

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Forest Fire Damage Costly to Everyone

It's hard to definitely assess damage caused by a forest fire while it is running out of control. One such as the big fire in the Umatilla National Forest covers such a broad area, is so fast moving and causes so much confusion that the situation is in a constant state of change. It's hard to pinpoint accurate information and to tell just what is going on.

The one thing that is sure is that everyone is the loser on a fire such as this, whether he is directly involved or not. It is true that it might furnish temporary employment for a few extra fire fighters and may create a pseudo wave of prosperity for some businesses whose goods and services are in demand for battling the blaze. But damage to the economy through loss of forest and rangeland resources is far greater in the long run. Destruction of young trees, the forest's reproduction, means loss of jobs years hence for the men who would be needed to cut the timber and market it upon maturity. This, in turn, hurts the businessmen who would sell goods to these workers.

A forest and range fire is a great loss to sportsmen as it affects wildlife; it is a direct loss to companies whose timber and property it strikes; it is a loss to ranchers because of stock using the rangelands; reduction of the assessed value by fire cuts tax revenue that has to be made up in other ways.

During the past 15 or 20 years the public around the state has become ever more conscious of this universal damage by forest fires, and people have done a much better job of taking care in the forests.

The Ditch Creek fire, like others that hit here in the current conflagration, was not a man-caused fire and can be blamed on Mother Nature's capriciousness from lightning.

It is gratifying to see and hear how everyone is willing to pitch in and help in such an emergency. Many stories have come back from the fire lines telling of men battling it over rough terrain for long hours without rest or sleep. Probably considerable drama and some heroism have unfolded, about which we will never know. Business people have done all they could to facilitate service to fire crews and meet their needs. Who have heard of no instance where the public has refused a call for help.

The public here understands the importance of lumber and timber industries, which lead in gross income in Morrow county, according to statistics. They show this understanding by lending a hand at this time of crisis in the woods.

Report today sounds better from the fire lines and everyone will have a sigh of relief when this most destructive fire is finally pronounced completely under control.

Another Two-Bits on Drivers Licenses

It only amounts to 25c, and maybe two-bits additional isn't worth mentioning in this day and age, but there is something about it that "rubs our fur the wrong way."

We're referring to the 25c added to the drivers license fee by the 1961 legislature to go into the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund administered by the Industrial Accident Commission. This brings the driver's total fee to \$2.75 biennially.

There once was a time when a person paid \$1.00, as we recall, for a license. This ostensibly went to costs of registering drivers and taking care of that portion of the vehicle department.

Then a fee was added for high school driver training, and now comes the accident fee. While we are in accord with driver training and probably the accident fund, we object to this "tack on" method as being wrong in principle. A driver seeking a license has to pungle up for these additional funds regardless of his feelings or desires. Then it seems to us to penalize a driver for things that the total populace should be in a position to enjoy and should help pay for. If these things are worth doing, they should be handled separately, by taxes or some other method, and stand on their own merits.

It strikes us that it would be like going to a grocery store to buy a pound of dried beans, only to have the grocer tell you he'd sell you the beans all right provided that you bought six bits worth of ham to put in them, and then 10c worth of salt to season the whole thing.

Good Luck to Our Little Leaguers!

Heppner's Little League baseball boys, having completed their regular season, now strike out for The Dalles to compete in elimination play. Our All-Star team, picked from all teams in the league, will take the diamond at 6 p. m. Friday against an All-Star team from The Dalles.

A victory will send them on to a higher bracket Saturday; a loss would put them in consolation, also on Saturday. Since our Little Leaguers are affiliated with the national organization, they can keep right on going until they meet a team that downs them. If they should win both games at The Dalles, they would play at home in Heppner against a Pendleton team the ensuing week.

There has been great interest in Little League here this year. Some parents have been equally as enthused as their children. We share this enthusiasm and heartily believe we have a band of real hustling ball players. As they go on to other fields of conquest, we wish them the greatest of success.

Chaff and Chatter

By WES SHERMAN

AFTER writing a weekly column for some 15 years, we have outdone ourselves to refrain for the past six weeks. However, with so many little items coming to our attention around town and county, we feel moved to get into the rut again. We like the little human interest items—the sort of things that pass back and forth over the coffee cups (the printable ones). All contributions are welcome. Anyone who can come up with a better title for the column is invited to offer it.

