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Pioneer Resident Laid to Rest Here Monday Afternoon

A. L. Ayers Ended Own Life During Despondent Spell

Apparently despondent over failing health, Alfred L. Ayers, pioneer citizen of Morrow county, ended his life Friday evening by shooting himself in the head with a .32 caliber revolver. The act was committed shortly after going to bed and following a slight stroke earlier in the evening.

Mr. Ayers made his home with his niece, Mrs. Percy Hughes, at Lena, coming there in 1940 following the death of his wife in Portland. He enjoyed working about the place, helping with the chores and gardening, feeling that he was more or less independent so long as he could carry on. In recent months he showed signs of failing health and this worried him as he did not want to become a burden to anyone. Friday evening, after performing a small chore, he sat down to rest and found he could not cross his legs, indicating that he had suffered a slight stroke. Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Arthur Hughes, who was visiting there, insisted that he go to bed. He finally acceded to their urging and was helped to his room.

Marvin Gammell, employe at the Arthur Hughes ranch, had come down to take Mrs. Hughes and little son home. Mrs. Percy Hughes insisted that they all stay there that night as she felt the need of assistance in case Mr. Ayers should have a recurrence of the attack. Gammell was asked to sleep in a room adjoining that of the sick man and to notify Mrs. Hughes if help was needed. Hearing Mr. Ayers moving around, Mrs. Hughes called to ask if she could help him. He replied that he was hunting an aspirin. He was given the aspirin and made comfortable in bed. Not long after Mrs. Hughes returned to her room she again heard a disturbance upstairs as if some one had fallen. She called to young Gammell to go see and upon entering Mr. Ayers' room found him on the floor dead.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Monday in the Masonic hall, with Archdeacon Neville Blunt

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AAA Community Meetings Dec. 4-5

The annual AAA community election meetings to be held Dec. 4 and 5 in Morrow county communities, are doubly important to all farmers this year, Henry Baker, chairman of the county AAA committee, reminded today.

In addition to naming committeemen to run their farm program for the coming year, farmers attending will consider methods of using AAA practice payments to get the best results in meeting agricultural problems of each community. Booked for discussion are prospective 1945 provisions for practices such as weed control, drainage, water conservation, pasture improvement and range management.

Other program features for the meeting include presentation of the latest information on 1945 production goals, and discussion of support prices and other prospects and problems for the year ahead.

VETERAN HOME ON LEAVE

Paul S. Beardsley, F2/c arrived in Heppner Saturday to spend the greater part of his 30 day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beardsley. Paul has but recently returned from active duty in the South Pacific.

Normandy Invasion Story Told by One Who Had a Part in the Great Battle

It is the privilege of the Gazette Times to present its readers with a ringside seat, play-by-play, authentic account of the Allied invasion of the Normandy coast. Written by one who was there, it is a vivid graphic portrayal of one of the great military feats of the present war. It is the story of a Heppner boy's participation in the opening offensive to free Europe from the Nazi menace. Due to its length it may be necessary to run the story in two installments.

By BILLY COCHELL
Chief Musician, USN

You have heard and read accounts of the invasion of Norman coast areas by Allied forces of the air and sea, and the landing assaults by those various inter-related forces of our armies against the Nazi Occupational Wehrmacht.

Those accounts, considerably more than vivid in the phraseology and tonal-color used by expert announcers and top-flight journalists, have given you people the grandest sort of thrill and excitement. We are grimly proud of the intrepid execution of the multiple duties placed upon the shoulders of American fighting forces of all branches of our service. It was as

the English say "A bloody good show," and this effort on my part to record some of the highlights of the action should not be compared with the accounts that were so expertly prepared for public consumption. I pray the indulgence of more than "poetic license."

As in all such closely coordinated efforts of inter-related groups of our forces, and cooperative allied units, a lot of stress was placed on training. Our maneuvers were rigorous and tedious, but withal, there was constantly in our minds the realization that, as our damage-control officer stated, "This is a big-league affair! We are out of the bush-leagues, every pitch has a potential pay-off in this game with lives directly in the balance."

