

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Glimpse of Post-War Japan and Philippines

Recently Mr. and Mrs. John C. Hagan, who lived in Heppner for a short time some 10 or 12 years ago, wrote to Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Van Marter, telling of their experiences in Japan and the Philippines and giving an insight on post-war conditions there.

Hagan, who is apparently serving in some classified civilian capacity for the government, helped in the organization of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op here, doing such work as securing rights-of-way.

Because of conclusions that the letter draws, it is presented here in editorial form with the thought that readers will like to reflect on the feelings expressed and will appreciate even more the privileges that they enjoy as Americans. The letter follows:

"Dear Laurel and Van:

By this time, you probably think the Hagans are long lost in Japan. Not so, though we are often confused. When anyone tells you they understand the Far East, just put them down as braggarts. No American could possibly understand these people.

"We arrived here last spring, and decided to live out among the people rather than on a Base. You cannot feel a country if you stay in American facilities. So we rented a house in Kunitachi, Tokyo Prefecture, and the fun started. First, the plumbing is only thirty years behind the times, and so are the lights. Old wooden flush box up over the bathroom fixtures supplies pressure and the fuses for lights are pieces of solder. The lights are fluorescent and one gets used to pushing a button and standing patiently till the light condescends to go on. The power is only fifty cycles and American appliances operate, reluctantly. Ever wait for toast five minutes?

"TV is all in Japanese, of course, with many American shows and dialog dubbed in. Imagine Matt Dillon saying 'Dijobe' instead of Okay and you get the picture. Chester has a drawl, as the Japanese imagine it, and the effect is wild. No color yet, but baseball like crazy.

"They drive on the left here, but the road discipline is poor. The worst offenders are big gravel trucks that run all over. Bicycles by the thousand and wandering people who expect all cars to stop. Railroad grade crossings that have killed more Americans than the war. We call them the 'Japanese Revenge.' Fact is, the only thing that puzzles the Japanese about the war is how they lost it. From where they observed, it couldn't be done. We read the Emperor's speech announcing capitulation and it started like this: 'My people, the war has not been favorable to us lately.' This was after Tokyo and the other cities were burned to the ground and both atomic bombs had fallen.

"One thing we tried and resisted was Japanese diet in general. We admit Suki-yaki (Pronounced Skiyaki) is delicious, but other dishes are not to our taste. What is worse is when they try to be polite and cook something in imitation of an American dish. I recall visiting a Japanese military post and the Commander rolled out the red carpet, even to the extent of having his post cook make a chocolate cake for me. When it was served, protocol demanded I eat not one piece but two. Which was all right till I tasted it. You see, the cook followed a recipe except for the shortening. There he used the Japanese standard, fish oil. You just cannot imagine it. I can still taste it in my weak moments.

"My work is a classified nature so discussion of it must be left out. In general I am concerned with communications problems and that covers a wide field. One thing, though, I do travel quite widely. My wanderings included Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan and the Philippines beside the length and breadth of Japan. That covers a bit of territory, chums.

"We have taken hundreds of pictures since coming over and wish we had an opportunity to show them to you. From the north end of Japan at Wakkana, where you can look over and see Soviet country (Sakhalin) with the naked eye, to Manila, where the good folk turned out to welcome a returning prodigal after twenty years. I was honored to know they had not quite forgotten me down there.

"Among other things, I visited the American War Dead Cemetery down at Fort McKinley outside Manila. There is a grandeur and beauty in the place that is unforgettable. 17,182 Americans lie there, and many more are listed on the marble colonnades "comrades-in-arms whose last resting place is known but to God". I shed a few tears without shame when I called on old friends who lie at McKinley. If you know people who lost relatives in the Pacific, assure them their dead are not forgotten, never will be forgotten by the grateful people of the Philippines. We sometimes take our relations with the Filipinos for granted, but they recognize that freedom is a hard-bought thing and acknowledge frankly that American blood was the price of it. No reasoning human being could visit Fort McKinley and stand unmoved by those crosses. It all happened twenty years ago but the memories are fresh in Filipino minds.

