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Veterans Service Committee Set Up Here This Week

Aid to Returning Veterans Object Of Organization

Formation of a veterans service committee was accomplished here Tuesday when Lt. Col. George E. Sandy, CE, Chief, veterans personnel section of Oregon state headquarters of selective service met with a group of Morrow county people at the office of the local board of selective service at 2 p.m. Judge Bert Johnson of the local board will act as chairman of the newly formed group which includes M. D. Clark and J. O. Hager as members of selective service; Harold Cohn, veteran employment committeeman; Mrs. Clara B. Gertson, welfare and Red Cross; Mrs. Lucy Rodgers, educational and vocational counselor, and Arnold Ebert, to assist veterans in procuring farms or farm employment.

The committee is set up to give every possible assistance to service men returning to civilian life and it is the purpose of selective service to fulfill its obligation to the men in assisting them to re-adjust themselves to civilian life as faithfully as it has carried out the obligation of inducting the men into the various military services, as is required by law. Judge Johnson says that any man returning from military service to civilian life will find the members of the committee always ready and desirous to render every possible assistance to all men who have been discharged under honorable conditions.

The information center will be at the office of the local board where returning service men may obtain information as to whom and where to apply for assistance in any of their problems. The clerk will, if the veteran wishes, make a definite appointment for him with persons who are capable of giving him the specialized assistance he may desire.

The Ione and Heppner American Legion posts have signified a desire to co-operate with the committee. Any civic organization, church or fraternal order having anything to offer in the way of assistance to returning veterans will be welcomed as a co-operating group.

Present at the meeting besides the group mentioned were Walter Roberts and Jack Farris, representing the Ione American Legion post and Darrel Hudson, Loyal Parker and Clarence Hesselstine of the Heppner post.

Miss Frances Griswold, a clerk of the selective service board of Umatilla county, accompanied Lt. Col. Sandy from Pendleton.

Elliott Transferred To Freewater Store

Coming as a complete surprise, Blaine Elliott, manager of the Heppner J. C. Penney company store, Wednesday received word that he is to assume management of the company's Freewater store, taking charge Dec. 28. Elliott will turn over the local store to a Mr. Connor, temporary manager of the Ritzville, Wash., store.

This move in managements was prompted by the resignation of the Ellensburg, Wash. store manager. The Freewater manager is being moved to Ellensburg.

Elliott came to the Heppner store from Port Angeles, Wash., taking charge here June 16, 1942. About three months ago he purchased the residence property of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Doolittle. For the present, Mrs. Elliott and their two daughters will remain in Heppner pending solution of the housing problem in Freewater.

GOING TO BEAVERTON

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gonty and children will leave Saturday evening for Beaverton to spend Christmas with Mrs. Gonty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hemrich. They plan to return Dec. 29.

Real Christmas In Store for Men At McCaw General

A real Christmas is in store for the patients at McCaw General hospital. Under the Christmas trees will be the 150 gift bags filled by the people of Morrow county.

In ward 47, each patient will receive a gift with his name attached. Each will receive a nicely wrapped book from Locust chapter, O. E. S., Ione. Many of these gifts were from the Ione community, games by Cub Scout den 2, a Bible from women's class, Ione Christian church Sunday school, three afghans, from Willow grange, home made candy, and four albums of new records from Bunchgrass Rebekah lodge.

Ward 45 will have 19 packages of gifts, books, candy; 25 pairs slippers made by women of Lena district to wards 46 and 47; 24 bed lamps from Morrow county committee; three albums of Christmas music and some holly wreaths; \$10 worth of new records for Elks ward; many telephone calls home and all magazine subscriptions requested for ward 47 and many for ward 46.

Rhea creek grange is providing cookies for ward 47 party Saturday afternoon while the Presbyterian ladies in Walla Walla are sponsoring a party for ward 46. The Waves at Pasco will have a brighter holiday because of the many beautiful wrapped gifts from people of Heppner, the Valby Missionary society and the Morrow committee.

"Because the people of our county have been so generous, our committee is able to continue a program of assistance each month, not just at Christmas time," stated the chairman, Mrs. Ralph Thompson. "In January many nice things will be done in closed wards at McCaw and Walla Walla air base with mental cases. A generous check of over \$120 from Willows grange and Home Economics club and the Ione community makes this possible." "As chairman of this committee, I wish to thank each person for his or her help in making this Christmas program so successful. It is a pleasure to serve you," concluded Mrs. Thompson.

Colorful Ceremony Attracts Throng

Having to change to another hall failed to lessen the interest in and color of the joint installation ceremonies of the Masonic and Eastern Star lodges held in the I. O. O. F. hall Monday evening. Use of the hall was tendered the Masonic groups when it became known that the heating plant in the Masonic building was temporarily disabled.

