

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Accident Emphasizes Highway Need

The compassion that human beings feel for one another in times of trouble or bereavement could scarcely be more evident than it has been throughout the county since the tragic accident near Ione Friday night.

Hundreds have felt a keen sympathy towards the two bereaved families, and out of the stunned shock that followed the accident comes the inevitable question, "How did it happen?"

The feeling is prevalent that part of the responsibility is due to the fact that Willow Creek highway, main artery serving the west side of the county, was engineered for automobiles of many years ago.

Sheriff C. J. D. Bauman says he has records of eight bad accidents on this particular curve, including another death, that of John Lane Jr. five or six years ago.

Mrs. Claude Cox of Heppner very nearly lost her life on the curve when her car went out of control and caught fire 14 or 15 years ago. Paul Pettyjohn, who had passed her a few moments earlier, saw her plight in his rear view mirror and went back and pulled her out before the car was engulfed in flame.

A little foreign car went out of control there last year and plunged over the bank to come to rest on the railroad tracks.

"Super" on the curve slants the wrong way which has a tendency to throw a vehicle out of control in rounding it. Particularly trapped are the unwary who do not recognize the peril that exists and may come into the curve too fast.

All the accidents that occur on the Willow Creek highway cannot be blamed on the condition of the road, but at the same time, this must be recognized as a definite contributing cause in many of them.

The highway, as has often been pointed out, has tight curves where two big trucks, a truck and school bus, or even a large truck with trailer and a car cannot pass without maneuvering and negotiating.

When one drives up to some of these curves he may have the weird feeling that disaster may lurk hidden around the bend.

The pitches and dips that characterize the highway may have been all right for the traffic of 30 years ago, but in the 48 years that the highway has been built many changes have revolutionized the motor car, requiring better highways, while this road has remained essentially the same, with no major improvement. It was designed for "horse and buggy" type of traffic.

The Chamber of Commerce, the county court and other groups have asked the highway commission many times to improve the highway, and they will continue to ask until something is done.

Weather conditions made it necessary to cancel the appointment with the commission at Salem today (Thursday). Otherwise, a delegation would have been there with resolutions, facts and a plan for improvement. It will appear at a coming meeting.

A new or improved highway will not eliminate all accidents. It would, however, make a much safer condition for both local citizens and visitors as they use the route. It certainly should reduce accidents.

The highway commission is pressed for construction and improvement from all areas of the state, this is recognized. It does not have the funds to satisfy all demands.

But, although Morrow county people are relatively few in number, ours is a crying need. We have had no major improvement on this highway since it was first engineered in 1914.

It is time that this project be given precedence over some other areas. The terrible accident of Friday night emphasizes the point.

March of Dimes Donations Lag

This year's donations to the March of Dimes are lagging far behind previous years in Morrow county, and perhaps another explanation of the National Foundation's good work is in order.

When poliomyelitis was running rampant, the need for the March of Dimes was dramatic. The public responded generously under the masterful organization of the foundation. Partially as a result of this response, the threat of polio is largely gone today with the development of the vaccines.

However, the Foundation has turned to other problems that bring acute suffering. One is arthritis, the crippler. If a cure could be found for this disease, 11,000,000 persons in this country would be grateful, for there are that many suffering from it.

Another problem on which the attention of the foundation is focused is that of birth defects. In the United States annually 250,000 infants are born with birth defects.

While the vaccines for polio may prevent most occurrences in the future, there are many cases of poliomyelitis victims for whom the foundation is still providing care. They must not be forgotten just because they were unfortunate enough to be stricken before the vaccines were developed.

As of this moment, only about \$256 has been turned in to the March of Dimes. In the past, Morrow county has raised about \$2000 per year, according to Mrs. Jack Loyd, chairman.

It doesn't take a great deal on the part of each individual if all do something. Won't you fill out that little coin container that came in the mail and return it today? Or fill up that little dime container that the children brought home from school, and send it back with them.

It's Our Capitol, Too!

