

# Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
PHONE 6-9228

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## Sagebrush for New State Flower?

A news item reports that Rep. Clinton Haight Jr. of Baker, chairman of the legislative interim committee on natural resources, plans to introduce legislation in the 1963 session of the legislature to make sagebrush the state flower, replacing Oregon grape, and to make the jackrabbit the state's animal symbol, rather than the beaver.

This move is occasioned, of course, by eastern Oregon's battle for more adequate representation and undoubtedly fanned by Sen. Vernon Cook's recent condescending remarks about the jacks and sage of eastern Oregon.

Rep. Haight makes a pretty good case, though perhaps with tongue in cheek. He says the rabbits can outrun and outproduce the beaver two to one. Sagebrush is much more prolific than Oregon grape in this state, he declares, at the same time hinting that the current state flower may be a spreader of wheat rust.

It is pretty much of a foregone conclusion that Rep. Haight's proposals won't get very far even if he were serious about it, because there are probably a lot more grapes than sages in the legislature.

However, the ideas bring up another thought. Eastern Oregonians should adopt some symbol for decals for their autos and lapel buttons to wear in order to add a little more pride and prominence to our section of the state. Thus, wherever an eastern Oregonian went he would be advertising to the world that he is one of those "jackrabbits" deserving of recognition and representation.

## A Good Job by President Whitesmith

With the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday, incoming president Fred Gimbel takes over leadership of the organization and President Mike Whitesmith retires from this responsibility.

Under Whitesmith's leadership, the chamber has had a good and active year. It has been a year of accomplishment, and a great deal of the credit is due to his hard work. Just a few of the activities during the year include: The Lucky Buck program, Christmas Opening promotion, Farm-City banquet, help with the rodeo and rodeo parade, sponsorship of the Welcome Edition of the Gazette-Times, sponsorship of a booth at the Pacific-International Livestock Exposition, sponsorship of the football banquet, and cooperation with a number of youth and farm activities.

The chamber has been an active voice in supporting local improvements that its members feel are needed such as the Willow Creek dam project (survey of which is now in progress), highway improvement, cleanup paintup campaign, and others. It has acted, pro and con, on legislation considered either beneficial or detrimental to local interests, such as opposition to the new ambulance law that will work a hardship on small privately-owned emergency vehicles.

As president, Whitesmith has been zealous and conscientious. He has taken time from his business to take care of chamber of commerce matters and has handled some of the hardest tasks himself when no one else volunteered to do them. As he retires from this post, he deserves hearty congratulations for a job very well done.

## Heppner Needs Better Street Signs

It is good to live in a town small enough so that everyone apparently knows everyone else and where they live. And there is considerable to be said for not trying to make a big city out of a small town. But sometimes it isn't quite adequate, in giving directions, to say, "they live on up from the courthouse, across from the John Smiths," or "He lives on that little street that deadends a couple blocks from the depot."

This is by way of saying that Heppner needs better street signs. Some of our streets seem to have none at all. Others have a few signs but not adequate. It is an accommodation for visitors to have proper signs, and although old timers may not need them, the newcomer finds himself considerably handicapped without them as guides. During the recent Christmas lighting contest we noted that it was difficult to inform the public where to go to see some of the homes because of this deficiency.

## Richmond Family Move To Rockford

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richmond and sons, Larry and Stanley, moved last week to Rockford, Wn., in the Spokane area, where he will assume his new duties as assistant manager of Rockford Grain Growers.

Richmond has been employed for four years by Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc. as bookkeeper and field man, coming here from Clarkston, Wn.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Richmond have taken an active part in community affairs during their time here. He was a member of the executive committee for Little League for two years; has been on the Cub Scout committee four years and served as Cubmaster for one year. She was a den mother for Cub Scouts for three years. Both were active in the Methodist church. Richmond served on the church board four years and was chairman of the board for one year. She was superintendent of the primary Sunday school. Mrs. Richmond was also active in Civic League and Mothers club.

Their many friends have been wishing them success in their new location.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thomson, Bernice and Bruce, were dinner guests on Sunday at the home of Mrs. Harry Duval.

Miss Betty Dornelle of Reno, Nevada, is spending a New Year's vacation with her sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Greshens, and getting acquainted with her new little nephew, baby Gregory Allan Greshens.

## Gazette-Times Gets Treasury Citation

Announcement is made by Mr. Thomas S. Prideox, chairman of the Oregon Savings Bonds committee, that a United States Treasury Department citation has been awarded to the Gazette-Times for outstanding public service to the community and the nation through its long-time support of the Savings Bonds program.