Following a sumptuous turkey dinner, where upwards of 200 people were served, the throng assembled in the lodge room for the installation ceremonies. The Masons—Blue lodge and Royal Arch—made comparatively short work of their rituals and cleared the way for the Star installation which is carried through in strict formality.

At the conclusion of the Star rites gifts were presented the outgoing and incoming officers. In accepting the lodge gifts, Mrs. Archie Ball, newly installed worthy matron, gave an inspiring talk in pledging her best efforts for the ensuing year. Mrs. Claude Graham, outgoing matron, was the recipient of gifts from various lodge groups and individuals. The Ball family gifts were presented Mrs. Ball by four of her daughters. The flower presentation was made in song by Mrs. Fred Hoskins, lodge musician. She was escorted by Harriet Ball and Carter House.

SUFFERS BROKEN LEG

Mrs. Dan Phelan suffered a badly fractured upper leg Tuesday afternoon when she fell at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Edwards. She had been visiting with Mrs. Edwards and had left the house on her way home when she fell on the icy walk.

HOME ON LEAVE

Clarence Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baker, is home on leave after serving two years with the U. S. navy. Clarence has been through the African and Italian campaigns and no telling how much more.

Farmers Obtain \$2,181,316 Under Wheat Loan Plan

Dec. 30 Final Date for Issuing Commodity Loans

Farmers of Morrow county have obtained \$2,181,316.86 through the grain loan program since the close of the 1944 harvest, the county AAA office reports. This figure was submitted along with a reminder that commodity loans for wheat and other grains close Dec. 30.

County Agent Arnold Ebert states that a check on figures to date reveals that 1,607,000 bushels of wheat have been placed under loan since harvest, 71 percent of which is in warehouse or terminal storage and 29 percent stored on farms. As of Dec. 18, 387 loans have been made through the county office from which farmers receive the above sum.

Since Dec. 30 is the final date for issuing commodity loans, farmers are warned that this means that farm storage wheat must be sampled immediately if it is to be graded before the deadline and that samples submitted after Christmas probably will be too late for processing. Warehouse loans can be completed if warehouse receipts are presented to the county AAA office before Saturday, Dec. 20.

Mustangs Corral Yellowjackets in Opening Encounter

Displaying good form throughout, the Heppner Mustang squad took the first game on Boardman on the local floor, 31-23, Friday evening. It was a bang-up game, with the ultimate outcome not too certain until the last minute of play, for Boardman displayed a lot of fight and determination until the final quarter ended.

At the end of the first quarter the score stood Heppner 12, Boardman 4. At the half it was 20-9, the third quarter 25-14. In the last quarter the visitors revved up and began scoring but got started too late.

Heppner's subs showed up well in the short periods they were in, showing that Coach Pate is building up a dependable squad for any emergency.

Next game is with Condon here Jan. 5.

COLLEGE STUDENTS HOME

Morrow county's contingent of college students has been arriving home for several days and all will be at hand for Christmas festivities. Coming from Oregon State college at Corvallis were Frances Wilkinson, Betty Adams, Peggy Tambllyn, Mary Kay and Helen Blake, Marjorie and Florence Sims and Joene Brown to spend the holidays in and near Heppner, and Wilma Dobyns to be with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dobyns near Ione and June Griffith, holidaying with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Griffith, at Morgan Don Turner came Sunday from the University of Oregon where he is a law student and Bob Rynnion arrived Wednesday evening. Louise Green, Doris and Dorothy Worden, students at Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande are due tomorrow. Dorothea Wilson, student nurse at Multnomah hospital, arrived home the first of the week.

IT HAPPENED

Last week this great moral up-lifter made a prediction that two of Heppner's husky men would get caught in Harvey White's new storm entrance if they happened to meet there. They did—that is they met in the entrance and they got stuck, so to speak. The outside door swings inward and the inside door swing outward. One man wanted out, the other wanted in. They could not pass, they couldn't back up—until one of them got the bright idea that they might be able to open one door at a time. Thus did Rynnion and Grabill solve the workings of the storm entrance.

English Customs Cause of Wonder To Yank Soldiers

English people are about 50 years behind the folks on this side of the pond in their mode of living, in the opinion of the average Yank who has been privileged to spend a few months in the British Isles. It is the opinion of Capt. Richard Lawrence who told members of Heppner chamber of commerce of things he saw over there and impressions he gained from contacts with Britishers of different walks of life.

Bathroom facilities and household heating were two items referred to as glaring examples of England's slow progress in household comfort, one containing a type of toilet flusher long since gone out of use in this country. As to the heating most of it is done by inadequate fireplaces which, according to the Yanks, is a waste of fuel but is a matter that Britishers seem disinterested in improving.

On the other hand, Lawrence like all other visitors, is duly impressed with the beauty of England, although not too enthusiastic about the lack of sunshine. He was billeted in Wales for several months and stated that the Welsh are an industrious people although not counted among the wealthy of the empire.

