

Heppner Gazette Times

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE—Established March 30, 1883. THE HEPPNER TIMES — Established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

Published every Thursday and entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as 2nd-class matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One Year \$2.50; Six Months \$1.25.

Planning or Preparing?

Looking to the eventual ending of hostilities and the return of millions of service men to civilian life, most communities have for some time been outlining plans to not only welcome the return of our armed forces but to care for them until there is a return to normal conditions and they can once more go on their own. So far few places have accomplished little more than paper plans. Particularly is this true of the smaller centers where big projects are not practical and could be financed only through government contribution. Our own community would be classified in this category and for that reason those delegated to give the matter consideration are facing difficulty in finding a good starting point.

There is some consolation for the smaller communities in the fact that the larger places are not getting along too well with their planning. This was brought to light at the recent press association conference in Eugene by Dr. Victor P. Morris, chairman of the state post-war planning commission. Dr. Morris inferred that the planning work was coming along in a big way but that so far little had been accomplished in the way of actual preparations. He expressed the belief that the "planning" should be changed to "preparations." If that were done then the boys returning home would have more to look forward to.

In our own county and community there has been some looking ahead through the investment of public funds in war bonds. The county is preparing in this manner to repair and extend roads, hoping to have on hand a sufficient fund to attract considerable match money from the highway commission. The city would like to make several improvements, plans for which are being studied. The water system is the first consideration and this will not be held off pending peace. More street improvements are on the calendar for postwar activity, and the council would like to put in a sewer system—but that is a big project, especially from a financial standpoint, and the city dads are not ready to risk sticking their necks out any further than to indulge in an occasional discussion of the subject.

The county needs a modern hospital. The need will be far greater when the boys come home. If we are in a mood to do something really worthwhile, let us turn our attention to studying the possibilities of erecting and equipping a hospital that will provide accommodations for our own population with room to spare for some of the neighboring districts that would not be in a position to maintain hospitals on their own.

The state planning board is urging that preparations be made at an early date and that the several communities of the state inform that body of the extent of their post-war plans. It is a condition that is not purely local insofar as the commission is concerned. What the state as a whole is preparing to do is of first importance. When data is all in it will be possible to determine what Oregon will have to offer her soldier citizens. It is strictly up to the individual communities to determine how much they will share in the improvements and developments coming out of the program at large. Shall we continue to plan or are we ready to make actual preparations?

Paper Saving All Important

Saving paper is becoming almost second nature with newspaper people these days. It was uppermost in the minds of Oregon publishers and printers attending the annual Oregon Newspaper Publishers' association conference in Eugene the past week-end and all were admonished to take the

story of the paper shortage back to their respective communities.

Under the terms of the WPB ruling establishing quotas for the newspapers, the weeklies using less than twenty-five tons of newsprint per quarter are not affected. However, this does not mean that the weeklies are free to use paper after the manner customary in pre-war times. They are expected to economize on every turn where that economy will not actually handicap the operation of their business. The dailies are faced with every type of curtailment they can meet and continue to give advertisers and readers a 50-50 break.

So it is that encouragement of the waste paper campaign was voiced not only by newspaper people themselves but by representatives of the state salvage committee.

It is probable that this section will hear something definitely pertaining to the local paper salvageable to not destroy the old newspapers, magazines, writing paper, paper sacks or other paper material, but bundle it up for delivery to the nearest salvage depot. The fact that an earlier campaign left rather a bad taste in the mouths of those actively engaged in collecting and shipping the paper must not deter us from doing all we can to divert a disastrous shortage. If there are no available outlets for the paper, something will have to be devised. Hundreds of thousands of tons of paper are needed to carry on wartime shipping to say nothing of the need for civilian use. Available factories cannot meet the demand. It is essential to save used materials for reprocessing.