In his statement, Prideox noted that this newspaper has set an unusually fine long-term record for backing the Savings Bonds program and he also stated that without such support which has been nation-wide among all advertising media, it would have been completely impossible for the Treasury Department to have averaged approximately four and three-quarter billion dollars of Savings Bonds sales each year since 1946.

The award carries the wording, "Presented to Gazette-Times in appreciation of patriotic service to the nation through the United States Savings Bonds program." It is signed by the Secretary of the Treasury and by Prideox as state chairman.

Week-end guests at the Everett Struckmeier home were Mr. and Mrs. Keith Allen and family, Enterprise; Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hall and family, Caldwell, Idaho; Mrs. Harry Brooten, Cloverdale; Miss Bernice Struckmeier, Salem; Mrs. Richard Struckmeier, Jefferson, mother of Mr. Struckmeier; Edwin Faxon, Corvallis; Mrs. Maurice Pettit, Walnut Creek, Calif., mother of Mrs. Struckmeier; and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Struckmeier and family, Albany.

# Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WATCHING a second rate football team from the Pacific coast play, a second rate team from the Big Ten in the Rose Bowl on New Year's day in a dull game on TV, we couldn't help but muse how much nicer it was to be sitting at home than it would be to battle 100,000 other souls to get into the concrete bowl and then to fight traffic "the rest of the day getting out. Maybe that is a sign of age?"

THOSE WHO felt engulfed by the week-end fog here only had to drive a few miles to get above it. The forest area around Cutsforth park is now a winter wonderland. Anyone who would want to make photographic Christmas cards for 1962 (only 361 days until Christmas) could get some beautiful snow pictures up there. The sun was shining brightly Monday and the snow and ice shimmered and sparkled. The Elmer Schmidt family was enjoying skating on the pond at Cutsforth, and others were up there with skills to pursue that sport.

MRS. TED SMITH, like many others, has been having an ordeal with the flu, but hers has been a particularly persistent case. After listening to Ted the other day, though, we would guess that he is almost sicker than his wife, though in a different way—sick of his own cooking. He even makes a face when he talks about his preparations.

A PACKAGE came in the mail the other day with some very interesting contents. An accompanying letter explained, "This paper was brought in to me at the local tavern by a boy that was having their house remodeled after a fire and after reading it over I saw where your town was the main topic. I thought that maybe you would be interested in it. I hope it will be some good to you. Sincerely, Austin V. Hubble, St. John, Wash." It was very thoughtful of Mr. Hubble for the paper is the Seattle Post-Intelligencer of Tuesday, June 16, 1963, and the big headline says, "Three Hundred Coffins Ordered for Heppner Dead."

The entire front page is devoted to the flood. One of the main stories is headed, "Engulfed in a Wall of Waters." Dated Portland, it starts out, "Engulfed in a mighty wall of water, whose strength knew no master, Heppner, the county seat of Morrow county, Ore., num-

## TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor: We note you have a very interesting paper. Of special interest is a late article by N. C. Anderson who must be complimented. And I suggest every one read it again.

Oh how sad the story that our economy has become so tight, that our county has lost 77 operators in agriculture, in such a short time. These things are a real tax dollar loss to our county.

At many agriculture conventions this last fall we had great speakers tell us the farmer was producing so good that they were not all needed in the world. They did not say the farm program is so tough that a large percent will be forced out of business each year—yet that is the case, and there are lots of starving people in this world.

I also note Mr. Weatherford had some good points of economic interest in your paper. And our county needs more men that are not afraid to speak out. Part of our economic condition may be a result of high taxes. Maybe our road building program is getting too big, and out of place. Maybe our school program is going like the socialists want it. Or maybe it is just plain under the table spending like the \$22,000.00 grant for a planning council. Now is the time to take warning. Let us keep our government close to the people. And beware of the brain wash. When we lose control it will be worse than the iron heel.

We note our livestock area is going to suffer from some of this high tone planning where industry is expected to come into our county that will be more of a liability than an asset. If our county population is standing still or going backward then why expand the school program to the breaking point? And if there are going to be less people on our county roads then it might be time to take a new look at our road program. There has been very little travel past our place this year and this may be the reason our roads are better.

Now the tax dollars you save may be your own. And the nation you might save will be your own.

