

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 6-9228

The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

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Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$4.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Chaff and Chatter

By Wes Sherman

OLD MOTHER NATURE stirred uneasy memories of 1903 and added an embellishment of fire in Morrow county this week. However, she was more merciful than at the time of the Big Flood, and instead of creating a catastrophe, left only a mess with considerable property damage. Everyone shuddered with the thought of what would have happened if the deluge of rain had not come Monday evening to douse the roaring fires, driven by strong winds, that covered the countryside from lightning strikes.

Heppner, Hardman, Huggs and other areas got its beating Monday evening in one brief hour. Lone and the Rhea creek area took its punishment in another brief hour on the ensuing night at the same approximate time. As quickly as the storms came, they were gone, but the long road of cleaning up still lays ahead.

HEARTWARMING is the way that neighbor rallies to help neighbor in an emergency such as this. It is obvious that people in Morrow county are well acquainted with the signs when Mother Nature intends to vent her violence. They don't wait to be called but drop everything at once to turn out and help wherever help is needed. Farmers get out with their fire fighting apparatus, and jeeps and pickups roll out with their owners to rush to aid any who might be stranded or trapped by flood waters.

When the electrical storm caused fires around Heppner, volunteer firemen didn't need to be called. They came from all directions, with others anxious to help, to descend on Fire Chief Charlie Ruggles' office, a nerve center at times of emergency. They were ready to go wherever needed—some to check on flood conditions, others to battle fires.

Chief Ruggles and wife Helen were deluged with phone calls coming over two lines. They were rushed with dispatching equipment and men, and aid came from north, south, east and west.

It was good when the sozzling rain hit and the report came through from all quarters that the fire situation was well in hand.

SILT COVERED lone is in a slithering mess in the wake of its flood. Omar Bietmann, who served as mayor of that city for years, stopped in his work of mopping up city hall Tuesday night about 9 p. m. and drily commented: "I was mayor here for a good many years, but I never left city hall in a mess like this!"

STATIONED out on the highway keeping a wary eye on the Pacific Power substation that at one time had 4 1/2 feet of water in it, Fred Gimbel, local manager, laughed as he recounted reporting the flood to a new PP&L dispatcher by radio: "Four and a half feet of water!" repeated the voice incredulously. "Judas Priest! (Ed. Note: Reasonable facsimile of his expression) This is my first day on the job here! What'll I do?"

ONE RESULT of the lone flood was that it brought a rash of newsmen to the area. Because phones were out Wednesday, a number of daily papers dispatched reporters in person to the scene. The Associated Press, scouring for pictures, called on us, and Mrs. Arnold Raymond rushed the ones we had taken Tuesday night to Pendleton to give to the East Oregonian to put on the A. P. wire. Somehow in the rush one of the cut captions sent with the pictures was transposed, and the picture that came out in the East Oregonian

Wednesday was one of Cecil Hicks, incorrectly identified as Dorr Mason. We had pictures of both that were sent to the A. P. Our apologies go to these men for the error, both of whom were wielding shovels Tuesday night. We could not use pictures of lone in this paper because we had no way of getting engravings made and back in time.

DAD USED to say, "There is no great loss but what there is some small gain." Members of Willow Creek Golf club, surveying their debris-covered golf course, might think of this as they look at No. 1 fairway. The silt and mud came down the canyon and crossed the highway leveled out nicely over a wide area near No. 1 green. When the "driftwood" is cleared away and grass covers the deposited silt, they will benefit by a nice flat fill there.

WHILE THE storm captured most attention this week, there were some humorous happenings that brought a chuckle or two. Bill Blake of Wilson's Men's Store was going around with a grimace on his face Tuesday.

"I've got the gosh-awfullest taste in my mouth," moaned he. "I brushed my teeth with Stephen's hair cream this morning!" Bill went on to explain that after grabbing the wrong tube by mistake, he brushed four more times with Ipana, but the dark-brown taste lingered on.

JIM MYERS, gaily galloping down the avenue early Tuesday, was a bundle of joy, shouting greetings to one and all, and declaring, "It's a great day, isn't it!"

An hour or two later we met him in his Phil's Pharmacy. His face was sour and nary a smile cracked his countenance. "What's the matter?" we asked. "You were so happy out on the street earlier."

"Well," he remarked drily, "I am at work now."

SOMETIMES we thing we should run contributed articles in the paper just as they come in. It would add considerable flavor to some of our reports. This week, for instance, a youngster sent in a carefully written 4-H club story.

He wrote that "during the busi-

STAR THEATER

Fri. Sat., Aug. 18-19
Walt Disney's
Absent-Minded Professor

Fred MacMurray and a scene-stealing dog, Nancy Olson, Keenan Wynn, Tommy Kerk, Ed Wynn sneaks in his hilarious fire-chief scene.

PLUS
Gala Day At Disneyland

In Color. Mickey Mouse Cartoon.
Friday and Saturday shows at 6:30 p. m. and 9 p. m.

Sun., Mon., Aug. 20-21
Margaret Mitchell's
Gone With the Wind

A memorable motion picture to salute the Civil War Centennial. Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Olivia deHavilland, Hattie McDaniel, Butterfly McQueen. In Technicolor. Winner of ten Academy Awards in the year in which it was made.