We were prepared for any eventuality, literally. The entire crew was "briefed" on the locality involved after we had entered a state of "sealed-ship." We were informed of our duties and the progression of the action phases as planned. It was comprehensive and everyone reacted to the "reality-of-invasion" in the most heartening manner. The morale hit an all-time-high peak and the crew was in amazingly fine spirits. "This is it." That particular feeling of hearts

and minds; the consciousness of life; and the possibilities involved in the course of our destined action, absolutely defies description in just so many words. Definitely, for most of us, it was a crisis—emotionally. Keyed to do a task which could actually demand our very lives, interesting observations were made of my personal reactions and I sensed, as did others, the change in the attitude of the men toward each other. I can't describe the sense of awareness one feels for his associates and surroundings. Its a tremendous phenomenon, stated simply.

We were enroute to the invasion coast, of course, when the news that Invasion Day (H-hour) had been postponed 24 hours. The news did us no particular benefit, certainly, as most of us were amazed that the predetermined time could be changed. Acceptance of the delay was rather a disappointing incident, but no more than an incident, and nothing seemed the worse for the practically imperceptible increase of anxiety over weather conditions. Looking back, it wasn't very important.

As has been so often recorded by the news monitors at home, there

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Teacher Shortage Presents Problem To Entire Nation

A shortage of 130 teachers in the Portland school system is typical of the problem facing education authorities throughout the nation. Mrs. Lucy Rodgers told members of Heppner chamber of commerce at Monday's luncheon. The situation in Portland is quite similar to that of other sections of the state, although Morrow county, Mrs. Rodgers stated, has been quite fortunate thus far in filling the teacher ranks.

Mrs. Rodgers attended a committee meeting in Portland the past week-end where the teacher problem was taken up in earnest. It had been the hope of the Oregon State Teachers association that the proposed constitutional amendment fostered by that group would pass in the recent election. Since it did not, a new effort will have to be put forth to cope with the teacher situation. It was pointed out that getting teachers from other states is merely a "rob Peter to pay Paul" deal and that eventually each state will have to depend upon its own colleges for its educators.

C. W. Barlow was called upon to make report of the county clerks' convention in Portland last week. He said one proposal receiving favorable comment was that from the secretary of state's office relative to closing filing date for candidates for office 60 days prior to election date instead of 45 days. It is contended that a person contemplating running for office should know at least 60 days prior to election as well as 45 days whether he or she wants to file. It also is the belief of the clerks that they should have more time for making up the poll books, feeling that a change of registration closing date will make no difference to voters inasmuch as many of them wait until the last day to register regardless of what the date may be.

Henry Mattson of Marion county was chosen president of the association for the ensuing year; C. W. Barlow of Morrow county, vice-president, and Edna M. Pitzer of Polk county, secretary-treasurer.

A SON IS BORN

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stone Monday, Nov. 20, at the Corda Saling home, an 8½ pound boy.

Current Tax Roll 86 Percent Paid

Sheriff John Fuitzen reported Tuesday morning that the 1944-45 tax roll was 86 percent collected as of Nov. 15, the last day taxes may be paid without penalty. Since that time at least one percent more has been collected, making a good record, the tax officer opines. The 1943-44 roll now is but little over two percent delinquent.

The 1944-45 roll totaled \$240,233.38, of which \$206,927.31 was in the hands of the sheriff by Nov. 15.

GRANGE SENDS \$80 TO CAMP AND HOSPITAL COUNCIL

Rhea Creek grange cleared \$80 at a benefit dance held at the grange hall Saturday night, all of which has been turned over to the Blue Mountain Camp and Hospital committee. At the request of the grange \$50 will be used in the purchase of a phonograph for McCaw General hospital at Walla Walla and \$30 to the navy hospital at Pasco.

Speaking for the council, Mrs. Ralph Thompson praised the grange for its generous gift, stating that such donations as this help to keep Morrow county well to the front in contributing to the support of the hospital welfare work. Since last been made to the hospital "telephone" several contributions have phone home" fund, and with Christmas time approaching there will be need of a good substantial purse for this cause. A check for \$50 was also received to be used exclusively for colored Wacs and Waves for Christmas.

TRUCK APPLICATIONS DUE BEFORE DEC 15

In the next few days application blanks for gas renewals will be sent to every truck and pickup owner. These must be filled in and returned to the local OPA office before they can fill the next quarter's gas quota.

All applications must be in the hands of the rationing board by Dec. 15 but should be returned at once to expedite the process. Applications may be mailed or returned personally.

Fleet owners must call at the OPA office and pick up their own tickets as they are too large to be mailed.