Capt. Lawrence was invited by Supt. George Corwin to speak at the high school this morning.

Babson Forecast To Appear Dec. 28

The Gazette Times will publish Roger W. Babson's "Business and Financial Outlook for 1945" on Dec. 28.

Among other topics, Mr. Babson will forecast: War and Peace; Inventories and Reconversion; Jobs and Payrolls; Commodity Prices and Retail Sales; Farming and Industries; Securities and Real Estate; Politics and Taxes; Foreign Trade and Our Allies.

We are calling this feature to your attention because we believe that everyone of our readers will find it of interest and value.

PAYS SURPRISE VISIT

Coming from Fort Ord, Calif., where he delivered a contingent of soldiers, Capt. Vawter Parker surprised family and friends when he called from Portland Thursday afternoon and asked his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Parker, to meet him at Arlington. Captain Parker has been engaged in training work since returning from 17 months in the Aleutian campaign. He first went to Colorado Springs and later was transferred to Columbia, S. C., where Mrs. Parker and little daughter Cecelia await his return from the Pacific coast. Hard as nails from his nearly three years in the army, Vawter tips the beam at 215 pounds. He still hopes to get a furlough but was somewhat dubious after hearing late news from Europe. He left Pendleton Monday night after visiting with his brother John Parker and family for a few hours.

CHILD INJURED BY DOG

When little Nan Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, opened the gate and stepped inside the Clyde Nutting yard she had no fear whatever of the big St. Bernard dog, for had he not been her companion and protector, always good natured and eager for a pat on the head? But it was a different story Tuesday morning, for when little Nan entered the yard the big fellow had changed his attitude. Tethered inside the gate was the Nutting Peke. In passing by the little dog Nan sort of brushed it aside and the St. Bernard resented this action. He made a pass at the little girl with the result that she suffered several contusions on her face. Mrs. Nutting rushed her to a physician and had her injuries dressed. The dog will be spared for two weeks while it is determined if there is danger from rabies, after which he will be dispatched to the happy hunting ground.

ON SHORT VACATION

Miss Margaret Gillis, Morrow county health nurse, left today for Portland and Salem where she will visit friends over Christmas.

White Christmas Not in Prospect In This Section

Silver Thaw Hits Eastern Oregon as Holidays Approach

Prospects for a white Christmas were none too bright in this area up to Thursday afternoon. Instead of a white mantle of snow, a coat of ice, the result of a silver thaw since early in the week, covers the ground, making travel by car or on foot hazardous. Incidentally, condition of the highways has caused some people to alter their plans for a holiday trip.

News from the eastern front has not caused change of plans for home observance of Christmas as for the most part people had not set out to carry on in the usual peace time manner. To many it will be an opportunity for two days of rest, with a family dinner or guests on Monday. Locally no dances or other special entertainment features have been advertised. Churches will observe the usual Christmas eve ceremonies.

Shopping has been brisk for many days and reached the peak the middle of this week. Christmas tree and decoration greenery business has been good, showing that people are trying to keep up the holiday spirit.

As a prelude to a 10-day vacation the Heppner school presented the story of Christmas in song to an appreciative audience Wednesday evening. School will close Friday afternoon and take up on Jan. 2, 1945. Some of the teachers are planning trips home, two having gone last Friday. Miss Mildred Hagen and Miss Elsie Jenny, residents of Montana, were excused early to permit them to make the long trip partly because Miss Hagen's brother was home from overseas and could not wait for her to leave here at the regular time.

Midnight services will be held Sunday at All Saints Episcopal church and St. Patrick's Catholic church, announcements for which will be found elsewhere.

MEET IN HAWAII

Meeting the first time in over two years, Claude and Douglas Drake recently had four hours together in Honolulu when the tanker of which Claude is a crew member put in at that port. Douglas has been in the islands for a long time and was beginning to think he would never see someone he knew when he got a telephone call from Claude to meet him.

HERE FOR HOLIDAYS

Mr. and Mrs. John Rouston of Weiser, Ida. are here to spend the holidays with relatives of Mrs. Rouston, the former Neva LeTrace. They attended the Eastern Star-Masonic banquet and installation ceremonies Monday evening, Mrs. Mrs. Rouston having long been a member of Ruth chapter.

ATTEND ALKY MEETING

Clyde Denney and Terrell Benge, directors of the Grain Products, Inc., attended the meeting of the board of directors of the concern over the week-end. They expect to go to Carver right after the first of the year when a new plant will be opened.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

If Hitler or anyone of his stripe, should win this or some future world war, the right of religious freedom would be doomed and Peace on Earth, Good Will to all Men would be a memory. Many of our youth are fighting and dying on foreign soil to preserve the freedom of our country and all that freedom stands for. Those of us at home must also fight to support our boys and girls at the front; do all the work you can, stay on the job until it is finished and buy all the bonds possible that we and our children, may in the future years, be able to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

BERT JOHNSON