

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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Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter
Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$3.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.00 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Not Wasted Money

Monday, April 14 is the date of the special election in the Heppner school district when voters will be asked to approve a one-year special levy to raise \$25,000 with which to complete the fund for the modernization of the high school science laboratory, commercial department and library. A like amount was approved last year, and this year's levy will complete the fund required for the much needed improvements in the school plant.

Some questions have been asked if such an improvement will not be a waste of money considering that eventual school reorganization might bring a union high school in a new building. That answer is NO!

First of all, a union high school cannot possibly be a reality for at least several years and the modernization of the present science, commercial and library facilities have been long overdue. Present and upcoming students badly need the improved facilities.

When unionization of area schools does become a fact, the present Heppner high school building will be used for a junior high plant, so the improvements will be ready for those students. A modern lab is as needed and useful in junior high as it is in a senior high school. Money spent now for these needs will not be wasted.

Half the needed money has been approved and the taxes paid. Your affirmative vote April 14 will get the work started so that next year Heppner high students will have adequate learning tools in these important courses.

Grass-Roots Assignment

Idaho's novel "town meeting" program to get grass-roots opinion on what Gov Robert E. Smylie has called "educational questions that press for decision" may not uncover all the answers, but it is worthy of wide attention. If it accomplishes nothing else, it puts emphasis on the place the answers must be found: in each local community. American education has need of the support

TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the letter by Don Casteel, a former student of the Lexington High school, in defense of that institution. It is a shame that a new group has sprung up in an attempt to close the school. If all the high schools in Morrow county were to merge, the end result would still be a small school with no saving to the taxpayers.

I graduated from the Lexington High school twenty five years ago in the class of 1933 and am now, at long last, in my Freshman year at Portland State College. There were certain groups then which declared the Lexington school to be inadequate. There have been many such movements since. In the meantime, graduates from Lexington continued entering college at a par with students from more populous areas, completely ignoring the fact that the merger advocates claimed it to be impossible.

From my associations with and observations of my classmates who have graduated from some of Portland's finest high schools, I feel quite certain that Lexington's graduates need not fear of being unable to compete. If the student from any high school does not have either the ability or the motivation to learn, he won't get very far in college.

Respectfully,
Sam G. McMillan
13224 SE Oatfield Rd
Portland 22, Oregon

Dear Sir:

The Educational Betterment Committee was extremely interested in the comments concern-

STAR THEATER

Thurs., Fri., Sat., April 3, 4, 5

Whispering Smith
Alan Ladd, Robert Preston, Brenda Marshall, PLUS

The Young Don't Cry
Sal Mineo, James Whitmore, J. Carol Naish.

Sun., Mon., April 6, 7

My Man Godfrey
June Allyson, David Niven, Martha Hyer and others. Sunday at 4, 6, and 8.

Tues., Wed., April 8, 9

The Far Country
James Stewart, Walter Brennan, Ruth Roman. Anyone getting mail on Rt. 1, Heppner may register at the boxoffice for a free show Tues. or Wed. Family nights.

of government at all levels—federal, state and local—but, in the final analysis, the schools of each district will be only as good as the citizens of the district deserve in response to their interest and support. If instruction of facilities are not adequate, if curriculum is weak, the remedies are at hand through the instrument of a democratically elected school board. If a local school system is superior, its strength is largely a reflection of enlightened participation on the part of its patrons.

It's folly to try to pass the buck when it comes to our schools. (The Oregonian)

ODD ENDS...

With this week's editorial column tending to run mostly to education, we offer the following item from the Industrial New Review which is on the same subject:

"Admiral Rickover, who is called the father of the atomic submarine, is extremely critical of 'frills' in American education. An AP dispatch quotes him as saying: 'I'd throw all of the fringe courses out of our schools. For instance, in one Illinois school system they have a course in how to know if you're in love. In another school they have a course in rest—you get credits for resting. And in Florida they have a course in flycasting.' We agree, they should hardly be classified as 'vital' to the educational program of any school.

We really started something when we got our founders tangled up a few weeks ago in our editorial about our 75th birthday. We have since received many letters and calls telling us of our mistake and setting us straight on the early history of the Gazette-Times.

Elsewhere today is another letter quoting a most authoritative source, a book on Oregon newspaper history by George Turnbull, former Dean of the University of Oregon Journalism school—a source of information we should have remembered, but overlooked.

Anyway, our mistake(s) are now bringing out the truth of the past.

ing its efforts by Don Casteel. The committee was pleased to note that Don concurred with primary thesis—"It is true that those coming from larger schools may be better intellectually prepared for college studies."

We are genuinely concerned about the lack of a curriculum at Lexington to prepare our children for their future. We are willing to sacrifice our time and efforts to work for improvement in education.

A meeting on April 11, 1958 at 8 pm at the Lexington Grange hall has been planned around a panel of speakers to try to answer questions. We are receptive to any constructive ideas which will help to solve our problem. We are working on the premise that major school improvements have to begin with the people.