WHEN Jack Van Winkle named his motel "The Flying A," he probably had no idea that it would become a haven of rest for fliers, but that, this week, it indeed has become. And it was all a surprise to Jack. Sunday afternoon a helicopter came in low over town and cut back to the motel, hovered a short time and then dropped down. A man got out and ran to the office, inquiring if the two in the chopper could lodge there. Jack welcomed them as guests and offered them use of his pickup to go to town for something to eat. The two had been summoned to help fight the forest fire from the air.

Word spread of the Flying A hospitality and its open location making it easy for a copier to set down, and so next day another pair arrived in a second chopper. One pair was from Boeing at Seattle and the other two were from Lewiston.

By Tuesday the Flying A had become true to its name. A third helicopter buzzed in and parked on the Van Winkles' ample driveway. The owners found the men fine guests and welcomed this unusual trade. They thought at one time that one of the choppers was going to sit down on six little fruit trees they had just planted, but the pilot saw the seedlings before it was too late and took off again to light in a new place.

The visitors brought a lot of curiosity seekers. The men could have made some extra spending money by offering barnstorming rides.

WE KIND of have Ed Gonty figured as a guy who will pull your leg when you least suspect it. So when he showed us a fruit jar with a long horse-hair-looking thing curled in water inside and told us it was a hair worm, we were a little bit dubious. But he told his story so sincerely, even offering testimonials from other businessmen, that we are inclined to go all out and believe him.

This "hair worm" looks just like an extra long horse hair to us, but Ed claims he found it in his garden and that it travels by humping up and down in the manner of a sea serpent. He solemnly declares that the encyclopedia tells about it, and declares that John Pfeiffer will stand behind him and his veracity 100 per cent.

Or is this the "treatment" given to all newcomers to test their worldly wisdom. Doggoned if we know!

MRS CHARLEY (Helen) Ruggles got one of the nicest compliments she has ever had the other day. She plays the piano beautifully as her friends know, and was at the pianoforte when a little lad came by, stopped and listened — spellbound.

When she finished the piece, turned and saw his admiring face, the youngster declared, "Gee, you play good!" And then he turned and walked away. Helen, a little nonplussed but flattered, could only think of "Thank you," to say to the departing boy.

OUR SYMPATHIES go to "Peg-leg" Bud Peck who was hobbling with a bad limp Tuesday after losing a bout with a tire hammer (he calls it a hammer but it looks more like one of those Chinese tong hatchets to us). Bud was trying to knock a tire loose from a rim, but his aim was bad on one swing and the sharp edge bounced off the rim to plow into his ankle. After three hours of painful brooding, he decided he better consult a doctor.

Sympathy also goes to Rev. Austin McGhee who seems to be having a run of bad luck. Not long ago he was in an auto accident. Last week he was at Cannon Beach (which also seems to be hexed these days) and their car got stuck in the sand. There was some confusion with the waves coming ever closer, and Rev. McGhee frantically tried to extricate the car. In doing so he turned his ankle badly and still is on crutches.

Parker Services Call Many Here

Among those coming from out-of-town for the funeral services of Loyal E. Parker on Saturday, were Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Parker of Santa Rosa, Calif., Mrs. James Harris and Judge and Mrs. W. W. Wells of Pendleton, Mrs. Milton Loney and Mrs. Mary Davis of Walla Walla, Wn. This group were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Parker.

Guests at the Loyal Parker home were Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hayden of Stanfield, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Devin of Condon, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Heyden of Klamath Falls, Mr. and Mrs. Casson Cahill of Athena, Mr. and Mrs. James Smith of Hermiston, and Mrs. Don Seuchetti of Spokane, Wn.

(P. S. Some husky young men came along and got the car out).

AL CASE had to give up and go to the hospital after stubbornly battling several ailments. He hurt his leg and that caused internal bleeding. Al also apparently has pneumonia or something akin to it, and as of Tuesday he wasn't feeling a bit good. We certainly hope that he recovers quickly and is back at his furniture store soon.

Fred Gimbel's Visit On California Trip

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gimbel, Tracy and Ricky have returned from a two weeks vacation which took them into southern California.

