

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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GIVE THANKS  
for  
Plenty

(Ed. Note: With this issue, the Gazette-Times is starting the custom of having a minister write a guest editorial for the holidays of Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Local ministers will be asked, in turn, to share their thoughts on these occasions. The Rev. Kenneth Robinson, president of the South Morrow Ministerial association, opens the series with his message on Thanksgiving.)

## Thanksgiving—Positive or Negative?

By The Rev. Ken Robinson  
Pastor, Hope and Valby Lutheran Churches

As we gather this Thanksgiving Day, 1962, I am certain that there isn't a person who cannot find something to be thankful for. That we even have the privilege of "gathering together" as families and friends is cause enough to raise our voices in humble praise to God. But will our thanks be a "positive" thanks? Somehow our nature seems prone only to "negative" thanks. What do we mean by negative thanksgiving? Follow me for a moment into several situations . . . not imaginary, but real.

We walk into a hospital and see a child with crippled legs that will never have the strength to walk again. Braces and supports just enable her to make a few faltering steps. We pray, "God, I thank Thee that my children are strong and healthy." But it isn't until we see another child's infirmity that we take time to pray that prayer . . . NEGATIVE THANKSGIVING.

While driving down the highway we happen upon a scene of twisted metal and shattered glass littering a busy intersection. "Killed instantly," say the hushed voices of those who view the wreck. A spit second between life and this. We recall the many near-accidents which almost occurred. "This could have happened to me," we think uneasily. "God, I thank Thee for Thy constant protection." But it isn't until we come across the ghastly rubble of a disastrous accident that we take time for that prayer . . . NEGATIVE THANKSGIVING.

We walk down a city street and see a line of men awaiting a meager meal at a rescue mission. Men without purpose or hope, without family or friends . . . their faces engraved with sorrow and human failure as they wait. And we remember our comfortable homes and loving families, the security of our jobs. "God I thank Thee that Thou hast so richly blessed us with all that we need," we pray. But it isn't until we see these men that we take time to remember our countless blessings . . . NEGATIVE THANKSGIVING.

We could continue looking at many situations, but these are enough to open our eyes to the fact that often times our thanksgiving is completely negative. It takes the plight of others to force us to remember the limitless blessings which God gives us. Too often we never think of our own blessings until they are measured against others. Job, home, family, friends, security, health, freedom . . . often taken for granted. Ungraciously we accept these gifts from a loving God each day with scarcely a word of thanksgiving or praise.

Perhaps this gives us more reason to have a REAL Thanksgiving day with our families this year.

Perhaps this will be incentive to worship in our church with true humility as we recount our blessings.

Perhaps there will be more than a superficial table prayer to venerate our festivities at home.

Perhaps it will awaken us into realizing that Thanksgiving is not merely a date on the calendar proclaimed by the President, but an attitude in which we should live daily.

Thanks-living . . . that's real living.

## The Magic Season is at Hand

One would never know it from the fine fall weather we've been having. And as usual, it seems impossible that the time is here. But a glance at the calendar confirms it. The magic season is at hand.

This is the start of the holiday season that opens with the big turkey on the Thanksgiving table and follows with Christmas Opening on the week-end.

Old Santa hardly waits until he has gulped the last bite of drumstick before he heads out to greet kids and parents alike for the start of festivities.

Oh, yes, it's still early. But as the days draw closer to December 25, which is only 33 days away, there will be more bright lights, more sparkling eyes, more gaiety, more tinsel, ribbon and Christmas cards. There will be more smiles in passing on the street and more acts of thoughtfulness and kindness.

It is the magic season. The spirit comes inevitably, no matter what the weather. If a few flakes of snow fall between now and Christmas, so much the better. But the joys of the holiday season will manifest themselves as surely as the sun comes up in the morning and assuredly as the buds pop open in springtime.

In Heppner, the start will be on Saturday with frolic at Christmas Opening. Santa will be here. The Christmas tree will be set. Stores will sparkle with gift ideas, and many will join in the guessing contest, a game to be played to add some fun to the occasion.

A welcome is extended to all from Heppner merchants to come Saturday and participate in the start of the magic season.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

DOGGOINED if the members of the Morrow County Grain Growers won't lock out the Sher-mans and throw away the key at the next annual dinner meeting.

We'd estimate that 90% of the 300 attending Monday night figured it was a put-up job when the G-T publishers won one of the door prizes for the second year in a row. When it happened, we would have agreed with them, but after giving Harlan McCurdy the third degree, we must concede that it was on the level and just pure coincidence.

