

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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TO THE EDITOR...

To The Editor:

It was a wonderful surprise when Ed and Eleanor Gonty and two sons dropped in to see us a couple of weeks ago. We love to have Heppner people knock at our door. There are several old time Heppner people living in Castle Rock.

The death of Leslie Matlock has brought to my mind that most of the second generation pioneers have passed over the great divide, such as Billy Cowins, Art and Oscar Minor, Frank and Orve Rasmus and all five of Henry Johnson's sons. I had begun to think that maybe I was the oldest living person born within the city limits of Heppner, of pioneer parents. Then, I thought of the story told to me a few years ago by a person living in Heppner, that out-ranks me by almost five years. If there are any others still living that are older, I would like to hear from them direct or through this paper. Here is her story:

One soft lovely spring on the first day of April, 1880 there arrived in the thriving little city of Heppner, a heavily loaded wagon, drawn by four very tired horses. In this wagon was a woman and two children, age ten and eight years. Just ahead of the wagon rode a stalwart young doctor, the husband and father of the little family.

They had been doing very well in the little town of Junction City, Oregon, but the doctor had heard of a wonderful new country somewhere in Eastern Oregon. He was told there was a vast territory there with no doctor within sixty miles of a little city called Heppner in what was then part of Umatilla county, but later in 1887 to become the county seat of Morrow county.

Lewis Francis Shipley was born in Miller county, Missouri, July 28, 1844. He came to Monroe, Oregon as a young man, then moved to Junction City, about ten miles away. As a young man he attended the first medical school west of the Rocky mountains, called the Willamette University, located in the State Capital at Salem, Oregon. He graduated from that school in the fourth class in medicine ever to be graduated there. Then he went back to his home town and on to Heppner. His name was a legend among the Indians at Junction City for his famous Indian cures. But about eleven years before this he married Sarah Emily Williamson, and in Junction his first two children were born: Frances Marion, born in 1870 and Jay W born in 1872. His only daughter, Charlotte, born the first of August, 1880. Both the sons died, but the daughter still lives in Heppner.

The first few days the family stayed with Mrs Hiram Clark who lived a few miles below town. The two women were old friends back in Junction City. The doctor was the first licensed doctor in Heppner, though he was not the first doctor there. Dr Shobe beat him there by several years, but he was never licensed. Dr Shipley had shipped their furniture by river boat to Umatilla Landing, where he hired a man and team and wagon to freight them on to their destination.

Leaving the little family safe at the Clark ranch, the doctor mounted his horse which he had purchased at Umatilla Landing, and went on up to see what the new town looked like. The very first man he met was a young man by the name of Hank Scherzinger, who was working for Pap Simonds in his blacksmith shop. This shop was on part of the property now occupied by the Fullerton garage. Later on in life, Hank married the doctor's daughter, Lottie.

He looked around to find a place to move into, and finally located a small house way up at the south end of Main street, near where the old Gazette building stood. A little later, this house was sold to Henry Heppner, the founder of the town, and moved to its present location at West Center street. This house in later years was owned by M L Case and occupied by Gus Nickander. Mr Heppner bought the house for his sister and husband, the Henry Blackman's who were to come to Heppner a little later. Mr Blackman later became Heppner's first mayor. Their rented house being sold out from under them, the doctor looked around and found a two and a half acre place at the far upper end of the railroad track, now occupied by the Morrow County Grain-grower's warehouse and elevator. There was a small house on the property and was owned by Harrison Hale. Later that same year the doctor bought another two and a half acre tract adjoining from Press Looney, a very early settler who afterward platted most of the northern part of town into what is known as the Looney Addition to the city of Heppner.

The doctor's practice extended as far as Umatilla Landing, and in the year of 1882-3 he had to quarantine the whole village for typhoid fever. Then in the year 1889 or there-a-bouts Heppner had a bad epidemic of diphtheria and a number of young children died, among them was Allie May,

the eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James L Yeager, and the sister of Mrs Burton Peck and O M Yeager. She was about 9 years old. Shortly after the diphtheria outbreak, the town and county were ravaged with small pox and a number of our people died from that.

Dr Lewis Francis Shipley passed away September 18, 1898 at the age of 54. Mrs Shipley out-lived the doctor by 25 years, leaving this vale of tears and passing on to her well deserved rest on January 26, 1923. Their only daughter, Charlotte, still resides in Heppner in the house once occupied by Judge Dutton, located on West Center street. Part of this house was the very first school house ever built in Heppner, and used to stand right where Wm McCaleb and Dr Wagner's Clinic buildings now stand.

O M Yeager
Castle Rock, Wn

To The Editor:

I am sending a clipping from the Condon Globe-Times about Gene Spray to inform you to the facts that Mr Spray was a native to our city. It so happens that he and his parents moved over on the John Day river and started the town that is now known as Spray, Oregon. To your desire, complete information can be obtained from Oscar Breeding of Lexington.

Also, I wish to say that I certainly enjoy seeing those old-time photos of Heppner that you print from time to time. If you would like to add a few more pictures to your publication, be sure to see some of Jim Cowan's collections. He has a two-way picture of Main street that I think will out-do the early date 1885 that you published last March 13th.

Yours truly,
Stanley Minor

P. S.

Correction: The People's Hardware did not burn in the 1918 fire. It was a much later date. Ed Bennett was clerking there at the time.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times August 2, 1928

Mr and Mrs O G Crawford arrived from Joseph on Wednesday afternoon and are visiting with the Heppner relatives.