Now Mr. Editor if you have the space there is one more comment I want to mention and that is the excellent work you have done on the trade at home add in your December 28th paper. There is much more behind the add than just the reading. The thousands of tax dollars from this part of the county that is paid into Heppner or our county seat and the way it is spent sort of leaves a bad taste in our mouth about trading at Heppner. Forever yours, R. S. Crum

bering some 1500 souls, was destroyed by the flood that resulted from a cloudburst, occurring last evening at 5:30 o'clock . . . this evening it is estimated variously that from 500 to 600 people are dead. Already 300 bodies have been found upon the streets of Heppner, and the search has hardly commenced."

Another story carries this headline, "Tells of Wild Work of Torrent." Dated Spokane, it says, "A special to the Spokesman-Review from Echo, Ore., says N. T. Tooker of the Fairbanks-Morse Company of Portland who was at Heppner when the awful disaster happened last evening by the bursting of an immense cloud, arrived here this afternoon to bring out the news. He said: The rushing torrent came at 5:30 o'clock last evening when most of the inhabitants were at their evening meal. All were taken so suddenly without warning that nothing could be done to save those who were caught in the rushing waters. Homes, stores and all buildings in the principal portion of the town were torn loose and driven onward."

"Other stories are headlined, "Rush Coffins to the Scene," "Sees Death Approaching," "Brings the First News to Outside," "Relief in the Way to Heppner," and "From Scene of Horror."

Page 2 of the paper continues with, "Describes the Sting of Death," "About a shepherd whose six companions allegedly were drowned just as they were sitting down to a meal beside lower Willow Creek when the flood hit," "Hasten to Find Bodies," "Senator Morrow a Big Loser," and others.

We'll take the paper to the library to be placed with others of historical interest concerning the flood.

## Small Business Hearing Slated

A public hearing on problems of small business will be held in The Dalles on Feb. 16 by a subcommittee of the Legislative Interim Committee on Small Business.

Rep. Katherine Musa, The Dalles, announced that the hearing will start at 1:30 p. m. in the county courtroom of the Wasco county courthouse.

Individuals and organizations are invited to offer comments, suggestions and recommendations on problems of small business and how to alleviate them. Sen. E. D. Potts, Grants Pass, is chairman of the Business Law and Taxation subcommittee which will conduct the hearing. Other members are Sen. Vernon Cook, Gresham, and Rep. Musa.

Arrangements to testify at the hearing may be made by contacting the Interim Committee office in the State Office Building, Portland.

Among those entertaining guests on New Years was Mrs. Clara Gertson. She was hostess for a dinner party given for

## Cancer Deaths Up Seven Per Cent; 2nd High Killer

The Oregon State Board of Health reported that cancer deaths increased almost seven percent last year to a record high of 2,688 compared to 2,520 in 1959. This is the first time since 1948 that the Oregon cancer death rate rose above the national average.

Cancer again last year was second only to heart disease among the leading causes of death in Oregon in all ages. It is second only to accidents among children one through 14 years of age, third to accidents and suicide among young adults 15-24 years of age, second to heart disease for persons 25-64 years, and third following heart disease and stroke for persons over 65 years of age. The largest increase in cancer fatalities last year was in persons over 65 years of age. For men, 60 per cent of the cancer deaths were 65 years or over and for women slightly less than 53 per cent.

There appears to be a continued leveling off of lung cancer deaths. In 1958, lung cancer fatalities had increased 19 per cent. The lung again this year was the leading site for cancer deaths in males. The ratio of males to females for this site is six to one.

Cancer killed 48 children under the age of 15 years last year, a 21 per cent decline over the 61 in 1959. This was due primarily to the reduction of leukemia deaths. Cancer of the brain and other parts of the nervous system claimed an additional 13 lives.

Cancer was listed as the cause of death for 169 adults from 25-44 years of age of which about 63 per cent were women. This is the only age group where women exceed men in cancer fatalities, primarily because of cancer of the breast and genital organs.

Last year there were about 250 cancer deaths for every 100,000 persons between the ages of 45-64—or 930 deaths. Men exceed women by about 11 per cent at these ages. Lung cancer topped all other sites with 147 deaths or 30 per cent of cancer fatalities among men at these ages. Among women cancer of the breast and genital organs headed the list with 200 deaths or 45 per cent of all cancer deaths of this age group. Sites located in the digestive system accounted for 121 deaths for men and 108 for women, while an additional 60 male and 36 female deaths were listed due to Leukemia or neoplasm of the lymphatic system.

Health board figures showed that approximately one out of every 100 men who were 45 years or over last year died from cancer, compared to one per 150 women. Leading sites for men were the prostate and lung with the breast continuing as the leading site for women.

