

EDITORIAL

Worthy of Support

There is good cause for congratulating the people of Lexington upon their enterprise in moving forward to establish an airport adjoining the town. In the first place Lexington is a small community and in the second place the project they have undertaken is worthy of a much larger town. It is admissible to grant that the backers responded to a wave of enthusiasm, but that enthusiasm carried with it a determination to start something and finish the job even if at that time the manner in which it would be accomplished was not altogether clear.

It takes vision to look ahead and foresight to prepare for new conditions. While Lexington was not alone in visioning the future of the airplane in our economic life, her enterprising citizens did not pause to contemplate the possibilities of aviation but decided to do something about it.

Now that some of the preliminary work is out of the way, it is proper that the rest of the county should step in with some substantial assistance, and at the same time it is fitting that Lexington should ask for that assistance, if it is deemed necessary. Aviation is here to stay. There is little doubt but that postwar progress in air transportation will outstrip the advance made by the automobile following World War I. New types developed during the war will be exploited to the full as fast as industry can get going under peace time conditions. It will not be long before we will see hangars as part of the standard equipment of ranches and there will be convenient runways for the ranchers and members of their families to take off for town or distant points as they have been using automobiles for many years. That is part of the local picture but there is a bigger, broader phase to be considered which will call for landing fields to accommodate airliners—the passenger and freight planes that will be plying with regularity on routes some of which remain to be established. It is then that airports such as Lexington is working on will become an integral unit in towns, or as in the case locally, of counties.

It appears timely to suggest that the Heppner Chamber of Commerce take up the airport project and give Lexington some wholehearted support. In reality the airport is more favorably located to Heppner than anything that could be found in this immediate vicinity, for because of the nature of the terrain hereabouts it would require going out on top and by the time that is done little distance has been saved and other disadvantages are too numerous to recount here. Lexington is centrally located and has a desirable airport site. One good port will take care of the county's needs in good shape and that port should have the support of all the people. There should be no delay in tendering assistance to our progressive neighbors.

Rodeo Days Are Here Again

Ere this issue of the Gazette Times gets into general circulation the Heppner Rodeo will be in action and the little old town nestled in the big Willow creek hills will be the center of attraction for a generous slice of eastern Oregon during the next three days. Yes, Rodeo days are here again bringing with them a touch of American life reminiscent of that era which came to an abrupt halt when the Japs staged the Pearl Harbor atrocity.

There is little doubt but that the town will have an opportunity to entertain one of the largest crowds ever assembled here during the 22 years since the show started and it will tax all facilities to care for the visitors. The welcome mat is outside the door and we will do our best to see that no one suffers, although it may not be possible to give top service on every occasion. A fortunate thing about Rodeo crowds is that they can make the best of a situation and if they cannot get what they order take what they can get. It is that way here and in other places staging similar shows, so why shouldn't everybody be happy.

The question frequently arises, "Why the rodeo?" Briefly, it might be answered quite factually that so long as man retains a love for horse-flesh there will be exhibitions of one type or another. There are men who like to gamble their skill against the power and action of a horse and there are countless others who get a thrill out of witnessing such exhibitions. In the case of the rodeo other animals enter into the picture but it is still a case of human skill versus brute cunning and action with a large element of danger thrown in to keep the blood pressure up. Thrills! That's it!

A community such as Heppner, dependent for its very livelihood upon the surrounding rural territory, in a measure owes something in the form of entertainment at least once a year, even if those being entertained foot the bill. It requires a considerable sum of money to finance a rodeo and its backers feel fortunate when they do not have to make good on a guarantee. There might be some other form of entertainment entailing less cost but whatever the town could decide upon would require full cooperation to make it a success and in all probability there would be no outside support such as comes to the aid of the rodeo. That is not by way of saying that it is not worth while to try something else, but so long as the rodeo is the thing we should do what we can to make it the best show possible.

The Japs should be one to complain about atrocities! Domei news agency inspired complaints about alleged assaults of American soldiers upon Japanese women have to be taken with a grain of salt after years of the brand of atrocities committed by the onetime rulers of the Asiatic sphere.

FORMER AGENT RECOVERS

In a letter to Rep. Henry Peterson, Charles Smith, former Morrow county agricultural agent, states that he is feeling fine after weeks of illness, and although not too frisky as yet he is working part time. He sent best regards to all and expressed the hope that he would be seeing his many friends here before too long.

PAVING CREW ARRIVES

A paving crew from Pendleton arrived Tuesday evening to repair and surface some of Heppner's streets. Due to the Rodeo, work in the center of town has been deferred until next week and repairs are being made to Riverside Drive and surfacing put on the cemetery hill road.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ferguson and family have returned from a very interesting vacation spent at Gold Beach. One feature of the trip was a boat ride up the Rogue river as far as Agnes to fish. While away they visited at the home of Mr. Ferguson's father at Gaylord and at the home of his brother, Ollie, at Gold Beach.

FORMER RESIDENT HERE PASSES IN PORTLAND

Services for William Henry Cronk, 71, were held in the Pearson Funeral church NE Knott street at Union avenue, Tuesday, Aug. 21. Mr. Cronk passed away Aug. 19 at the late home, at 422 NE Ainsworth street. The Rev. C. C. Rarick, retired Methodist minister, and the Masonic Service Bureau were in charge.

Mr. Cronk was at one time manager of the Tum A Lum Lumber company branch in Heppner. He was a member of the Centenary-Wilbur Methodist church in Portland and the Masonic lodge in Heppner. His wife, Alice D.; sister, Mrs. Minnie Fletcher, Canada, and brother, Stephen Cronk, Los Angeles, survive.

Mrs. Robert Likens and daughter of Portland are visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Roy Blake, at the Earl Blake ranch west of Heppner.



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