

## 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

### A Reasonable Request

Morrow county's request for road improvements presented to the state highway commission here Wednesday, is reasonable, for not one road mentioned but is carrying much heavier traffic than it was originally built to carry. This fact was known to the commission through the state highway engineer's office, so there was not that look of incredulity which usually accompanies requests for highway assistance.

The commissioners and their entourage were here to ascertain the needs and desires of Morrow county. They were not confronted with an ambitious road building program. Rather, it was a request for the improvement and strengthening of the state's roads now serving the county. Each year sees a heavier burden placed upon the roads and any plans for improvement must include sufficient funds for permanent construction.

Pledging was not the purpose of the commissioner's visit. Information was being sought and that was what the county court and chamber of commerce imparted. Some of our projects will wait until hostilities cease, while those coming under maintenance may be improved at a fairly early date.

### Perpetuation of the Legion

Action of Oregon Legionnaires at the recent state convention in Baker may pave the way for perpetuating the American Legion. The convention went on record favoring granting memberships to members of our armed forces in the second World War, giving them the privileges of the organization while in service as well as afterwards. A resolution passed by the convention will be forwarded to the national convention where it doubtless will receive favorable action.

In the quarter century the American Legion has been functioning it has been a zealous promoter of American principles and ideals. It has taken an active part in securing legislation looking to the security of the homeland its members offered their lives to protect; worked for the underprivileged, and has consistently urged upon the government the maintenance of a sufficient armed force to discourage attack from without by aggressor nations.

This organization stands ready to place its facilities and experience at the disposal of Uncle Sam's new fighting forces. With its quarter century of wrestling with problems of soldier legislation, hospitalization and general assistance, it is in position to absorb the current fighting men, offering them the advantage of a going concern.

So far as is known, the Oregon convention is the first to make the proposal, again placing this state in the position of leader in movements of national scope and importance. Numerous other measures assuming national stature have originated in Oregon and it is hoped the national convention will give this movement due consideration.

### One Guess Good as Another

The Roosevelt-Churchill silence on the next big Allied move has two elements guessing—the Axis and our news commentators. While the head men are plotting the destruction of the enemy, radios on either side of the Atlantic are humming with theories about when and where the blow will fall.

That is in keeping with the policy of the Allied strategists. It serves as a war of nerves on the Axis and provides a lot of entertainment for ra-

dio commentators and their listeners. It matters not if the smart analyst hits the spot where the big push toward Berlin will start or if the exact starting date is named. The point is that neither the Axis nor the commentators will know how close they guessed until the drive is on.

While the guessers are guessing the strategists are not guessing. They are planning a campaign to knock the European branch of the Axis out of the war as completely and quickly as possible.

We will have to bear in mind that it will cost heavily in both men and materials. Millions of our young men are at the front, moving up to the lines of battle or training for combat. They are offering their lives. We can do no less than offer our money to support them in this gigantic undertaking.

### Use Your Head

Probably the most destructive weapon in the world is the common match. Over a period of years, loss of life and property traceable to this minute stick of wood dwarfs the ghastliest work of the bombers. Fire prevention authorities state that matches and smoking constitute together the largest single fire cause. They have urged upon people the pithy maxim: "Matches have heads, but no brains. When you use their heads, use your brains."

Never before has this advice been so applicable. The nation is at war. Every home, every factory, every farm are part of the struggle. When fire strikes now it strikes with double deadliness. In its ashes lie a portion of the war effort, irretrievably lost. Of course, property swept by fire will be restored. But in the meantime, the nation is weakened the same as is a person with a cut finger.

The importance of caution with matches can be well understood when it is realized that each year about 300 billion matches are consumed in the United States alone, or about 850,000,000 daily. This means that, in terms of averages, approximately 600,000 flames are started every minute. Each of these flames holds the possibility of causing a disastrous fire.

No laws can prevent carelessness with matches. The most elaborate fire department in the world is helpless in the face of the potential destructive power of matches. They constitute a spectacular demonstration of the fact that real fire prevention is largely up to the individual. Use your head!

### Keep "Digging"

Harold L. Ickes, Petroleum Administrator for War, has said that: "We must keep digging to find as near a billion and a quarter barrels of new oil each year as possible." But the plain fact is that we are not "digging" and this nation which is geared to the use of huge quantities of oil, faces a dangerous crude oil shortage.

Main reason for new well shortage can be found within the government. Restrictions on material and equipment together with inadequate crude oil prices set by government officials, are threatening our oil supply.

John M. Lovejoy, president of the Seaboard Oil company, alarmed at the complacency of authorities, shows that "wildcat" drilling, far from being sufficient, should be immediately more than tripled. He warns that: "If new discoveries are to keep pace with withdrawals, which is a reasonable desideratum, and assuming a continuation of the percentages of hits and average size of new fields as shown for the years 1941 and 1942 . . . more than 10,000 wildcat wells should be drilled in 1943. Any statement carrying the implication that currently equaling 1942 exploratory activity is sufficient, is misleading and will not bear even casual analysis."

Oil men know the facts about oil resources. Their advice should be heeded.

Opposing the acceptance of proffered government funds is practically unheard of. Yet that is exactly what the farmers of the country are doing in their battle against subsidies. Through their farm organizations, including their marketing co-operatives, they have made it clear that they fear subsidies for the reason that once an industry must depend upon that kind of support for existence, it is no longer free.

Above all else, farmers want to remain free.

### Government Freeze On Turkeys Expected To Thaw by Oct. 1

The government freeze on turkeys while 10 million pounds are obtained for the armed forces is not expected to extend much beyond Oct. 1, according to information received by the Extension service at Oregon State college. In the first two weeks that the order was in effect approximately 1,750,000 pounds were obtained for delivery by Sept. 15.

Some changes in weight limits have been made so that now the army will take hens weighing eight pounds and up, while toms will be accepted from 14 to 20 pounds. Previous limits were between 8 and 16 pounds.

Purchasers for the government are authorized to pay from 39 to 41½ cents for No. 1 birds of the various classes delivered in Portland. Procedure in case of rejections has also been worked out.

All restrictions will be lifted just as soon as the government's 10 million pounds have been arranged for, the announcement from the War Food administration states.

### GETS FEW BERRIES

Stanley Minor returned to town Wednesday after spending a fortnight in the mountains in quest of the elusive huckleberry. He reports some success but states that patches are small and widely scattered. As a testimonial of his prowess as a huckleberry hunter he left a pint of the luscious fruit on the editor's desk. He was joined by his uncle, C. A. Minor of Mt. Vernon, and there was some fishing as well as berrying.

### HERE FROM MADRAS

Miss Myrthena Martin drove in from Madras this morning to pick up her belongings. Miss Martin, second grade teacher in the Heppner school last year, has been elected to teach second grade in one of the Bend schools.



**You Can Eat Your Points and Have Them, Too!**  
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