

Heppner Gazette Times

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Werner Rietmann Takes Own Life At Ione Early Today

Family at Loss For Reason Behind Shocking Tragedy

Citizens of the county were shocked to learn of the death this morning of Werner Rietmann, native son and prominent wheat rancher of the Ione section. Death was self-inflicted and resulted from a gunshot wound in the top of the head, using a .32 caliber revolver. The shooting took place at about 5 o'clock this morning.

Mrs. Rietmann heard her husband get up and leave the house shortly thereafter heard a shot. She rushed to the Garland Swanson home and reported what had occurred and Mr. Swanson called Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman in Heppner. In the absence of Coroner A. D. McMurdo, Justice of the Peace J. O. Hager accompanied the sheriff to the Rietmann home at the edge of Ione where an examination of the body was made and cause of death established.

Family and friends are at a loss to determine a motive for the act. Werner was a quiet type of man, hard working, industrious and one who kept his business affairs in good order. His brother Otto who has worked with him much of the time had noticed that in recent months he appeared to be worried about something but attributed it to general conditions and not to any particular reason. It had also been noted that he had lost some weight but this too was attributed to the fact that he had been working hard. He and Mrs. Rietmann had only recently completed a fine modern ranch-type home just east of Ione and were getting comfortably settled.

Up to press time today no plans had been made for funeral services. The Ione relatives are awaiting word from members of the family living at a distance before making arrangements.

Werner was born July 14, 1895 at the old home place about 10 miles north of Ione, his parents being Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rietmann, pioneer residents of the county. He grew up in Morrow county, received his education in the Ione schools and later engaged in wheat raising in the North Ione district. He was one of eight brothers who at one time formed the main lineup of Ione baseball teams.

Surviving besides the widow are seven brothers: Omar, Walter, Otto, Victor and David of Ione; Edward of Denver, Colo., and Robert of La Havra, Calif., and two sisters, Mrs. Victor Peterson, The Dalles and Mrs. Anna Stith, Meridian, Ida.

Heppner Team To Play Squad From Portland Saturday

Heppner's baseball team has not fared too well in the current Wheat-Timber league season, but that fact has not chilled the ardor of players or fans for the great national pastime. The boys and their manager, La Verne Van Marter, have decided that meeting new faces might give them that little lift they have needed all season and they will take on the snappy club team of the Blue Lake Amusement park of Portland here at 2:30 p. m. Saturday—June 10.

The Blue Lake boys are on tour and wanted to come over and see this part of the eastern Oregon country and to find what kind of baseball is played out on the rodeo field.

Some changes in lineup will be effected by game time Saturday afternoon. McRoberts, first sacker, has moved to Pendleton and Van will have to find someone to take his place. An effort will be made to strengthen the battery and with a few other improvements it is hoped the team will make a favorable showing.

A nominal admission will be charged.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLED

Heppner fire department responded to a call late this afternoon. The garage at the Pat McIntyre residence at the lower end of Gale street was damaged to some extent but the promptness of the fire ladders kept the fire from spreading to nearby property.

Boy Scout Special To Leave June 19

About 96 boys from the Blue Mountain Council district will leave Pendleton by special train June 19 enroute to Valley Forge, Penn., for the International Boy Scout jamboree, June 30 through July 4.

There will be interesting side trips, with stops at Salt Lake City, Denver, Chicago, Detroit, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, D. C.

Heppner will be represented at the jamboree by Wesley Marlatt and Terry Thompson.

Farmers, Business Men Invited to Help Lay Concrete

Fair Board Plans To Lay Dance Floor In One Day's Time

Friday, June 9, 1950 will be a red letter day in Morrow county Fair and Rodeo history if plans of the official board are carried out, for on that day one of the biggest pieces of work coming to the attention of the public in recent years will be consummated.

Laying of the dance floor in the new exposition building at the fair-rodeo grounds is the objective of the fair board. This will be no small task when the dimensions are taken into consideration. A floor space 60 x 90 feet will be covered with concrete and smoothed over to make an excellent dance pavilion.

