

# EDITORIAL



## Nature Is Impartial

There is little to be said about the current cold snap other than to offer the comment that nature is impartial in arranging the weather schedules. This region has for several years enjoyed mild winters, rain substituting for snow and frost, and such "spells" as did come, say for the past nine or ten years, were of short duration. Come to think of it, the current cold snap has been in force about ten days and that is nothing to complain about. Certainly the weather up to the first of February had not been hard to take and we would not be complaining now were it not for the fact that we had grown accustomed to showers of rain instead of showers of snow and to the thermometer ranging along in the forties up rather than from six to 10 above up.

By comparison with other parts of the country, we of the Pacific Northwest have no grounds for anything other than thankfulness. It is true that some districts in this great region suffer occasional bitter cold snaps but such occasions are few and somewhat widely separated. An occasional downward turn of the mercury gives us greater zest for living. It offers a diversion to those who are young enough to play and gives the less young something to reminisce over. If we were to experience nothing but rain and a little sunshine now and then we might become too smug with our surroundings. A little break in the weather such as we have at present serves to remind us that life doesn't run smoothly and that we should always be on the alert for what lies ahead.

## Two Hats In Ring

The political pot has not reached the boiling point—far from it—but up to the present two county officials, have signified their intention of seeking return to their present jobs. County Clerk C. W. Barlow and Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman have their petitions out and seem to have no difficulty in obtaining enough signatures to place their names upon the primary ballot. This makes three candidates to get into action. Representative Henry Peterson having declared himself a few weeks earlier.

The local political situation, unlike the national field, is slow to get steamed up. It may require a little pushing to get candidates lined up for the few offices due to be filled this year, although we know of some good men who are giving the matter of county commissioner some consideration.

It is not too early to file and prospective candidates should be getting their petitions out before many more days elapse.

## Stores And Ideologies

It isn't often commented upon, but retail stores here and in the Soviet Union are an excellent example of essential differences between free enterprise and government enterprise.

In Russia, for instance, there are various "classes" of stores. A few modern shops carry good stocks and go in for attractive displays and high standards of service. But these stores, under present policy in the workers' paradise, are open to only a relatively few top people—important officials, high-ranking officers, artists whose work is in favor with the ruling clique, foreigners with diplomatic status, etc. The stores which the masses of the people can patronize are dreary and dirty, and carry only the barest of necessities and few of those. The worker has to deal in the black market to keep alive. There isn't, of course, any competition between stores—the state owns and runs them all, and the customer is always wrong.

By comparison, America has the finest retail system in the world. Every store is in direct competition with many others. Chains and independents, department stores and super-markets, specialty shops and mail-order houses, are all out for the business. The customer is king, and every possible device is used to attract him—courteous service, lower price, interesting advertising, colorful displays, and so on. Anybody can buy wherever he pleases, and if he doesn't like one store he is free to take his money down the street. The average Russian just wouldn't believe the truth about American retailing—just as, living in his totalitarian darkness, he wouldn't believe what free enterprise achieves for the people.

## CLOSE UP ON GERMANY

Only German women, organized and working to demand a better "place in the sun" can pull themselves out of the near slavery which has been their lot, said Mrs. James T. Brand, speaking before a Salem club. She lived a year in Germany while her husband, Justice Brand of the Oregon Supreme court, served on the war crimes tribunal. Just before leaving Europe last month she observed little progress in the adjustment of war scars. An ever-repeated scene in the drama is a wagon being drawn by a cow and a woman, while the husband leads the cow. Women lift carts sunken in the mud, while their men direct activity, she reports. A great problem for the German nation is the male-female ratio of one to five.

The needs of everyone in the conquered nations are so great that any aid is but a drop in the bucket. Woolen clothes and yarns are the most useful items that can be sent, even if they are worn. Everywhere it is bitter cold and little or no heat is available. The black market, completely accepted by everyone with no attempt to be high-minded about it, is the only method of procuring anything. No one goes visiting anywhere without taking groceries along. Americans are welcomed everywhere—"Rich and Americans are one and the same word to Germans," Mrs. Brand said.

## CAMPAIGN WARMS UP

The political shadow boxing is all over in the gubernatorial scrap. The first blows were landed on Candidate Hall by Potential Candidate Dean Walker who accused Hall of political grandstanding in bidding for the higher educational vote in Eugene by advising that state surplus funds be initiated to state universities and colleges. "The proposal is not new. In Eugene, a college town, it sounds pretty good," Walker declared. State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott, also a potential candidate for governor, took a two-column wallop at Hall's idea of by-passing other more urgent state needs for higher educational expansion. Friends close to Herman Oliver of Grant county, successful livestock grower with experience as a member of the state highway commission and as a member of the state board of higher education, say he will not entertain running for governor though a considerable groundswell has developed around his habitat.

## UNEMPLOYMENT LOW

The year just passed was a worker's year. Unemployment decreased steadily during 1947. There were 948 fewer claims for unemployment compensation on file with the state commission on January 1 this year than there were at the same time last year. During the month of January there was an increase of 3000 in the unemployment ranks which brought the February total to 40,000. This is 5000 less than were drawing compensation one year ago. This is a good economic sign considering last winter was an "open winter" and seasonal work had few interruptions. On January 1, 1948 there were 309,906 employed workers reported by the 160,000 employers covered by the provisions of the state unemployment compensation act. The backlog fund of the commission, specifically earmarked unemployment relief, now totals \$76,441,115.

