

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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Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$4.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.
OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Achievements of the Chamber

One would think that if any organization would blow its own horn, the Chamber of Commerce would. But the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce has been a little backward about extolling its own virtues and probably a great many persons in the area do not realize the amount of good that it does.

Fred Gimbel, president last year, reported on the 1962 activities at the recent annual banquet, and this is reprinted in this issue as a record of accomplishment that the reader can evaluate for himself.

But we feel that the former president, perhaps because he was the leader during that year, painted a pretty modest picture of the work of the organization.

He told of some of its work on legislation that would be of benefit to this area, some of which has been successfully culminated. He mentioned some of its sponsorship and assistance of youth groups, some of the merchants' promotions, some of the contests sponsored for community betterment, the Chamber's work with the rodeo, its part in urging the Highway Commission to improve highways in this area, and the work being done towards development of the Willow Creek project.

These were among highlights of last year, but the work of the organization extends much farther. It answered hundreds of letters of inquiry about Morrow county, many of which were from school children but also many from adults in all parts of the country; it provided street decorations for Christmas in Heppner; it published and distributed a brochure advertising the entire county; it devoted considerable time and effort towards advancement of recreational facilities in the county; it cooperated with farmers on various programs and again joined the ASCS office and the county agent's office in sponsorship of the Farm banquet. These are a few things that come to mind spontaneously. There are many more. In fact, there have been very few things of community-wide interest of a civic or service nature in which the Chamber has not had a hand. It has just finished paying for the field light bonds at the rodeo grounds after making a substantial payment last year.

It isn't uncommon to hear someone say, "The Chamber of Commerce doesn't do anything." But the record speaks for itself, as shown in ex-President Gimbel's summary, plus a great deal more.

If the Chamber were non-existent, the public would realize what a void it would leave. Often it is taken for granted, and often it is the subject of cynicism, but the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce is a very active organization that has fine regular attendance and interest.

Virtually every member serves on some committee and most share in some of the work throughout the year.

It deserves the community's highest commendation and support.—And President Gimbel, who did such a good job last year, deserves a belated pat on the back, too.

Beware of the Gyp Artists

It seems as if the gyp artists are getting more and more brazen, and they always seem to be able to find a gullible victim.

The Itemizer-Observer in Dallas recently reported a case where an elderly woman was bilked out of \$1000 by some men who represented themselves as pest control experts.

Fortunately we haven't heard of similar cases in this area, but this is spring season, and there will be those in our county ripe for the picking when some of these bunco birds come around.

There are rackets in connection with the building trades—where transient peddlers come in and offer to install siding, roofing or insulation—at outlandish prices. They get the home owners to sign contracts before they realize what they are signing, only to discover later that the prices are exorbitant. We remember a case years ago in Dallas when the paper published a story warning of such rackets. A home owner had just signed a contract but noticed the story. She went to the district attorney and got \$750 refunded.

Another similar racket is from outfits who install home fire warning systems. They instill fear into the hearts of parents by showing gruesome movies of burning homes, and then get the residents to sign contracts for systems that cost far beyond their value.

Not all visiting concerns are racketeers, of course. Some come to perform services at going rates. But these concerns will give references and are open in their dealings.

But in view of the fact that gyp artists are at work elsewhere in the state, it is a good time to sound a warning here. A good plan is to contact your local outlet first. If it's pest control, check with our reliable local firms first (and we have some good ones); if it's something to do with roofing, siding or insulation, go to your local builder's supply house for advice and recommendation. These people will play fair and give you honest help. They plan to stay here for a long time—they don't hit and run.

If someone wants to sign you up for a fire alarm system at a high price, contact Fire Chief Charles Ruggles before you sign. He can give some good pointers to advise you.

To realize how some of these gyp artists operate, read this pathetic true tale from Dallas as reported by Editor Earle Richardson there:

Three men came to the door of the home of an elderly woman and stated they were from Oregon State Pest Control and had come to make a termite inspection. She assumed they were connected with the State of Oregon on official business,

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

EVEN IF we didn't catch an occasional glimpse of a big league game on TV, we would know that baseball season has come with the warm weather because of the time we've had to spend batting flies in the living room.

THE FACT that the following tale is somewhat vague and hazy in detail makes it nonetheless true. Some of the information may not be quite accurate because the principals involved apparently made every effort to keep it hushed up.

We stumbled on to it quite innocently. Happened to see a photo showing some big bones protruding from the ground, and inquired of Gar Swanson and Nels Anderson, who happened to be together at the time, just what the story was.

The red of their faces, upon hearing the question, was caused from no snub, which is understandable, as you will see.

They were reluctant, but we pried a few succinct bits of information from them.

Seems that Gar was doing some excavating work in a gully on his wheat ranch last fall, and he unearthed these big bones. Somehow Nels Anderson got in on the act, and they carefully uncovered them, like true paleontologists.

