

Heppner Gazette Times

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Plane Crash on Rhea Creek Costs Lives of Pilot and Passenger

R. J. Stevens, former city work superintendent in Heppner, and Mrs. Betty Groves of Lexington were killed and the Aeronca Chief plane belonging to Joe Delemeter in which they were flying, was demolished when the plane crashed on Rhea creek 12 miles south of Heppner about 5:30 Sunday afternoon. Witnesses to the accident said the plane was at an approximate 200 feet above ground when it suddenly nose dived straight down to earth.

The couple left the Lexington airport between 4 and 4:30 p. m. and flew around over the hills for awhile. Stephens "buzzed" Heppner and flew low over the Rodeo field where a baseball game between Fossil and Heppner was in progress. Circling around, the pilot headed the machine in the direction of the Floyd Jones ranch on Rhea creek where the Wranglers were staging their annual Rhea creek riot. The plane swooped down close enough that the occupants were recognized by numerous people on the ground and then took off up the canyon and apparently an effort was made to land but after touching one wheel to the ground the pilot evidently decided to take to the air again but failed to make elevation.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hall were almost directly across the creek from the spot where the plane crashed. Hall waded the creek and made his way to the scene but soon saw that nothing could be done. Another witness to the accident was Cornett Green, who with Howard Bryant and Bill Weatherford was among the first to arrive at the scene. Bryant went to the nearest phone and called Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman, and District Attorney Bradley Fancher. Dr. R. J. O'Shea was at the Jones place.

Both bodies were in the plane, although Stephens had been forced part way through the out-

er wall and part of the framework had to be cut in order to remove him. The plane's nose was buried right up to the cab.

Lexington residents most closely associated with Mrs. Groves are at a loss to understand why she went up in the plane. She had frequently expressed her great fear of planes and flying and it was reported that she remarked just prior to entering the plane that she had a feeling she should stay out of it.

Stephens had been flying for a number of years. He owned a plane and made numerous trips of a local nature and some into other states. He was associated with Bob Christian in operating the Lexington airport and it is understood he did some weed spray flying for one of the companies operating in the county.

The Phelps Funeral Home had charge of preparing the bodies for shipment. Mrs. Stephens and sons accompanied the body of husband and father to Grangeville, Idaho, where services and interment were to be held today.

Chapel services were held at the funeral home at 2 o'clock Wednesday for Mrs. Groves, with Rev. J. Palmer Sorlien officiating. The body was shipped that evening to New Sharon, Iowa for interment. Maurice Groves, from whom she was divorced in the fall of 1950, accompanied the body.

Betty Syrene Dunwoodie was born July 22, 1918 at New Sharon, Iowa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dunwoodie. With her husband and three children she came to Lexington about three years ago. She is survived by the children, Larry, Maurine and Anita, and a brother in Iowa.

Robert James Stephens was born March 22, 1919 at Nitro, Va. He is survived by his wife and two sons, his mother, three sisters and one brother, all residents of California.

MANY FISHERMEN FLY STREAMS OF COUNTY

Many fishermen (and fishermen) roamed the banks of Morrow county streams on opening day. Not only were local people out in numbers, but many anglers were on hand from Hermiston, Pasco and other out-of-county points.

No big catches were reported but Officer Bill Labhart is of the opinion that most of the fishermen got at least a few.

Overturning Car Claims Life of Man Monday Night

One man was killed and his riding companion suffered minor injuries in a highway accident near milepost 160 just east of the Morrow-Gilliam county line Monday night. Killed was Leighton Wayne Fields, owner of the Bank hotel in The Dalles; injured was Maurice Conger of The Dalles.

The car, a 1947 Buick convertible coupe, was traveling towards Pendleton and in attempting to negotiate a curve at a fairly rapid rate of speed, Fields lost control of the machine and it rolled over along the ditch and back onto the highway a distance of 518 feet from where it left the road.

Word of the accident was telephoned to Heppner and the "White Angel" ambulance was sent to bring Conger to the Pioneer Memorial hospital where it found he was not seriously injured.

Mrs. Frank Wilkinson just missed seeing the accident. She was returning to Heppner from the lambing camp at the mouth of Sand Hollow about 9 o'clock Monday evening and shortly after reaching the highway was detained temporarily while the road was being opened for traffic.

Heppner Accorded Rating of Two at EO Band Contest

Heppner's school band, a class C group, was given a 2 rating in La Grande Saturday when it played in competition with other bands of eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. Robert Collins, director, is proud of the band and the rating and feels confident that another year will see Heppner rating a one.

