

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Our Friend Next Door . . .

Within a couple or three weeks, when you pick up your telephone you will be greeted by an impersonal "buzz", rather than the cheery "number please" that has come from the other end of the line. It will mark the end of an era for Heppner. The operators will be gone, and in their place will come a strictly impersonal, but certainly modern dial phone system.

Heppner has asked for new phones, and it deserves them, but its residents are going to miss the service that the telephone girls have been giving them. No longer will you be able to ask central for the score of the basketball game, or where can you find doctor so-and-so, nor can you just say, "give me the county clerk's office," when you are too lazy to look the number up in the book. In the past, you got what you wanted, because the operator did a lot of your thinking and your work for you. After the dials are in, should you ask such a question, it'll just "Buz-z-z-z-z" back at you. Neither will you be able to tell the dial phone that "I'm going to be over at Joe Smith's house for a couple of hours, will you ring me there", and expect to get any calls at Joe's. Dial phones are pretty smart, all right, but there are some things they can't do.

We don't mean that we object to progress, for we were among those who asked for the new phones, and we feel that we're entitled to just as good a talking system as our neighboring

towns have. We're soon going to have one of the most modern telephone plants in the world—we'll even be able to dial our friends in Lexington or Lone (without extra charge too), something the citizens of not many other towns in the country can do—but we know we're going to miss our faithful operators an awful lot.

Day or night, she was always there to answer our call, and if she didn't know the answer to our question, she knew where to find out. She always knew where a doctor was, or she could find a policeman on short notice, or in case of emergency she could, and frequently did, roust out some firemen, when the electricity was off and the old siren wouldn't blow. In fact, she just knew, period.

Here at the Gazette Times, we're going to miss her more than most people, for she was almost a part of our family as she sat at her switchboard on the other side of the wall in the same building. On every weekly paper, the size of ours, there are many times when work must be done well into the wee hours, and we always had the company of our central, just a few feet away. We didn't see her very often, but we knew she was there and we often wondered if the grinding of the old press, might not have helped keep her awake during some of the early-morning hours when the calls were few and far between.

Yes, a dial phone is quite a gadget, and we're glad it's here, but it's really going to be pretty hard to say that final "goodbye" to our friend next door.

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

According to a recent wheat variety report made by the Pacific Northwest Crop Improvement Association, wheat varieties are changing in Morrow County. The report shows that in 1952 our what crop was divided as follows: Rex, 31.65%; Turkey-Rio, 20.91%; Elgin, 20.74%; Orfed, 12.64%; Golden, 6.48%; Elmar, 5.19%; Federation 2.39%.

A survey made in 1949 showed about 75% of our crop seeded to Rex. With the introduction of newer varieties, Rex has been replaced. Elgin, Elmar, and Orfed in particular have taken the place of Rex in this change in varieties.

Ranchers who are interested in characteristics of various grasses and legumes would do well to visit one of the grass-legume nurseries which are located throughout the various communities. Of special interest now would be an observation of the earliness of species being grown.

Two nurseries established last year are in excellent shape for

observation. These are at the Bernard Doherty ranch, Blackhorse and Frank Anderson ranch, Heppner.

Comparing species at the Bernard Doherty ranch a few days ago, many interesting observations were made. Sherman Big bluegrass was given a perfect score for stand and earliness. New growth is about 12 inches. Thickspike wheatgrass and Western wheatgrass both show considerable sodding in between rows, even though the seeding is just one year old. Nomad and Ladak alfalfas are doing well and showing much new growth. The alfalfas and sweet clovers have been thinned considerably by gophers during the late winter.

Two additional alfalfa varieties were added to the Doherty nursery, Sevelra and Rhizoma.

Grass-legume nurseries such as these will be continued to be seeded in various communities. Two are scheduled for this spring with one at Kenneth Pecks in Clark Canyon seeded in late

March and one to be seeded at the Donald Peterson ranch, near Eightmile, next week. Varieties being grown at the Kenneth Peck nursery are: Bubbous bluegrass, Fairway crested wheatgrass, standard wheatgrass, Long stemmed wheatgrass, Primar slender wheatgrass, Slender wheatgrass, Siberian wheatgrass, streambank wheatgrass, Western wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, Manchac smooth bromegrass, Idaho fescue, hard fescue, mountain rye, Russian wild-rye, blue wild-rye, perennial ryegrass, green needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, Sherman big bluegrass, Canby bluegrass, white sweet clover, yellow sweetclover, Madrid yellow sweetclover, Spanish sweetclover, Rhizoma alfalfa, Sevelra alfalfa, Ladak alfalfa.

The nurseries are for farmer-rancher observation and all are invited to compare grasses and legumes from time to time.

Much interest is being shown of late in small flocks of chickens for eggs for home use. This no doubt is one of the results of the high cost of food with unproportionally low increase in income.

A flock of twenty-five pullets housed each fall will supply the average family with what eggs and poultry meat it will consume. This many pullets may produce more eggs than some families will need. If so the number can be reduced. As the year goes by the low producers should be culled or consumed, and there will be some mortality. Pullets in their first year of lay should average from 50 to 70 percent production, depending on their breeding, feed and care. A strain bred for egg production will lay at least 200 eggs per bird during their first year.

The most common breeds are White Leghorns, New Hampshires, Rhode Island Reds, Barred and White Plymouth Rocks. It is easier to obtain stock of good quality of one of the common breeds.

