Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 6-2228

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The Good Humor of the Good Old Days

Two shows that we consider as classics were on television over the week-end and brought nostalgic memories of the good humor of the good old days.

One was a biographical documentary Saturday night on the life of Will Rogers and the other, Du Pont's Show of the Week, caller "Laughter, U. S. A.," was a virtual Who's Who of American comedians.

These two programs, perhaps not intentionally, showed us although we in America may be making progress scientifically and in other areas, we are losing ground in our sense of humor.

It is hard to believe that Will Rogers' humor, with its foundation of common sense, will ever be matched. He could accomplish more in resolving a pressing problem with his witty comments than hours of bickering around a conference table can achieve. He had the faculty of conveying ideas on even complicated subjects to the public in a simple direct manner that they could understand and appreciate. He often said, "I never met a man I didn't like," and probably everyone in America and untold thousands around the world loved him.

We recall the day he was killed in the plane crash with Wiley Post in Alaska. We were piling wood in a house basement in Forest Grove when someone brought the news, and although only 17 at the time (mid-August of 1935) we were stunned.

After 26 years, this appreciation of Will Rogers persists with us. Seeing the program Saturday night, we re-lived that moment of shock we felt when he died. Millions, as many will recall, felt the same way.

If Will Rogers still lived, he would now be 82. It is interesting to conjecture how much influence he might have had on the world situation today—someone that might set the world to shame-faced laughter at our unholy plight rather than indulging in grim-faced antagonism.

* * *

"Laughter, U. S. A.," with classic characterizations by artists of comedy fast receding from the American scene, showed such masters as W. C. Fields, Fred Allen, Buster Keaton, the Keystone Cops and others.

Slapstick is still one of the greatest forms of comedy. We have never seen our little daughter laugh so hard as she did at clips of these old movies whose vintage long preceded her days on this earth. The superb pantomimes of Buster Keaton, the master poker face, and the hilarious hazards of the Keystone Cops, with never a real thought of malice toward anyone, evoked side-splitting laughter from young and old alike.

Although we still have some artists in comedy, such as Red Skelton, we have side-slipped into a subtle, sophisticated, slightly-off-color humor on the national scene—the kind that goes over the heads of children and evokes sly, mouth-corner grins from those wise in the ways of the world. Children watch many a TV comedian without cracking a smile—And we regret it. We would like to see a return to the simple, ridiculous, incongruous type of comedy that brings healthy and loud guffaws from all.

* * *

It is often said that we in America can't take a joke on ourselves anymore—that we are losing our sense of humor. Maybe, by and large, this is true, but we hope it isn't true in our community. Groucho Marx says it is true of the nation as a whole. He recently ribbed plumbers on his "You Bet Your Life" show and got many indignant letters from plumbers, who took him seriously and were ready to make something of it.

Recently, over at DeLake, Mr. and Mrs. Allen D. Read, publishers of the North Lincoln News-Guard, proved that their community still has a sense of humor when they published a special edition of their paper, lampooning the "20 Miracle Miles" as the "20 Murky Miles." Its pages were filled with advertising by businesses making fun of themselves. O. G. Crawford, formerly editor of the Gazette-Times, and now working there, had a lot to do with the special issue.

"We're located on the cliff," advertised one motel, "—drop over!"

A picture of two women wrestlers was captioned, "Two local P.T.A. matrons settle a difference of opinion on school policy in the only sensible way."

The issue is a dandy. Even such staid advertisers as First National Bank and Pacific Power and Light poked fun at themselves.

We think this shows a healthy community and sets a good example. It isn't always necessary, when something comes up that doesn't please us, to blow off steam, get red-faced and sound off at our neighbors. We need to take a lesson from Will Rogers, quip about it and laugh at ourselves.

Yes, we need to keep—or go back to—the good humor of the good old days.

YOUR Independent Insurance AGENT
"SERVES YOU FIRST"

You will find that we try just a little bit harder..

..to help and please our customers!

C. A. RUGGLES
INSURANCE AGENCY
PH. 6-9625 HEPPNER

Ed Dicks Take Trip North For Vacation

"One week just isn't long enough," Ed Dick said of his vacation. He and his wife Rachel traveled 1800 miles and "saw a lot of scenery" but Ed said they could easily have spent the whole week in any one of a number of spots they visited.

They were overnight guests of former Heppner residents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ferel at Enterprise Friday night, Sept 8, and attended the game when the Heppner Mustangs played there.

Leaving Enterprise Saturday they drove to Dick's father's home in Helena, Montana by way of the new Lola Pass highway. One of the places Dick said he would have "liked to spend a week" was along the Lock Saw river in this area.

Following a visit with his father, L. E. Dick, Sr., and his stepmother and numerous other relatives in Helena, Ed and Rachel returned through the Glacier National Park. They drove into Canada "just so we could say we had been there," before coming home last Sunday.

TO THE EDITOR . .

To the Editor:

I wonder if the rest of the ranchers in Morrow county have taken note of the rapid spread of Bushy Knapp weed during the last three years? Steve Thomson called it to my attention about two months ago and since then I've noted it on almost every county road I've been on. It apparently is being spread by the county road graders.

