

# EDITORIAL

## Chain Letters Bob Up Again

It seems that every time the nation is passing through a crisis such as depression or war we have to be plagued with the chain letter mania. No matter what the crisis may be—and it does not always require a national crisis to get them started—someone originates a letter bearing great promise to participants if they do nothing to break the continuity and thus help complete the cycle.

A recent chain letter coming to light urges the recipient to say the Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm for nine days, "so this war will soon be over." The letter is to go around the world four times and promises "on the fourth day after you receive this a favor will come to you. Make four copies and send to your friends before the fourth day," and warns, "don't let this prayer die in your home."

Mr. Fixit in the Oregon Journal says "this chain letter mania seems to be a recurrent malady, that breaks out periodically. This one is relatively harmless since it involves no more expense than the price of four postage stamps, but spreading the use of needed paper, postage and mailing facilities is an unpatriotic extravagance in war time. Postal authorities protest the chain letter at all times. Fortunately, no chain is stronger than its weakest link—and there never was a chain letter that didn't soon peter out and so fall far short of the astronomical circulation expected by its originator."

It is easy to agree with Mr. Fixit that there is no just reason for starting chain letters in war times—or any other times. But there are many people in the world who fall for these fanatical schemes without considering what harm they may be doing to their country's cause, or trying to find out if any of the schemes ever bore fruit.

In this connection it is pertinent to call attention to the various schemes to make money by preying upon the emotions of relatives of service men who have been killed in action. By way of example, this newspaper received a postal card from an alleged advertising agency in Los Angeles asking for our advertising rates and several back numbers of the Gazette Times. About the same time we received a bulletin from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers association calling attention to this same postal card, stating that there was no bona fide advertising agency of the name given on the card. It was suggested that someone was trying to obtain names of service men's families for the purpose of gypping them out of money on some pretense of having information in which they would be interested.

If you should get a postal card from a so-called clipping bureau stating that for twenty-five cents the bureau will send you some news of interest to you, just toss the card in the waste basket. More than likely the "clipping bureau" takes its name from the fact that it is trying to clip the suckers for a few shekels. There are reliable clipping bureaus which use printed stationery and are duly recognized by newspapers, most of whom place the bureaus on their mailing list. But before responding to any clipping bureau's request for a fee, find out if it is recognized by a better business bureau or a similar agency.

## Getting No Better Fast

Heppner has the go ahead on ten housing units—residences—and now it appears the building program is stymied through lack of land to build them on. Had the priority been granted to build the ten houses on a single project, it is likely that something could have been started by this time, but since there was no restriction other than size and cost of the houses, those desiring to build have thus far been held up because they can not procure lots. Oh yes, they could get the lots if they were inclined to pay the price being asked by some of the owners. These prices are considered out of line with prices paid for residence lots in other towns the size of Heppner where there is nothing to warrant boom growth.

The present demand for houses in Heppner is due largely to the fact that there has been little building in recent years, and establishment of a sawmill here brought in numerous families which quickly absorbed available living facilities. It is not likely that the mill will cause a further influx and there are no other industries in sight to cause a material increase in the town's population. The fact that several people connected with the mill wish to build their own homes, as well as other citizens who found rented properties sold out from under them, has created a temporary demand for building lots which doubtless has led some property holders to up the price. Anything within reason would be accepted by the buyers, but conditions being as they are they do not feel bound to Heppner or any other place and they will go elsewhere to work or establish themselves in business if they are going to be held up here.

There is considerable agitation for a new addition to the town and all that is needed to get it under way is for property owners to keep on discouraging the purchase of lots down in the main part of town.

## An Old Fallacy Debunked

Back in the days of chivalry the general impression prevailed that the female of the species was the weaker sex. We still like to think of her as the gentler sex, even in these days when woman-kind is doing almost every type of job in connection with the war except the actual fighting—and many there are who would shoulder muskets if given the opportunity. They have demonstrated that if given a chance they can do man's work and do it well.

A case at hand calling forth these thoughts occurred at Condon last week. Stewart Hardie, publisher of the Globe Times, was kept at home several days with an attack of the flu. For the past year or two he has been the chief mechanic in the shop, being unable to obtain a printer—and what print shop is not meeting with similar success these days?—and the front office work has been carried on by Miss Genevieve Dunlop, an employe for several years. Miss Dunlop began learning to operate the linotype, make up the forms, feed the presses and folding machine when the hired help vanished. This experience stood her in good stead last week, for she not only gathered the news and advertising but went ahead and put the material into type, made up the paper and ran it off, making the mail as usual. Her code is akin

to that of the theater—"the show must go on"—and when the Globe Times' hundreds of subscribers received their papers they were unaware of the story behind that particular issue.

Among newspaper people Miss Dunlop's feat will be recognized as a real accomplishment, calling forth praise from all representatives of the fourth estate. This newspaper as one of the closest neighbors, extends heartiest congratulations and at the same time would drop a word of warning to the effect that any employer with such efficient help could catch cold easily nowadays.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Case enjoyed a short visit with Mr. Case's nephew, Donald Case last Wednesday. Donald is Purser in the U. S. Merchant Marines and has seen service in practically all the war zones in the three years he has been in the Merchant Marines. He spent some time in the Aleutians, South America, Africa and Mediterranean. He has one trip around the globe to his credit and has but recently come from the Philippine area. Pending further assignment Mr. Case is spending his leave with his wife in Hermiston. Mrs. Case is employed at the Ordnance depot and was unable to accompany her husband to Heppner. Purser Case has had four service both in New York and on months special schooling in hospital Puget Sound. All pursers are required to take this course as many times there are no corpsmen or doctors assigned the ship.

FOR SALE—5-room house with sleeping porch; 2 acres all fenced; chicken house. In north Heppner See Dad Driscoll. 3-6p

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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**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.  
Subscription Price \$2.50 a Year  
O. G. CRAWFORD  
Publisher and Editor

Hint No. 1 on  
CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS

## Azaleas

If you are careful you can keep them for years. Place in ter once a day, preferably coolest room (65 to 70°). Water from below. Give 4 plant tabs after blooms cease and keep watering. Set in ground where it's shady during summer, pot and all. Return to house before frost and give 4 more plant tabs just before it blooms at Christmas. Varieties with small blossoms are usually hardy outside if given winter protection.

Mother's Day  
will be  
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Rachel Dick

Phone 624

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Meets First Monday Each Month  
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