

Member
**OREGON NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION**

EDITORIAL

Beginning Another Year

With this issue, the Heppner Gazette begins another year of its unbroken existence and the volume number reads 63. Lacking an 1883 calendar it is not possible to say definitely on what date the paper started and it is just as safe to say that it started March 28, 1883 as to place it on any other March day. H. L. Keyte, the printer who was responsible for the first edition, is not sure about the date, and since the birthday usually arrives around the fourth issue of March it is assumed that Mr. Stein, the founder, aimed at getting into operation by April 1.

Much of the history of the Gazette and Times was covered on the occasion of the 60th anniversary and it is not intended to go extensively into the past at this time except as a matter of comparison, and that idea has been prompted by the high wages paid in 1946 as against those of 1901, when the writer, a mere slip of a lad of 14, became an apprentice typesetter at the Heppner Times office. The first two weeks were spent in learning the type cases. No pay. Thereafter for three months he received twenty-five cents on press day for helping fold the papers. Then there was a change in location and the apprentice went over to the Gazette office and was raised to three dollars a week and as he progressed in speed at the case and proficiency in wielding the print shop broom, the wage was increased until by the time school opened in the fall the wage was increased to nine dollars a week, a figure which lasted for several seasons because older printers were paid from twenty-five to thirty-five cents per hour.

These figures were related to E. G. Noble, veteran saddle maker, who stated that he received no wages while serving his apprenticeship. He was staying at home and that was considered pay enough in those days.

Look at the picture now. If a GI, for instance, (note that if) should enter upon an apprenticeship in this newspaper office he would receive \$120—\$60 from the government and \$60 from the Gazette Times. Perhaps he may have had a little previous experience which gave him the urge to learn the business, but it is more probable that he is without experience. He starts out at a rate of pay that was never heard of by printers with many years of experience prior to World War I and a scale that was common in country shops right up to and even including the earlier part of World War II. The rate of pay today for experienced printers is in excess of the average earnings of publishers a few years back—and no printers, at least for the smaller shops.

The time may not be far distant when the printing trade will become more attractive to young people. Printing as a trade has many interesting features, even in the country shops, which for the most part are equipped with automatic machinery which eliminates a lot of the drudgery of earlier times and gives the beginner an opportunity to learn the different branches which he

may follow up in later years by specializing as operator, pressman, etc. It requires some stability and a fixed purpose, but no more than is required in other industries and with proper application the time is not long until the apprentice is drawing a substantial wage.

Sixty-three years is quite a span as measured in human life and much of the development of the west has taken place in that time. Great strides have been made in the printing industry and the time may not be far distant when little of the old system will be in vogue. In its stead one may find the weekly papers approaching the mechanical perfection of the metropolitan press. This could happen ere another 63 years rolls by and it would be a good stroke of foresight for more of the younger generation to become interested in the art preservative.

A Rare Offer

Acceptance by the State of Oregon of the United States Marine base at Klamath Falls is urged by Governor Earl Snell and members of the state board of higher curricula following a visit to the base. As explained by the governor, this gift will have no unpleasant reactions and should be looked upon with favor by the people of the state.

It is planned to establish a school for veterans, giving them a two-year college course after which they may enter one of the other established institutions—the University of Oregon or Oregon State college for higher training. If they do not wish to go further they will have sufficient training to fit them into various lines. There will be housing for married veterans as well as the unmarried ones, a factor which will contribute in a small way toward solving the veteran housing shortage.

Funding of the proposed school will not interfere with present school funds, the governor stated. All buildings to be used by the school are of a permanent type and would be readily adapted to college requirements. The governor feels it would be a mistake to pass up this opportunity to augment our higher educational system and will go all out to sell the people on the plan.

HOME FOR SALE—A nice house, six rooms, well located, lot 50x100, only \$1100. Apply at Gazette office.

Don't rush us, folks. This advertisement ran in the Heppner Gazette April 14, 1900. It is safe to say a house of that size would cost at least \$1,000 per room in these days of inflated values. And it might be added here that Heppner was a bang-up, good little town in 1900, and values were solid—a dollar was worth 100 cents.

Have you made your Red Cross contribution? Remember, most of the funds remain here. Give generously now and help prepare against that day when the money will be needed and harder to get.

BUYS WAREHOUSE

H. L. Payne of Hermiston was the successful bidder for the warehouses sold by the Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc. at Lexington last week. Payne will salvage the material and haul it to Hermiston for use in a large hotel building he is erecting there.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Turner are leaving today for Portland to spend a few days with Mrs. Turner's mother before returning to their home at Eugene. They arrived here Sunday, being met at Pendleton by Mr. Turner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Turner. The trip from Eugene to Pendleton was made by plane.

New Bus Service

The Grey Rock Bus Lines will now give daily bus service between Heppner, Lexington and Lone and The Dalles.

Bus will leave Heppner at 7:30 a. m. and returning leave The Dalles at 5:15 p. m.

Gray Rock Bus Lines

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Meets First Monday Each Month
Citizens having matters for discussion, please bring before the Council
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**Morrow County
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**HEPPNER
GAZETTE TIMES**
NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
1946 Active Member

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

Forecast for Spring

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