

# HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

Heppner, Oregon, Thursday, August 26, 1948

Volume 65, Number 23

## Registration For Armed Services To Open August 30

### Offices Set Up In Three Towns to Aid Young Registrants

President Truman has proclaimed the initial registration in the States, Alaska, Hawaii and the District of Columbia for the period August 30-September 18, 1948, both dates inclusive. The persons to be registered and the dates fixed for them to present themselves are as follows:

August 30—Men born in 1922, after August 20, 1922; August 31—September 1—men born in 1923; September 2—men born in 1924; September 3—men born in 1925; September 4—men born in 1926; September 5—men born in 1927; September 6—men born in 1928; September 7—men born in 1929; September 8—men born in 1930; September 9—men born in 1931; September 10—men born in 1932; September 11—men born in 1933; September 12—men born in 1934; September 13—men born in 1935; September 14—men born in 1936; September 15—men born in 1937; September 16—men born in 1938; September 17—men born in 1939; September 18—men born in 1940.

"And thereafter in the 'Continuing Registration' as men become 18 years of age, within five days of the 18th anniversary of the day of their birth," the proclamation continues.

Arrangements have been made in Morrow county to care for the registrants. Mrs. Grace Fields, who had charge of the draft board office during the war, has volunteered to handle the registrations at Heppner and will be on duty at the Heppner city hall between the hours of 7 a. m. and 11:30 a. m. during the period listed above. A. C. Houghton at Irigon and F. C. Russell at Boardman will be in charge of the registrations in the northern part of the county.

Since this service is on a voluntary basis the registrants will appreciate cooperation of the registrants, particularly in the case of Mrs. Fields who has regular work in the afternoon.

## Random Thoughts...

Do you want a job for which the remuneration is the satisfaction of having done the best you could in behalf of your fellow man? If so, the Heppner chamber of commerce would like to have your name.

At Monday's luncheon meeting it developed that three county directorships for statewide and national fund raising agencies are or will be open at the end of the year. First, there is the community chest, a state agency. Blaine E. Isom headed this movement for three years, automatically retiring when he moved out of the county early this year. He completed his campaign for 1948 and asked to have a new director appointed.

Now comes Francis Nickerson with the information that he is moving to Chicago and with great reluctance will have to surrender the chairmanship of the March of Dimes organization in the county. "Nick" has conducted the campaign through two successful seasons and has the work set up in such a manner that a new director will have practically nothing to do—just the same things he has had to do (and we hope he will not come in and tell the writer what a high regard he has for editorial truth).

Last, but not least, there is the matter of the American Red Cross chairmanship. Jack O'Connor says he is positively and absolutely will not carry on any longer than the end of his term. Like "Nick" he is reluctant to retire but feels that some other worthy soul should be accorded the honor for a year or two or long enough to have his or her name recorded in the Red Cross hall of fame.

Now, there you are, three highly honorable tasks, awaiting three honorable takers.

Laying aside any tendency to be facetious, this is a serious matter and calls for serious consideration. The three men mentioned herein have done good jobs with these more or less thankless tasks and have not only the thanks of organizations they served but the people of the county as well.

While rambling down the column it occurs that there might be a solution to this and other problems confronting the community wherein volunteer leadership and assistance are depended upon. Considerable sums of money are raised during the year and much valuable time of certain of our citizens is required in handling these financial campaigns and other activities. Take the fair and rodeo, and the secretaryship of the chamber of commerce—all non-paying activities that take a heavy toll in time and patience of those who carry on the work. Why not merge all of these jobs into one, with each contributing a proportionate share in making up a sufficient fund to warrant a year-round job for a competent person.

C. R. McAllister is spending a few days in Portland, having left for the city Sunday.

## SWIM PROGRAM POSTPONED

Due to several conflicting engagements and disagreeable weather this week making practice impractical, the swim class program scheduled for Sunday afternoon, August 29 has been postponed. Announcement will be made later regarding the date.