"There is much more I could write; of places such as Fuchu Shrine, where three Doolittle flyers were beheaded and the people apologize for the barbarity every time they think of it; the grim hilltops of Korea where the old gun nests still show and the principal occupation today is making objects d'art from brass shell cases; and the scrawled words on a ruined barracks of Corregidor "Come see the relics of a senseless war." Yes, but when I write home to old friends such as you people, I remember a land where a child can run and play in security, or an old man doze in the sun knowing he is safe. I remember that land amid all the exotic sights of far places because that land of peace and security is still my home and there one day I will come back. Those who never leave take America for granted, I believe, but when you see the scars of war still only half hidden on a city, and see the covert look cast by the people who once knew the hell of war, you feel happy to know a place like our country exists. America is not perfect, and the cynical would say many things that detract from even that thought, but when you cast up a balance against the rest of the world, I'll call it home and feel privileged to do so.

"Perhaps the most objective view of this that I encountered was down in the Philippines. An old man, Alphonse, King since 1925 of the tribe named Negrito, was awarded the rank of Honorary Colonel in the American Forces for his war services on our side. I knew him in the old days and met him again; all four foot, ten inches of him, aged 76. With a retinue of three wives and numerous children, he posed for a picture that I treasure, but his words I think are more valuable yet. Alphonse speaks fair English, and he touched his uniform hat, remarking: "Ah, this I value, yet, but I would give what this stands for and all these," indicating his village and tribe, "to call myself an American. Go tell your people that, my Yankee friend."

"From far-off Japan, in affectionate recollection of other days, to all of you, Our warmest regards, John and Anita Hagan."

Recreation Night Slated For Families

San Souci Rebekah lodge will entertain Odd Fellows and their families at the April recreation night Wednesday, April 25, at the lodge hall. A potluck dinner is planned for 6:30 p. m. with program and special entertainment to follow.

Mrs. Frank Payne, noble grand, encourages a good attendance to equal that of the pancake feed put on last month by Odd Fellow members.

Baby Girl Joins Bud Peck Family

Mr. and Mrs. Bud Peck and family are welcoming Frances Arletta, four-months-old, this week. They completed adoption of the new daughter over the week-end when they went to Portland to bring her home. Frances joins two brothers, Terry 11, and Bobby, 10. She was born December 22, 1961.

Boxed typing paper reasonably priced at the Gazette-Times.

TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor: I appreciate your paper's coverage of the school meeting. I am disappointed that they created a position and offered a contract without first detailing the responsibilities and making public the young man's qualifications in regard to keeping our children riding in safe buses. Andy Van Schoiack

Dear Editor: Oregon is one of the few states that now has in its constitution a fair, foolproof and enforceable guarantee that seats in our state legislature must be reapportioned at regular 10-year intervals on the basis of population. In this sense, Oregon has been a leader among the states.

Now, at the very time of the supreme court decision in the Baker v. Carr case, which places the reapportionment problem before the federal courts for decision, certain political forces in Oregon are attempting to upset equal representation in Oregon. The Constitutional amendment proposed by this group will give more weight to the voters of one area than another.

Those who believe with Thomas Jefferson that, "Equal representation is so fundamental a principle in a true republic that no prejudices can justify its violation," regard this attempt to steal votes with repugnance. A partisan political attempt of this nature can only be doomed to defeat (and let me say it is not partisan) for even in the event of passage, it will certainly cause hard feelings to be generated. Feelings of just wrath that will rebound on this area. These feelings of injustice could well lead the majority of voters in Oregon to compel election of all legislators at large.

This is not an idle fancy, Tennessee faces this prospect now. For 61 years the reactionary forces in Tennessee had refused to reapportion the legislature. They are now faced with a worse alternative, democracy. Tennessee may well be an example to us, for we must be scrupulously fair, that we may gain the respect of the voters of Oregon, that we may be treated honestly. We should ask no more.

Ray E. Smith

(Editor's Note: We do not regard population as the only factor to be considered in "equal representation." Surely Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, did not regard the Federal constitution as "repugnant" even though it guarantees each state, regardless of population, two senators in one house of the legislative branch of government.

Secretary of State Howell Applegate in a statement on legislative reapportionment had this to say: "One school of thought—that being the one which largely prevailed as the result of the legal interpretation given the Oregon Constitution in the 1961 reapportionment—holds that the all-important consideration is that the apportionment be made strictly according to population. The contention is that, under our democratic concept, simple justice demands that each voter have his absolute and equal weight with every other voter in selecting the members of the legislative assembly. Clothed in its ring of righteousness, the plea has a fetching resonance. Were the question that simple, and proportionate representation the only desired object, the solution would be an easy one. Representation strictly according to population could be perfectly attained by simply making a single district of the entire state and electing all of the members by the people at large. Thus, each voter would then have realized the alleged millennium of having his absolute and equal weight with every other voter in selecting the members of the legislative assembly.

