

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
PHONE 676-9228

The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

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## Former Editor Writes Of Paper's History

O. G. Crawford, now of Nelscott but whose name is closely linked with Morrow county newspaper history, has written an interesting letter to the editor on the occasion of the Gazette-Times' 80th anniversary. It is published here with the knowledge that many will be interested in the paper's background and in the personalities associated with it.

It is as follows:  
Reading of your forthcoming observance of the 80th anni-



O. G. CRAWFORD

versary of the Heppner Gazette, and later the Gazette-Times, I was intrigued with the idea that, although I had not been approached on the matter, I might add something of interest inasmuch that for 50 years I was from time to time identified with the publications as recounted above.

To begin with, the Crawford family controlled the newspaper field in Heppner and Morrow county for a period of 40 years. Going back farther than that, my brother, Vawter Crawford, joined the mechanical staff of the Gazette in 1890, when Otis and Alvah Patterson were the publishers. He worked for the Gazette until he took the office of County Clerk in 1898, a post which he held for eight years, then joined the Bank of Heppner staff as assistant cashier. In 1910 he had an opportunity to buy the Gazette from Fred Warnock and two years later took over the Times from E. M. Shutt and

changed the name of the combined papers to Gazette-Times.

It was a few days before I attained my 15th birthday that my brother Garfield came home for lunch one day and asked me if I would like to learn to "stick type," that being the method of composition of the day. I accepted the offer and accompanied him to the Times office after lunch. Garfield had been identified with both papers from time to time since 1896. E. M. Shutt was editor and publisher of the Times and the paper was published from a small two-story frame building located just about at the rear of the present Gilliam and Bisbee hardware store, being one of a group of several small frame buildings that were consumed in the 1919 fire which was responsible for wiping out several blocks of business houses and residences. Adjoining the Times building on the south was the Willis Stewart livery barn and yard, and beyond that was the Gazette building. Thus, Heppner's two newspapers were relatively close neighbors for a number of years.

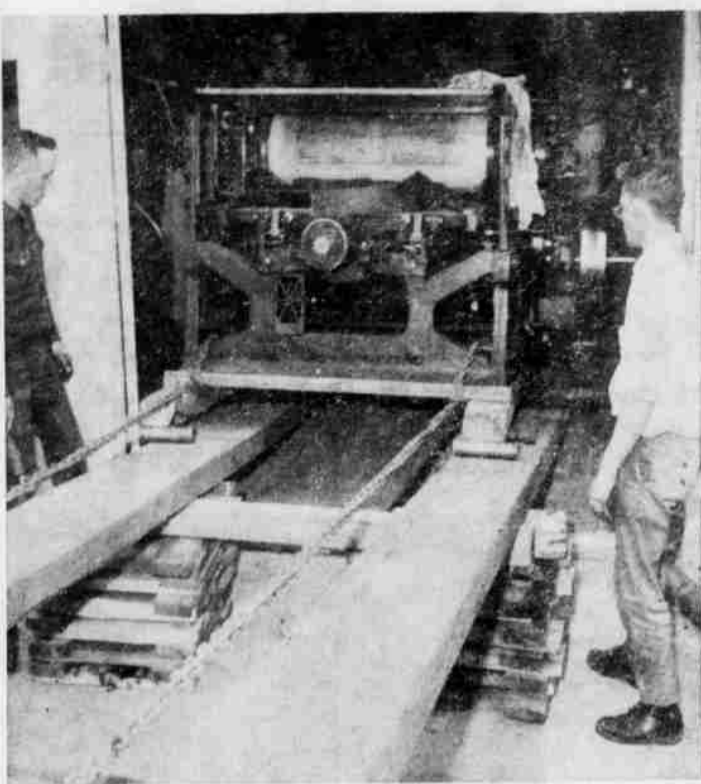
This condition was changed by Fred Warnock, who abandoned the original Gazette building for a location on May street, about midway between Main and Chase streets. The Gazette remained in that building until 1912, when the Times was acquired by Vawter Crawford who decided that because the Times had a typesetting machine, a Unifone, it would be better to dispose of some of the equipment of both plants and occupy the Times building. This arrangement stood until after the 1918 fire which started in the "Club" building on the corner of West Willow and Gale streets and spread out to include several buildings in that immediate vicinity.