It was quite obvious to them that they were from some extinct species, probably in the dinosaur family. After they removed the soil carefully from around the bones, they took the picture and carefully extracted some to send in for classification and identification.

When the report came back, it identified the bones as belonging to a large, solid-hoofed herbivorous mammal, all right—Equus caballus—more commonly known as "horse."

THE MOMENT of truth has arrived again for high school seniors. After guarding their middle names carefully from schoolmates for years, they go on the record on their high school diplomas, and generally are read right out loud at graduation.

We notice that the full names are listed on the lone commencement program, but someone has been a little more merciful in the Heppner system.

Oddly enough, sometimes it is the first name that is disguised, since the youngster's selection and assumes the middle name as the lesser of two evils.

It is quite a paradox how parents can select a name in which they take pride, only to have a growing child criticize his name

with disdain. But that's the way the old space capsule orbits.

We think it only fitting and proper that our young men and ladies face up to this moment of truth at the time of graduation and allow their names to be heralded in all their splendor. While a name like "Percival" could well bring titters from the lips, for instance, it might have the highest connotation in another family whose great-great grandfather Percival was in the battle of Bull Run.

In running the story of commencement this week, we've tried to compromise. In the front page story, we record the names as they appear on the programs (although Heppner didn't use middle names). On the identification of the pictures in the second section, we have tried to use the names of the grads as they are generally known.

WHEN THE office door opened early Tuesday, and a graying man stepped inside with a smile on his lips, we greeted him with, "It can't be true."

But it was true. The visitor was Ben Maxwell of Salem, writer for the Capital Journal, Salem, and Oregon Journal, Portland, for many years. He's a fellow who has particularly specialized on historical articles, and he has developed quite a historical library.

He wasn't in the office 30 seconds before he spotted the booklet, "Yesteryears of Morrow," published by the home extension units, and had his dollar out to pay for a copy. In years past, we have had many occasions to collaborate with Ben on various stories, but never expected to see him here.

Over a cup of coffee at the Wagon Wheel he and Mrs. Maxwell told us that they were on their way back from Alturas, Calif., and Reno, Nev., where they went to see an unprecedented display of historical cars. They went through the Basque country at Jordan Valley and landed in the midst of their Centennial celebration. They decided to do a story on towns they visited that had "rock" in them—Fort Rock, Arock, Pilot Rock, and now were headed for Lonerock.

They have visited Heppner several times before and Ben has done articles on Hardman and other parts of Morrow county. He is now semi-retired but still dabbles in historical articles and writes a column for the Capital Journal.

In Ben's mind is a storehouse of Oregon history that few could equal.

It was good to have him drop in.

unlocked the hook on her screen, and they came in.

One of them was a medium tall blonde man, another a shorter man with a pronounced cleft chin, the other a darker man with black mustache and black hair. They had driven up in a red pickup with white canopy.

While the cleft chin man talked with her, the other two went upstairs and inspected the attic. Later they had come up and told her they had found evidence of wood beetles and it would be necessary to use poison gas on them. Then they moved the truck to the side of the house and while the cleft chin man remained in the house and talked, one or both of the other men crawled under the house. The entire procedure took about 45 minutes, she estimated.

She asked them what she owed them and they said \$1000! Not \$10, not \$100 but \$1000. The woman, who is 76 years old and has lived alone in her modest home since her husband died almost five years ago, was bowled over. But her thoughts centered more on how she was going to pay their bill (all three were in the house at the time and while they didn't threaten, she was apprehensive). She had \$60 in her purse, she told them, and they said she could pay the rest in installments. In the meantime she decided to go to the savings and loan office and draw the money needed out of her savings. At first they were going to take her, but decided not to, so she called the taxi. She remarked something about her dilemma on the way down, but said nothing at the savings and loan office. She drew \$940 and cashed it, took the taxi back to her home and paid the men the money.

One of the men gave her a simple receipt on a form she provided. The blond man signed the receipt for \$1000 which he made out in his own handwriting, "Clarence Chatman." He did not use a firm name. The trio left immediately.

The transaction continued to worry the woman, but at least it was over. Two days later she read the story in the May 2 issue of the Itemizer-Observer which warned of the activities of salesmen for aluminum siding, asbestos siding, foundation repair and termite exterminators. She called the police but the information she had to offer was substantially what is given above. The three men were long gone and she had not received a firm name, identification card or anything but the name, "Clarence Chatman."

These gyp artists are considerably more malicious and heartless than the termites.

1962 Chamber Activities Reviewed

(Editor's note: The following is a report of the Chamber of Commerce activities for the year 1962 as presented by Fred Gimbel, president during that year, at the recent annual banquet of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber. It is reprinted to give the public an insight to some of the work being done by the organization to promote this area and work for its betterment.)

Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce activities for 1962 started with the Chamber working on proposed ambulance laws. Private ambulance operators were supporting regulations that would have made it practically impossible for community hospitals, such as ours, to operate an ambulance. With support from our Chamber and other civic groups throughout the state, regulations were approved enabling communities, such as Heppner, to continue their ambulance services at reasonable cost to the patrons.

In February, due to considerable local interest in forest fires during the 1961 fire season, the Chamber sponsored a meeting with the U. S. Forest Service, Oregon State Dept. of Forestry and local people to discuss fire procedures in an attempt to minimize fire losses within the Heppner area.

During 1962, the Chamber voted to sponsor the Boy Scout Troop No. 86. The troop started with five boys and at the present time has 12 boys actively working in the troop. Bob Dobbs is scoutmaster, and he has been doing a fine job. Other youth activities sponsored by the Chamber included sending Dick Struckmeier to the Forest Service Summer Range Management camp, co-sponsoring with the school annual football awards banquet, and by a donation from the Chamber, assisted three local boys to attend the National FFA convention at Kansas City.

The annual banquet was held on March 19, with 70 members and guests present. Ken Stanhope, Supt. of Umatilla County Schools, was the principal speaker. The Farm-City banquet, co-sponsored by the Soil Conservation District and the Chamber was held on November 11 to recognize the Farmer of the Year. Elmer Palmer and Sons won the award for 1962.

The merchants committee sponsored two programs during the year, the Salute to Spring and the Christmas Opening. The Salute to Spring featured a Queen and her Court and a style show, which was held on Main street and provided entertainment for a good-sized crowd that came to Heppner to shop and enjoy the festivities. The Christmas Opening was handled by

local merchants with window displays and store window contests. Randall Peterson, chairman for these two promotions, did an outstanding job in promoting local sales for business in Heppner.

A spring clean-up contest was sponsored in April and Emil Groshens won the first prize. The Christmas lighting contest, with Avon Melby as chairman, was expanded and greatly improved over the previous year's contests. Awards were given for both indoor and outdoor lighting.

Under the direction of Randall Peterson, Orville Cutsforth and Jim Farley, the Chamber presented one of the best rodeo parades Heppner has had in many years. Elma Harshman, chairman of the merchants committee, did an outstanding job in soliciting contributions for parade prizes. A total of \$475 was awarded to the various winners in the parade. Elmer Schmidt rode herd on the ticket takers, a chore he has performed ably for a number of years. After the parade, the Old-Timers picnic was held at the Courthouse. Co-chairmen Ralph Richards and Oscar Peterson provided the lunch for the rodeo courts, riding groups and Morrow County Old Timers. Practically every chamber member was called on to work in one capacity or another during the rodeo and it was with this willing response from the membership that we were able to present the 1962 Rodeo Parade.

Last year, as in previous years, several meetings in Salem with the Oregon State Highway Commission were attended by Chamber members and county court officials. This project, along with promoting parks and the Willow Creek dam, has kept the members of the Development committee quite busy during the year. In connection with promoting Morrow county, a meeting with Governor Mark Hatfield was attended by Chamber members and other interested county leaders to discuss the Boardman project and Morrow county Highway problems.

Through the efforts of the Development committee and the County Court, the Willow Creek dam project has progressed to its present step. Several public meetings were held and considerable leg work was done by Oliver Creswick to inform the residents in the area of the various aspects of the project. The Irrigation feature, without a doubt, was the least understood aspect, and it was only through many personal contacts and meetings with the irrigators that a favorable percentage of the irrigators made the project feasible. Early in 1963, the Corps of Engineers held a formal pub-

lic meeting in Heppner and with a favorable recommendation by local interests, approved the project. The next step will be the hearing with the Rivers and Harbors Congress in Washington, D. C. This meeting will be attended by Judge Oscar Peterson, Oliver Creswick and possibly Mayor Al Lamb.

Mrs. Oma Cox returned Sunday evening from Walla Walla, Wn., where she had attended funeral services of her uncle, Henry S. Perry on Saturday afternoon. She had gone earlier in the week to help care for her uncle during his illness.



COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events
LEGION MOVIES
Friday, May 24, 8:00 p.m.
"Dondi," starring Patti Page and David Corey.
Plus cartoons.

HIGH SCHOOL BACCALAUREATE
Sunday evening, May 26, 8:00 p.m.
Old High school gym.
Rev. Melvin Dixon, speaker.
Public is invited.

RAINBOW INSTALLATION
Heppner Masonic hall.
Friday evening, May 24, 7:00 p.m. Parents, relatives and friends invited.

CIVIC LEAGUE RUMMAGE SALE
Friday, Saturday, May 24-25
Old Bakery Building
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
All proceeds to help support the Heppner kindergarten.

PIONEER MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC
Thursday, May 30, Registration starts at 11:00 a.m.
Potluck dinner, noon, at Fair Pavilion.

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