American Legion auxiliary here has been sponsoring a drive locally, part of a statewide campaign, to contribute funds for the improvement of the state capitol grounds in Salem after its devastation by the Columbus Day storm.

On a recent trip to the valley, it seemed to us that the folks there had done a marvelous job of cleaning things up. But when we went by the capitol grounds, it was quite a jolt to see the destruction—just as if the storm had chosen the center of the state government to vent its wrath. There is much work ahead to restore the grounds to a semblance of their former beauty, and it will take time.

As Mrs. Hazel Hamlin of the Heppner Legion auxiliary puts it, although we are far away in Eastern Oregon, "It is our capitol, too." The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce has made a small donation to the cause, and it would seem that individuals with a pride in their state might help out a little bit if they feel so moved.

Mrs. Hamlin would be happy to receive contributions on behalf of the auxiliary and she can give additional information, too.

TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Editor:

Just a note to sorta let you know some of the stories anyone might hear around some office doors in our capital city. And this I believe is of special interest to you and our home folks.

Now before I tell this story I want you to know I love those dear hearts and gentle people in Morrow County and would like to know more about what they think... or if they think?

In going by one of our great national cemeteries near Washington, D. C., we noticed there had been a great upheaval and upon investigation it was learned the great crack in the ground was caused by Paul Bunyan turning over in his grave.

Now all around there the story goes that some friendly undertaker while digging another grave next to Paul's had let the word out about the Heppner dam. Now Paul Bunyan is quite concerned because he seems to think there will not be enough water to float all the bonds... The last report is he was headed this way with a great big water bucket with a hole in the bottom. Then Paul had a dream about the water of Willow Creek running the wrong way.

Yours till next time,
Ralph Crum

Society Predicts 4 to be Saved Here from Cancer

Approaching the new year with cautious optimism, the American Cancer Society estimates that about four persons in Morrow county will be saved from cancer in 1963, according to Gordon R. Pratt of Heppner, who is Crusade chairman of the society's unit in this county.

They will be among the 177,000 Americans who will be saved from the disease in the coming year, thanks largely to early detection and to prompt and proper treatment. If there is no recurrence of their symptoms for a five-year period, these men, women and children will join 1,200,000 other living Americans now considered cured cancer patients.

The estimate of the number to be saved is based on the current cure rate of one in every three cases. This one-in-three is a definite indication of marked progress in the conquest of the disease, the county unit leader said. Just 52 years ago, it was only one in seven.

At the same time, however, the society's statisticians predicted that there will be about 13 new cases in this county in 1963, diagnosed for the first time as cancer, and that about seven persons will die of the disease despite the rising cure rate.

The forecasts are based on a statistical preview about cancer appearing in the American Cancer Society's new handbook, Cancer Facts and Figures for 1963, and the 1962 population of the county as estimated by the Oregon State Board of Census.

If present rates continue without check, some 1,172 residents of this county eventually will develop cancer and, again at present rates, about 703 will die.

The state of Oregon, the national estimates show, will have more than 7,800 persons under medical treatment for cancer in 1963. In the year, about 5,000 new cases will be diagnosed and about 2,700 will die.

There are two things individuals and families can do to ward off the threat of cancer and to help boost the cure rate, Pratt said. They can learn can-

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

IF A CIGARETTE TAX passes the state legislature, the smoker who claims he is getting "taxed to death" will be hastening his demise two ways, according to statistics brought to the attention of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday by Dr. C. M. Wagner, president.

When the matter of new taxes came up in discussion and the cigarette tax was mentioned, the doctor presented a medical bulletin on tobacco which pointed out that cigarette smokers' longevity is threatened to the degree that they smoke. This information came through a summary and report of the Royal College of Physicians in Relation to Cancer of the Lung and Other Diseases.

Of nonsmokers aged 35, only 23% may expect to die before 65, according to an interpretation of the statistics; of cigar and pipe smokers of the same age, 25% may expect to die before 65; of cigarette smokers age 35 who smoke less than 1/2 pack a day 27% may expect to die before 65; of those who smoke 1 to 2 packs a day, 38% may expect to die before 65; and of those who puff 2 or more packs a day, 41% should expect to succumb before 65.