Very truly yours,
Gene Cutsforth, Sec
Educational Betterment Committee

To The Editor:

The best way to get an argument started is to start quoting history. After your editorial, "It was J Watermelon" I hesitate to get into the act, but George Turnbull's "History of Oregon Newspapers" says:

"Heppner—J H Stine of Walla Walla, Washington, father of many Oregon newspapers, launched the Heppner Gazette, first newspaper in Morrow county, bringing the first number off the press March 30, 1883. Heppner was small and struggling in those days, and the battle between the honest, hardy pioneers and the rougher element parasitic on the new communities was by no means over when

Stine arrived to start his paper.

The publisher moved a small printing plant (Washington hand press, etc.) from Portland. After a short time Stine, as was his wont' disposed of the new paper. The purchaser was John W Redington, old scout and Indian fighter, who gave his friend Owen Wister a lot of his 'stuff' for The Virginian, first and perhaps greatest of all westerns. Colonel Redington was chief of scouts for Gen O O Howard, who once wrote a glowing tribute to his scout's courage, resourcefulness, and industry. Colonel Redington carried these qualities into his editorial work. Years before, he had worked on the Oregon Statesman and on the Willamette Valley Farmer for S A Clarke.

"Redington was, withal, a humorist and eccentric. When he arrived in Heppner, where he remained for five years, he had just finished a season of fighting Indians, and the prospect of a little more fighting didn't distress him. On the Gazette he became one of the best-known editing in Oregon. He was always picturesque. While running the Gazette, he had painted snappy signs on fence boards and rocks all over the countryside advertising his newspaper. 'The Heppner Gazette,' read one of the signs, 'Hell on Horse Thieves and Hypocrites' and another proclaimed 'The Heppner Gazette Bangup for Bustles.'"

There is quite a bit more but J Watermelon must have been a real editor. Sincerely,
Carl C Webb, Manager
Oregon Newspaper Pub Assn.
Eugene

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the
Gazette Times
April 5, 1928

Dr A D McMurdo has had workmen busy this week preparing the residence property he recently purchased from B G Sigbee for a new hospital.

The arrival of twin heifer calves in the herd belonging to Ray Wright was an incident of this week. Considering the present price of beef, this is an encouraging occurrence.

Clyde Erwin, Dean Gilman and Paul Doolittle are back in school after being absent a week on account of colds.

Mr and Mrs H R Olden of Eight Mile were Heppner visitors yesterday.

A piano recital of the pupils of Mrs M W Bower was held at the home of Mrs Frank Turner on Saturday afternoon when the following pupils were on the program: Marjorie Parker, Jennie Swindig, Anabel Turner, Ethel Hughes, Ella Fell, Freddie Farrow and Jeanette Turner.

To The Editor:

Just received my Heppner paper and I noticed a couple of mistakes which I wish to correct. I said Rev Henry Rasmus was a Baptist. He was a Methodist and the very first Methodist preacher in Heppner. The Methodist Episcopal church, North, was organized on November 7, 1885, but did not build their church until 1888. Rev Rasmus first preached there on July 22, 1886. The Baptists built the first church in Heppner in 1878, on private property which later belonged to Rev Rasmus. It stood on the lot now occupied by the Richfield service station. Rev Rasmus sold the lot and moved the church (Baptist) to the corner where Latham's apartment house now stands. He then deeded the property to the Baptists. My sister, Mrs B H Peck and I went to Sunday school and church there when we were kids. Our parents were members of that church.

The other mistake was the way I spelled Mr Redington's name. I had two d's in his name. The two Redington girls were schoolmates of mine years ago in the Heppner school that used to be way up on the hill east of town about where the hospital now stands. These two Redington sisters live in Vancouver, Washington, and I hear from one of them occasionally.

I see Bert Mason has mentioned one Lexington paper that I also overlooked, though I have it in my notes. Here are a few items from the Lexington Budget: Lexington, Oregon, Thursday

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES, Thursday, April 3, 1958

Initiation Held By Lex VFW Auxiliary

By DELPHA JONES

Initiation was held by the VFW auxiliary of the Edwards-Way VFW Post on Thursday night at their hall. Those initiated at this time were: Marj Angell and Ruby Munkers of Heppner and Sue Hams of Ione. Refreshments were served later.

A M Edwards is a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital in Heppner.

Mrs O G Breeding and son Paul and Max and Mrs Don Grant were Spray visitors over the weekend.

Mrs Armin Wihlon is employed in the Lexington Cafe.

Mr and Mrs Pete Darnielle and family of La Grande were callers last week at the Burt Darnielle home.

Mrs Burt Darnielle and children were recent visitors in The Dalles.

The Women's town team motored to Boardman on Saturday night where they met the Boardman town team in an exciting game of a ladies basketball. They were defeated. The town team ladies are forming a team for softball and anyone interested is urged to join them and may call Gae Papineau.

Mr and Mrs Homer Hughes and son Matt were Milton-Freewater visitors on Monday.

Let's not forget the Easter day breakfast to be given at the VFW hall on Easter morning.

Dec 12, 1889: LOST—several Chronic Croakers who have been in the habit of constantly abusing this country as a farming district. Finder will please keep under lock and key.