Look at these figures and see what a job the farmers and business men have lined out for them: To complete the job they will have to mix and spread 90 yards of sand and gravel with 360 sacks of cement. Each volunteer worker has been asked to bring a shovel and a wheelbarrow to help pour the concrete. He also is asked to bring his own lunch, for this is strictly a volunteer proposition.

Monday evening of this week saw the new pavilion completed except the floor. It has been no small task to accomplish this feat when it is remembered that the building's dimensions are 60 x 180 feet. The almost nine-foot walls were laid in four days—May 14—and the roof for this sizeable expanse was laid in approximately one month.

The fair board hopes to be able to seal the dance pavilion half of the building with firtex or similar material. This will not be done this year and perhaps not within another year or two, but it is included in the plans. When that is done, heating will be accomplished at a nominal cost and the big room can be used throughout the year. As it is, the building will be ready for this year's pre-rodeo dances and the fair time dances and will be available as long as weather conditions permit.

The opposite end of the building will not be floored due to the fact that it will be used for exhibiting purposes.

Speaking of the roominess of the building, Orville Cutsforth, chairman of the board, said that five or six cars could easily drive around inside of it without crowding each other. He and Bob Grabill worked with two main-tainers leveling the ground after the walls were completed and never once got in each other's way.

Farmers have quite generally acceded to the board's invitation to help with the work and it is hoped that business men will show a similar interest.

PETTYJOHN-KEITHLEY VOWS SPOKEN AT STEVENSON

Miss Eunice Keithley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Keithley and Clyde Pettyjohn drove to Stevenson, Wash. last Saturday morning and were married. They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Pat O'Brien.

The bride wore a white taffeta dress and matching hat. She is a member of this year's graduating class of Heppner high school. The newlyweds are at home to their friends in the Court Street apartments now owned by the Ellis Pettyjohns.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schunk went to Monmouth Monday to attend commencement exercises. Their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schunk, are members of the graduating class of Oregon College of Education.

Dedication To Take Place At 1:30 Sunday Afternoon . . .



Everybody in Morrow county and surrounding area has been extended an invitation by the Morrow county court and the board of directors of the Pioneer Memorial hospital to attend the dedication service and open house to be held at the hospital building Sunday June 11.

Judge Garnet Barratt has been accorded the privilege of performing the dedicatory rites, will include presentation of a bronze plaque commemorating

the occasion and which will be accepted by P. W. Mahoney, chairman of the board of directors for installation at some point in the building.

Immediately following the dedication exercises there will be open house when visitors will be shown through the building. There will also be refreshments of ice cream, cookies, coffee and punch.

Governor Douglas McKay head.

ed a list of dignitaries receiving invitations to the dedication but the governor has replied that he can't be on hand. It is expected that Representatives Henry Peterson and Giles French and Senator Stewart Hardie of Condon, as well as mayors from the towns of the county and neighboring counties will be present.

Opening of the hospital has been set for midnight Sunday, June 18.

"White Angel" Part of New Hospital Service . . .



That Morrow county will be amply prepared to care for the sick and injured in the most modern manner is seen in this view taken of the ambulance (White Angel) at the rear of the

new Pioneer Memorial hospital which will be dedicated Sunday, June 11 and opened for service June 18. With this combination, the sick and injured will have

advantages of the best transportation to the hospital where the finest of equipment and medical and nursing skill will be employed in their care.

Council Sets Up Financing Terms For Sewer Project

The city council moved one step closer to submitting the sewer project to a vote of the people when the committee report on methods of financing was read and accepted. With a financing plan to offer it will put the city in better position to float a bond issue for construction of the project.

Acceptance of the report did not come without adverse comment. In fact, there was strong opposition from Councilman Case who presented figures to show that the rate set-up would hit him harder than any other business concern or individual. The committee had worked out the plan on a basis of so much per meter on the grounds that each user should help pay for the sewer service. Case's exceptions were that he could not reasonably charge each tenant an additional \$2 or \$2.50 per month for this service; that in comparison to what other large property owners were assessed he would be obliged to pay out of all proportion to the valuation increase to his property that would accrue from having the sewer service. The committee members argued that payment of the assessment would be the tenant's obligation and that his obligation would be for his personal water meter.

