

EDITORIAL

Housing Demand Increases

This may be a poor time to discuss the housing situation insofar as looking toward immediate relief, yet one is constrained to ask why Heppner should be ignored, or denied a housing project when other towns contributing no more to the war effort are thus favored. The answer, obviously, is that this district happens to be not located in a critical zone. This does not alleviate the housing need here, neither does it smoothe the ruffled feelings of those who are engaged in turning out critical materials and who find themselves constantly in fear of losing contracts due to inability of holding skilled labor for want of adequate housing facilities.

A movement initiated some months ago to obtain a small housing unit here was turned down by the housing authority on the grounds that it was not justified. In all probability those seeking approval for the project were too modest. A ten-unit housing project is too insignificant for authorities who are accustomed to thinking in terms of 300 billion. Perhaps if the local people raised their sights they might command more serious consideration. This is not idle chatter. Events of the past 10 years have proved that almost any type of public works had to rate a figure calculated to give employment to a substantial number of people in order to interest government authorities. The war has changed that situation due to labor and material shortages, yet wherever it is felt housing is needed it is granted. And in many cases the rush to such centers is subsiding and before many months not a few of these wartime mushroom subdivisions will be unoccupied.

Contrary to the common belief that withdrawals of men for the armed services and numerous others for wartime industries would deplete towns like Heppner, most places are experiencing difficulty in meeting the demand for living quarters. That condition has reached an acute stage here. It is almost necessary for one to buy residence property if he expects to have a place to live. At the rate property has been changing hands of late the time is not far distant when renting houses will be entirely out of the market.

There is nothing of the wartime boom in the growth here. There are fewer businesses operating now than prior to the war and likewise there is a scarcity of help in many of the places that are operating. There has been a little increase industrially and to this will have to be credited the demand for housing. In all likelihood the present population will remain, to which will be added returning families and service people. If we are unable to improve the housing situation for the duration, there certainly should be some serious planning for imminent post-war needs. Such planning will of necessity include an addition to the

water system, modern sewage disposal and other improvements under contemplation by the city council.

Let us not merely dream about these things but set about to formulate concrete plans and be ready to do the job when the time comes. In the meantime, we could do with a dozen or more new houses or housing units.

Planners Urged to Get Busy

A suggestion by President B. C. Pinckney of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce that the local planning campaign discussed at some length the past winter be taken on again in earnest is worthy of consideration and immediate action. The state planning board has issued a call for all reports to be turned in at once and that means if this county is to participate in the state board's postwar preparations we will, in the common parlance, have to get on our pony and go to town.

No definite date has been set for the closing of the war, yet there is a feeling extant throughout the land that the need for postwar jobs is not far distant and that all communities should be forehanded and be ready to offer jobs at fair prices to our returning veterans. We may get a certain share of population out of the readjustment following the close of the war—nearly all communities will participate to a limited extent—and if we lay our plans for postwar projects and make some financial arrangements for improvements we will benefit to a much greater degree.

One of the greatest needs of Heppner and surrounding territory is a hospital. This has been discussed from time to time but like the weather, nothing is done about it. Here in Heppner there is a city park proposal lying dormant in the city council desk. There is an opening to really do something about a park if the city would but take the initiative. We can't build a community if we take the attitude that what was good enough for my folks is good enough for me. Some of our loved ones would turn over in their graves if they thought we had reached the point where we could progress no further. If we sit still very long we start going backwards. If we would go ahead we must keep planning and building.

Heppner has experienced many changes in the past decade. There are conditions favorable to making it a bigger place in years to come. It is surrounded by a heavy-producing area, a region of diversified products that will continue on the course to market through here. The postwar era may bring new developments that will put more people on the land and in our mills and other industries. These are not certainties but possibilities, and we can do a lot about bringing possibilities to realities if we will look forward and make preparations to meet new conditions.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the unregulated use of certain forest areas is, in my judgment a menace to life and property on account of the high fire hazard caused by abnormal amounts of inflammable debris on the ground from logging operations and beetle-killed timber, and WHEREAS, upon the showing of the State Forester, it appears to me to be necessary to close to unregulated use the following area designated as: AREA NO. 16-P—JOHN DAY UNIT—Kinzua Area: Beginning at the junction of the Camas Prairie road with the Spray-Heppner highway in Sec. 24, T. 6 S., R. 25 E.; thence in a northwesterly direction along the Camas Prairie road to the county line between Gilliam county and Morrow county in Sec. 5, T. 6 S., R. 25 E.; thence west along the county line to the northwest corner of Sec. 1, T. 6 S., R. 24 E.; thence due south along section lines 3 miles to the southeast corner of Sec. 13, T. 6 S., R. 24 E.; thence due west along section lines approximately 9½ miles to the Cones Mill road; thence in a southeasterly direction along the Cones Mill road to the Oxhead Ridge road to the junction of the Oxhead Ridge road, the Camp 5 road, and the Snowboard Lookout road; thence along the Snowboard Lookout road to the Skyline road; thence along the Skyline road to the Kinzua Main Logging road; thence in an easterly direction along the Kinzua Main Logging road to where the Kinzua Main Logging road crosses Lake creek in Sec. 29, T. 7 S., R. 23 E.; thence down stream of Lake creek to the point where Lake creek crosses the Winlock county road to the Alder Creek road; thence in a northeasterly direction along the Alder Creek road to the Umatilla National Forest boundary between Sec. 23 and Sec. 26, T. 7 S., R. 24 E.; thence in a westerly direction along the Umatilla National Forest boundary and continuing along the Umatilla National Forest boundary to where the Umatilla National Forest boundary crosses the Spray-Heppner highway in Sec. 25, T. 6 S., R. 25 E.; thence in a northerly direction along the Spray-Heppner Highway to the junction of the Camas Prairie road with the Spray-Heppner highway, the point of beginning, with the exception of the Camp 5 road from Kinzua to Camp No. 5. Permits for entering the above area may be obtained at the following places: Fire Warden's Office, Kinzua; Kinzua Fine Mills Company Office, Kinzua; Lone Rock Post Office, Lone Rock; Mrs. Peter Hartman, Winlock; Snowboard Lookout, Sec. 16, T. 7 S., R. 23 E. Chapin Creek Guard Station, 8 miles south of Hardman; Wheeler County Agent's Office, Fossil. NOW THEREFORE, I, EARL SNELL, Governor of the State of Oregon, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the provisions of Section 107-209, Oregon Compiled Laws Annotated, as amended by Chapter 238, Oregon Laws 1941, do hereby proclaim the unregulated use of the above described areas to be unlawful and that said areas shall be subject to entry only through permit to be issued by the State Forester or a fire warden, under which permit entrant shall comply with any and all of the following requirements: (a) To build no fires except in places designated as safe in said permit. (b) To have as part of his or her equipment, tools suitable for extinguishing fire. (c) To refrain from smoking except in places designated as safe in said permit. This proclamation shall be effective from and after the 17th day of July, 1944, and shall remain in full force and effect until the 31st day of December, 1944. Done at the Capital in Salem, Oregon, this 14th day of July, 1944. EARL SNELL, Governor. ATTEST: Harry S. Schenk, Chief Deputy Secretary of State.

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times, established November 18, 1897. Consolidated Feb. 15, 1912.

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

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