## Friends Gather To Honor Vicar And Mrs. Neville Blunt

There was a large ingathering of church membership and friends, including several ministers of the Eastern Oregon district at the parish house of All Saints Episcopal church Tuesday evening honoring the retiring vicar, Rev. Neville Blunt and Mrs. Blunt. There was a potluck dinner at 6:30, after which there was a short program of talks by Rev. Clarence Kopp of St. Peter's church, La Grande; Rev. E. O. Robathan, Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, and Francis Nickerson of Heppner, and two vocal solos by Mrs. Ture Peterson, accompanied by Mrs. Blunt.

Special guests besides Mr. Kopp and Mr. Robathan, were Mrs. Kopp, Mrs. Robathan and son David; Rev. Arthur Beckwith, Mrs. Beckwith and Mrs. Louise Plant of St. Andrews church, Burns; Rev. Harold E. Parrott and sons Edgar and John, St. Stephen's, Baker; Rev. C. L. Callahan, St. Matthew's, Ontario; Miss Sophia Robertson, Pendleton, and Miss Hazel Morrison, chairman of isolated and rural work in the district, Klamath Falls.

Mrs. R. B. Rice paid a tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Blunt and then presented Mrs. Blunt with a going away gift.

The Blunts are leaving the first of the week for Medford to make their home.

## Mrs. V. R. Runion Succumbs to Long Illness Sunday

Following an illness of several years, death came to the relief of Mrs. V. R. Runion about 9:30 Sunday evening at the family residence in southeast Heppner. She had hovered near the border for several weeks and after a moment of wakefulness Sunday morning slept peacefully on to the end.

Services were held at 2 o'clock p. m. in the Masonic hall under the auspices of Ruth chapter No. 32, Order of the Eastern Star, with the Rev. Neville Blunt reading the scriptures and the prayers from the Episcopal prayer book. Hymns were sung by Mrs. Fred Hoskins Jr. and Charles Barlow, accompanied by Mrs. C. C. Carmichael, lodge organist. The hall was tastefully decorated with the floral tributes of sorrowing friends who had throughout her long illness sought to aid and comfort her.

pallbearers were George Snyder, Robert Grabill, Edward Brown, E. C. Dougherty, Dale Brown and J. G. Barratt.

The graveside service of the Rebekahs was given by the officers of Sans Souci Rebekah lodge. Susie May Frel was born April 22, 1899 at Crawford, Neb. She was married to V. R. Runion at Lewiston, Idaho, on December 20, 1933. They moved to Oregon in 1936, locating at Heppner which was her home to the time of death.

Besides her husband she is survived by two children of previous marriage, Harold C. Hovet of Portland and Mrs. Ruth Gosney of Hood River, and two children of Mr. Runion, Robert Runion Jr. of Heppner and Mrs. Geraldine D. Simpson of Pittsburg, Pa.; five sisters, Mrs. Nora McGleeme, Vancouver, Wash.; Mrs. Violet Halderman, Douglas, Wyo.; Mrs. Henry Northness, Katama, Wn.; Mrs. Aleck Northness, Muriel, Neb.; and Mrs. James Clapham, Edgemont, S. D.; two brothers, Earl and Roy Frel, both in Montana, and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Runion was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, the Rebekahs and the Degree of Honor.

## IONE ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Grassl of Walla Walla and her sister, Mrs. Cecilia Thorne of Morgan, made a trip to Portland, Seattle and Grand Coulee last week.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bryson went to Kennewick, Wash., Sunday and took their niece Julia Roundy back home.

Mrs. Gordon White and son Charles are visiting in Forest Grove.

John Garvey, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bergevin, is expected from Rhode Island this week. Mrs. Garvey spent the summer here.

Rev. Thomas Applebee of Condon conducted services at the Cooperative church Sunday morning.

Mrs. Ida Coleman and daughters Sue and Anabelle, Mrs. Della Corson and Mrs. Echo Palmateer and daughter Laurel were Pendleton visitors Tuesday.

## Water Pageant To Feature Close of Swimming Lessons

Plans have been completed for the annual water pageant marking the close of the 948 swimming season at the Heppner municipal tank. Weather permitting, the program will be run through beginning at 2 o'clock p. m., Sunday, August 29, according to Miss Jackie Tetz, tank manager and swimming instructor. The pageant is under the auspices of the American Red Cross society, sponsor of the summer swimming program.