"What, though, of the equally-treasured concept of local representation? What of the desirability of the represented having the opportunity to acquire intimate knowledge of, and ready access to, their representative, and he intimate knowledge of that which he represents?" The Indiana Supreme Court in the Denny Case clearly drew the point which I seek to make when it said: "It is clear that in providing for an apportionment of members in the general assembly, two main objects were kept in view by the framers of the Constitution,—one being local county representation; the other, proportionate representation of all the people. . . . To secure the fullest possible local county representation with the nearest proportionate representation of the voters in each county is the approximate result to be reached from these two requirements of the Constitution. The working out of this approximation is a practical problem, to be left to . . . patriotism and good judgement. . . ."

Were the situation as disproportionate in Oregon as it has been in Tennessee, where Moore county with a population of only 3,454 has one representative and Davidson county, including Nashville, with a population of 399,743 has but six representatives, the situation would cry for correction. But, as Mr. Smith points out, Oregon provides for regular reapportionment which Tennessee has resisted.

As to the all-Oregon plan of reapportionment, which Mr. Smith is apparently attacking and for which petitions are now being circulated to place it on the November election ballot.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHAT COULD be better than having our neighbor across the street, Charlie Ruggles, win the barbecue grill at the band carnival. This ought to work out real well. Charlie doesn't have much yard at his place, but we have quite a sizeable lot beside us that should make a real good place to cook steaks!

THE NICE pastel shades of paint that Gene Case selected for her crew, Matt Hughes and Ray Ayers, to paint the store front at Case Furniture gives the building the very look of spring. She got the jump on the Cleanup Paintup campaign, all details of which haven't even been formally announced yet. Not to be outdone, Central Market, across the street, brought beauty to the downtown district by making colorful planters out of old pastel-painted washing machines. Shortly after a pair blossomed out in front of Case Furniture. One can see how this cleanup paintup business is contagious.

THERE ARE perils in this pressure can age that parents of years ago never faced with their children. Last winter we bought some of this De-Icer in a pressure can for keeping the car windshield frost free. The other evening I noticed the can, with lid off, in the front room. "Where did this come from?"

Oregon State Senate President Harry Boykin is quoted by Editor Bill Jenkins in the Malheur Enterprise as saying, "If representation at Salem is continued solely on the basis of population, it may well mean the end of local representation for many of our Eastern Oregon Counties." Editor Jenkins adds, "There is a ring to that statement that should send cold shudders up the back of every Oregon resident who lives east of the Cascades. . . . Support for the initiative measure is a must for us over here in the cow counties."

The all-Oregon plan, though somewhat difficult to comprehend without considerable study, provides that apportionment in the senate be based on population alone, and that membership of the house be increased from 60 to 65. One member would come from each of 30 representative districts established in the Constitution, consisting of 25 single county districts, four two-county districts, and one three-county district (Morrow, Sherman and Gilliam). Balance of the 35 seats would be apportioned to the districts on the basis of a strict population formula.

This measure is not an Eastern Oregon measure alone but is supported by many in the heavily populated counties. It would, however, assure Eastern Oregon of representation more consistent with "patriotism and good judgement." We believe every Eastern Oregonian as well as others throughout the state, should support the initiative in the interests of fair play and democratic principle.)

I asked 6-year-old Cathy Jo. "Oh," said she nonchalantly, "I had to kill a fly."

Thank heavens she didn't use a pressurized can of lacquer for her bug bomb!

A COUPLE of Mondays ago two cars collided near the Wishing Well, alongside the golf course, causing some damage to each but apparently not harming the occupants.

Hearing about this caused Bill Cox to remark that he didn't see how an accident could happen alongside the golf course on Monday.

"If it were Tuesday, I could figure it out," he said, "with all those women to look at down there on the course in shorts."

THOUGHT there must be some notorious criminal at large around here Monday when two state police officers writing tickets rapidly at the end of West Willow. We got ahold of Officer Wally Cobine, whom we have known way back to Dallas days, and he declared that since no officer is now assigned here, they have to come in once in a while to check up on things. The particular matter at hand was writing tickets to those who had no PUC plates.