They visited her father Cecil Letts and brothers and sisters and families in Los Angeles. July Fourth a family reunion was held at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ray Elkins and husband at Torrance. They visited Marineland, Disneyland, spent three days at Huntington Beach and four at Pasadena seeing all the local sights.

They drove up the Oregon beach on the return trip. They also spent one night with the Victor Kreimeyers, former residents who now live in Portland. The family returned to Heppner July 15.

From Our EARLY FILES

From the files of the Gazette-Times July 16, 1931

The Morrow county American Legion junior baseball team will play Ontario in La Grande Sunday for the District 6 and 7 championship.

Fire destroyed 200 acres of grain belonging to W. F. Barnett, 180 acres belonging to Charles Marquardt, and some harvested wheat belonging to Harry Shriver.

Businesses unite to sponsor the 10th annual Rodeo September 3-5.

Freight rates cut to help wheat growers save \$1,500,000. These reductions all are on shipments to coast terminals.

John Kilkenny, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Frank Kilkenny, who is visiting from New York, was in Alpine Wednesday from Heppner.

R. B. Wilcox is busy putting up alfalfa on his Willow Creek dairy farm, having very favorable conditions.

C. N. Jones was in town early Tuesday getting ready to begin harvest on his ranch.

Mr. and Mrs. Clive Huston were in from their Eight Mile home Saturday spending a few hours shopping.

Hardman was swept by a heat wave last week during which time the temperature ranged around 97 degrees most of the week.

One— Mrs. Bert Mason went to Portland Sunday to visit her mother, Mrs. Adelia Godfrey and bring her son Don, home from camp.

Dr. Wagner Attends Aviation Seminar

Dr. C. M. Wagner attended a seminar sponsored by the Federal Aviation Agency on aviation medicine at the University of Oregon medical school in Portland Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The seminar was an attempt on the part of FFA to help designated aviation medical examiners evaluate pilot qualifications from a medical standpoint in the interest of safety.

Dr. Wagner has been a medical examiner for FAA for the past nine years.

He flew his own plane to Portland to attend the daily sessions.

He's a miracle man if he can take the limp out of a lame excuse.

Drivers License Fees to be Raised

All driver licenses expiring on or after August 9 will be renewable at the new \$2.75 figure, the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles reminded today.

That's the effective date for a 25 cent increase voted by the recent legislative session. The entire 25 cents goes to the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund administered by the State Industrial Accident Commission. The license itself costs \$1. Another dollar goes to the student driver education fund and 75 cents goes to the accident fund to help meet unpaid medical costs resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

Driver Licensing Division Manager Edward M. Syring pointed out that special inserts will be included with renewal notices to show the new \$2.75 fee.

STAR THEATER

Fri. Sat., July 21-22

The Bat

Vincent Price, Agnes Moorehead, Gavin Gordon, John Sutton, Lenita Lane. Based on Mary Roberts Rinehart's "The Circular Staircase." PLUS

The Savage Innocents

Anthony Quinn, Yoko Tani, Anna May Wong. Fascinating adventure drama of the Land of the Midnight Sun and its wild life.

Break 9, show out 10:40

Sun. Mon., July 23-24

All In A Night's Work

Shirley MacLaine, Dean Martin, Charles Ruggles, Cliff Robertson. Plushy, racy nonsense, for the moviegoer looking for a good time! Technicolor.

Sunday at 5 and 7

DANCE



FOR MORROW COUNTY FAIR and RODEO

PRINCESS

MARLENE

FETSCH

SATURDAY, JULY 22

ADMISSION \$1.50 PER PERSON

FAIR PAVILION HEPPNER

DANCING 10 TO 2 SUPPER SERVED

MUSIC BY THE TALENTED AND POPULAR

LEONNIG'S ORCHESTRA

SPONSORED BY THE LEXINGTON GRANGE



you're always welcome here

With modern insurance becoming more complicated every day you must have questions bothering you. As a friendly gesture we'll gladly try to answer them. If you wish, we'll survey your present insurance coverage, without charge, to see that it's right for your needs and your pocketbook. Phone-Call-Write. Glad to help.

C. A. RUGGLES INSURANCE AGENCY

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