

# Heppner Gazette Times

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PUBLIC AUDITORIUM  
PORTLAND, ORE.

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, May 31, 1945

Volume 62, Number 10

## Early Start on Hospital Unlikely Due to Financing Funds Must Come From Tax Passed At Fall Election

There is little likelihood that an early start on construction of the Morrow County hospital will be made. This was the opinion expressed by J. G. Barratt Monday in a talk to the Heppner chamber of commerce. He was speaking as a private citizen and member of the club and not in his official capacity as county commissioner, although much of the information given had been through official study and contact.

Barratt revealed the several plans that had been proposed to get the hospital started and explained the barriers in the way of each. It all resolves down to the point that unless some legitimate means not yet revealed is forthcoming construction work on the building will have to be withheld pending accumulation of funds from the two-mill tax voted by the people of the county in the fall of 1944.

Due to the fact that everybody is busy nowadays and there is little time for public activities the preliminary work is not going ahead so rapidly as desired. This in no wise is influencing the eventual construction and operation of the building but is a bit discouraging to those who would have it built immediately, the speaker declared. He expressed the opinion that the services of a competent architect should be obtained at once in order to expedite the selection of a site and to gain some knowledge of the type and size of building desired. Given these facts, the court and committee could then set about to get plans in readiness pending the accumulation of one or two years taxes which would be sufficient to start with.

In the meantime, it is suggested that people, individuals or groups, and organizations wishing to make donations to the hospital may do so. The court can accept specific gifts of money or articles to be held until such time as they can be used. Before making such gifts, it is suggested that the donors confer with the court and make it clear what their gifts are for.

## Grange Paper Wins Magazine Award

Using as her subject, "A Hospital for Morrow County", Mrs. E. C. Heliker recently turned in a prize winning paper in a national contest sponsored among the granges by the Country Gentleman. Mrs. Heliker represented the Home Economics club of Willows grange and the result of her effort netted the club a \$25 check from the publishers of the national farm journal.

The Country Gentleman sponsored a "living war memorials" contest among the granges and Mrs. Heliker chose the proposed county hospital as perhaps the most essential postwar project inasmuch as it will directly influence better health. She made a brief population survey of the territory the hospital will serve and found that approximately 7,000 people will be affected by its construction and operation, or, to put it another way, the institution will be made available to an area embracing that much population.

The Home Economics club will use the \$25 for improvement work on the grange property. Later, when the hospital is in operation or ready to open, the club plans a fund-raising activity to equip a room or purchase equipment of

## Ethics Disregarded When Seabees Need Building Supplies

When the Seabees need certain materials to use in their construction work and the red tape entailed in securing them takes too much time they disregard military ethics (if they can get by with it) and use their own ethics. If this works out all right and the military authorities don't get wise, everything is "jake". Occasionally an official gets suspicious of the bartering methods and someone is called up on the carpet to explain. But the Seabees work must go on says Chief Petty Officer Tom Wells, and there usually is a common understanding between the units serving Uncle Sam so that no really serious disturbances occur.

Wells told the chamber of commerce luncheon group Monday that he had seen a supply of beer buy quite a bit of building material. Money is of little use in the service since the fellows have no place to spend it, but some of the luxuries money will buy have great purchasing power.

He spent almost a year in New Caledonia, a spot that reminded him of our western country. It has a temperate climate but unlike this region does not abound in bird and animal life. There are a few birds and some deer but little of the other wild animal life characteristic of western America.

The Heppner man has been around considerable since joining the Seabees in the fall of 1942 and has many interesting experiences to relate. Out there in the Pacific where it gets really hot, the men work six hours a day. On Guam they worked 10 hours and were glad to move on. One of the speaker's observations was that rumors have a way of spreading in the service about as fast as they do at home. This, that and the other changes are constantly flitting about so that there is scarcely a dull moment so far as rumors are concerned.

## Camp and Hospital Group to Meet June 9

A meeting of the Morrow County committee of the Blue Mountain Camp and Hospital Council has been scheduled for Saturday, June 9, announces Mrs. Ralph Thompson, chairman. The business meeting will be held at 1:30 p. m. in the Elks hall, followed by a general meeting to which the public will be invited.