Officer Cobine, stationed at Fossil, is due for transfer to Prineville soon and is looking with some anticipation to the new assignment. His wife, Geraldine, writes for the Fossil Journal and isn't too happy about leaving on that account. She likes the journalism field. Can't blame her. We enjoy it, too.

MAN, WHAT a jouncing and bouncing Monday afternoon! Assessor Oliver Creswick had to make a run to the North End of the county and invited the ed to go along. So we sneaked away from the office and took the run. He showed us some seed alfalfa being raised up in the sands, using well water for irrigation. These patches are being developed right in the middle of the sage, and use overhead irrigation. A novel thing about it is that the owners are importing a certain kind of bees that nest in the ground for pollinating the alfalfa. No bees, no alfalfa seed apparently.

One of these places lies right in the line of one of the navy's air corridors and there was considerable trouble gaining an easement over the property because there was some fear that the noise of the low flying jets would drive away the bees and wreck the alfalfa.

This seems to be a real interesting operation with considerable promise for the future.

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SCHOOL MENUS

Week of April 23 to 27

MONDAY — Spaghetti and meat balls, sauerkraut, apple brown Betty, bread and butter, milk.

TUESDAY—White beans and ham, Jello vegetable salad, cinnamon rolls, fruit, bread and butter, milk.

WEDNESDAY — Vegetable soup, meat sandwiches, celery cheese sticks, cherry cobbler, milk.

THURSDAY—Rice with meat and gravy, cabbage salad, corn bread, honey and butter, fruit, milk.

FRIDAY—Creamed Tuna on homemade rolls, string beans, carrot sticks, fruit, milk, butter.

Water is the big factor, but the wells seem to be producing good. One spot is an ancient lake bed, and the top soil is at least 100 feet thick. Assessor Creswick said.

THE ASSESSOR, who seems to enjoy bouncing over the sage in his 4-wheel drive rig, decided to take off cross-country and head for Boeing's well, figuring he knew the general direction. We got out about five miles from nowhere and had a couple of run-ins with the soft sand, even with the powerful 4-wheel drive rig, until Oliver decided he wasn't quite sure which way the well was, after all.

So far as I was concerned, I might as well have been in the middle of the Sahara. The sun was first on one side and then on the other.

Gas was getting low so we circled around a few times found our own tracks and headed back to the bomb range road, which looked like a super highway when we arrived there.

Sure glad Oliver didn't dump me out among the sage and cactus. Although this is familiar country to old timers, I could run around in circles without getting anywhere. By now my bones would have started to bleach in the sun.

WE UNDERSTAND from Oliver that the navy planes are actively using the bomb range now, suddenly coming up from nowhere as they swoosh in low along a line of white markers that you can spot if you watch carefully as you go along the range road. Seemed to me, too, that we were awfully close to some of those cussed markers while we were putting around out there, and I had a grim picture of one of those howling banshees barreling in over us and accidentally dropping her live eggs on Oliver's vehicle. But maybe we were farther out of range than I thought.

Advertise in the Gazette-Times.

Pvt. Wayne Soward Completes Training

Army Pvt. Wayne L. Soward, whose wife, Roberta, lives on Route 2, Nyssa, Ore., completed advanced individual heavy infantry weapons training at Fort Ord, Calif., April 6.

The 23-year-old soldier entered the Army in October, 1961 and completed basic training at Fort Ord.

Soward, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl L. Soward, Heppner, is a 1956 graduate of Heppner High school and received a bachelor's degree in 1961 from Eastern Oregon College in La Grande. Before entering the Army, he was employed by the K. G. Lumber Company, Heppner.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Public Invited
Heppner Methodist Church,
Friday, from 12 noon to 2:30 p. m.

EASTER EGG HUNT
Sponsored by Elks Lodge Saturday, 10:00 a. m. Courthouse lawn, City Park and Fairgrounds.

RAINBOW CAR WASH
Saturday, April 21, 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. REA Tire Service, Main street \$1 and \$1.50.

EASTER HAM DINNER
By Three Links Club, Lexington IOOF Hall, Sunday from 1 p. m. to 3 p. m. \$1.50, 75c and pre-school free.

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
Episcopal Parish Hall, Monday, April 23, 8:00 p. m. Bridge and Pinochle, door prizes. Tickets \$1.00.

This space will be used each week to announce coming events of a public service nature at no charge.

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