Power of the press as an agency for reaching the people is recognized by the military leaders. This was demonstrated at the Eugene conference when the officer in charge of "Air WAC" recruiting in Oregon was given a place on Saturday's program. Some 60,000 women are wanted to enlist in the corps to replace men for overseas duty. Early recruitment of these women soldiers will have a strong bearing upon the possible shortening of the war. Already thousands of women have joined the several branches of the armed forces and are giving good account of themselves. Most of them have released service men at home while others are doing men's jobs behind the lines in the battle areas—and what a job they are doing! It is an opportunity for young women to not only give valuable service to their country but to learn trades that may prove invaluable to them when they return to a life of peace.

Motorists have been given ample warning that the gasoline situation is serious. It is more than that—it is critical! Curtailment of civilian use of the vital motor fuel in favor of the armed forces is the immediate cause, but much needless driving has contributed in part to the growing shortage. A little more wisdom in the use of gasoline when it was more plentiful doubtless would have softened the regulations governing civilian distribution at present. There is promise that the situation will grow much more critical for civilians before a turn in the war will warrant improvement. The best thing to do is to quit planning big trips that can't be taken by train or bus and learn to walk when not burdened with heavy parcels or other impedimenta.

If all the Jap admirals and generals who are retired during the war were laid end to end—they'd probably all be dead.

Japanese losses: Nineteen vessels sunk, 201 planes downed, one Tru(c)k badly damaged.



By Murray Wade

AFTER BIG MONEY

State Highway Engineer R. H. Baldock is in Washington D. C. to appear before the joint senate and house committee on roads. He will work for the passage of the post-war highways construction program bill. In its present form the bill appropriates one billion dollars a year for three years for road construction. Oregon's share is set at \$15,000,000 a year for three years.

INDUSTRY PAYROLL

Payrolls in Oregon industries covered by the workmen's compensation act totaled \$53,771,848 for January, according to a report just issued by the state industrial accident commission. The total for January 1943 was \$35,638,914, an increase of nearly 20 percent. About three-fourths of the state's payroll is centered in Multnomah county.

WEDDING DATE SET

Miss Marylee Fry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Fry, Salem, has set March 25 as the date of her marriage to William Earl Snell, son of Governor Earl Snell and Mrs. Snell.

FOREST FIRES FEWER

Most of the forest fire losses last year did not occur during the dry season but at this time of the year. During February and March of last year over 22,000 acres of the total of 35,869 for the year, were burned over, states the annual report of State Forester N. S. Rogers. Lightning caused 41 percent of the fires or 361 out of 887. Monetary loss is estimated to be \$117,572. During the past four years losses have decreased more than fifty percent.

GUEST ENGINEERS

Under the provisions of a good will program formulated by the American Roadbuilders association a group of highway engineers from South American countries will be entertained during the present year by the highway departments of the states of the union. Two of these engineers have been allotted to Oregon where the roadbuilding problems vary greatly from the coast of the Pacific to the eastern borders of the state.

INCOME TAX COMING IN

Oregonians are early of late in paying their state income taxes. This year they are 20 percent ahead of last year in filings as of Feb. 21.

Tax Commissioner Earl Fisher estimates the total 1943 income tax now being paid, will be between six and one-half and seven million dollars. Last year the total was over \$21,000,000. This year state income taxes are figured the same way as they were last year, then 25 percent of the amount is forgiven.

HIGH RATE PENALTIES

All the 77 insurance companies operating in Oregon have set up a risk pool whose representatives will write liability insurance for the poor risk auto driver at a considerably higher rate than is charged for a careful driver.

While motorists may substitute surety for insurance, this sort of protection involves the real estate of those whose names are attached to the bond and in case of suit a lien may be placed against the property.

RECENT RULINGS

County courts are not required to consider ward lines in establishing election precincts within cities.

Counties may use emergency funds to control Mormon crickets whenever they become a menace.

The state cannot levy inheritance tax on money left to Good Samaritan hospital for the care of members of the Masonic lodge.

CAPITAL SHORTS

Attracted by the lure of high wages in war industries 208,600 workers from other states are on the payrolls of Oregon. About 25 percent of this number are continued on Page Five

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Heppner City Council

Meets First Monday Each Month
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council.
J. O. TURNER, Mayor

Jos. J. Nys

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