Mrs. Ralph Reser and several patients from McCaw General hospital will come from Walla Walla to participate in the program which will start at 2:30 p. m. Anyone interested in the work of the council and the Morrow county committee in particular is urged to attend both sessions.

## Teachers Leave for Summer Vacations

School closed last Friday and a few of the grade teachers departed that afternoon. Mrs. John Hanna Jr. who until her marriage a couple of weeks ago was Miss Mildred Haja, drove her brother's car to her former home in Montana. She was accompanied by Miss Elsie Jenny and Mrs. Don Romine. Mrs. Romine left them at Great Falls, Mont. where she boarded the Empire Builder to continue her journey to North Dakota to meet her husband. Pfc Romine is enjoying a 90-day furlough from McCaw hospital and together they will visit relatives and friends in that area.

Miss Rose Hoosier departed last Saturday for her home in Stanfield. Miss Hoosier expects to attend summer school in Portland.

some kind.

## 20-Minute Blaze Destroys Residence Friday Evening

### Fumes From Fluid Used for Cleaning Cause Rapid Spread

Fire breaking out at 5:30 p. m. Friday completely destroyed the Frank Engkraf residence on North Court street in one of the most spectacular blazes seen here in many months. Starting in the kitchen where Mrs. Engkraf's daughters, Nadine and Beverly Clark, were about to prepare the evening meal, the flames spread throughout the large house and were entirely out of control before the fire department arrived at the scene.

Nadine and Beverly had been cleaning clothes during the afternoon, using a cleaning fluid. It was some time before the dinner hour and unaware of the spread of the fumes throughout the house, one of them struck a match to light a fire in the kitchen range. The match never reached the stove. There was a puff and away raced the flames throughout the structure. One of them ran to the Barratt home next door to telephone the fire department, and the house was re-entered to release the family dog. A mother cat and family of kittens perished in the basement.

No effort was made to save furnishings and the family felt lucky to get out with the clothes they had on.

Delay in arrival of the fire truck almost cost the loss of the Barratt house. The truck laid one string of hose and returned to the city hall for an extra length. In the meantime the first hose was played on the Barratt house, a fact that kept it from suffering serious damage. Mrs. Barratt's trees and lawn, including her choicest shrubs were badly damaged and the house will have to be painted.

No small amount of anxiety was felt by other home owners in the neighborhood, as sparks flew over a considerable area when the roof was consumed. Fortunately, the wind took a southwesterly course during the fire directing the sparks away from the nearest buildings.

Good Samaritans rallied around quickly with offers of clothing, lodging and meals and the Engkraf family was made as comfortable as possible Friday night. Saturday they were prevailed upon to move in with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Daniels until other living arrangements can be made pending the building of a new house. It is their hope to have the new home ready for occupancy within 90 days, having already made the preliminary arrangements. Their lot is a desirable building site. Tile brick will be used.

The Engkrafs came to Heppner about a year ago from Fossil. They operate the OK tire welding shop and have enjoyed a good business. Both declare it will take more than a fire to get them to leave here.

## SUMMER SCHOOL

Religious vacation school scheduled for two weeks has got under way. Approximately 40 children are enrolled so far but an increase is expected by the end of the week. The school is being conducted by Sisters Genevieve Marie and Birtella, both of the Franciscan order.

School will close June 10 with the administration of first Holy Communion. There will be a class of 11 recipients. There will be only one mass at 9 a. m. and the ladies of the Altar society will serve a parish breakfast in the basement of the church.

## "Pap Hayseed" on First Visit Here in Twenty-six Years

Perhaps if one were to visit Oregon State college and ramble through the numerous buildings he would find a picture of a football hero with his back to the camera. The picture for years adorned the east wall of the assembly hall in the old administration building, later the library, and who knows, it may be there now. The picture was that of a famous athlete from the hills of eastern Oregon. To be more specific let's bring it down to the Willow creek valley and direct local Lexington. It was taken with the athlete's back facing the camera to bring into focus the words "Pap Hayseed". That was all any "Aggie" had to know. On the college roster there was a name other than "Pap Hayseed" but this was of little consequence inasmuch as scarcely a campus resident would have recognized the big brawny figure by any name other than his college nickname. However, murder will out and so it came to pass that members of the faculty and some of the classmates found out that his name was Harvey McAllister, but it is a safe guess that 99 out of a hundred of those who knew him, if they are living, still think of him as "Pap Hayseed." He is here this week from his home at Pismo Beach, Calif. (the finest beach in all California, he avers) visiting his brother Ray. He has added weight since absorbing so much of the salubrious California atmosphere but after a few minutes conversation with him one detects some of the sparkle of the days when he and the rest of us were younger.

