterson, Wash., was reported the same day from the Walla Walla base and information about that accident also is lacking. A news dispatch from Walla Walla indicated that both planes were from the air field at that place.

Cecil people investigating the wreck at an early hour Tuesday morning reported finding a parachute not far away. This led them to believe that the crew anticipated trouble and may have been preparing to leave the ship when the crash came.

Wreckage was strewn for about one-half mile.

Land of Plenty Told About in Press interview

While in Portland last week, Mrs. Orville Smith, whose garden is the pride of Court street, was interviewed by an Oregonian reporter. While disclaiming chamber of commerce proclivities, Mrs. Smith did a good job of "selling" her home town.

"We can always pull a couple of extra onions from the garden when a person drops in unexpectedly for dinner and the onions always bring a favorable remark... There's fish, venison and pheasant in the cold-storage locker."

"You can hardly give vegetables away as everyone has his own victory garden; so there's no good reason for we people in Heppner not having plenty to eat, except perhaps, neglect in getting to the cold storage plant when the proprietor is there."

Mrs. Smith reported how the "country-townfolk" are living, while accompanying Mr. Smith and their son Jimmy to Portland on a recent business trip—one of the trips that have become a rarity for hinterland folk and are made only when necessity presses.

"We're not representing the chamber of commerce, but we believe Heppner is a mighty fine place to live," said Mrs. Smith as she re-dressed Jimmy to his browned-as-an-Indian birthday suit in reparation for bed.

When not serving as a member of the rationing board and assisting in Red Cross and gundry other community and war activities, Mrs. Smith finds time to tend the modern home with lawn, flowers and victory garden. It was reclaimed from hillside sagebrush land and is one of the show places of Heppner."

Mrs. Edward Green of Portland is spending two weeks with her mother, Mrs. Agnes Curran.