

EDITORIAL

"The Biggest Little Lodge"

Heppner, with a population of approximately 1600, is known far and wide, but how many of us have realized that it is the smallest town in the world with an Elks lodge? As explained elsewhere in this newspaper, Heppner Lodge No. 358 represents a district having a population in excess of the standard 5,000 requirement and today membership is well above 500 paid up brothers with the list soon to exceed 600. For that reason No. 358 is referred to as the "biggest little lodge on earth."

It is with great pride on the part of the membership and with credit to the substantial position of the town and community that the lodge will on February 22 observe the 50th anniversary of the Institution of No. 358 with the opening of one of the finest club rooms in Oregon Elksdom. The lodge has spared no expense where the comfort and convenience of member patrons is concerned and if the members of the parent and host lodge appear a bit boastful this week end it will be fully justified.

Reasonable Salary Level Desired

This column has remarked in times past that teachers are only human and should be regarded as the equals of their fellow men. As a matter of fact, they should be given more consideration than the run of the mill because they have to know at least a little more than the average person, and acquiring that knowledge is neither easy nor inexpensive these days.

It is the firm belief of the writer that the people—patrons of the schools—wish to see the teachers treated fairly in the matter of pay. Any reasonable person knows that the salary scale in our schools has not been commensurate with wages received in other lines. Too many of the teachers have had to take summer work of one kind or other in order to keep themselves clothed and to keep from running into debt. We have concerned ourselves with the nine months in which they are employed in teaching and cast them out of our minds for the rest of the year.

This should not be the case. If we urge young people to take up teaching as their life work we should make provision for their keep. They should be hired on a full-time basis, with their checks made payable each of the twelve months so that they could figure on going to summer school, if necessary, and enjoying rest and recreation that they may return in the fall refreshed and eager to carry on their work.

As to the rate of pay, whether a ceiling or a floor policy be adopted, it should be sufficient to meet high cost periods such as we are suffering at the present time but not so high that the scale could not be met in normal times. In other words, if salary scales are boosted above a reasonable level now they are bound to tumble farther when the trend of living standards starts

downward. A balance might be struck by paying according to a teacher's worth.

However, some doubt exists as to the ability of counties such as Morrow and other thinly populated eastern Oregon sections to meet these salary requirements if they also have to contribute to the support of the larger and wealthier counties—mainly on the west side of the Cascades.

A Project That Didn't Materialize

To those who have become residents of Heppner and vicinity in more recent years, it will be news to learn that at one time a railroad was projected up Willow creek to the coal mines. Indeed, rumors were afloat that the Union Pacific was contemplating a line through Heppner to connect with a branch to be built from Vale out to Brogan. In other words, the new line was to be the main line as it would be a little shorter than the present route through to Huntington.

Substantiating local belief in the project was the installation of a large fuel oil tank. Plans were seen of contemplated division facilities here. It cannot be recalled if steps were taken by the Union Pacific (then the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company) to secure right-of-way up Willow creek, but some work of that nature was done about that time by the Heppner Railroad & Coal Company.

Fortunately, there was no real estate boom here in connection with the rumors and Heppner went on its way about the same until the flood hit in 1903.

An item in the Heppner Times of June 25, 1903, second week after the flood, brought to mind the above reminiscence. It explains what was in the air at that time, and reads as follows: "Ex-Governor T. T. Greer, Walter Lyons and State Senator E. M. Croisan of Marion county came up from Salem Sunday to review the ruins of Heppner. Mr. Lyons, who has visited Heppner before and knows something of the resources back of the town, said: 'If the O. R. & N. company will take up the project and rush the building of the railroad from Heppner to the coal mines through to completion this summer, Heppner will not feel the financial loss caused by the flood, rather it would cause a reaction in the opposite direction, making a town of better buildings, more substantial in general and greatly increase the population.'"

The railroad was never built, although the mines were worked a few seasons, producing a high grade coal. But the coal is still up there in the hills and some day, perhaps, an effort will be made to develop them, not so much as a fuel agent as for some of the more important by-products. It may not require a railroad to get the products to market, what with the development of auto truck transportation, but development of the mines might lead to some of that increase in population referred to by Mr. Lyons nearly 44 years ago.

Livestock Leader At OSC Accepts So. American Bid

R. G. Johnson, head of the department of animal husbandry at Oregon State college and prior to that county agent in Grant county for seven years, will leave his present position April 1 to take an important position designed to further the livestock industry in Venezuela. His headquarters will be at Caracas, chief city of this South American republic.