The program will open with ceremonies in which all will participate, followed by a novelty race for eight girls aged six to nine years; a race for seven boys aged six to nine years; a race for four boys aged 10 to 12 years, and a race for four girls aged 10 to 12 years.

Prizes for the above races will be donated by Orville Smith of the Heppner Lumber company, and local merchants, and are being collected by the Jay-Cettes.

Other numbers on the program are a rope race by the life saving class; a water ballet featuring Rita Dell Johnson, Corabelle Nutting and Jackie Tetz, instructor; life saving demonstration by the class; diving demonstrations, and water formations by all students. The program will close with awards and finale.

Jack O'Connor, county Red Cross director, will act as official announcer.

The demonstrations will be free to the public and those in charge will be highly gratified to see the area around the tank filled with spectators.

## Conservation Field Day To Be Held In Umatilla County

Morrow county farmers who have been asking the question, "What will I do with all the straw I have this year," will have an opportunity to see some of the different methods of handling straw on Tuesday, August 31. The demonstration will be held in Umatilla county on the Harold Barnett ranch 2 miles south and 3 1/2 miles west of Adams. The time is 10 a. m., daylight saving time.

Those interested will have an opportunity to see different types and makes of farm machinery available for conservation farming. This field has 5 to 6000 pounds of straw per acre on it and the slope varies from 5 to 12 or 14 percent. Equipment will include various types of stubble beaters, choppers, chisels, and discs and other implements adapted to fall cultivation.

The demonstration will be conducted under the cooperation of the extension service, the Soil Conservation service, the Indian service, equipment dealers, and Mr. Barnett.

## CHURCHES

### CHURCH OF CHRIST

John D. Runyan, minister, phone 2615.

Bible school 9:45 a. m.; C. W. Barlow, superintendent adult department; Zevler Yocum, superintendent Junior Yocum.

Morning worship, 11 a. m., sermon subject, "There Shall Be a Highway."

Evening services, 8 p. m., sermon subject, "A Rich Man Up a Tree."

Choir rehearsal Thursday evening, 7.

Bible study Thursday evening, 8.

Everybody ought to have a church home. You have a house to live in, a garage to your car, you have a postoffice address for yourself. I ask you, "Does God know where to find you?" Let's go to church—together.

### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Holy communion, 8 a. m.  
Holy communion, 11 a. m.

### LEXINGTON CHURCH

Geo. H. Hatch, minister; Don Campbell, superintendent.

Bible school meets each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. Worship services at 11 o'clock. This Sunday the pastor will speak of "Expanding Horizons." At the 8 o'clock evening service we will feature a singsgiving and the pastor will talk about "How to Manage Trifles." The public is cordially invited.

### ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Schedule of services:  
Mass in Heppner on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9 a. m.; 10:30 Mass in Ione on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 10:30 a. m.; 2nd and 4th at 9 a. m.

Mass on the fifth Sunday—one mass only—in Heppner at 9 a. m. on the 2nd and 4th.

Holy days of obligation: Mass in Heppner at 7:30 a. m.; mass in Ione at 9 a. m.

First Fridays of the month: Mass in Heppner at 7:30.

## Queen Betty



The queen of the 1948 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo will be the honoree at Saturday night's dance in what is the grand finale to the pre-Rodeo season. Queen Betty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Smethurst of Lexington, is no novice at these affairs for she has served in the capacity of princess and knows what it is to

be the honored guest, Cowgirl—and it might be said, cowboy—regalia fits in naturally as her attire for she has ridden and worked with horses since a very little girl and is today her dad's right-hand "man" in looking after stock, as well as wrangling a buck truck during harvest. She has other accomplishments but prefers the life of a rancher.

## Briefs of Community

### More Markets For Northwest Wheat Commission's Aim

Expanded markets and new uses for Northwest wheat will be the aim of a project outlined in Pendleton by representatives of Washington, Idaho and Oregon experiment stations, the U. S. department of agriculture and the Oregon Wheat commission.

The project, which is expected to start about Sept. 1, will gather complete official information about where Northwest wheat and flour goes.

The men who planned the project hope this information will indicate ways of expanding these markets.