The fact that we won twice in two years wasn't awfully unusual, but the way it happened each year was unusual. Judge for yourself.

Last year, we had had a line-type machine breakdown and were late getting to the meeting. We bolted in just as the opening drawing for 4-H prize beef was about to commence. We accepted a couple of tickets on the drawing, and Harlan dropped the duplicates in the box, then shook them good. We just got seated and a number was called from among the 300-odd present. It was Mrs. Sherman's number—good for some 75 pounds of delicious beef.

This year we kind of "slunk" in, remembering last year's incident, and rather reluctantly accepted tickets.

Well the program went on, and throughout the speeches drawings were conducted. Some 14 prizes were given away. Then, at one point, Manager Al Lamb, who was emceeing the event, stopped and asked if Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were present. We raised our hands out in the crowd. Then he related how we had won last year under what appeared "dubious" circumstances.

Having so made his remarks, he turned to Paul Jones who drew another number—318424. Yep, that was mine all right, and we had won again—immediately after Lamb's speech about us. We were as flabbergasted as the crowd was amused. The little doubt that Harlan might have slipped the duplicate of our ticket in his pocket when we came in crossed our mind, but he stolidly declares, "No sir!" He said the duplicates from the roll were put in the box before it left Lexington, and the others were given out at random as the crowd came in. "No way for a fix," says he. But we are still scratching the old noggin, and as we say, if the MCGG members want to bar us next year, we'll understand.

THE STORY has an amusing sequel, too. We went up to take some pictures of Allen Tom, Oregon Wheat Grower president, after the meeting. He had been given a nice ham. We laid our package on the table beside his (and not knowing the ham was his) while we took the pictures. When the photo job was over, we went to retrieve our meat,

and it was gone. We assumed that the owner of the ham (and bear in mind that we did not know it was Tom's) had taken our package by mistake and left his. So we picked up the ham and went out in the fair pavilion annex with it.

There on the counter we spotted our package and saw the sparkle in Wally Matthews' eye that gave him away. He had taken our prize and removed it as a practical joke. While we stood there chiding Matthews, with Tom's ham in our hands, Allen came out of the main room with a perplexed look in his eye, searching for his missing ham.

He caught us with the goods—we had it—and we were trapped again. Doggone embarrassing. But he understood, and we finally got home with the goods.

Well—honest or crooked—the prize tastes mighty good. Thanks friends.

WHEN COLUMBIA Basin Electric Co-op had its meeting in Condon recently, the Congregational choir sang, and it was said to be excellent. (We didn't get over to hear it). But who do you suppose was one of the most high-powered singers in the choir? He was Chuck Bailey, one of the choir members and manager of Pacific Power and Light Company, a private power man singing heartily to entertain the public power people!

DR. WALTER HILTNER, who spoke at the Columbia Basin meeting, recited a poem that his wife had written, but he had changed the ending to fit his space interests. Manager Harley Young enjoyed it and got a copy from Dr. Hiltner of Boeing's Aero-Space division:

Isn't it strange that princes and kings  
And clowns that caper in  
sawdust rings,  
And common folks like you  
and me  
Are builders of eternity?  
To each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass and a book  
of rules  
And each must fashion, ere  
life has flown  
A stumbling block of a  
stepping stone.  
And some will take the shape-  
less mass  
And beat it soundly across  
the grass,  
While others give it form and  
grace  
And send it into outer space.

KIDS OF THE community—and grownups, too—can give three cheers for Jeff Walker when they see the new Christmas tree up on the downtown street this year. The tree committee was hard put to get someone or organization to get it this year, since it is quite a job. Mike Whitesmith asked Jeff if he had any ideas, and Walker right away volunteered to do it himself.

When Mike asked him how much he would charge, Jeff seemed a little perturbed. "Why, I've got an interest in the kids of this community, too!" he declared, and indicated that he would do it for nothing. That sort of makes Jeff a real Santa Claus himself, doesn't it? The kids and grownups of the area join in thanking you for this fine spirit.

NONA SOWELL may murder me, but she expressed a philosophy at our dieting the other day that may be worth passing along. She is one of the few lady members who attend Chamber of Commerce regularly and was eating heartily at the Monday meeting. "I'm just going to eat everything I want until New Year's," she vowed. "That way I will have something to make a resolution about."