## Honor Awards Mark Graduation Rites

As a fitting climax to four years of high school, impressive ceremonies were held at the school auditorium Friday evening, May 25 for 18 seniors. Garbed in bright blue 15 seniors. Garbed in bright blue onto the stage to the stately strains of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance, played by Mrs. J. O. Turner.

Dr. Ray Hawk, director of research of the Oregon State Teachers' association, delivered the address of the evening. Dr. Hawk spoke on the topic "Will There Always Be an America?" and assured the graduating class of 1945 that there surely will be as long as they and all the rest of us make it our business to live up to the ideas and ideals for which our ancestors fought and bled and died in establishing this country.

Leonard L. Pate, principal of the high school presented awards to Marylou Ferguson, valedictorian and Jean Turner, salutatorian. The scholarship to Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande made possible by the La Grande Rotary club was presented to Kathryn Howell. The Citizenship award for the outstanding girl and boy went to Jean Turner and Raymond French and to Marylou Ferguson. Continued on Page Eight

## 67 YEARS IN COUNTY

Al Florence was in town Monday visiting and shopping. It had been several months since he had left the ranch on upper Willow creek and he enjoyed contacting his old friends. Mr. Florence is one of the oldest remaining pioneers in the county, having come here first in 1875. Spending a year here at that time he sought location elsewhere but after a couple of years returned—on April 1, to be exact—on a few miles above Heppner which has been his home since. Although past 87 years of age he still does some of the chores about the ranch, just to keep his hand in.

## Hanson Hughes Passes Following Paralytic Stroke

### Death Comes to Former Merchant At 2:30 Today

Death came to Hanson Hughes at 2:30 this afternoon following a severe cerebral hemorrhage. His physician, Dr. A. D. McMurdo, was called shortly after the seizure but it was evident that the patient could not survive the effects of the attack.

Mr. Hughes had been in failing health for several years and retired from business in 1943 to take life a little easier. Mr. and Mrs. Hughes spent much of their time working around their home and Hanson took great pleasure in their flowers and vegetable gardens.

He and Mrs. Hughes visited Portland last week, returning home Tuesday with Mr. Hughes's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Judy. His aged mother, Mrs. Sam Hughes, is quite ill and he called on her last night, walking to her home. He appeared to be a little better than usual and this fact caused more of a shock to family and friends when news of his death was given out.

Mr. Hughes spent approximately 45 years in business in Heppner. His first connection was in 1898 when he took a job in the Press Thompson grocery. After three years with Thompson he got a job in Olympia where he remained until 1906 when he returned to Heppner and joined his father in the purchase of the Rhea & Welch general store. He was associated with his father until 1927 when they closed out their store in the Masonic building. Following that he and Mrs. Hughes opened up a grocery store in the Oddfellows building which they operated continuously for 16 years.

Funeral plans had not been announced up to press time.

## FARM BUREAU SCHEDULES MEETING AT LEXINGTON

Lexington grange hall will be the meeting place of the Morrow County Farm Bureau Monday evening, according to announcement by Oscar Peterson, secretary. This will be the final meeting of the current year with a three months interim before resuming in the fall.

There is nothing certain about a speaker for the June meeting but there will be round table discussion pertaining to matters in which all members are interested.

## SUMMER SCHOOL TO OPEN JUNE 11 AT COVE

The 21st Eastern Oregon summer school conducted by the Episcopal church will open June 11 at Cove and continue through June 21. The school, known as Ascension school, is conducted for young people between the ages of 11 and 15 years and is supervised by a faculty drawn from the clergy and other workers of the diocese of eastern Oregon.

Young people interested in attending the school should contact Archdeacon Neville Blunt immediately to get detailed information.

## LITTLE CHILD ILL

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gonty took their little daughter Eleanor V. to Portland Tuesday where they will consult with a specialist on diabetes in regard to the little girl's recent illness. She became suddenly ill last week and the parents and physician thought it well to take her to the city as soon as she was able to travel.