Some of the criticisms handed down by the judges were a bit difficult to take, Collins says, calling to mind such as "too many little folks" and "no flutes." Yet, some of those little folks playing in the quartet and quintet ensembles helped said ensembles to earn a rating of 1.

Friday evening's program consisted of selected ensembles picked from the afternoon's contests. Both the quartet and quintet were selected to play but time did not permit.

The French horn quartet consisting of Darlene Connor, Judy Barger, Jerry Dougherty and Skip Ruhl, was rated one. As was the brass sextet, composed of Skip Ruhl, David Cox, Jerry Dougherty, Dick Ruhl, Jack Monagle and Forrest Burkenbine. The junior division Clarinet trio, rating a one is made up of Jay Sumner, Delores Easter and Janice Martin.

Ratings of two were handed out to the Clarinet trio, senior division in which Jim Smith, Lynda Borman and Jim Hayes do the playing. Also the second Clarinet trio composed of Sandra Lanham, Sharon Becket and Jay Sumner.

Heppner band also has two cornet duos in the senior division and each group rated a two. The first pair are Mary Gunderson and Mickey Lanham. The other duo is Roger Palmer and David Cox.

The Woodwind quintet, Jim Smith, Lynda Borman, Edith Morris, Darlene Connor and Jim Hayes, was another winner of a two rating.

The Saxophone quartet, rating a three is composed of Nancy Davis, Peggy Wightman, Frances Slocum and Jack Yeager.

Particular mention and praise go to Pat Peck who accompanied the duets.

Ratings won by the Class C bands are as follows: Umatilla, Oregon and Kahlotus Wash., 1; Heppner, 2; Elgin 3.

Out of the 50 local band members taking part in the big mu-

Rural Board Sets Date For Vote on Limitation Excess

Budget Calls For \$26,857 Less Than 1951 Tax Amount

The Rural School Board has set May 17 as the date for the annual election to vote to exceed the 6% limitation. The amount to be raised by tax this year is \$310,156 as compared to \$337,013 last year. This means a reduction in tax to be raised of \$26,857.

The total disbursements have been increased from \$454,040 last year to \$475,433, or an increase of 4.7 percent, the major increases being for salaries of teaching personnel. The Rural Board allowed a recommended cost of living increase of \$200 per teacher. The substantial increase in the receipts from the basic school fund from \$74,290 to \$106,885 and the cash on hand which reflects \$20,000 from county land sales, has been instrumental in increasing the total receipts and cash on hand from \$124,762 last year to \$172,432 or an increase of \$47,670 which accounts for the decrease in the total tax to be raised next year.

Bus replacement funds are being set up in each district that owns its busses. This fund builds up so that in six years the replacement fund will be adequate to buy new busses without making a special levy for any particular year.

The Rural board has been especially pleased with the fine work done by the local boards and budget committees in the preparation of budgets and the cooperative effort exerted to develop budgets adequate and yet economical. School programs have been expanded in recent years requiring additional personnel and special services. Physical plants have been renovated, lighting brought to standard as well as other improvements made.

Henry Tetz Asked To Serve at Youth Meeting in Bend

More than 300 youth leaders from 11 counties are expected to attend the governor's area conference on children and youth in Bend Friday and Saturday according to a news dispatch from the Deschutes city. Mrs. Allen Young, conference chairman, has announced that R. E. Jewell, Bend superintendent of schools, and George L. Turner, local youth councilors, both of whom attended the White House conference on children this past winter, are assisting with preliminary arrangements.

The two-day conference will bring to Bend many of Oregon's outstanding youth leaders, jurists, educators and medical men. The conference will open Friday evening and last through Saturday, with a banquet at the Pilot Butte Inn to be the concluding feature.

Henry E. Tetz, Rural School board clerk, has accepted an invitation to serve as chairman for one of the discussion groups.

Pilot Rock Takes First in Heppner Invitational Meet

Friday, April 27 was a big day as far as track in the Heppner schools was concerned, for on that day 7 schools participated in the 4th annual Heppner Invitational track meet which is held at Heppner with track teams from this corner of the state invited.

Pilot Rock walked off with high honors by scoring 45½ points. Heppner had 35 points for second place, followed by Condon with 18; Helix with 11; Athena 7; Ukiah 5 and Boardman 4½.

