

# Heppner Gazette Times

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OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## News From The Boys at The Front

### Camp Heppner CCC Enrollee Hero in Normandy Campaign

John Wightman is in receipt of letter from Ada H. Robinson of Brockton, Mass., in which was enclosed a clipping from a Brockton newspaper telling of the exploit of her son, Sgt. Tech. Earl Robinson, paratrooper in the Normandy campaign. Earl was a member of one of the companies stationed at Camp Heppner CCC a few years ago and also worked for the Wightmans. The story says in part:

"For heroism in removing practically unassisted, 20 helpless wounded men after an incendiary shell hit a farmhouse in Normandy which was being used as an aid station, Sgt. Tech. Earl Robinson of the paratroops, son of Mrs. Ada Robinson, 23 Plain street, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The news was contained in an army communique from the invasion front.

"Even though the Germans began using flame throwers on the house and an adjoining barn and hay stack, Robinson continued pulling litter patients to a safer place. His bravery helped restore the morale and confidence of other men dug in nearby, who were fighting a superior force.

"The Distinguished Service Cross is awarded to soldiers for "extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy."

Sgt. Robinson first enlisted in the army in 1937, serving in the Hawaiian Islands for a time. He re-enlisted nearly five years ago while in California serving in the medical corps and while at Camp Berkeley, Tex., changed to the parachute infantry.

### LEXINGTON YOUTH IN VETERAN INFANTRY DIVISION

From somewhere in the Southwest Pacific comes the following information relative to a Morrow county boy:

Pvt Clarence A. Buchanan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Buchanan of Lexington, Ore., recently joined the 37th Infantry Division, veterans of two major Solomon Islands campaigns.

Buchanan, a 20-year old rifleman, is assigned to an infantry regiment famous for victories at Munda Airfield, on New Georgia, and Hill 700 on Bougainville.

Since he left the states in February, 1944, Buchanan has seen service in New Caledonia and on Bougainville Island.

### RETURNED TO ISLANDS

Pfc James C. McLaughlin son of Con McLaughlin of Lena, is in a hospital in Hawaii according to a letter received from him by his sister, Mrs. Edward Rice. James was injured in the Saipan campaign the latter part of June receiving leg and shoulder wounds. He received the Purple Heart for wounds received at Tarawa in Nov. 1943 and also saw action at Guadalcanal in November and December, 1942. He is able to get up and around he informs his sister.

Pfc Hugh McLaughlin, another brother, left the States about a month ago and is now on a small island in the Pacific.

### RETURNING TO STATES

The Morgan family—Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan and Mrs. Milton Morgan—are in high spirits this week following receipt of news that Milton Morgan, AMM 2/c, is enroute to the states after a period

Continued on Page Eight

## Paul Rietmann Reported Killed In Action July 10

### Popular Youth of Ione Was Member Of Invasion Force

War came very close to this community when word was received on Saturday morning that Pvt Paul V. Rietmann, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Rietmann of Ione, had been killed in France on July 10. Paul was a native of Ione, being born and reared here, and was a member of the graduating class of 1942. He was inducted in September 1943 and after training in several camps, left for England in May of this year. He was a member of the anti-tank division in a replacement unit. Besides his parents, Paul is survived by two brothers, Gene and Larry.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace G. Holcomb have rented the Henry Gorgor residence and will live there the coming school year.

Mrs. Ella Davidson has received word from her grandson, Sgt. Harlan McCurdy Jr. and Mrs. McCurdy, that they are the parents of a baby daughter, Diane Marie, born July 25 at Chula Vista, Calif. This is Mrs. Davidson's sixth great grand child.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lindstrom and P. J. Linn spent Sunday at the home of Mr. Linn's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Howk at Condon. Alan Howk, who spent

Continued on Page Eight

### RACING MAN AND WIFE VISIT HERE MONDAY

Visitors in Heppner Monday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Copenhaver and little daughter, who were enroute from Miami Fla. to Shasta City, Calif., where Copenhaver will break and train young racing stock. The Copenhavers spent the past season in Florida and during the past two months Lonnie has been in Boston where he has a string of horses. He left the horses in charge of his brother Edgar and started west, meeting his family in Chicago. They called on Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Rice in Heppner and spent the night with his cousin, Mrs. Alena Anderson.