At The Legislature--



WELFARE ROLLS

The state welfare rolls may be open for public inspection when you are reading these lines. A bill permitting such inspection passed the house March 23 and was approved by the senate and sent to the governor last Saturday. The governor is expected to sign the bill this week when it will become law immediately as it contains an emergency clause.

RETIREMENT SWITCH

Papers for the new state-federal retirement plan will be taken to Washington this week for compliance with federal social security regulations. Legislative committees and the office of Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton decided no further amendments are needed or have been requested to make the new law comply with federal regulations before the change over from the old to the new system which it is claimed will cost the employees less and derive larger retirement benefits.

NEW WARDEN AT PEN

Clarence T. Gladden, recently retired after 23 years experience with the federal bureau of prisons, was installed as warden of the Oregon State Penitentiary this week following the dismissal of Warden Virgil O'Malley.

O'Malley's discharge came as a result of an investigation by three out-of-state wardens who in a lengthy report said, "Lack of control and general confusion in the Oregon state penitentiary is without parallel in our experience. . . . We feel that the institution can burst into flaming revolt at almost any moment."

MILK WAR IN SENATE

The strong milk lobby at the legislature was stunned this week when the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that Safeway stores

could purchase raw milk in the Salem area from producers who have allotments in the Salem pool, ship this milk to Portland for processing, and return it to Salem for sale to customers at a lower price.

The flock can be replaced by purchasing 25 mature pullets, 35 day-old sexed pullets or 75 straight run chicks. Chicks hatched in January, February or March will lay more eggs during the summer and fall months when prices are highest.

A visit, last week, to the Bob Smith farm near Irrigon, revealed some interesting observations in cattle fattening. Mr. Smith, who is a breeder of Aberdeen Angus, fattens his calf crop each year. Late winter and early spring calves are put on feed in mid-October and fed to approximately yearlings. Wheat is the only grain fed. Molasses is self fed and chopped alfalfa is the roughage used. These feed-lot calves are topped as they finish out. Two truck loads sold as short yearlings averaged 870 pounds. Some now in the feed lot were estimated to weigh over 900 pounds as yearlings.

Feeders who have disputed the use of wheat as a feed would do well to see what is being done on this ranch.

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The agricultural department and the milk lobby have prepared a bill to circumvent the ruling of the high court decision. If the bill gets past the senate rules committee it is reported to be due for rough sledding in the senate.

LAW MILLS GRIND

More bills passed by the legislature received the signature of the governor the past week and became law. Those of state-wide importance include:

SENATE BILLS: SB 131 personal property declarations filed in the assessor's office are confidential. This bill provides that such returns shall be available to the tax commission or its representative, and that county boards of equalization may inspect returns relating to assessments which are the subject of petitions before it. SB 257—Under existing law territory cannot be annexed to a city except upon majority vote of the voters within the territory. This bill permits annexation without the necessity of vote at all if all of the owners give consent to an annexation in writing. SB 308—Provides board of control may grant any state agency of records (after a period of time) permission to destroy records and gives secretary

of state authority to destroy old motor vehicle registration certificates (when a car goes to the junk yard). SB 410—A special public employe retirement act designed primarily to cover paid and volunteer firemen.

HOUSE BILLS: HB 635—Appropriates \$10,000 to pay state's share of bounties for destruction of predatory animals. HB 258—Appropriating \$31,000 to pay state's share of transporting convicts to penitentiary, for the next biennium. HB 49—Provides that the tax commission may require that any return (etc.) or other document required to be filed by it shall contain or be verified by a written declaration. . . made

under penalties or false swearing. HB 103—Clarifies method of determination by tax commission for refunding of taxes or revision of returns under the income tax law, can be appealed to the courts provided for payment of interest of 1 1/2 per cent a month on refunds; that proceedings before the court shall be in the nature of fact and law shall be restricted to those raised by the parties in the appeal to the commission. HB 446—Provides that monies realized from sale of higher education bonds specifically for building projects can be invested until needed, in United States government bonds or of obligation (Continued on Page Seven)

DR. EDWARD K. SCHAFFITZ
OPTOMETRIST

Next To Hotel Heppner Entrance — Heppner, Oregon

TELEPHONE 3373

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Thursday-Friday-Saturday, April 9-10-11

WAY OF A GAUCHO

Rory Calhoun, Gene Tierney. Against magnificent Argentine background vividly etched in Technicolor, is unfolded a romantic story of the hard-riding gauchos whose deeds are fabled in song and history. Plus

ARMY BOUND

Interesting little drama with Stanley Clements as a midget automobile race driver.

Sunday-Monday, April 12-13 John Philip Sousa's

STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

Clifton Webb, Debra Paget, Robert Wagner, Ruth Hussey, Finlay Currie, Benay Venuta, Romo Vincent, Walter Woolf King and many others. In color by Technicolor. The tuneful story of America's "March King". A great picture for everyone!

NOTE: Listen to Sousa music by the Heppner High School Band in front of the theater at 1:45 on Sunday, April 12. This band enters Southeastern Oregon District competition April 18th and 19th, with our very best wishes and pride in its accomplishments.

Sunday shows at 2 p. m.—4:15—6:30 and 8:45

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 14-15

IT GROWS ON TREES

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