Mr. and Mrs. John Roscoe from Aden, Calif., are visiting this week at the home of Mrs. Roscoe's mother, Mrs. Ebel Adams. They were accompanied to Heppner by Nancy Adams who had spent the past few weeks in their home. The Roscoes are not returning to Aden and will probably locate in Idaho.

The Oregon Wheat commission, which was established by the 1947 legislature, needs this information so it can develop new and expanded markets and uses for Northwest wheat, according to Administrator E. J. Bell.

He says that unless more markets for wheat are found Northwest wheat growers of this area face a return to the days of huge surpluses and low prices.

Development of new and expanded markets is one of the primary aims of the wheat commission. Bell termed it of "paramount importance."

The project will be financed in part by Hope-Flammagan Research and Marketing act funds, is expected to supply information that can be used as a basis for future plans to increase the demand for Northwest wheat. Bell said.

Niels I. Nielsen of Portland, state agricultural statistician, will supervise the project. The data, when compiled, will be published as official statistics of the bureau of agricultural economics and will be available to anyone who can use them for the benefit of the Northwest wheat industry.

The project will be financed the first year with \$6,000 put up by the Research and Marketing Administration, \$500 by the Oregon

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## Committee Outlines Prizes To Be Awarded For Best Showing In Parade

Wild west shows with their accompanying parades were not in vogue in Shakespeare's time or he might have been led to declare that "the parade's the thing." So important to the annual rodeos and fairs is the parade that to attempt to present the shows without that feature would be like trying to put on a play by omitting one of the acts.

In past years about this time the committee in charge of the parade prizes has been functioning the past day or two and the personnel, J. O. Turner and D. A. Wilson, have come up with the following schedule of prizes for which business houses of the community will be solicited.

Three prizes, first, second and third, will be awarded in the float division. There is no classification in this division.

First and second prizes will be awarded for the best dressed cowboy, the best dressed cowgirl, the oldest cowboy, the oldest cowgirl, the best comic get-up and the best child exhibit. All must be in the parade.

Three impartial judges will be selected to name the winners.

According to the county fair and rodeo program, the parade is scheduled to start at 10 a. m., Saturday, September 4. Those expecting to participate should contact Harlan McCurdy Sr. as early as September 2 to get division assignments.

Little intimation has been given relative to floats, although it is known that several Heppner civic groups are planning to have entries. With harvest later than usual the granges have been somewhat handicapped in getting together for making plans. There is still time to formulate plans and carry them into reality.

## List Rooms Today

There will be many visitors at the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo who will be unable to obtain rooms unless the home owners consent to take them in. Frank Turner has charge of room solicitation and asks that those having spare rooms list them with him at once that he may be able to place the visitors as they arrive.

It must be remembered that the hotel cannot turn over its rooms entirely to fair and rodeo visitors and it is up to home owners to supply as many as possible.

## School Scheduled To Open Tuesday, September 7th

Everything is in readiness for the opening of school, the date of which has been set for Tuesday, September 7, according to Leonard Pate, superintendent. Mr. Pate urges that high school students register some time during the next week so that classes may get down to work.

Selection of teachers for the coming term has not been an easy task and the board of directors and superintendent have closed the ranks more than once only to have someone withdrawn. That trouble seems to have been met and now the greatest worry confronting the officials is to get some of the new teachers housed. Two apartments are needed and some wish rooms in private homes.

"It is imperative that places be found for the teachers," Supt. Pate said Wednesday evening.

The situation is serious and we are depending upon the cooperation of home owners in remedying the situation. I hope that people with spare rooms will list them at the superintendent's office immediately as we must have housing for these people as soon as they arrive.

Renovation and improvement work has been carried on thru-out the summer and the school plant is in good condition to start the year's work. The new heating plant has been enclosed, thus insuring more efficiency from that source. Redecorating of rooms and some rearranging of space on the ground floor are further accomplishments towards securing more efficiency in carrying on the school work.

## David D. McDowell Buried Here Sunday

Services were held at 2:30 p. m. Sunday at the Phelps Funeral Home chapel for David Delbert McDowell, 63, whose death occurred Thursday, August 18, at Pendleton. John Runyan, pastor of the Heppner Church of Christ, officiated and Mrs. T. E. Peterson sang hymns accompanied by Mrs. C. C. Dunham at the piano. Interment was in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

Mr. McDowell was born May 29, 1885 at Mayville. He lived in Gilliam county all of his life. He was married to Lilly May Kennedy of Condon on March 13, 1907 and to this union were born four children. Mrs. McDowell and three children preceded him in death.

