

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912



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TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Sir:
As a graduate of Lexington high school (1956) I was very disturbed to learn of the activities of the "Educational Betterment Committee" directed at closing Lexington High school. Most of the arguments used by this organization are either fallacious or ridiculous.
Perhaps the biggest argument of this organization (who, incidentally violated a federal law by sending anonymous letters through the mail) was the deficiency of the curriculum offered by Lexington. If a complaint is to be justified here, it must be on the grounds that the curriculum does not prepare students for college.
In my own personal experience (I am a sophomore at the University of Oregon) I have found that people from smaller schools are better prepared for college than those from large schools offering all feasible high-school courses. It is true that those coming from larger schools may be better intellectually prepared for college studies, but their immaturity more than offsets this advantage. Scholastic deficiencies can be made up, but there is never another chance to grow up. It is my contention that Lexington High school offers an opportunity to achieve maturity that could not be matched by any merger.

Very Truly yours,
Don Casteel

To The Editor:

I read with interest your editorial of March 20, regarding the founder of the Heppner Gazette. You said that several old-timers had told you that it was John Watermelon Reddington that founded the Gazette, but you are all wrong. Following is a condensed history of the Morrow County Press:

The "Gazette" was established on March 30, 1883 by a joint stock company, with Henry Hep-

ner, Jack Morrow, Ellis Minor and several other old-timers, with J A Stine as a principal owner and the very first editor. Less than a year later the paper was sold to John W Reddington, an old Indian scout and reporter. He kept the paper for a little less than five years then sold it to the Rev Henry Rasmus (uncle of Orve's). Rev Rasmus was one of the very first preachers in Heppner and was a Baptist. Mr Rasmus kept the paper till sometime in 1886 when he sold it to the Patterson Publishing Co, with Otis Patterson as editor. When Otis Patterson moved to The Dalles he turned the paper over to Corleis Merritt, who continued as editor until February, 1900, when the paper was again sold to Mr Reddington. He kept the paper for only a few months and sold out to Warnock and Mitchell. In a short time Fred Warnock bought out his partner, and kept the paper until he sold it in 1911 to Vawter Crawford.

The Gazette's first rival was the "Heppner Record", but this paper was soon absorbed by the Gazette. On March 1, 1892, the Gazette issued its first semi-weekly. The Gazette published many large issues of this paper and sent it to all the eastern states, advertising the advantages of coming to Morrow county to live. The semi-weekly was discontinued in 1897.

On November 18, 1897, the Shutt Publishing Company invaded the field and established the "Heppner Times" with E M Shutt as editor. At this time the Gazette changed to an eight page weekly and has remained a weekly ever since. The Heppner Times was a four page weekly.

About a year or so after the Heppner Times was established, the "Ione Herald" and the "Hardman Homestead" was launched in the county. The Ione Herald was established on December 28, 1898, with Miss McMicken as owner and editor. The Hardman Homestead gave up in 1900 and transferred its subscription list to the Heppner Times. In January, 1899, the "Ione Post," edited by G S Parker came out as a rival of the "Ione Herald." In March, 1900, Mr Parker sold the Ione Post to J G Crawford, who sold it to Miss Virginia Deaton the following July. Miss Deaton was still running this paper at the time of the Heppner flood of 1903, then sold out to the Gazette and quit the field for good. Her paper was a four-page six column weekly.

Sometime after Mr Crawford bought the Gazette from Warnock, he purchased the Heppner Times and edited the two papers under the name "Heppner Gazette Times" and to this day it has been known by that name.

The "Bunchgrass Blade" was established in Lexington sometime in 1886 by Jerry Nunan and gave up the ghost about 4 years later. The Lexington Budget was published for a little while, but was not a success as a newspaper.

Now comes Mr A J Hicks, who for a number of years owned and edited the Spokane Spokesman. He sold this paper and went to Ellensburg, Wash in the fall of 1889, then sold out and went to Heppner the latter part of 1891 and purchased the Heppner Tim-

es. He sold out a little later and went to Castle Rock, Wash and bought the Cowlitz County Advocate, but later sold this paper and returned to Heppner and bought out the interests of the Heppner Times from Mr Shutt in 1910.

In 1913 came a young man by the name of E G Harlan who with his brother L K Harlan established the "Heppner Herald" and later on in the year published for a few months the "Ione Bulletin" with L K Harlan as editor. There was a dispute between Vawter Crawford and E G Harlan about which one brought the first linotype machine into Morrow county. Mr Harlan told me (Yeager) that he had purchased the machine ahead of Mr Crawford, but through a mistake of the railroad in delivering it to the Gazette Times office, he supposed he had to take second place. The Harlans' also started a little paper either in Irrigon or Boardman, but it soon quit. Mr Harlan put up a brave front, but lacked the financial support and soon went to the wall, leaving the county with the old "Gazette" once more in full control of the county press.

Years ago, a small group of Eightmile farmers organized a newspaper company, but it fizzled out and no paper was ever published.

I do not know the exact year that Vawter Crawford died, but the Gazette Times was in possession of the Crawford family until the year of 1951 when O G Crawford sold the paper to Mr and Mrs Robert Penland, who still own and edit the paper. The paper is still going strong under the able management of the Penlands' and it would take a strong paper indeed, to gain a foothold in the newspaper field of Morrow county.

Dr J Perry Conder started a paper about 25 or 30 years ago, which he had printed and mailed to every one in the county, but he soon gave this up.

Many more pages could be written about the Morrow county press and especially the one and only Heppner "Gazette". When I was a boy, my mother always called our paper the "Gizzard" and for a long time I thought that was its name.