THOSE who complain about low gas mileage they get on their cars should have heard Darrel Reisch's report on bus mileage at the school board meeting recently. He is keeping an accurate account of all mileage now. Morrow county school buses range from 5.5 to 9.9 miles per gallon. No. 18, an older bus, gets the best mileage of the "big rigs" at 8.9. Well, that's not too much worse than our old 1951 Packard sedan at that.

THOUGHT for a time Monday afternoon that we might have a storm like they had in the valley October 12 (and valley

## TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:

We feel as the kids of Heppner and Lexington feel we aren't getting enough recreation. We think that there's too much trouble with the kids of these two towns. We feel that it would cost less to open the gym's than it would on the wear on the town, buildings, grass, and so forth.

Our parents scold us for being on the streets and running around town, but when we do come home they tell us to get out. If they can't do that the least they can do is fix up the tennis court.

Thank you,

Jeff Turner  
Bob Harris  
Roger Leonnig

## School Board Story Error Corrected

It has been called to the attention of the editor that the story on the school board meeting in last week's paper gave an erroneous impression in regard to \$59,000 in surplus funds that shall have accumulated this fiscal year for Morrow County School District R-1.

The story said that the funds, which have accumulated from receipts exceeding estimates, from delinquent taxes that have been paid, and from cash carry-overs, may be used later in the school year towards helping to complete the facilities at the new Heppner-Lexington high school.

This is erroneous in that the money will not be used until it is budgeted for the purpose intended in the 1963-64 budget, according to information from the district office.

At the recent meeting the board went on record as favoring the use of the money towards completion of the school facilities, but it must be included in the next budget.

## Organizations' Aid Asked on Recreation

Organizations in Heppner are asked to submit names of their representatives to the P.T.A.-sponsored recreation committee at once to either Elmer Schmidt or Clint McQuarrie of the P.T.A. committee. Mrs. Ed Dick, P.T.A. president, said Wednesday.

Representatives are needed from the American Legion, Elks, Masons, Soroptimists, and Chamber of Commerce. The committee will meet some time next week to consider the problem of community recreation and ideas that may be worked out, Mrs. Dick said.

folks we understand, were thinking they might have another). The sky had that odd and ominous look that was characteristic of the valley storm. The wind came up, and the temperature climbed with the rise of the wind. But fortunately it abated, and the threat was gone. So as Thanksgiving comes, we can also be thankful about that.

## Irrigon Council Studies Zoning

IRRIGON—Irrigon's city council voted at its meeting November 13 to secure the services of Joseph Kozlovski, consultant, for the zoning of the city at a cost of \$1,170. Councilman Chester Wilson acted as chairman of the council in the absence of Mayor Donald Adams.

Other members present were Mrs. Marge Shade and Mrs. Lavelle Partlow. Representatives of the planning commission present were Mrs. Lee Bentley, secretary; Mrs. Vestie Elgin, LaVern Christiansen and Perry Pummel, a member who is also city marshal.

The council decided to write a letter to David Talbot, state recreation director, requesting his advice on the development and maintenance of a local park.

It was reported that the division traffic engineer is preparing to raise the speed zone in Irrigon to 50 miles per hour. Council members felt that this is too high and agreed that it should not be raised above the present 40 miles per hour.

The planning commission reported that it is working on the vacant lot ordinance.

Package beer licenses were approved for Complete Food Store, a renewal, and for Jorgensen's Grocery.

## Booster Night Draws 90 Skiers

About 90 persons interested in skiing attended the Booster Night of the Arbuckle Ski club in the Heppner Legion hall Tuesday, November 13.

Potluck dinner and interesting skiing and winter sports movies were highlights of the meeting.

Mrs. Ilene Wyman won the Polaroid camera offered as prize in a drawing. It was furnished at cost by Phil's Pharmacy to the club.

Leaders of the club asked that their thanks be expressed to all who contributed to the cause.



**Coming Events**

LEGION MOVIES  
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.  
Legion Hall  
This week "Davy Crockett—Indian Scout."  
Plus one-half hour cartoons.

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
Methodist Church  
Thursday, November 22  
10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Bill Alsop speaker

CHRISTMAS OPENING  
Window Guessing Contest  
Saturday, November 24  
Free Treats from Santa Claus  
Fine Merchandise Prizes

CHECK RUGGLES INS. WIN-DOW  
During the Guessing Contest. You may win \$10 in Cash!

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

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