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**OREGON NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Prompt Action Needed

If there is to be more done about building a flood control dam at Heppner than the mere drawing of plans, local people will have to get on the job and do some real boosting. If this were the only project the rivers and harbors engineers had to consider it might be possible to get some consideration through the activities of a few interested parties—people who have the welfare of the community at heart and are not concerned so far as their personal aggrandizement might enter into the picture. It is one thing to propose and quite another thing to get that proposal accepted.

One of the essential features of a project of this nature is to convince the powers that be of the necessity for it. Ofttimes the necessity is apparent to everybody but it still requires pressure to gain recognition in the right quarters. Men in high places are busy. They also have certain rules of procedure, and the mere presentation of a proposed project, unless containing unusual features that are at once recognizable, will seldom get more than first reading and possibly marked "tabled for later consideration" and that virtually means for good.

It must be recognized that a majority of the residents of Heppner have been born or came here since 1903. Those who witnessed that tragedy are few in number. For that reason the present population should be informed on the subject of cloudburst floods and an effort made to stir up more enthusiasm for the type of protection provided in the proposed dam. They should be reminded that history has a habit of repeating itself and that barring a few improvements along the creek channel, a similar storm to that of June 14, 1903, would again wreak havoc here. No one wants to see a recurrence of that disaster, yet when there is a possibility, no matter how remote, few if any of us will take the time to write a letter, or letters, to our congressional delegation or to others in position to aid us, urging that the dam be built.

We may not get a favorable report on the dam in the beginning. If we have a just cause and stay on the job it can be brought up again. This has been demonstrated in the Central Oregon irrigation project, the Shasta dam and other federal supported projects not built under depression or wartime emergencies. It took years to get final recognition. The North Unit irrigation project was voted in 1936, accepted by the reclamation bureau a year or so later but given final approval only on the basis that CCC labor be used to absorb one-fifth of the cost. Consequently if we are in earnest about our flood control dam we will have to prepare ourselves for a long, hard battle. There are hundreds of proposals before the rivers and harbors board and the inclination is to approve those projects having what appears to them to have the most merit.

We know our project has merit—plenty of it—but can we make the board see our way? Most

certainly not if we neglect to forward the facts to them and to urge fair consideration. This is a matter in which all will have to show an interest in which all are vitally interested. Also it is a if future generations are not to worry every time a heavy black cloud appears in the southern sky.

The Great American Pastime

Devotees of baseball will be glad to learn that the great national pastime is being revived in these parts. Except for sporadic outbreaks of school baseball there has been little evidence of the great sport the past few years. Revival of the Wheat League should inject a little lively community spirit in the several towns affected and for the next several weeks there will be something to share the enthusiasm with the customary yarn about the big one that got away.

Baseball rosters will be made up mostly of veterans of World War II. That is a pleasant reminder that war is out and peacetime conditions in. It is fulfillment of a dream of many boys of that day when they would be home once more and living normal lives. For it is normal for youth to existing circumstances playing the game will help play baseball, as well as other games, and under them eradicate bitter memories of things they did and saw a few short months ago.

Here's hoping for a successful season in the Wheat League and may the best team win!

Oregon's Rarest Tree

Most Oregonians love their forest trees and have more than a speaking acquaintance with alders, cedars, firs, pines spruce and the host of less common trees which are found in Oregon.

There is one tree which is often mentioned but seldom seen. The beauty of its wood is only surpassed by its beauty as a growing tree. It is the Oregon myrtle wood.

Those who think of myrtle wood as a bookend or a candlestick will be surprised to learn that trees four feet in diameter and one hundred feet high were once common in the virgin myrtle wood forests in Oregon. Today, only a few groves of large trees remain. They are in Coos and Curry counties, on our southern coast line.

The beauty of the Oregon myrtle wood has created an enemy in the form of men armed with saws, axes and turning lathes, until today the supply of these trees is rapidly dwindling.

In order to save for future generations, some representative groves of virgin myrtle wood, there has been formed an organization called "Save the Myrtle Woods", Inc. It is supposed to be a non-profit sharing organization, but the people of the present, as well as the future, will profit by its activities.

The plan is to acquire available stands of virgin myrtle wood trees, large enough and otherwise suited for park purposes, and to turn these over to the state of Oregon for conversion into state parks.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wells drove to Portland Sunday afternoon where they spent a couple of days. They returned Tuesday evening.

Robert V. Turner and son Michael of Portland spent the week-end in Heppner visiting Mr. Turner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Turner.

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.

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