"BABY VEAL, MADAME?" Many persons who believe they are living better than they ever did do not know that they may be eating meat that formerly was discarded as fox and mink food. The day-old veal that "Brer Fox" was getting last year, and for which his keeper paid only a dollar or so a head, now is going into sausage and on the block of butchers who have wry conception of American free enterprise. The state department of agriculture declares day-old veal is unfit for human consumption. It is unlawful to slaughter calves under four weeks old.

**CAPITAL ROULADE**  
Drunken driving and financial



Photographer Louis Lyons caught this picture as O. G. Crawford was congratulating William F. Barrett upon being presented with the "outstanding young citizen of the county for 1947" award posted by the Junior chamber of commerce. The presentation took place the evening of January 14 during the annual football banquet held in the music room at the school.

## Washington Week

By ARTHUR HACHTEN  
Washington, D. C.—Small business men have arrived in Washington. Hundreds of independents—the "little fellows" who are part of the backbone of American business—are here to learn, help and look out for their own interests, which are the stores and factories that are a part of our home towns. When about 200 small business men came to Washington recently and visited Congress, they expressed general approval of recent actions of Congress in restoring freedom to competitive enterprises. The "little fellows" didn't ask for coddling. All they wanted was their right to do business, fair and square. They pay their taxes, give 16 ounces to the pound—want others to do the same. Reduction in government expenditures and its corollary, lower taxes, is a basic battle-cry with them. Senator Wherry (R) of Nebraska, chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, and Rep. Walter C. Ploeser (R) of Missouri,

These self-made independents irresponsibility following an accident are causes for 95 per cent of the 400 cancellations of drivers' licenses made each month. Rapid population increase since World War II has spurred city officials to a study of existing water resources. They will seek state aid in resurveying watersheds. Flax growers have asked congress to dispose of present flax fiber stock piles to foreign countries. Oregon Pure Sheepbreeders association wants the "free American system of agriculture made a part of the Marshall plan for the agriculture of Europe." Oregon has progressed further than any other state in the rehabilitation of persons suffering industrial injuries.

**HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES**  
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Publisher and Editor

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have arrived later on the scene than the farmers, organized labor, and other economic groups who are quite adept in presenting their views to Congress. When about 200 small business men came to Washington recently and visited Congress, they expressed general approval of recent actions of Congress in restoring freedom to competitive enterprises. The "little fellows" didn't ask for coddling. All they wanted was their right to do business, fair and square. They pay their taxes, give 16 ounces to the pound—want others to do the same. Reduction in government expenditures and its corollary, lower taxes, is a basic battle-cry with them. Senator Wherry (R) of Nebraska, chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, and Rep. Walter C. Ploeser (R) of Missouri,

**Keepsake**  
DIAMOND RINGS  
A half-million small firms disappeared during the war years. They couldn't get their share of government orders. Problems of the post-war period now challenge Congress. But the renewed activity of small business undoubtedly stems from the recently won freedoms from government controls; their new-found, collective voice is now be-

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## 30 YEARS AGO

From Heppner Gazette Times February 14, 1918  
A special train will run from Heppner to Cecil on the evening of February 16, when the big Stockmen's and Cowpunchers dance is held in Cecil hall. All proceeds will be turned over to the Red Cross.  
Stockholders of the Heppner Mining company, owners of the Mayflower group of mines in the Greenhorn district, held their annual meeting in the office of Sam E. Van Vactor Tuesday afternoon. All the officers were re-elected and Clarence Scrivner was elected director to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his father, D. B. Stalter is president and J. O. Hager, secretary.  
Midwinter swimming is some sport out in the Pacific. The weather is warm as summer but they

**BOY SCOUT WEEK**  
FEB 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup>

don't get to swim very often because of sharks, reports Edgar Copenhaver. He tells about a group taking their lunch to a sandy beach and swimming in a fenced-off area.  
W. C. Bowling, proprietor of the local bakery, has enlarged his business during the past week by adding home-made candies to his stock in trade.  
Will R. Bennett, for a number of years with the First National Bank of Heppner, has been named to succeed Mr. Sargent as superintendent of banks by the state banking board.  
Mrs. W. E. Ranck has received word from the war department announcing the fact that her son, William Gosney, was among the survivors from the ill-fated Tuscania, large British ship loaded

**Specials For These Wintry Days...**

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One Quart Glass Pitchers	19c
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A quiet wedding was solemnized at St. Patrick's church in Heppner Tuesday morning when Miss Sarah Doherty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Doherty of Blackhorse, became the bride of F. O. McLaughlin of Pendleton.  
A fall of several inches of the "beautiful" is chronicled for Heppner this a.m. but it is fast melting away by the warm sunshine of the middle of the day.  
Two important deals in Rhea creek real estate were made last week. Laxton McMurray sold his wheat ranch consisting of 2,000 acres to Dave Erwin of Prescott, Wash., for \$65,000, and C. C. Rhea bought the Jason Biddle ranch for \$5,000.  
**GRANGE MEETING**  
Lexington grange will meet Saturday evening, February 14, in regular session. Card announcements usually sent out before each meeting were missing this week due to the fact that the secretary was hemmed in by snow and couldn't get them into the mail.  
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