Sunday—Shows at 3 p. m. and 7 p. m. Boxoffice closes at 7:30 p. m.
Monday—One show only at 7 p. m. Boxoffice closes at 7:30 p. m.

NOTICE

This is to announce that Dick's Flower Shop remains under the ownership of Lavelle Dick and will be operated by her

Your continued support and patronage will be deeply appreciated and every effort will be made to supply all your floral needs with fresh, quality flowers, artistically arranged with prompt delivery service.

—Lavelle Dick

Ed Groshens Takes Tour Across Europe

SP/4 Ed Groshens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vic Groshens of Heppner, recently took a tour across Europe with a fellow serviceman and enjoyed stops in Belgium, France, Spain and Italy, according to a letter to his parents. He was on three weeks leave.

SP/4 Groshens, who is station-

ed at Ludwicksburg, Germany, was recently advanced to his present rating, which is equivalent to sergeant.

Before entering service, he went to Oregon State University for one year. At the present time he is a reporter for the post paper, and has had several articles in the service paper, Stars and Stripes. SP/4 Groshens also drives a jeep for a colonel at the post.

From our EARLY FILES

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times August 20, 1931

The postoffice and store at Eight Mile, owned by Mrs. Minnie B. Furlong, burned to the ground Tuesday afternoon.

Heppner schools will open Aug. 31 instead of the previous time set for Sept. 7.

LONE—Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Bristow returned last Friday to their home in Baker after spending a week with relatives here.

ness meeting we disgust demonstrations."

DR. A. D. McMURDO has more talents than being a physician and surgeon. He certainly raises fine sweet corn. This week he brought us a generous supply of ears from his garden patch, and it was delicious—best we've had all year.

HAVE YOU ever seen a bale of hay explode? No, well Dave Townsend did. It exploded all over the place on a highway in Montana after he hit it going some 70 miles per hour.

The hay covered the car grill, went under the vehicle and wrapped around the drive shaft, and virtually covered the entire car. In trying to get it off the drive shaft, he burned his hand. It so clogged the drive shaft that he couldn't continue. But Dave conceived the idea of backing up, and the reverse action un-wound the hay, so that he could proceed once more.

The car wasn't damaged, and no one was hurt, but there was hay all over the place.

The Townsends had a nice trip in spite of the hay explosion.

Ed Gonty and son Thomas, are enjoying a vacation at the coast and the eldest son, Edmund, just recently returned from vacation is in charge of the store.

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

August 15, 1946

Travelers over the Lexington-Hermiston highway have been watching progress on a new house going up on the Myles Martin ranch.

An engineer arrived in Heppner Wednesday evening to start plans for a new reservoir for the city of Heppner.

LEXINGTON—Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Van Winkle and family were business visitors in Pendleton Tuesday.

Bridal parties feted two young people in Heppner this week for Miss Laurel Ball to wed Mr. Laverne Van Marter, August 19 and for Miss Betty Marie Coxen to be married August 20 to Mr. Kenneth Hoyt.

FIVE YEARS AGO

August 16, 1956

Farmers are still harvesting one of the county's biggest crops.

Hot weather strikes the county as temperatures climbed to 95 degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Dick and family visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Forsyth at Rydewood, Wn.

The coronation of Rodeo Queen Patsy Wright and the dressup parade is set for Saturday.

Visitors at the Arnold Malby home Thursday through Saturday were Mr. and Mrs. Lester Reed, Debbie, David, and Karen, of Empire.

TO THE EDITOR . .

Dear Editor: Today I witnessed the most perplexing and frustrating act that I have ever encountered.

As you probably know there was a fire on the Frank Anderson range near Huggs. Many good men were there to combat a grass fire which the wind was whipping uplope from Highway No. 207.

After fighting this fire for a considerable time and having it almost under control our water supply was exhausted. During an attempt to replenish our supply of sorely needed water, I saw a fire truck sitting on the edge of the pavement. The driver was casually having a smoke and calmly watching the world go by.

Upon asking the driver's assistance in extinguishing the fire, I was informed that he could not assist in the fire fighting with his STATE OWNED (Taxpayer-paid-for) fire engine because it was not in his district. With the use of this equipment the fire could have been thoroughly extinguished within a short time.

As we taxpayers so wisely know (and purchase for our protection); one piece of fire fighting equipment can accomplish so much more, and faster than a man with a shovel that denying its use is criminal.

Any person sitting alongside of a fire in a fire engine and not allowing its use by the very people who helped purchase it should be ashamed to show his face in public. I just can't get over the very idea of a taxpayer-owned piece of equipment being denied the use of by a taxpayer-salaried individual.

I feel that it is up to our prominent local organizations, such as our Chamber of Commerce, our Granges and other farm organizations to go to our State Legislature and correct these kind of situations.

Sincerely yours,
Jim Gorman
Lexington, Oregon

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

CHECK THIS LIST —

- PENCIL TABLETS
- NOTEBOOKS
- NOTEBOOK PAPER
- RING BINDERS
- BRIEF CASES
- STENO PADS
- CRAYONS
- PAPER CLIPS
- SCOTCH TAPE
- CLIPBOARDS
- THUMB TACKS
- INK
- PENCILS
- PENS—Fountain & Ball Point
- ERASERS
- PASTE, RULERS
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