More detailed breakdowns by site, sex, and age group may be obtained from the vital statistics section of the Oregon State Board of Health, the report concluded.

Miss Leta Humphreys, Mrs. Ethel Zeimantz and Mrs. Mabel Chaffee.

## Vet Pensioners To Get Queries

Income questionnaires were mailed to 23,000 Oregon veterans and their survivors with the monthly pension checks December 30, and failure to promptly return the forms may result in suspension of payments. Acting Manager T. H. Conner of the Veterans Administration Regional Office for Oregon warned today.

In order to prove continued entitlement under the law persons receiving pension for non-service connected death or disability are required each January to report actual income for the past 12 months and estimated income for the new year.

Last January one out of five questionnaires had to be returned to the payee because the card was not completely filled out, Conner said. The ensuing delay in securing corrected reports created many stop payments, and 30 to 60 days are required to restore monthly checks in such cases.

The questionnaires cover income from wages, social security, retirement pension and annuities, dividends, interest, unemployment compensation, rentals, sale of property, self-employment, farming and all other sources.

Pensioners in the Portland area may secure personal assistance in filing their reports at the VA office in the Lincoln Building, Conner said. Those residing elsewhere are invited to secure the assistance of VA representatives at the Roseburg Veterans hospital, the domiciliary near Medford, and from county service officers throughout the state.

Persons receiving compensation for service connected death or disability are not required to report income, with the exception of parents drawing payments under the Dependency Indemnity act.

## GIs Here Pay Loan Taxes Averaging \$269

The average ex-GI with an Oregon veterans' farm and home loan paid a property tax of \$245 this year, as compared to \$221 last year and \$194 in 1959.

This figure was reported by Roy V. Bell, auditor for the state Department of Veterans' Affairs, which paid the 1961-62 taxes in November on the properties of 22,941 World War II and Korean veterans who have state loans. The total amount paid in taxes this year was \$5,631,491, against \$4,477,092 a year ago.

In Morrow county, the tax on 42 properties was \$11,286.23. The average tax here was \$269, compared to the statewide average of \$245.

The borrower pays his taxes monthly to the state veterans' department along with his loan repayment. The department in turn pays the tax collector, and does it before November 15 to earn the veteran a 3 per cent discount. The discount this year saved the veterans \$174,169.

## Stops in Hawaii

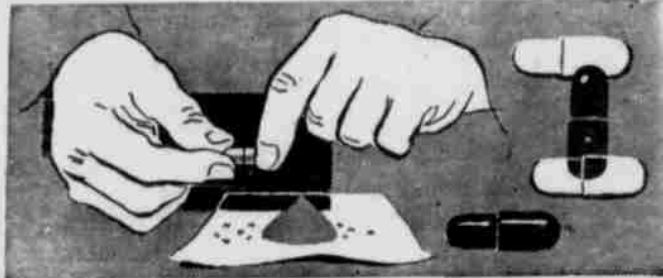
Arlo D. McRoberts, aerographer's mate third class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Devin of Heppner, spent the Christmas holiday at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, while serving aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea, Pearl Harbor is the Coral Sea's first stop on its way to join the Seventh Fleet in the Western Pacific. The 63,000-ton ship moored at the Ford Island pier in the historic harbor to give its crew a chance to celebrate the holiday before continuing their cruise on December 26.

SHOP IN HEPPNER

## STAR THEATER

Phone 6-9278

If no answer call 6-9452



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We work hand in hand with your doctor in safeguarding your health. We fill his prescriptions with professional precision. You can count on our careful attention, day or night. Just Call!

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# NOTICE

## To All Heppner Residents:

### Your Attention Is Called To -

## City Ordinance No. 342

**WHICH PROHIBITS "THE PLACING OR THROWING OF RUBBISH, REFUSE, GARBAGE OR ANY OBSTRUCTIONS IN ANY OF THE STREAMS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF HEPPNER."**

## YOUR COOPERATION IS ASKED --

IN COMPLYING WITH PROVISIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

### IF DEBRIS HAS ACCUMULATED --

IN CREEK BEDS ON YOUR PROPERTY, WE REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE STEPS TO REMOVE IT.

## THIS ORDINANCE CARRIES A MAXIMUM FINE

**OF \$100 AND MAXIMUM IMPRISONMENT OF 50 DAYS ON CONVICTION, BUT VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE WILL MAKE FURTHER ACTION UNNECESSARY. WE ASK THIS COOPERATION TO KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN AND SAFE FROM FLOOD AND FIRE.**

-By Order of the City Council