Frank Roberts, who built the stone building at the corner of West Willow and Main, owned some of the lots left vacant by the 1918 fire and Vawter prevailed upon him to put up a shop building for the Gazette-Times. An agreement was reached and that part of the present Gazette-Times building housing the printing equipment was ready for occupancy and the plant was moved prior to the July 4, 1919, fire. It seems almost unbelievable to me, but since figures are not capable of lying, it must be seen that the G-T has spent more than one-half of its existence in the location on West Willow street.

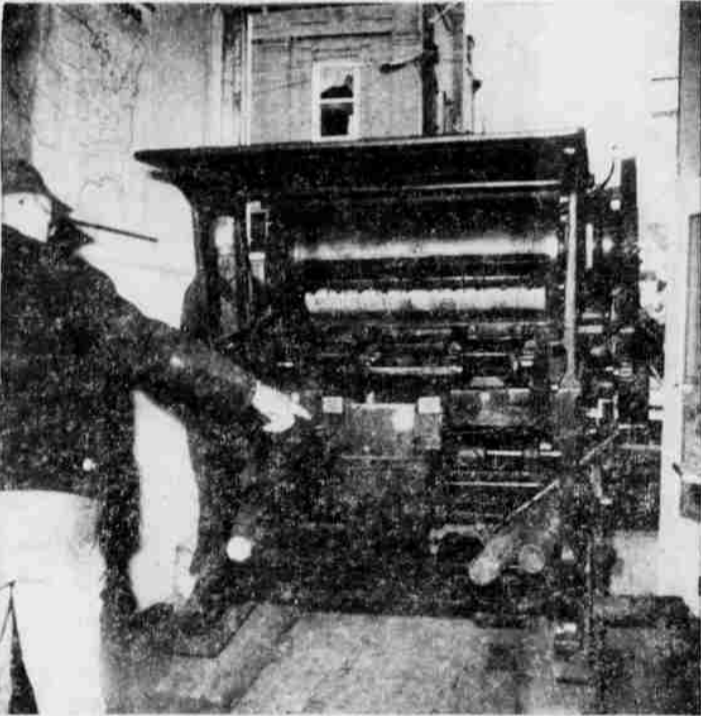
In 1919, Vawter and son Spencer, who by that time had become associated in the publication of the paper and was already a "top hand" in the printing department, found it necessary—and advisable—to replace the old Country Campbell cylinder press with something more modern. They decided upon the Optimus 41 as the type of press best suited to their needs and placed an order for the press that has served for almost 44 years. And this was where the writer came into the picture.

Having worked off and on for two papers and then the G-T after consolidation from 1901 to 1916, I moved from Heppner to La Grande where I worked for a short period in a small job shop and then joined the job staff on the La Grande Evening Observer, then published by the late Bruce Dennis. After I had been there three or four months, Dennis sold the paper and the new publisher concluded that wages were too high and cut nearly all of the back shop force back \$2 a week each. This was hard to take in face of the fact that World War I was on and the cost of living was advancing almost daily, so when an opportunity came to work for the Willowa Chieftain at Enterprise I accepted.

The years immediately following World War I were prosperous ones for the Gazette-Times and the publishers decided that was the time to make long-needed improvements in plant equipment. Chief of these was the purchase of the Optimus press. Through the kindness and understanding of George P. Cheney, publisher of the then Record-Chieftain at Enterprise, I was granted leave to spend the summer at Heppner and serve as printer-pressman until such time as the regular members of the shop personnel had mastered the



THE OLD ONE MOVES OUT. Shown being pulled out of the Gazette-Times shop is the faithful old Babcock Optimus press, which printed the paper for more than 40 years. Standing at right is Jack Jewell, editor of the Willowa Record, who bought the press for his paper. (G-T Photo)



THE NEW ONE MOVES IN. Coming through the front of the Gazette-Times shop is the No. 3 Miehle press which was purchased from the Woodburn Independent. This press printed most of the Gazette-Times Welcome Edition in June, 1961, but this issue of the Gazette-Times is the first printed on the Miehle here. (G-T Photo)

feeding and handling of the new press.

To the more sophisticated present-day pressman, addition of a two-revolution press capable of turning out 3,000 impressions per hour might not warrant more than a hint of elation, but to printers of the old Country Campbell press days it is a revelation. The old Campbell had served the industry for more than one-half of a century and its departure from the Gazette-Times office to take up service elsewhere until the junk man would take over was not as joyous an occasion as the office personnel had anticipated. However, with it off the floor and on its way to its new home, attention centered upon erection of the new press, an activity in which I was privileged to participate.

