

Heppner Gazette Times

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Christmas Greetings

One finds it difficult, even in these dark days, to refrain from using a traditional expression, yet it seems that "Merry Christmas" is hardly adequate this year. It seems unworthy of the occasion to wish people to be merry at home when so much of uncertainty and sorrow prevails throughout the world, and especially among the armed forces who are battling valiantly that Christmases of the future may be merry. We would rather ask for our friends a Christmastide of hope and good cheer—hope that the immediate future will bring signs of release from the struggle that holds a major portion of the world in its grasp, and good cheer for those whose lives are directly affected.

With this thought in mind the GazetteTimes extends to its large family of readers the season's greetings with the wish that the spirit of peace on earth and good will to all men will prevail in all our hearts throughout the coming year.

Back to Horse-and-Buggy Days?

A few years back we heard a good deal about the horse-and-buggy days; in a more or less derisive manner, to be sure, it being a pet phrase of the Administration in comparing the speed of the New Deal program to that of the preceding administration. It appears now that while the President may have used the phrase somewhat in jest there is more truth than poetry in it. The speed of the New Deal was nothing in comparison to the war program and where the President was trying to keep the country from lapsing back into the horse-and-buggy days we are headed right in that direction.

This is a war of machines. The side producing and able to operate the best and most machines will win the conflict. Unfortunate for some 30,000,000 automobile owners, these war machines require oil and gasoline. If they are not supplied with these essentials they become so much useless

material which more than likely will fall into the hands of the enemy. That would be disheartening and if repeated often enough would prove disastrous. It can't happen, that's all.

To prevent just such a disaster it will be necessary to curb civilian use in every conceivable manner. It is possible that with the arrival of the new year we will find limitations on the Pacific coast more drastic than those prevailing along the Atlantic seaboard for nearly two years. As the battle lines are extended in the Pacific area it stands to reason that withdrawals of motor fuels will be heavier. These withdrawals will be made from coast supplies. An overtaxed transportation system will not be further taxed to haul additional supplies unless coast facilities cannot meet the demand. But it is estimated that coast production is sufficient if civilian use is reduced to the minimum.

It is not a cheerful picture to paint right at the Christmas season, but we must remember that we are in a death grip with paganistic fanatics and anything short of our best efforts may weaken our chances to come out victorious. It is up to us at home to see that supplies are sufficient for the war machine in the Pacific area, as well as wherever our brave lads are carrying the fight. If most of us who do not use our passenger cars for business purposes resolve to keep them in the garage except in cases of necessity there is no reason why the emergency cannot be met by the oil concerns serving the west coast. If civilians are too short sighted to cooperate in this essential program it is likely that a method will be devised to make it workable, namely: a cutting off of deliveries to local stations. This is not advocated as something that should be done, but it may be done.

There is too much non-essential driving being done every day right here in Heppner and in every other section of the country. That old feeling that this doesn't mean me still prevails. In a town the size of Heppner even those living on the outskirts have no great distance to walk to the postoffice, or to work. We are only kidding ourselves when we think we can't walk. The kidding is about over for the duration, unless we can dig up a horse and buggy or some other mode of transportation indicative of the pre-automotive age.

There are some types of commercial vehicles that could be removed from the highways for the duration without hurting civilian health or morale. Any delivery truck running into Heppner with products competing with home made goods should be considered non-essential. They will be in time, it is quite certain. There are other services that are not absolutely essential under the emergency, and these too could be dispensed with if it comes to a showdown on the gas and tire situation.

We at home have not been hurt as yet. A little more sacrifice on our part will make us appreciate more fully what our boys are undergoing to make life secure for us. If we can't drive our cars for awhile we will be just as well off, and if we willingly accept this challenge to our liberties we will be better citizens.



This holiday season makes us appreciate more than ever before the priceless value of our friends and customers, like yourself It reminds us, too, of the sacrifices being made by many of our friends now in the service of Uncle Sam To you, and to all these, go our thanks for your patronage in 1943, and our wishes for a joyous holiday.

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