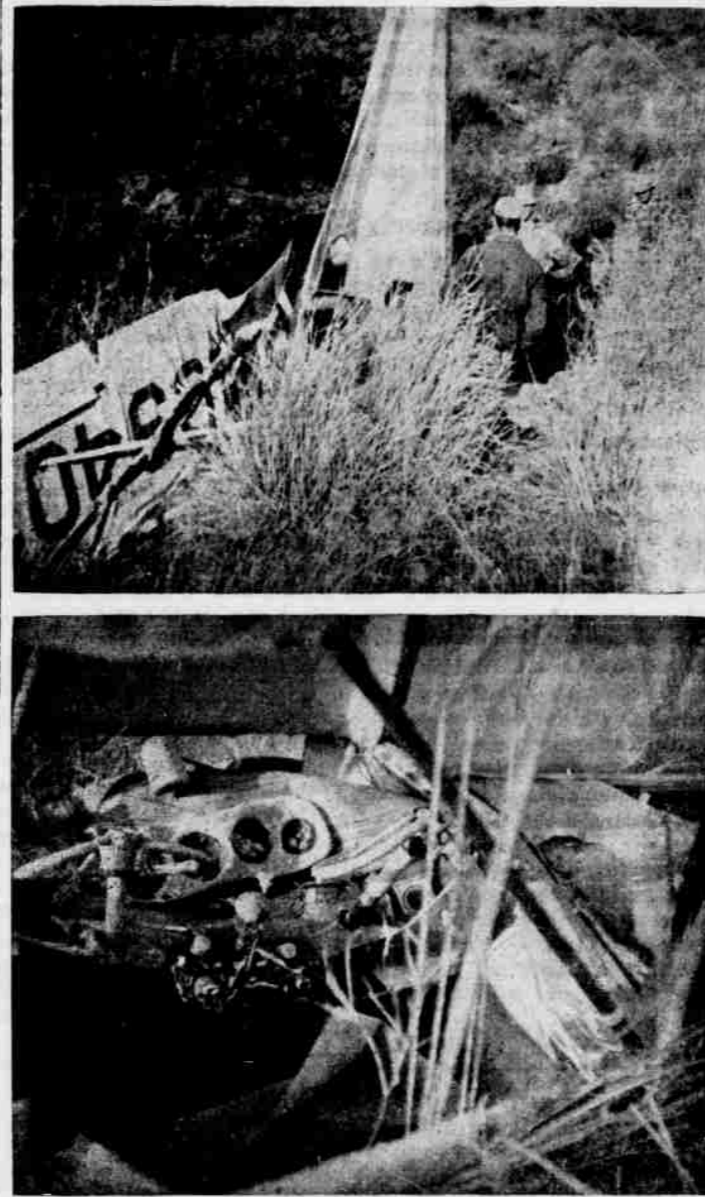
Gary Connor was high point scorer for Heppner by virtue of taking firsts in the high jump, pole vault and 880 yard run.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rotzien returned to their home in Salem this morning after visiting since Monday at the Henry Schwarz home. Mrs. Rotzien is a sister of Mr. Schwarz.

Mrs. John Lane and son Bobbie have returned to Denver where Bobbie is taking treatment in the Spears clinic. They left the fore part of the week and will be gone about two months.

Music fest Friday and Saturday 24 played in special groups.

Wreckage of Ill-Fated Plane



These pictures of the Aeronca Chief plane were taken shortly after the accident which cost the lives of R. J. Stephens and Mrs. Betty Groves Sunday afternoon. Alex Thompson, attending the Rhea Creek riot a short distance below the wreck scene, brought his camera into play for several snapshots of the wreckage. The upper picture shows the almost perpendicular landing made by the plane and the lower is a view of the interior, showing the instrument panel and the steering wheel.

Women Of County Well Represented At Annual Festival

Luncheon Program Highlights Home Makers Activities

Women from all parts of the county gathered in Heppner Monday to participate in the annual Home Makers festival which this year was held in the pavilion at the Morrow county fair grounds. Approximately 200 plates were served by the Methodist church women (with the assistance of their pastor, Rev. J. Palmer Sorlien.)

Mrs. Lucy E. Rodgers served as toastmistress and started the ball rolling by handing out a few bouquets, especially to the members of the county court, all of whom were present. She placed special stress upon the fact that the men in charge of the county's business constitute the best of some county court in the state of Oregon. Several other guests were introduced by Mrs. Rodgers and Mrs. Maud Casswell, home demonstration agent.

The assemblage was privileged to hear the Harmony club, men's chorus of Heppner directed by Oliver Creswick, with Mrs. Alfred Boyer as accompanist. The men had prepared three numbers but had to sing four before the audience would let them go.