Huston Accorded Highest Vote in Heppner Election

As promised week before last, the Gazette Times stayed on the job until the mystery of the Heppner city election was unraveled—which didn't require much unraveling. A little inquiry led the news sleuth to the office of E. R. Huston, city recorder, where the ballot box was found and the vote already tabulated.

According to the count, Huston received the highest vote accorded any of the city officials. He beat City Treasurer W. O. Dix out by two votes, 391—389. Mayor J. O. Turner was returned to office at the request of 380 voters. Councilmen received the following votes: L. E. Bisbee 383; Dr. L. D. Tibbles, 382; D. A. Wilson 361; Charles Vaughn 386.

There were some write-ins, but withal, the incumbent officials were without competition.

Some of the electees had indicated that they were not candidates and thus far have not indicated whether they will serve, although it is believed they will continue without a break in the present regime.

District Meeting of Scouts Scheduled

Scouters and Cub leaders of Morrow county will hold a district meeting in Lexington, at 7:30 Wednesday evening, Dec. 6. All troop and pack committeemen and cub masters and scoutmasters will attend the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting will be to outline plans for scouting and cubbing for the year of 1945. Since the Scouts were included in the recent Morrow county war fund campaign, it will not be necessary to conduct a drive for finances next year, and the Scout leaders will thus be able to give more time and energy to working directly with the boys.

Kenneth Hickenbottom, assistant scout executive of the Blue Mountain council, will officiate at the meeting in Lexington.

CONDITION STILL GRAVE

Latest reports on the condition of Mrs. M. L. Case are not very encouraging. Mr. Case has been with her since last week. She is a patient in a hospital at The Dalles.

County's Quota of Sixth War Loan Cut to \$300,000

Official Opening Here Scheduled for Monday, Nov. 27

Morrow county gained \$10,000 on the sixth war loan quota during the week, with the figure now definitely set at \$300,000. This information came the latter part of the week to P. W. Mahoney, county war finance chairman, and was announced at the kick-off dinner held at the Ludas Place Friday evening.

Mahoney explained that the \$300,000 has been divided in three groups, \$150,000 of which has been set aside as the E bond quota, \$60,000 by corporations, \$90,000 for other types to be taken by individuals.

According to Kenneth G. Martin, executive manager of the Oregon war finance committee, farm quotas are being suggested by war bond officials and is it expected that Oregon farmers will subscribe \$12,650,000 in the present campaign. Morrow county's suggested farm goal is \$125,000.

Oregon's quota in the present drive is \$107,000,000. The quota for E bonds is set at \$34,000,000; sales to individuals (all series) including EO, \$62,000,000, and corporations, \$45,000,000.

Plans for handling the campaign were outlined by Mahoney and B. C. Pinckney. With the object of spreading the committee work more generally over the county, representatives of the schools and granges were invited to the dinner and it was explained that a greater effort will be made to increase individual sales. To do this with the minimum of travel it was felt that school people can contact many families through the children, while the farm section can be quite thoroughly covered by grange committees.

Personal solicitation will be withheld until Dec. 5 to give purchasers an opportunity to come in and buy. If by that time the quota lacks considerable of being taken up, the solicitors will take to the field. It is the expressed hope of the finance committee that a concerted drive will not have to be made. All purchases of war bonds since Nov. 1 will apply on the county quota.

The list of guests at the dinner included Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Mahoney, B. C. Pinckney, John Bergstrom, E. E. Rugg, Mrs. Bethel Taylor, principal of the Lexington school, Mrs. Oscar Rippee, representing Mrs. Lucy Rodgers, Jean Turner representing the Heppner high school student body, Charles B. Cox, Arnold Ebert, Don Strait, representing Heppner teachers, Mr. and Mrs. George Linn representing Boardman school and community and O. G. Crawford, R. B. Rice and D. M. Ward, representing Lexington grange, came in later.

BAZAAR, DINNER PLANNED BY WILLOWS GRANGE

Willows grange at Ione has chosen Saturday evening, Nov. 25, as the date for staging the annual bazaar and dinner. The bazaar will open at the grange hall at 5 o'clock and dinner will be served from 6 to 8 p. m. Fancy work and apron sale will continue through the evening. Dancing and concessions will be a feature of entertainment later in the evening.

VISITING IN PORTLAND

Mrs. John Skuzeski plans to be away from her duties at the Heppner Cleaners while he has a little visit with her relatives in Portland. She will be away a week or ten days.