Survivors include his daughter, Mrs. Clarence Warren of Heppner, and two sisters, Mrs. Cassie Thompson of Pendleton and Mrs. Kathy Nelson of Dufur.

## County Agent News

Fair time is drawing near. Premium lists have been sent out to everyone in the county that we have on the mailing list. If you did not get a premium list they are available at this office.

County fairs are held for the purpose of advancing agriculture. Your exhibits will help to make the fair a good one and at the same time you will be advancing Morrow county's agriculture. Whether you exhibit or not don't forget to attend the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo, September 2, 3 and 4.

O. W. Cutsforth, Lexington, is the first farmer this year to dispose of a large quantity of crested wheat grass seed harvested on his ranch. Mr. Cutsforth recently delivered two truck loads of crested wheat to the Watts Seed company at Parma, Idaho. Several other farmers, among them Kenneth Smithee of Ione and Randall Martin, Lexington, had their seed cleaned by Pacific Supply Co., at Redmond.

Yields reported throughout the county are fairly good. Some of the fields were yielding 250 pounds of clean seed per acre until the recent wind storms which shattered much of it out.

The county agent will attend Umatilla County fair this week and at which time he will be judge of the farm produce, crops, miscellaneous 4-H and booth exhibits at this fair.

Average per capita Federal debt is estimated at \$1784. The average per capita State debt is \$1631.

## Fair and Rodeo Plans Taking Shape Rapidly

### Construction Of Rural Electric Line Started This A. M.

A brand new truck with a hole digger arrived here Thursday and rural areas of Morrow, Gilliam and Wheeler counties got under way this morning, announces A. Umbria Basin Electric cooperative. The first crew started at the Glavey ranch on upper Rhea creek and will work down the creek to Ruggs.

A brand new truck with a hole digger arrived here Wednesday and will be put into operation on the line Friday morning. Scouter said, Between 40 and 50 poles are being delivered daily and the work of erecting them and stringing the wires will be pushed as fast as labor and equipment will permit.

### Billy Cochell Hired As Band Director In Ashland Schools

Billy Cochell, director of the Heppner school band the past two years, has been hired as band instructor and director of the Ashland schools. This includes senior and junior high schools and two grade schools. The Cochells are busy packing up to move to the Lithia City this week end.

Billy has been employed at the Heppner Lumber company plant the past few weeks and had about made up his mind to be a lumberman for a year at least and it took a good bit of debating and pondering to reach a decision to accept. His former superintendent, George Corwin, helped him make up his mind by pointing out the advantages Ashland offers not only from good school band set-up but the opportunity to lead the city's municipal band during the summer season. Then there is the opportunity to do special work at Southern Oregon college. These things helped make it clear to him that he should accept and he wired his decision Wednesday morning.

The best wishes of the community go with the Cochells to their new home.

### Francis Nickerson Takes Position in Chicago Business

Francis Nickerson returned over the week end from Chicago where he spent a week looking into a position offered by his father-in-law, A. O. Bauman, who is an economist and business analyst. Nickerson has accepted and is now in the throes of disposing of his residence property and making preparations to move his family to the "Windy City."

While in the big city, "Nick" purchased residence property in Wilmette, Chicago suburb, securing a favorable location with relation to school, church and shopping district.

Since returning to his home town following the war, Nickerson has been active in the civic life of the community. He is a member of the Heppner city council and was the spark plug in putting through the city-couny property trade, a matter that created no small amount of controversy at the time but which was later accepted as a move in the right direction. He was also a leader in the Junior chamber of commerce and has for the past two years headed the March of Dimes campaign in the county.

With his energy and ability it is safe to predict that he will make a place for himself in his new endeavor and the Gazette Times joins in wishing him success and happiness.

### MEETING DATE CHANGED

The meeting scheduled by the O. E. S. social club for September 11 according to the committee in charge. The meeting will be held in the Masonic hall.