The festival is held as a conclusion of the homemakers' year's work. Sizeable delegations were present from Irrigon, Boardman, Ione, Lexington and the Heppner area. It also serves as an opportune time to outline the new year's work which Mrs. Casswell has been busy getting into operation this week.

High lights of Monday's program was the address by the State Home Economics Extension council president, Mrs. Edgar F. Leming. Mrs. Leming told of her recent tour of Europe in the interest of world peace by working with the women of foreign countries. She also showed pictures taken on her tour, showing home life as well as scenic views.

After luncheon activities included music by the old time orchestra, reports and discussions along with the exhibits of the year's accomplishments. Mrs. L. A. Humphries was presented with a pot of geraniums for being the oldest mother present.

Among the special guests at the luncheon was Eleanor Trindle, state extension agent from Oregon State college.

HUGHES-STEARN'S VOWS SPOKEN AT NEWBURG

Wedding vows were exchanged by Miss Jo Ann Stearns of Newburg and Thomas John Hughes of Heppner Saturday evening, April 21 at the Methodist church in that city with Rev. Perry D. Macy reading the service in the presence of relatives and friends.

The altar was beautiful with arrangements of apple blossoms, almond blossoms, crab apple blossoms and baskets of white lilies. The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a street length frock of sheer white nylon. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Stearns. She is a student at Linfield college as is her fiancé.

After the ceremony and with their parents and both will continue their courses there upon their return from a short honeymoon at an Oregon beach. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Hughes of Heppner. He grew to young manhood here, graduating from Heppner high school where he was prominent in athletics.

INFANT DIES

A baby girl born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vincent at the Pioneer Memorial hospital April 26th died a few hours after birth. Graveside services were held Saturday at the Heppner Masonic cemetery, with Rev. J. Palmer Sorlien in charge.

Mrs. Grace Turner, in company with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Turner, departed for Port Angeles Wash. today where Mrs. Turner will make her home. She has been a resident of this section for 30 years so expects to find living on the west side of the Cascades a much different experience.

Mrs. Corda Saling suffered a stroke at her home on Gale street early this morning. She was removed to the Pioneer Memorial hospital. Her condition is considered grave.

Heppnerites Unable To Solve Offerings Of Fossil Pitcher

In a game played on Rodeo field Sunday afternoon, the visiting Fossil team shellacked the Heppner Townies to the tune of 10 to 1. Fossil used three pitchers and held the Heppner batters to six scattered hits.

Al Bunch, Heppner shortstop, was the only one to solve enemy pitching as he gathered three of Heppner's six hits.

Hal Whitbeck, the losing pitcher, started on the mound for Heppner, but was hit steadily and was relieved by Doug Drake after six innings in which he gave up seven hits and six runs.

The Townies will be traveling Sunday, going to Kinzua for an encounter with the tough woodworkers.

OFFICERS ELECTED AT SOROPTIMIST MEET TODAY

The first meeting in the month is always a business meeting for the Soroptimist club of Heppner and the first meeting in May is annual election day, so at today's business meeting Mrs. Clara B. Gertson was elected president to succeed Mrs. Frances Mitchell. Others chosen were Mrs. Joseph J. Hughes, vice president; Mrs. W. C. Collins, recording secretary; Miss Leta Humphreys, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. John Saager reelected treasurer. Mrs. Saager was elected regional representative and Mrs. Oscar George is the new board member for a period of three years.

Installation of the new officers will be an event in June, with the club's new year commencing July 1.

Come And Get It!



This is the chow line at the annual Rhea Creek Riot, springtime activity of the Wranglers club which is held at the Floyd Jones ranch on Rhea creek some 12 miles south of Heppner. The table is set with "vittles" from which the cowboys and cowgirls make their selection. It is then a matter of rustling a place to eat, and the picture, taken by G. H. Dodson of The Picture Shop, shows some of the diners getting down close to nature for that purpose.

The weather man was not too kind, but the hardy souls braving the chill winds had a grand time at the annual Rhea Creek Riot staged at the Floyd Jones ranch Sunday. Some of the harder folk rode their saddle horses to the ranch, while the majority depended upon automotive equipment to arrive there. They were greeted by the sponsoring committee consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Corbett Green, Mr. and Mrs. How-

ard Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Loyd, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beamer, and Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Jones.

Immediately following lunch the program started at the corral. This included bending races for youngsters and for men; calf chasing, apple eating contest, women's musical rope race, broom polo contest for youngsters, bareback rescue race, steer decorating contest, and the final event, a jackpot roping contest.