The offer of the new position which carries both greater increased salary and responsibility, came from Nelson Rockett, former member of the state department staff and now head of two international corporations, the \$3,000,000 International Basic Economy corporation and the non-profit American International association.

Johnson will represent these organizations in Venezuela where he will be in charge of all phases of livestock development by them, including establishment of a livestock program for that country. The same organizations have already started a program in Brazil aimed at increasing food production through use of modern methods.

Succeeding Johnson at O. S. C. is Dr. Fred F. McKenzie, professor of animal husbandry, who has been recommended as chairman of the department. Dr. McKenzie is one of the top national authorities in artificial insemination of domestic animals and in that capacity has made three trips to South America at the invitation of governments there to conduct schools for native specialists.

Johnson, a graduate of Oregon State in 1924, has had previous experience in helping plan a livestock program in another country. In 1942 he was selected by the state department to go to China to study conditions there for the Chinese government. He spent about 18 months on this mission as special technical adviser on the staff of the American ambassador at Chungking.

As Johnson's specialty on the D.S.C. staff has been range and range livestock management, a new man with training in this field will be added to the staff as soon as he is available, Dean W. A. Schoenfeld has announced.

Mrs. Tom Wells and Miss Patricia Kenny were hostesses at the Wells home Wednesday evening, Feb. 12, at a bridal shower for Mrs. Emmett Kenny, nee Betty Robinson. The honoree received many appropriate gifts for her new home in Pendleton. The hostesses served light refreshments.

30 YEARS AGO

From the Gazette Times, Feb. 15, 1917.

M. H. Koppie, who formerly conducted the Fair Store in this city about two years ago, has again opened up for business here in the building just north of the Palace hotel.

Ira Morgan, until recently manager of the Morrow County creamery, has resigned his position here and will move with his family to Wenatchee, Wash., where he has a similar position.

H. O. George N. and Fred Ely, B. F. Morgan, James Allen and Wild Palmteer attended the Oddfellows lodge at Ione last Saturday night—Morgan item.

Ben O. Anderson returned to Heppner last Monday after spending several days visiting his sister, Mrs. Martin Johnson, at Cottage Grove.

Lambing has started already at the Vey sheep ranch on upper Butter creek.

"HEALTHY HELPERS" CLUB MEETS AT BOARDMAN

Reporter Wilbur Platt of the "Healthy Helpers" 4-H club at Boardman sends in the following report of a recent meeting:

Our club held the fifth meeting of the Healthy Helpers, with Robert Fortner presiding. We gave the flag salute and the club pledge. The secretary called the roll. All were present and responded with a poem or article about Abraham Lincoln.

Mat Halvorsen, pioneer farmer of the lone country, was in Heppner last Saturday transacting business.

A wool car is coming.

Coming to opera house next Monday and Tuesday nights—Minstrel Show.

Special price on silk and messaline petticoats—the Fair Store.

Heppner lodge R.P.O.E. will hold their regular ball at the Fair pavilion on Thursday evening. According to Secy. Prewitt Cox, Parson's orchestra from Portland has been hired and the holiday fete promises to be one of the smartest events to take place in Heppner in many a day.

Mr. and Mrs. Vawter Crawford and daughter Mary have returned to Heppner to again make their home after having spent a year or more in Ione. Mr. Crawford will again be associated with his sons in the publishing business.

We have three new members. Their names are Bonnie Ball, Fred Knight and Edna Knight. We closed by all singing Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean, one of the club songs.

The next meeting will be on February 26.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Houghton were in Heppner Tuesday to file assessment blanks for the West End irrigation district, of which Mr. Houghton is manager.

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Where Cissy Spent Her Honeymoon

Most of the young newlyweds in our town spent their honeymoons at Roundstone Lake or Jackson Falls; why the Martins even went as far as New York City.

But when Cissy Cupper married the young Carter boy, they allowed as how they were going to spend their honeymoon right here.

"There's no place better than our town," Cissy says. "And I'd like to start married life at home, with things Bud and I are used to."

Makes sense, come to think of it. Folks naturally left them alone and except for occasional visits to the Garden Tavern for a glass of beer, they stayed at home, getting used to married bliss.

My missus prefers traveling—and that's her right. But from where I sit, there's no place better for a honeymoon—or second honeymoon—than right at home—with your own possessions, good home cooking, and a friendly glass of beer or two—with the best companion in the world.

Joe Marsh

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WARNING!

The law provides a penalty of \$10.00 for each day after March 1st for those who have not turned in their Personal Property return by that date. **BETTER GET BUSY!**

W. O. DIX, Assessor

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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