The Barnhart & Spindler company, through which the Optimus was purchased, sent a company machinist by the name of Smith to erect the new press and the day he got it in shape to be tested he asked me to preside at the feed board. I was not familiar with the five-speed control and Smith said for me to attend to the feeding and he would take care of the control. He started on No. 1 and gradually increased the power until it finally had the little press going at top speed. My aim at the feeding gauges was good and there was no piling of papers such as happened literally thousands of times in the year to follow. This I know because I did my full share of it. On this trial

there was no ink on the press—just a dry run with nothing to create static.

I trust this recitation of facts relative to the installation of the little press that has for nearly 44 years performed valiant service in the publication of the Gazette-Times has not bored you. It has been prompted by a desire to "keep the record straight" so far as those in whose hands the destiny of the newspaper was placed for a little more than one-half of the publication's 80 years as Morrow County's newspaper. I am proud that I got my initial bid to the newspaper field right there in Heppner and that it was my privilege, after a lapse of more than 40 years after making that start in March, 1901, to return as editor and publisher in late 1942. With the able assistance of my wife, Viola, we took over a business whose future was as doubtful at the time as was our country's, faced as it was with an all-out conflict to preserve the American way of life. But our eight years and nine months tenancy is a story in itself and has no place in this article.

Before closing, permit me to state that I think the newspaper field in Morrow county is being covered in an able manner and to add a word of hope that the community will continue to give the Shermans the support they deserve and must have to carry on the excellent job that is being done.

Yours for accomplishment of bigger and better things,  
O. G. Crawford

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THE BOYS at the coffee shop expected to see the Gazette-Times printed by mimeograph this week. Of course, it is still a little early at this writing to predict that they were wrong, but the first run is on the "new" Miehle, and we think that the odds are in our favor to get out on schedule.

A few days ago it looked as if our shop couldn't print even a handbill with the disruption caused by moving out the old press and moving in the new one. But with some expert help and the cooperation of many the job was completed on schedule.

As soon as the paper was out last week, the work started in removing the Babcock Optimus that served the Gazette-Times for so many years. O. G. Crawford, former publisher, tells in an article also on this page of the installation of this press when he was editor years ago.

Jack Jewell, publisher of the Willowa Record, was due at 6 p.m. Wednesday to take out the Babcock, which he purchased. However, the truck he had obtained for the purpose developed trouble soon after he left Willowa, and he and his crew were delayed. They had to obtain another truck, transfer all their gear and then make the trip to Heppner. They arrived at 2 a.m. Thursday and went right to work, sticking with the job through the night.

Meanwhile, Howard Keithley had ripped out the front of the shop to make room for moving the presses intact.

At about 10:30 a.m. Thursday, just as Jewell and his men were completing the loading of the 8,100 pound Babcock on their truck, the Miehle arrived on a big Wilhelm Trucking Co. truck on the end of its journey from Woodburn. Jack moved his "new" press out of the way, and the job of unloading the 16,900 pound Miehle began. Under the expert eye of George Bent, press erector, and the able work of the trucker and a rigger of the Wilhelm Co. the press was rolled off the truck on wooden rollers and over skids to its position in the shop.

Meanwhile, the home staff was moving equipment out of the way and making changes throughout the shop. The new press involved a complete reorganization, which should prove time-saving and more efficient over a period of time. The electrician was busy making installations and general organized confusion reigned.

Friday found Keithley replacing the front of the build-

ing, the new press was in position and Bent was busy fitting the accessories in place.

The home crew was busy rushing around, finding new places for equipment and starting to mop up.

Bent, through the knowledge gained in 27 years experience moving and erecting presses, had the Miehle ready for operation by Saturday, except for the automatic feeder which is an intricate mechanism. A chain broke that drives the feeder from the motor, and Sunday morning found him and the editor not in church but scouring Cornett Green's junk yard for a small size harvester chain. We learned that there are about six million kinds of chain made, of which 5,999,999 are represented in the junkyard of Cornett Green, but this particular kind isn't there. A man was working at Tri-County Equipment Co. He couldn't find any on the premises there, and another Good Samaritan was busy at Inland Chemical on this Sunday morn. He couldn't find any either, but he welded the broken link, and we were in business again.

However, we decided not to use the feeder this week because there are other adjustments to be made and we will run the press by hand feeding for this week and next week.

Monday morning found the shop in pretty good shape (except for a badly needed paint job). We were in full production again by Tuesday, and today (Wednesday) finds the "new" press rolling.