Lonnie Copenhaver was a resident of Morrow county for many years and left here in 1926. He has gained considerable renown as a track trainer and for a time handled the colt string for the Samuel Goldwyn stables.

## More Than 200 Red Cross Councils Provide Comforts for Sick and Wounded Service Men

By Mrs. Ralph Thompson  
July 1944 was the third anniversary of the Red Cross Camp and Hospital council. It grew out of a definite need as voiced by the armed forces. Officers were concerned over the welfare of the thousands of recruits that were pouring in but all their time was given over to training and outfitting them. Red Cross was asked to act as a channel to provide the comforts and pleasures for these boys in their rest periods. Since that date over 2,204 Red Cross chapters have participated in more than 200 councils. These councils are distributed over five areas serving over 4,000 camps and hospitals.

All of us are deeply moved when we see pictures of white crosses marking graves of American boys all over the world. Those of you who gave furniture and money for council work should have this consolation—some of the boys under those crosses used the comfortable

## Swim School Here Proposed by County Red Cross Chapter

If an instructor can be made available Heppner will have a swimming school late this month. This was decided at a meeting of the county chapter, Red Cross when Miss Grace Jackson, field director for Oregon, was present and discussed the matter with the local group. Contact has been made with the San Francisco office of the American Red Cross society and it is expected that a favorable reply will be received. Blaine Elliott is chairman of the water safety division.

Several other matters of importance were taken up and disposed of. One was the extension of Mrs. Tress McClintock's chairmanship of home nursing to include nutrition supervision. A nutrition canteen is planned for some time during the fall.

Miss Harriet Hager was elected treasurer succeeding Mrs. Don Strait, resigned.

Tentative plans were laid for an annual meeting either in the fall or early spring. In the meantime a set of by-laws will be drawn up for presentation and adoption at the meeting.

It was announced that the Red Cross prisoners' cards and cartons are available. These cards are standard and recognized by enemy countries holding American prisoners of war. Mrs. Chris Brown has been named assistant to Mrs. Clara B. Gertson in handling this material.

Mrs. Blaine Elliott, Red Cross production chairman, reports her group has cleaned up current work and is waiting for new material to arrive.

### LAVERNE VAN MALTER TO TAKE POSITION HERE

F. W. Turner accompanied Blaine Isom to Portland Saturday to pick up a truck used by the Fred Allisons in moving household goods to the city. Returning Tuesday he brought La Verne Van Malter to Heppner to make his home with his mother, Mrs. Raymond Rice. Don Turner accompanied them and spent Wednesday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Turner.

La Verne, absent from Heppner the past four years, during which time he made his home with his father in Portland, contemplates working in the F. W. Turner Company insurance office. He is now able to work his way around in a wheel chair and it is hoped he will gain strength as time goes on.

### HAS HOUSE GUEST

House guest of Mrs. Pat McIntyre this week is Miss Helen Carlin of Portland.

## Morrow Moves to Second Place in "E" Bond Sales

Edging out ahead of Gilliam county, Morrow county took second place in the state's "E" bond campaign in the recent Fifth War Loan drive. Sherman county captured first place, thereby winning the privilege of naming one of the government ships to be launched from a Portland yard.

While figures are not available on the Sherman county sales, Chairman P. W. Mahoney informs this newspaper that the per capita quota was a little higher there than in this county. According to Mahoney buying in Sherman is more regular than here or has been that way during the past two or three drives, and as a usual thing the committee over there attains the quota ahead of most of the neighboring counties.

Representative Giles French is chairman of the Sherman county bond committee. It will be Mrs. French's privilege to christen the vessel named by the citizens of Sherman county.