Same paper, same date: WANTED—Practical men to investigate the advantages of Lexington as a location for a sorghum mill.

Same paper, same date: WANTED—Men of Life, Vim and Energy to locate in Lexington and prevent moss from taking root.

Same paper, same date: Keep your eyes on Morrow county. Lexington is the coming town, and Morrow will be the next county to boom into prominence.

Heppner Gazette, Nov 6, 1890—While climbing high up in a hen roost last Thursday night, Dr Shipley fell, bruising himself some. Since writing the above, we deem it advisable to say that the doctor was in his own hen roost.

Dr Shobe was the very first doctor in Heppner and Dr Shipley came next, I think around 1880. I have the exact date in my notes.

O M Yeager,
Castle Rock, Wn

Delpha Jones. The styles of past and present will be featured.

The cast of "Homework", the play to be presented in Forest Grove on April 11th, will be presented for your enjoyment.

"Homework is an amusing one-act play about the Pepper family, who are taking home study courses and who cold shoulder Trudy's (Charlene Jones) boyfriend, Muscles, Murrey (Jim Steagall) until they discover he is a walking encyclopedia of technical information. The cast includes, Papa Pepper, Keith Peck; Mrs Pepper, Dora Sue Davidsen; Timothy Pepper, Charlene Jones; Helen Pepper, Pat Steagall; Muscles Murray, Jim Steagall.

For an evening of fun and entertainment come to the Lex school auditorium. There will be a Three Links club food sale Saturday morning at the post office.

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

A number of 4-H club members have beef, sheep and swine on feed for the annual Oregon Wheat League sponsored 4-H and FFA Stock show and sale which will be held at The Dalles on June 9, 10 and 11. First 4-H members to register their intentions to exhibit were three members of the Rhea Creek livestock club. William Rill, Heppner will exhibit a steer while Archie Ball and Kenneth Wright also Heppner, will exhibit fat lambs. Entries from all club members are due in this office by May 1.

While we are discussing 4-H club activities we would like to remind those 4-H club members that records for selection of 4-H summer school delegates are due in this office on Saturday, April 5. All 4-H members who were at least 13 years of age by January 1, 1958, and who had completed two years of club work and all projects enrolled in the past year were recently mailed a letter asking that their 4-H permanent record sheet be in this office by the deadline. The summer school selection committee composed of 4-H parents,

Jenneth Smouse, Bernard Doherty, Mrs Kenneth Peck and Mrs Bob Matthews will meet to select worthy delegates to fill the quota of 32 members who will represent Morrow county. The dates of this year's summer school are June 16 through 22. Scholarships in the amount of \$25.00 which provide for the delegates will be solicited soon. The first to be received this year was from the Pine City home extension unit. They hold the distinction of being the first to provide a 4-H scholarship in each of the last three years.

The date for applying for the 1958 Conservation Reserve contracts is April 15. Under the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve the government will pay up to 80 % of the cost of establishing soil and water conserving and wildlife habitat practices; also make annual per acre payments so long as the Conservation Reserve contract remain in effect and is complied with. Those who might be interested should contact the County ASC office for full particulars.

Continued on page 7

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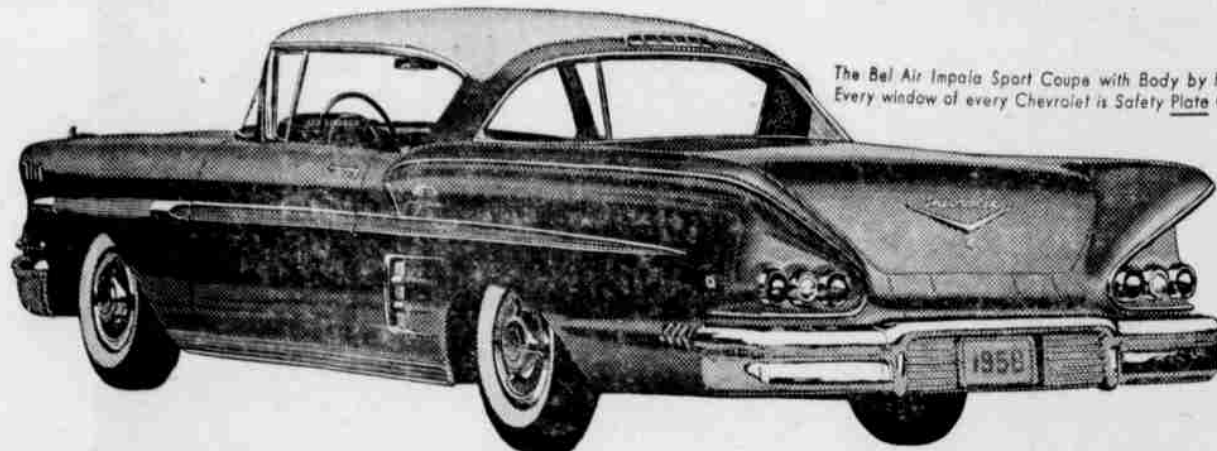


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