It's surprising how many different persons had a hand in the move in one way or another, and we appreciate the good services rendered. The furniture store (Case) even shared in it, cutting glass for the replaced shop front. Others were Nate McBride for some welding, Fullerton Chevrolet for wrecker service, Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co., Anderson Builders Supply, Western Auto, Gilliam and Bisbee, Chief of Police Dean Gilman (who blocked the streets while the trucks were loading and unloading), Fred Gimbel and PP&L, and heaven knows who all.

We were real proud of our sidewalk superintendents. Figure we had the best crew of on-lookers that has been assembled in a long time.

The folks mentioned above are in addition to the principal ones involved—George Bent, the machinist and press expert; Pendleton Electric Co. and Pat Cole who rewired the place; Keithley; and the Portland trucking firm.

With all this fine assistance we got the job done on schedule. It really went like clockwork. Most of the benefits that will accrue from the change will be noticed principally within the shop on labor saving and production helps. However, it should contribute to a better paper and will give us greater capacity for any growth that may come to the area.

It does feel good not to have to mimeograph the paper this week! Anyone interested is welcome to drop in and see our "Iron Monster" but it will be more intriguing when the feeder is in operation. Some day, if and when we get cleaned up, we would like to hold an open house.

CONGRATULATIONS to John Wagenblast for winning first place in the state on his first year record book at the FFA convention in The Dalles last week. John was first a district winner, and his first book went on to cop the state title. That's another contribution to putting Heppner's name on the map.

THE LITTLE item in the G-T last week about someone breaking a window in the clubhouse of the gun club brought results. The club received three dollars in the mail with a nice anonymous letter of apology, which stated that it would never happen again.

### SCHOOL MENUS

Heppner-Lexington  
Week of April 1-5

MONDAY—Hamburger casserole (Mor) carrot sticks, coffee cake, fruit, bread and butter and milk.

TUESDAY—Potato salad, wieners, buns, celery sticks, fruit and milk.

WEDNESDAY—Navy beans with butter, fruit, salmon sandwiches, cabbage salad, bread and butter and milk.

THURSDAY—Hamburger gravy on rice, buttered peas, Jello vegetable salad, fruit, milk and bread and butter.

FRIDAY—Split pea soup, peanut butter sandwiches, lettuce wedges, cake, fruit and milk.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Pratt and family spent Thursday through Sunday in Portland visiting relatives and Mr. Pratt attended the OEA convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dobbs and son Bob went to Portland March 17. Mrs. Dobbs and son, Bob, remained for a longer stay and Mrs. Dobbs attended the beauticians' trade show. Ron Gray brought them home Wednesday.

Dr. and Mrs. Jim Norene and daughter, Tracey, were in Portland for the week-end to visit his father, Roy J. Norene.

Mrs. Connie Cushman, Jeanne and Mike, visited Wednesday through Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Art Watkins.

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If convenient, make appointments in advance by calling Mrs. Orville Cutsforth (Ph. 989-8473). However, an appointment is not essential.



THE  
BLOODMOBILE  
IS COMING

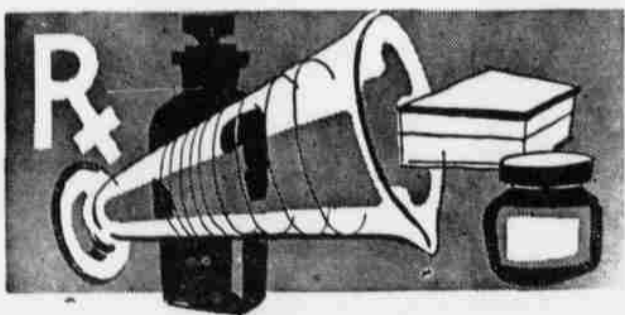


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### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

#### Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES  
Saturday, March 30, 8 p.m.  
"The Screaming Eagles," a U. S. Air Force picture.  
Plus one-half hour of cartoons.

4-H BEAUTY CLINIC  
Saturday, March 30, 1:30 p.m.  
Multipurpose room, Heppner Elementary school.  
All 4-H girls, leaders and interested mothers welcome.

BLOOD BANK DRAWING  
Wednesday, Apr. 3, 2 to 5:30 p.m.  
Catholic Parish Hall  
"Give that others may live."

MORROW COUNTY HUNTERS and ANGLERS CLUB  
Morrow County Courthouse  
Wednesday, Apr. 3, 8 p.m. Interested public invited to attend.

BAND CARNIVAL  
Fair Pavilion Bldg., Sat., Apr. 13. Full evening of fun, starting at 5:30 p.m.

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