So—should the cigarette tax pass—the fellow who puffs a great deal will not only add to his tax burden, but as the saying goes, will "drive another nail in his coffin," according to

Two Adult Classes Now Meet Regularly In 12-Week Series

Two adult classes are now meeting regularly in a series of courses arranged through the Blue Mountain Community College, according to Darrel Reisch, director of special services of School District R-1.

A women's millinery workshop meets each Monday evening at the Lexington school at 7 p.m. with Mrs. Ewing Hynd as instructor. A fee of \$10, plus \$5 for supplies, is charged for the class. Enrollment is still open for those still wishing to take the class.

Also on Monday nights, a beginning bookkeeping and typing class is offered from 7 to 10 p.m. in the high school commercial room, with fees set at \$12 for the 12-week course. Instructor is Mrs. Bernice Struckmeier, high school teacher.

Reisch said that he is hopeful of getting five classes underway, and preliminary interest in the courses has been keen. Other possible classes would be in geology and mechanics. Those having special interests that they would like to have taught in adult sessions are asked to contact Reisch, or if there are questions about joining those that are already started. Much interest has been shown among lone residents in a commercial class, but as yet a teacher has not been available.

Mr. and Mrs. Theron Adlard were in The Dalles last Monday for the funeral of his sister, Mrs. Erma Shellman.

cer's danger signals which appear on every piece of American Cancer Society literature, and they can make a habit of visiting their own physicians at least once every year for complete health examinations. For women, these examinations always should include the "Pap" smear test for uterine cancer, second only to breast cancer as a cause of cancer death among women. For all adults, they also should include rectal-colon examinations.

the doctor's information.

LEST THERE be any future errors about Cupertino, Calif., Roy Blake of San Jose was kind enough to mail us a map of California with the city marked thereon. Thanks, Mr. Blake. (We still haven't received any remonstrances from the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce for calling it "Supertino," however.)

ORVILLE CUTSFORTH, gone for the past two weeks, couldn't rise to his own defense about the item recently written in this column casting doubt as to whether the pellet prank pulled at the Morrow County Livestock Growers meeting was the real McCoy. Now that he is back, he firmly and solemnly declares that it was just as he and George Rugg represented it.

The same two rascals were going to pull the pellet stunt at the Woolgrowers convention at Las Vegas, Nev., but they never got an opportunity to do it.

We'll have to admit that they pulled the shenanigan on the stock growers but they certainly shouldn't have been able to pull the wool over the eyes of the wool growers.

LAST WEEK'S item in this column about William George Sanders of Walla Walla, Wn., who was born at Reid's Mill near Heppner in 1918 has apparently brought forth a relative, Raymond Reid of Bend read the item in the paper and called us when he came to the county for Manell Townsend's funeral. We didn't quite get clear just what the relationship is between Reid and Sanders, but apparently their fathers were half-brothers or something like that. Anyway, as a result of the item, it appears that Mr. Sanders may get on the track of some information about his early life. Both his parents died during his infancy, and he had no known relatives until this time.

DEAN LOVGREN'S stay in Good

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Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES
Friday night 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week "Girl Most Likely," starring Jane Powell and Cliff Robinson. In color. Plus one-half hour cartoons.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Heppner Mustangs vs. Umatilla. Friday, 6:30, at Umatilla.
Heppner vs. Pilot Rock. Saturday, 6:30, Heppner High gym.

LEGION AUXILIARY BENEFIT

Public Card Party
Feb. 11, 8 p.m., Legion Hall
Dessert-Bridge-Pinochle
Help Send Girls' State delegate!

VALENTINE CARD PARTY

By OES officers club
Feb. 14, Masonic Hall
Bridge-Pinochle-Prizes.

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Samaritan hospital, Portland, is made more cheerful by the novel use of a tape recorder. The family bought him a small portable outfit, and he "writes" his letters to his friends on the tape recorder. They merely play the tape and then reply. Kids at school recently passed around a recorder and they had a good long message of greetings to send him—just like a visit in person.

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