Miss Betty Adams entertained a large group of friends Monday evening in honor of Miss Helen Blake, bride-elect. The evening was pleasantly spent in the play room in the basement of the Adams home. The honored guest was presented with a wide variety of gifts, ice cream, cake and coffee were served at the conclusion of the evening. Miss Blake's marriage to Howard Gilliam will be an event of Sunday afternoon at All Saints Episcopal church.

Mrs. Bruna Edwards and children of Prosser, Wash., are visiting at the John Runyan home this week. Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Runyan are sisters. Other guests Tuesday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pearson, also of Prosser.

Buildings and grounds are rapidly taking shape for the 1948 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo in Heppner September 2-3-4 and present indications are that the public will find everything ship-shape next Thursday morning as the annual show opens. This will have been accomplished in the face of erecting new buildings and altering and renovating other structures, announces Nelson Anderson, fair board secretary.

With the buildings and booths in readiness to receive exhibits, the only worry facing the fair board is getting them filled up, and this appears to be unnecessary worry in view of the fact that commercial exhibit booths are more in demand. Individual exhibitors have been a little slow in placing requests for space due, largely to the harvest season, and this is expected to improve within the next few days. The management is stressing the commercial, individual and farm organization booths, including the youth groups such as the 4-H club, Future Farmers of America and the Juvenile League.

Mrs. Ralph Thompson, superintendent of the home economics division, suggests and urges that prospective exhibitors study the premium list and inform themselves about the various classifications—how many of each grouped to bring in, how they are grouped, and other details.

A new feature this year is the school exhibits division, under supervision of Mrs. Douglas Ogletree. This will include exhibits of work done in the schools during the past year of such items as arts, crafts, English and typing.

Workmen have completed what may be termed as a catwalk over the alley in the new stock pavilion. It is seven feet above the floor, is three feet wide and extends the length of the building. It is for the purpose of storing halters and other gear and could even serve as a sleeping space for stock tenders.

Victor Johnson, Umatilla county agricultural agent, will again judge the livestock and crop exhibits. Mrs. Thalia Jewell, home demonstration agent in Union county, has been retained to judge the home economics exhibits.

At the rodeo grounds a crew has been busy clearing weeds from the arena and preparing the track for the race program that will be interspersed with the rodeo events. Repairs have been made to barns and grandstand and everything will be in readiness to receive and care for the Tucker stock and other animals taking part in the show.

## Harry French Dies At Forest Grove

A card received by Mr. and Mrs. A. V. Wright last Saturday from Mrs. Ada Nelson told of the death Thursday night of her father, W. H. "Harry" French at a Forest Grove hospital. Services were held at 2 o'clock p. m. Saturday at the Forest Grove mortuary, with interment in the cemetery there beside the grave of his wife who preceded him in death a number of years ago.

Mr. French's passing marks the last of a large family. He was the youngest of 14 children and was 84 years, six months and 13 days of age. He was a resident of Morrow county for many years, leaving here during the recent war and making his home on the coast for awhile, later taking residence with his daughter, Mrs. Nelson, at Forest Grove. During his residence in this county he owned a large ranch in the Blue mountains where he developed a fine herd of cattle. Advancing years forced him to dispose of his ranch and cattle and retire to a lower altitude. The Kinzua Pine Mills company bought the ranch, as it was within their timber holdings, and later leased the place to John Wightman, but it is still referred to as the "French ranch."

### FORMER GERMAN REFUGEE VISIT RELATIVES HERE

On their first trip to the western part of the United States since coming to America in November 1946, Mrs. Albert Heppner and son Max of Cleveland, Ohio, have been guests at the H. A. Cohn home this week.

The name Heppner is not coincidental, for Mrs. Heppner's late husband was a grand nephew of Henry Heppner, founder of the town to which he gave his name. A representative of this newspaper was favored with an interview with the visitors and due to shortage of time and space comment must be deferred to a later issue. She is librarian in the museum of art in Cleveland.

Queen Betty Smethurst and three of her princesses, Connie Ruggles, Lorraine Swaggart and Lillian Hubbard, were guests of the Soroptimist club of Heppner at the luncheon meeting today (Thursday). Princesses Vesta Cutsforth and the chaplain of the royal court, Mrs. R. B. Ferguson, were absent as they were out of town.