Morrow county's quota of E bonds was \$167,000 and total sales amounted to \$216,000.

## Bus Drivers' Strike Is Short Lived

Columbia river towns experienced a brief transportation strike Wednesday when drivers of the Overland Greyhound system refused to go to work. The strike even affected Heppner, although the local stage is an independently operated affair. When notified that the busses were not running on the main line the local operator cancelled his morning trip pending outcome of the strike.

The strike was short lived and the bus drivers returned to their jobs by 3 p. m. Wednesday. A difference of opinion between drivers and the company over assignment of drivers to extra busses carrying overload passengers was the cause of the halt in service. Extra drivers have been assigned to the overload and peak traffic busses and the drivers contended that these busses should be considered regularly scheduled runs on the basis that reservations were sold the public in advance.

### HAVE DAUGHTER

Ann Clark Ridings is the name given their daughter born Wednesday, Aug. 9, by Lt. Com. Gordon Ridings and Mrs. Ridings. The little lady arrived at the Georgetown hospital in Washington, D. C. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Clark of Heppner.

## Poor Attendance Record Reflected In Support Fund

### Superintendent's Report Shows How Funds Disbursed

Absenteeism as related to school attendance was reflected in the apportionment of state school support funds for 1944, as shown in the annual report of County Supt. Mrs. Lucy Rodgers. Since the support fund is based on daily attendance responsibility for a decrease in the county's share is readily placed.

Taking the five high school districts of the county as a basis for figures, since quoting all the districts would involve considerable detail work, it is found that of the county total of 12,114 absences during the past school year, Heppner was responsible for 5,808.5; Irrigon, 1,083; Lexington, 1,090.5; Ione, 1,810.5 and Boardman 1,985.5.

Total tardiness was 1,658, of which Heppner absorbed 617, Irrigon 133, Lexington 190, Boardman 240, and Ione 421.

The school support fund apportionment is a little under 17 cents per pupil a day. Absenteeism cost the county approximately \$2,000 the past year.

Total school census in the county is 1146, with a total enrollment of 942, and a high school enrollment of 225. Broken down, the high school enrollments are as follows: Heppner, 106; Irrigon 41, Lexington 26, Boardman 34 and Ione 48; grades, Heppner 293, Irrigon 92, Lexington 74, Boardman 103 and Ione 95.

Operational costs: Heppner \$42,787.81; Irrigon, \$21,941.85; Lexington \$14,620.66; Boardman \$25,036.15, and Ione \$38,730.

Total general fund expenditures, all districts, \$192,541.78; ending net cash or deficit, \$48,686.93.

Bonded indebtedness: (add endorsed warrants \$10,841.76 outstanding end of year) \$59,528.64; cash balance or deficit end of year, \$59,528.64.

Total bonded indebtedness \$14,000, of which Heppner owes \$8,000 and Hardman \$6,000.

The county's 50 teachers draw salaries totaling \$86,588.93.

## Eight Men Leave For Pre-Physicals

Another draft of men left Heppner Tuesday morning for Portland to take pre-induction physicals. In the list were some transfers from other selective service boards, men now residing here or employed in this county.

Following announcement of the bus drivers' strike Wednesday a. m. local draft board officials were wondering how the inductees would get back home. They traveled by bus going into Portland and of course could be brought back to Arlington by train. Since the Casebeer stage is an independent line it is thought that the local situation could be handled without conflicting with strike orders on the main line. Casebeer did not operate Wednesday as he did not want to carry passengers to Arlington to be held up there indefinitely.

Since this was written the strike has been called off and the boys are due home this evening after spending an extra night in Portland.

### LEAVE FOR PORTLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Aiken left Monday for Portland where they will spend most of the time until after the election. Aiken, chairman of the state democratic central committee, will have his headquarters in Portland.

And again we voice our thanks to all the solicitors, to all those who gave money to help with this work. With this help we promise that Morrow county will stand among the first in the Blue Mountain council which is one of over 200 councils in the nation.