

Heppner Gazette Times

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Headed the Right Way

An article by Arthur Priaulx in the Sunday Oregonian on Oregon's Shangri-La, the newest development in logging camps, raises the question of why haven't such camps been given greater consideration in the past. That question might be answered by including logging camps with all other development here in the west. There was so much country to develop, so much timber to cut, and so few people to do the job that the feeling prevailed one should keep moving on to a new field where living was easier and the acquisition of wealth and property required the minimum of effort.

In the case of the logging industry in the earlier days it was a matter of cutting out the best of the timber in one spot and then moving on to new territory. Camp life was rugged in the extreme and family life was the exception rather than the rule. As time wore on, timber operators began to make some allowance for loggers' families, the tendency gradually leading toward creating living conditions that would bring more contentment to their men. This condition has been expedited to some extent in recent years due to the pick-up in the demand for lumber and the growing scarcity of labor, but even before this emergency arose there were far-seeing operators who realized that lumbering is a permanent industry and as such would have to make working and living conditions comparable to other big industries.

Oregon has several well established camps, the Kinzua Pine Mills company, the Hines Lumber company, and the Gilchrist logging and lumbering operation, to name some outstanding concerns. These are eastern Oregon plants which have been built for permanency, for they operate on a selective cutting plan and through careful operation and management they will be spared the necessity of moving their camps here and there to maintain an easy cutting schedule. This policy permits their employes to not only enjoy a measure of family life, but permits them to plan on the future, to establish homes and in some instances to participate in community life on a scale comparable to town dwellers.

Logging is a rough life. It requires rugged manhood to cope with the work. Some of the toughness is removed if the men have comfortable homes to come to at night and if there is a social center where they may relax. That is the goal of the Kinzua Pine Mills company in the establishment of Camp Five, or Camp Wetmore. The camp is high up in the Blue mountains, we dare say well above 4,000 feet elevation, where winter arrives early and remains late. The company is making living conditions as comfortable as surroundings will permit and it is easy to believe that the employes appreciate what is being done for them.

It will be interesting to follow developments in the Rogue-Umpqua section where Oregon's Shangri-La is being built. Its builders have the knowledge of what has been accomplished in other camps with which they will be able to combine their own well thought out plans and the result should be something worthy of the consideration

of all timber operators.

They'll Not Be Forgotten

A lot of happiness is being experienced by people of the Blue Mountain Camp and Hospital district, for they have been given an opportunity to fill Christmas bags for the fighting men who already have met the enemy and paid their debt to civilization and the cause of democracy through the loss of a limb or some other serious injury which has invalidated them to the homeland for hospitalization. Substantial evidence of this civilian happiness is to be found in the large display window of the Pacific Power and Light company in Heppner where on Monday a total of 108 gift bags had been turned in by Morrow county people for distribution by the Blue Mountain council among the hospitals at Pendleton, Walla Walla and Pasco where so many of our brave lads are being nursed back to health. The Morrow county contribution will be sent as part of 2,000 such gift bags to be distributed at the hospitals.

This is but one of the many calls for gifts and assistance that have come to our people and like all the others has been taken in stride. There is a little difference in this instance, we believe, for the spirit of Christmas warmed the hearts with the desire to bring cheer to numbers of boys far from home, many of whom no doubt will not get home for months to come.

In addition to the 108 gift bags for the boys, packages to the number of 18 were prepared for women in the service. These packages were wrapped by the girls in the county agent's office, which in itself is a commendable effort.

Although there are no more bags available, there is an opportunity to help brighten the lives of the hospitalized service people by contributing to the magazine fund. This may be handed in at the drug stores where proper credit will be given.

It is hoped the gift bags will bring happiness and pleasure to the recipients, as they doubtless will, yet the feeling persists that their happiness will be no greater than that of the people who made them possible.

Make It a War Emergency

Since Pearl Harbor we have learned to expect to get nothing done that doesn't come under the head of military necessity. Consequently, many worthwhile projects await the coming of peace, no matter how much merit they carry. One of the most noticeable objects of forced neglect is roads. There are several reasons for this, all of which are obvious and need no recounting here. The fact stands out that unless a highway is used for transportation of men and vital materials it will get no more attention than is necessary to maintain it. Realignment and other improvement work will have to wait.

In the case of the Heppner-Spray highway, which to date is standardized only as far as Ruggs, it appears that not a little vital war material figures in its traffic load. Logs and lumber are critical material, and during the past year the army, too, has used the road to some extent. It is not on a regular route but serves as an emergency road for convoy maneuvers, and, as in the recent airplane incident, it proved a real boon to the army air corps. It might have been a bigger job to truck that Fortress out of the southern Morrow county hills had not the highway been right at hand.

There may be no possibility of getting recognition for this inland route unless some showing can be made as to military necessity. It is perhaps an idle wish that the road might be straightened from Hardman to Ruggs, let alone expecting hard surfacing, but the urge for improvement is so apparent that at least it might be worth asking for. If nothing more can be accomplished, elimination of at least one hairpin curve will be acceptable. If no more big army trucks have to pass that way, it will lighten the tension on logging and lumber truckers to have that curve eliminated. Part of the fill is already in. Why not work toward getting it built the rest of the way?

CHORUS ENJOYS DINNER PARTY TUESDAY NIGHT

Although a bit early in the month the Christmas party of the Women's chorus was a delightful occasion. Twenty-two club members gathered at the residence of Archdeacon and Mrs. Neville Blunt Tuesday evening at 7 to partake of a community dinner. Following a bounteous feast a gift exchange was enjoyed. To complete the setting for the holiday season the group sang several carols, with Mrs. J. O. Turner at the piano. Mrs. O. G. Crawford sang Adams "Cantique de Noel" and Mrs. Blunt read Kate Douglas Wiggin's beloved Christmas story, "Bird's Christmas Carol."

The group and a few guests plan to go carolling Monday night, Dec. 27 and will assemble at the Crawford home.

Regular rehearsal will be held at 7 p. m. next Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. J. O. Turner. The club is working on several numbers and expects to give a concert in the spring. With a membership of 25 or

30 women a worthwhile organization has been effected.

The dinner party Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Neville Blunt was the second of the season. Mrs. F. W. Turner was hostess to the group at the opening meeting in September. Both hostesses were assisted by capable committees, which contributed materially to the success of the parties.

MOVING TO KINZUA

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Leathers are leaving tomorrow for Kinzua to make their home. Both have secured employment with the Kinzua Pine Mills company. Mrs. Leathers has been working at Scotty's since moving in from Hardman earlier in the fall. She was postmistress at Hardman for several years and also served as Gazette Times correspondent for that vicinity.

FOR SALE—30-30 carbine and two boxes of shells. Would consider trading for good bench saw. O. Wendell Herbison. 37c

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