Now this weed is a perennial and where it is established, it is rapidly crowding out and destroying the natural pasture grasses and even up the rocky hillsides.

There must be between 500 and 1000 acres of it and it must be stopped now or we'll lose our ranges to it. I believe a study and survey should be made by the weed committee and money put in the 1962 budget to hire a helicopter to spray these weeds next year. It is said "The Devil wasted his time when he invented morning glory," he already had Knapp Weed.

O. W. Cutsforth

Dear Sir:

AND WHERE WAS HEPPNER?

"Where was Heppner," was a phrase voiced by a large following of Heppnerites at the conclusion of the Westward Ho parade in Pendleton Friday morning.

We spectators were treated to music by bands from as far away as Seattle, as well as every band in this area, except one, Heppner. Due to an administrative order, the Heppner high school band was not allowed to participate in the 1961 Westward Ho parade. What kind of a school administration do we have in our Heppner high school, when they lack the pride in their own town to represent it with our band at probably the biggest function in Eastern Oregon, the Pendleton Round-Up?

If we had an inferior band, there might be some reason for not attending large functions. However, we do not have an inferior band as we were shown when the band brought back the first place trophy from the East-West Shrine game. Our town as well as our high school band, are something to be proud of so lets show them.

Sincerely,
Cliff W. Green

Keep Oregon Green Signs Arrive Here

Sam Miller, Heppner ranger, announces that "Forest Fire Danger Today" signs will be strategically placed at entrances to the woods for hunting season by the local office. They were shipped here by the state Keep Oregon Green association.

The four by five foot sign boards are lettered in color on both sides and indicate the degree of fire danger on any particular day. They will be used to help prevent fires during hunting season.

The program is a cooperative effort of the Keep Oregon Green association, and the Forest Service. They are a contribution from the Morrow County Keep Oregon Green committee, Miller said.

Chaff and Chatter

By Wes Sherman

HAVING tire trouble the other day, went down to Bud Peck at Ford's Tire Service and told him the story: My tire was flat on one side, put in air, but it was still flat in the same spot.

Bud's brother, Harold, sitting there, took it in, then remarked it reminded him of Elmer Palmer of Heppner, who was doing some carpenter work.

"Elmer sawed a piece of board, found it was too short," quoth Harold. "So he sawed off some more, but it was still too short."

* * *

NELS ANDERSON was a little late in stepping forward, but declared the other day that the Bill Collins and the Shermans just aren't in it, when it comes to years that they will have children remaining at home at the start of school. We had remarked that this year is the first time in 20 years that the Shermans do not have a preschooler lagging back. The Collins have us beat because of a little daughter still at home.

Nels rather emphatically points out that he and Mrs. Anderson can beat us both by 10 years. Their record will extend to something like 30 years of having children at home. The Andersons have three in college this year, including Connie to EOCE as a soph, Carole to Columbia Basin J. C. in nurse's training and Jerry entering U of Portland as a freshman. Way back at home is little Rickey, 4, still two years out of the first grade. In-between are three others, twin high school freshmen, David and Douglas (should be going to David Douglas high in Portland!), and Kit in the sixth grade.

Well, Bill and Daisy, I guess that puts us well back in No. 2 and 3 spots, huh?

* * *

THE JUDGES made no mistake when they picked Jan Beamer of Heppner as "Miss Rodeo Oregon." This we would stoutly declare after watching her at the Pendleton Round-Up Saturday. Jan made an impressive appearance at the show we saw, and she rides beautifully.

This was the first Round-Up for us, and it was a thrilling thing, made more so by the appearance and fine performances of the many from Morrow county.

All Heppnerites are proud of the showing of the Wranglers in the Round-Up, even though they had some tough luck in the final relay race Saturday. Until that time, they had taken the honors

Something went wrong when the next to last rider came in. A spill resulted. Sandra Eubanks, the last rider, was all set to go, but her dad, John Eubanks, who was holding the rope on her horse, said that he didn't let go quick enough after she finally got the Baton. Result was that her horse swung around, crashed into the inside barrier of track. The horse seemed to go lame, and Sandra, now well out of the running, took it real easy going around the track. It was obvious that she was highly disappointed but wasn't going to take any chances of permanently injuring her horse.

After seeing her at the rodeo, all Heppnerites must have felt badly about it, too, because she is a marvelous rider and would have given the crowd something to admire. But it is just one of those things.

Sadly, too, the Wranglers, although winners the first two days didn't get a trophy because they didn't win the crucial race. But they certainly did themselves proud in spite of the bad breaks.

* * *

SANDRA will have a chance to show what she can do when she goes to the All-Girl rodeo at Grand Coulee October 1. She will be entered in a number of events there and will bear watching.

* * *

JUST BECAUSE the Heppner Mustangs took a couple of lickings at the start of the football season doesn't mean that we don't have a good ball club. Watching them against Umatilla Friday night, we thought the boys looked particularly good in some departments. There were some beautiful tackles in the game. The Vikings found and capitalized on one or two weaknesses that provided the big scoring difference.