O M Yeager

Dear Editor:

Mr S G McMillan, a native son of Lexington has just informed me that I left out one paper which was published in Lexington. The Wheatfield was one which I overlooked. That paper was published between the Bunchgrass Blade and Budget.

Bert Mason
Milwaukie, Ore

County Agent's News

Bill Barratt, president of the Morrow County Livestockgrowers Association announces that a meeting of the general membership will be held on Monday evening, April 7. This meeting will be one of the more important ones of that association for the year when recommendations will be discussed as presented from the several active committees of the Association and resolutions adopted which will go on to the Oregon Cattle-men's Association for consider-

NEWEST SPRING FASHIONS SEEN AT CIVIC LEAGUE STYLE SHOW

Last Wednesday evening a large crowd attended the annual spring style show given by the Heppner Civic League, at the Elks temple, for the benefit of the kindergarten.

The committee in charge of the event included Mrs Fred Gimbel, Mrs James Norene, Mrs William Labhart and Mrs L E Dick. Mrs Philip Blakney and Mrs Paul Koenig were in charge of the refreshments.

Mrs Labhart was commentator and Mrs Gordon Pratt played background music.

Intermission numbers were vocal solos by Mrs Norman Peters, accompanied by Mrs Vic Krei-

meyer, and a dance by Sheridan Wyman and David George.

Local stores showed the latest in spring fashions for women, girls, children and boys. The corsages were donated by Dick's Greenhouse and the Heppner Flower Shop decorated the tables.

Small fry modeling were Kathy and Karen Blake, Kent and Kevin Pratt and Leslee and Tammy Meador.

Modeling womens' dresses were Mrs LaVerne Van Marter, Mrs Don Hatfield, Mrs Earl McKinney, Mrs Marshall Lovgren, Miss Joan Wright, Mrs Jean Malory and Mrs William Scrivner.

Teen-age models were Janice Martin, Shirlee Gaines, Mona Howard, Janice Beamer, Ronnie Belsma, Phyllis Quackenbush, Nancy Anderson, Eddie Groshens, Duane Alderman, Jim Morris, Mike Healy and Harold Gray.

A special feature was wedding dresses with Mrs George Rugg wearing the 1898 wedding dress of her grandmother, Mrs Gedola Ball; Mrs Willard Blake wearing the 1926 dress of Mrs Sam Turner and Mrs Kenneth Turner wearing the gown she chose for her own wedding in February.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times
March 29, 1928

The music study club held a very interesting meeting at the A M Phelps home on last Monday evening.

B G Sigsbee was elected president of Heppner Country Club at a meeting Monday evening and Francis Doherty, secretary-treasurer.

Mr and Mrs Henry Schwartz entertained a number of friends at their home on Wednesday evening, the occasion being their 27th wedding anniversary.

The officers of the fourth grade which were elected this week are as follows: president, Ruby Northness; door tender, Marshall Fell; board cleaners, Lola May Coxen and Genevieve Hanna; flower tender, Billy McCabe; nurses and doctors, whose duty it is to inspect the face, hands, teeth and clothes of every pupil each day—the last one in each row, and leaders, Viola Kirk and Lloyd Burkenbine.

Miss Odile Groshens of Portland was a weekend visitor with relatives and friends in Heppner, her former home.

Last Saturday the Boy Scouts took a hike up Willow creek. They started at 5:30 and cooked breakfast after reaching camp.

at their annual meeting. The annual meeting of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association will be held in Ontario on May 12, 13 and 14. Livestockgrowers are urged to attend this meeting which will be held at the county court room, beginning a 8:00 pm. Those who have not had the opportunity to join the Association—Continued on page 7

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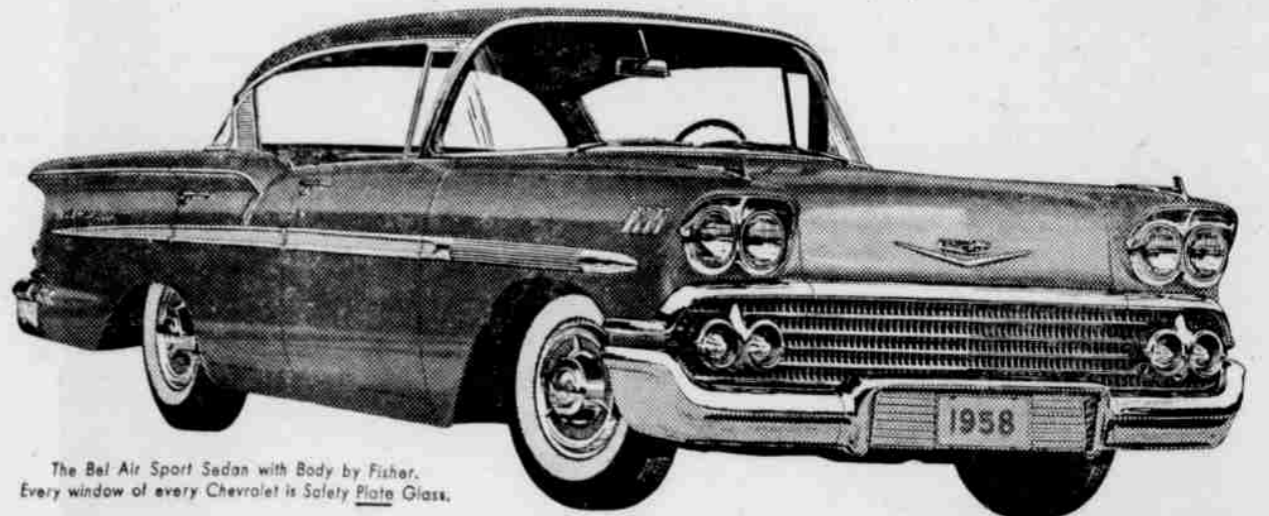
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