Call for a vote resulted in four votes in favor of the report to one against. Mayor Conley Latham being absent, Dr. C. C. Dunham, council chairman, presided and this left five councilmen to vote including Claude Cox, W. C. Rosewall, E. E. Gonty, O. M. Yeager and M. L. Case.

The council considered applications for director of the swimming pool and after discussing qualifications, tendered the position to Mrs. William Labhart who has served in that capacity the past two years.

The city accepted Mrs. Blanche (Continued on page 8)

Kelly-Ferguson Vows Spoken At Church Ceremony

To the strains of soft organ music, amid candle light and pastel toned peonies and delphinium, Miss Marylou Ferguson and Robert C. Kelly of Elmira, Calif. exchanged their wedding vows Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock. All Saints Episcopal church was crowded with relatives and friends while Rev. Elvon L. Tull, vicar, performed the ceremony.

Miss Ferguson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ferguson, escorted by the aisle by her father, was gownned in a white net three tiered skirt in ballerina length with fitted taffeta bodice and taffeta sash. Her fingertip veil was held in place with a Juliet cap of net and seed pearls. Around her neck was a single strand of pearls. She wore white mitts and carried a small shower of stephanotis with a white orchid in the center resting on a white prayer book.

Mrs. Donald Turner of Portland was matron of honor for her cousin. Her gown of ballerina length was white embroidered swiss organdie with green taffeta slip. She carried a nosegay of yellow rosebuds and her cap was of embroidered swiss. She also wore short mitts.

Acting as best man was Stephen Sutherland of Tonopah, Nev., a classmate of the groom's at Oregon State college. Ushers were Donald Turner and William F. Barratt. Mrs. Tull presided at the organ.

A reception at the P. W. Mahoney home followed the church ceremony. Mrs. Patricia Espey assisted in the receiving of the guests and Mrs. William Labhart had charge of the guest book, while Mrs. William Barratt and Mrs. Jimmie Farley presided at the punch bowl. Mrs. Stephen Thompson and Mrs. Leonard Schwarz poured. Mrs. Jesse O. Turner finished cutting the bride's cake. The latter two are aunts of the bride.

After a short honeymoon the young couple will return to Heppner to make their home.

The bride has grown to young womanhood in Heppner where

Layette Awaits First Baby Born In Few Hospital

The first baby born in the new Morrow County Hospital will receive numerous attractive gifts from the merchants of Heppner. His—or-her—parents will also be rewarded in a lesser degree for their share in the historical event.

The donations, which were collected from the merchants by a committee from the Jay Cee-ettes, are on display in the window of the Pacific Power and Light Company.

Businessmen who were missed by the Jay Cee-ettes on their tour may leave their donations to the "derby" at the Marshall-Wells store or with Mrs. Richard O'Shea. The Jay Cee-ettes will list the prizes and their donors in the advertising columns of next week's paper.

Should any business place feel that the person undergoing the first operation or receiving treatment for the first broken bone should merit a "consolation prize," the Jay Cee-ettes will be happy to receive the donation and give it due publicity.

City To Rebuild And Repair Flood Damaged Streets

One New Section To Connect With Road To Hospital

With funds on hand for construction and repairs, the city council Monday evening voted to have upwards of three quarters of a mile of streets rebuilt, built and repaired. Three streets badly torn up by the freshet flood in February 1949 will be rebuilt, one block of new paving will be laid and any funds left over from the state share fund will be applied to repairing other streets.

A total of 4,096 feet of street work is included in the order. On upper Main street, the block passing the swimming pool will be resurfaced. This will include some grading. The 396 feet will require 300 cubic yards of base rock and 200 cubic yards of crushed rock surfacing.

Riverside Drive will be resurfaced a distance of 2700 feet. This will require 1000 cubic yards of base rock and 100 yards of the surfacing material. A considerable amount of regrading will have to be done.

A stretch of 300 feet will be built connecting the north end of Gillmore street with the road to the Pioneer Memorial hospital. It will require 250 cubic yards of base and 150 cubic yards of surface.

Chase street between May and Cannon streets will be rebuilt. This double block, involving 700 feet, which was badly torn up by the 1949 flood, will require 500 yards of base rock and 300 cubic yards of crushed rock surface.