We think they have the stuff and look for them to come on in good shape when they get a little experience. One report of the game in a daily paper said that Umatilla found a hole in the Heppner line through which they made yardage. This we would soundly deny.

The Vikings couldn't seriously dent that line. They made their yardage on speed, going around end.

Probably every high school athlete would love to look back on an undefeated season and a championship, but it takes a great deal more character to play with a loser. And, by golly, I think the kid that sees it through the sound shellackings will come out a better man than a good many who ride the glory of the undefeated.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doolittle and sons Dennis and Ronald of Portland were week-end visitors at the home of Mr. Doolittle's mother, Mrs. Lester Doolittle. They attended the Pendleton Round-Up on Saturday afternoon and the Happy Canyon pageant in the evening, returning to their Portland home on Sunday.

4-H Girls Place High At Fair; Many Make Trip

Two Heppner girls, Julie Pfeiffer and Jeanne Stockard, were outstanding Morrow county 4-H'ers at the Oregon State Fair at Salem. They each took part in three different activities, according to Esther Kirmis, county agent.

Julie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Pfeiffer, garnered a blue ribbon in the state style revue, on her chic black wool costume. The winter dress also placed blue in construction. This attractive Heppner high school senior, along with Beverly Davidson, Lexington, and Jean Martin, Ione, made up the Morrow county clothing judging team that placed in the red class.

Jeanne, daughter of Mrs. Anita Stockard, spent a busy week at the fair. She won a red ribbon in the cake baking contest; gave a demonstration on "Fiesta Hamburger Pie" and was a member of the foods judging team. Marilyn Morgan and Shirley Hicks, Ione, were the other two members.

Listings from the State Fair 4-H club office show the following placings for other Morrow county club members.

Blue: Marlene (Griffith) Gray, clothing; Julie Pfeiffer, clothing; David Gray, clothing; Arleta McCabe, clothing; David Proudfoot, horsemanship.

Red: Jeanne Stockard, foods; Carol Rawlins, clothing; Anna Mae McQuaw, clothing; Cheryle Lundell, clothing; Jean Siewert, knitting; Jean Martin, wool sewing; Penny Jones, style revue; Libby Van Schoiack, style revue; Arleta McCabe, style revue; Cheryle Lundell, style revue; Byron Hobbs, woodworking; Connie Coppinger, Dick Struckmeier and David Proudfoot, horse judging; Jay Ball, Robert DeSpain and Tom Pointer, Gun Safety marksmanship.

Results of Home Economics demonstrations and livestock judging teams have not yet been received in the county agent's office.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Wilcox, Portland, visited at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John Graves on Monday and at their granddaughters and family, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Pettyjohn.

Ione PTA To Greet Faculty At Reception On Friday Evening

New and returning teachers of the Ione public schools will be guests of the Ione P.T.A. at a social gathering in the school cafetorium Friday evening at 8:00 p. m.

Mayor Charles O'Conner will present the welcome in behalf of the city and Garry Tullis, president of the P.T.A., will introduce members of the county district school board and the local advisory board.

Teachers in the high school will be introduced by Supt. Darrel Reisch, and those of the grade school by principal Don Clark.

Special music is being planned by Gene Rietmann and Mrs. Roger Kincaid. A social get-acquainted time will be held prior to serving refreshments.

STAR THEATER

Thurs., Fri., Sat.—Three days including Thurs., Sept. 21-22-23

Walt Disney's
The Parent Trap

Hayley Mills and Hayley Mills (Honorary Academy Award Winner for outstanding juvenile performance of 1960 in "Pollyanna"), Maureen O'Hara, Brian Keith, Charlie Ruggles, Una Merkel, Tommy Sands and Annette sing the title song. A real laugh affair when two teenage look-a-likes change names and parents to fix-up a mix-up! You'll be seeing double in Technicolor!

Thurs. at 7:30, come Thurs. if you can!

Fri. and Sat. shows at 6:30 and 9

Your price of admission is for one complete show only.

Sun., Mon., Sept. 24-25
Gidget Goes Hawaiian

James Darren, Michael Callan, Deborah Walley, Vicki Trickett,, Peggy Cass, Eddie Foy Jr., Carl Reiner, Jeff Donnell. Lush Hawaiian backgrounds in color. Guys—gals—Mom—Dad—here's gay fun with music for you.

Sunday at 5 and 7, Monday at 7:30

Rainy Day Protection!

Best umbrella for the "rainy days" in your life is ready cash in your savings account. Start saving now!

Emergencies occur in the best of regulated lives. Usually it takes money to weather the storm. Have it when you need it! Your savings here earn interest at the current rate of

4%

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COME TO MORROW COUNTY'S
RED HAT DAY
TUESDAY, SEPT. 26
HEPPNER FAIR PAVILION, 8 P. M.

FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN

- Hunting Hints
- Field care of wild game
- Care and preservation of meat
- Recipes

Hear
ANDY LANDFORCE
EXTENSION WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST, AND OTHERS

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