A large fire on the east branch of Sand Hollow, set by the electrical storm Thursday evening, burned over two sections of land on the Mike Kenny and W B Barratt and Son ranches before it was put under control.

From the "50 Years Ago" column in Tuesday's Oregonian, we learn: "J W Reddington and Frank Parker, two of Generals Grant's scouts, arrived at Malheur City with dispatches. They rode all night, making 70 miles in seven hours." Reddington is remembered by pioneers as one of the early editors of the Heppner Gazette while Col Parker was the founder and editor for many years of the Walla Walla Statesman.

Phone your news items to 6-9228.

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

With our fair only four weeks away, it is time for everyone to be thinking about the exhibits that they are going to make. Now is the time for selecting a good bale of hay from the second cutting for exhibit. Since we have been having good haying weather through this crop, it would be easy to select a bale that contains fine stemmed, green and leafy alfalfa. Besides alfalfa there are lots provided for grass-legume mix and grain hay in bales as well as bundles of grain hay. Those who are proud of their baling job can compete in the class for the best bale of hay judged on conformation only. There, of course, is a provision for the best sheaf of any hay. Those farmers who have joined the popular trend of ensilage making will want to gather a sample of their best ensilage for exhibit. The exhibit consists of five pounds exhibited in a plastic bag. Though it might be a little late for some of our farmers, with the early harvest, we should have a lot of grain exhibits with the bumper crop harvested this year. There are classes for wheat grain, wheat sheaves, barley, oats, rye, field corn and a collection of grain. Those who have finished harvesting can surely find an area along the edge of the field or a skip in the harvesting where they can gather some sheaves. These are only a few of the suggestions, check your premium list and plan to exhibit. Remember a good healthy fair can be supported only by many exhibits.

Word has just been received from the Union county agent's office that the limited available seed from increase of the winter barley variety, Alpine, is going fast. Those who might be interested in getting a start in this new winter-hardy variety which has performed quite well in the limited time it has been grown in Oregon should contact the county agent's office at LaGrande or this office.

During the past few weeks we have had a few inquiries at this office regarding gasoline tax refunds. Claims for refund of federal tax on gasoline used on farm can be filed now for the

past fiscal year. Refund forms were mailed to all farmers who filed an application in 1957. Those who have not received their application can get forms from the District Office of the Internal Revenue Service. We have a limited supply in this office also. Regulations are the same as last year.

Another of the many recommendations made by the various committees of the Morrow County Town and Country Planning conference was put in effect this month. The recommendation from the sheep sub-committee of the livestock committee recommended that due to the increasing build-up of coyote numbers resulting in greater sheep losses that an additional coyote trapper should be employed in the county this year. The U S Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Morrow county court have provided funds and have transferred Joe Baltrinos, former trapper, here to this area. Mr Baltrinos has been trapper in Crook county since leaving here eight years ago. Before this he had spent 11 years in the county trapping so is well acquainted with the county and should be of great value in helping to keep down predators. He and Carl McDaniel have divided the county, each to be responsible for their area.

Recently announced by the State Department of Agriculture was that all dairy counties in Western Oregon are now certified as modified Brucellosis free areas. In addition to these dairy counties certification was completed by the end of June for the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, as well as Clakamas, Deschutes, Grant, Lane, Linn, Union and Wasco counties.

"Chats With Your Home Agent"

By ESTHER KIRMIS

Try this little quiz...

1. Why is our County called Morrow county?
2. Where did your town get its name?
3. What was the date of the Heppner flood?
4. Who was the "Paul Revere" of the Heppner flood?
5. What town in Morrow county was an overnight stage stop in the early days?
6. What is Oregon's third largest industry?
7. Why is the year 1959 important in Oregon?

Can you answer them? I can't now but by the time another year rolls around I hope to know the answers to these above questions and a little bit more.

We sprung this little quiz on the Morrow county program planners when they met for their annual meeting at Lexington Grange hall last Wednesday to plan the extension units program for the year.

Interest is running high these days in Oregon history, because you all well know that Oregon is celebrating its centennial in 1959 and we expect a lot of tourists to come to Oregon (Oregon's third largest industry by the way) to help us celebrate. Morrow county extension units are not going to be "caught napping" so the planners decided to put, "Know Your Oregon" in their yearly program.

Further loyalty was shown when they chose "Oregon Wheat Products" as another lesson. It's just common sense to use what you grow.

Everyone is interested in outdoor living in the west. In fact, I feel rather naked when I tell people I don't own a sleeping bag! Whether it's rugged outdoor camping or just broiling steaks in the back yard, everyone wants to know how to prepare food out-of-doors. The women chose the lesson on "barbecuing" so that, come next summer, they would be prepared for all this outdoor fun!

Another topic chosen which seems to fill a need for many persons is "Holiday Fun" which is going to be composite of small gifts that can be made in a short time as corsages, felt work, etc. The ladies of the county committee have volunteered (with a little arm twisting) to

Continued on page 7

HEARING AIDS for the hard-of-hearing at the Star Theater.

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HEPPNER



He respects and protects his neighbor's property as he does his own. He knows it takes more than a fence to stop a fire. That's why, when he burns, he takes every precaution to keep the fire under control on his own land. He knows that one fire, carelessly set, or left to burn uncontrolled, can cross property lines and destroy trees, crops, pastures and buildings.



Heppner Pine Mills, Inc.