It is understood the Olson Construction company of Pendleton will do the work. The city will furnish materials on the remainder.

Practically every street in town needs repairing but it is not assured that all will get the attention they require.

SOROPTIMISTS LISTEN TO TWO SPEAKERS TODAY

Two speakers were on the program of the Soroptimist Club of Heppner at noon today. Mrs. Joe Hughes presented the facts and figures on the school budgets as gleaned from the county assessor's office.

Guest speaker was T. P. Maher, who is a past president of the Oregon Astrological Society, who gave an instructive talk on the sun and other solar bodies.

1.11 INCHES OF RAIN

Showers that started Tuesday evening continued up until this morning over the region, with the result that farmers' faces have broadened and they are able to smile once more. According to Len Gilliam, 1.11 inches of moisture has fallen in ending the drought that was beginning to take on a serious aspect.

Miss Nancy Adams had her first plane ride last week when she flew from Pendleton to Ontario. Her sister Betty who teaches at Vale met her and the girls

Farris Prock Dies From Burns Due To Highway Accident

Gas-Saturated Clothing Ignited Following Upset

Farris Prock, 36, Heppner truck operator, died at 6:30 Wednesday morning at John Day 10 hours after an accident near Kimberly in which he was fatally burned.

Prock had been on a hauling trip to John Day and was returning to Heppner. Near Kimberly his truck turned over. He apparently was not injured in the accident but gasoline draining from the tank saturated his clothing before he climbed out of the cab. The story reaching Heppner is that upon freeing himself he casually lit a cigarette and this act ignited the gas fumes. He was rushed to the Blue Mountain hospital at Prairie City where he was found to be suffering from 95 percent burns. Not having the facilities for coping with so serious a situation at Prairie City it was decided to rush him to Portland by plane from John Day. Arrangements were made with a flying service to leave immediately upon getting him to the flying field but he died before reaching John Day.

The body was taken to the Driskell Mortuary in John Day and Mr. Driskell brought it to the Phelps Funeral Home in Heppner, arriving shortly before noon Wednesday.

Chapel services will be held at the Phelps Funeral Home at 2:30 o'clock p.m. Friday, with Rev. J. Palmer Sorlien officiating. Interment will be in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

Farris Prock was born February 15, 1914 at Harkville, Mo., the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Prock. He came to Heppner with his parents and had been engaged in trucking for a number of years, doing both local and long distance hauling. He is survived by his parents, two brothers, Vernon and Faye Prock, both of Heppner and a sister, Norma (Mrs. Jack Merrill) of Portland.

Park Curbing Put In Past Few Days

A strip of curbing 326 feet in length has been laid the past few days along the south half of the city park. The work was done by Al Baska, contractor from Condon who submitted the lowest bid.

Baska and his crew finished the pouring Tuesday and put on the finishing touches Wednesday.

The next step in the park development will be filling and grading the grounds and seeding to grass. The city purchased fencing material last year and this will be put up along the south line to Willow creek and north along the creek to the corner of the civic center building.

The county court hopes to have the new machine and shed at the fair grounds ready for occupancy by July —, the end of the period granted by the city for vacating the north end of the park site.

Mrs. M. R. Wightman Buys Apparel Shop

Mrs. Marvin Wightman has purchased the Anderson & Wilson ladies ready-to-wear shop and took possession Wednesday morning. Mrs. Nellie Anderson and her sister, Mrs. Ella Wilson, bought the store from Mrs. Agnes Curran in January 1946. Later Mrs. Anderson took over her sister's interest and has enjoyed a good business. Her plans for the future are indefinite at present but she expects to do some visiting around before she settles down to a regular routine.

Mrs. Wightman will continue the same type of merchandising and invites the public to come in and call. There will be no formal opening but she will try to meet your needs at all times. The shop will continue on in the same location in the Farra building and will be known henceforth as "Claudien's."

went to Kellogg, Ida. to visit their sister Clarabelle and husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Roscoe. They expect to return home next week. Miss Betty has just completed another highly successful year's teaching in the Vale schools.