

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THIS IS no time for levity, and we would not be capable of it even if we wanted to be humorous. Events of the week have been too startling and stunning, and we share our bit with the millions who feel keenest of sympathy towards the Kennedy family, coupled with admiration towards Jacqueline Kennedy for her poise and equanimity in the face of abject grief.

NEWS of the shooting of President Kennedy first came to the Gazette-Times within just a few minutes after it occurred. Jim Morris learned of it at Case Furniture Co. Someone telephoned Mrs. Hubert Wilson, clerk there, and she told Jim, "The president has been shot."

Jim thought it was a joke and echoed, "Yeah, ha, ha. The president has been shot." Soon, however, he realized she was not joking and came to tell the rest of the staff.

We turned on television, and shortly after came the announcement that the president was dead.

WE ADMIRE the work that television networks and newsmen did on this tremendous event. From the moment they first came on after the emergency announcement, they stuck to the job for four days. While they were somewhat confused, as they naturally would be, at the inception of the story, they soon gained composure, and the public received complete picture accounts of the event and continuing developments as if it had been planned for many months.

In this television coverage comes some of the hint of the president's great popularity. Never has a president been so close to the people because of this medium that chronicles his every act in detail. And in the tragic end, they saw first hand, by the medium, exactly what happened, which heightened the impact throughout the world.

MY MOTHER, Mrs. Harry Sherman, Sr., of Forest Grove, currently visiting with us, recalled when President McKinley was shot. As a young girl, she was tremendously affected and felt the impact was equal, at least to her, as was the assassination of President Kennedy.

Reason for this, she believes, is that violence was not so common in those days. It was before the gangster era and was before either of the World Wars. The nation didn't kill 40,000 persons on the highways every year. People had no TV, no radio, no movie houses with shoot-'em-up westerns and blood and thunder pictures.

That was in 1901, the third assassination of a United States president, and the last until the killing of President Kennedy 62 years later.

It is ironic to think that a man elected to the presidency has one chance in nine, on the basis of history, to be assassinated. We have had 36 presidents, including President Lyndon Johnson, and four have been killed. Assassinations have been unsuccessfully attempted upon other presidents, including Harry Truman and Franklin Roosevelt.

AS LYNDON JOHNSON takes the presidency, we note that we have never heard anything derogatory mentioned about this man, and he has been held in highest respect. Only a few weeks ago, some public statements were made about it being too bad that he was submerged in the vice presidency. Although the writer is registered in a different political party than his, we feel that this nation will go forward under his leadership, and there is no reason to fear the future.

AS IT IS all over the nation, local plans for events were placed in a confused turmoil following the death of the president. Many events were cancelled, others were postponed. But now that the funeral is over,

Soroptimists Hear High School Speaker Talk on Convention

Guest speaker at the Heppner Soroptimist club luncheon meeting last Thursday noon was Phyllis Nelson, Heppner high school senior, who told of her experiences in attending the national meeting of the Future Homemakers of America in Kansas City, Mo., in July.

Phyllis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Nelson, Lexington, was one of 10 delegates from Oregon. Pictures and souvenir momentos were shared as she told of highlights of the convention, including a tour to the home of Harry S. Truman, viewing her first big stage play, meeting with nationally known personalities, and participating in discussion sessions of topics of interest to future homemakers.

Other guests present were her mother, Mrs. Nelson; Mrs. Elmer Schmidt, homemaking teacher in Heppner High school, and Martha Peterson, senior girl.

Mrs. Schmidt spoke briefly of the plans which the home economics department is making for use of the \$100 grant received from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation in furnishing their rooms in the new Heppner High school.

Club members recently voted a second \$100 contribution to the National Soroptimist Endowment Fund, as a memorial to one of its charter members, Mrs. Pearl Devine. The club has reached the half-way mark on its \$400 goal which is asked for the endowment fund to help in national and international objectives.

It would seem that best respect can be paid to him by the country returning to normalcy with people everywhere getting back to their everyday living.

Christmas Opening, scheduled for the coming week-end in Heppner, will go on as planned with this thought in mind, and everyone is invited to come and take part in anticipation of the Christmas season. Fine prizes are offered, and a good time is in store for everyone.

Legion Groups Join For Combined Dinner

The American Legion and Auxiliary will meet for a joint potluck dinner Monday evening, December 2, at the Legion Hall at 7:00 p.m., according to announcement by Mrs. Frank Hamlin, auxiliary president.

Main portion of the business meeting will be devoted to the initiation of new members, with short business session to follow.

Members are asked to bring a variety of prepared dishes, including meat dishes.

Carnation Club Elects Officers

Mrs. Don Townsend was elected president of the Carnation club of the Degree of Honor Protective association at its last meeting. Mrs. Rachel Harnett was chosen vice president and Mrs. Carl King was reelected secretary-treasurer.

Business of the meeting was the discussion of the Christmas party and decorating of small trees for the rest home patients at the hospital.

Refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. E. E. Gonty, at whose home the meeting was held.



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THANKSGIVING GREETINGS

We wish the best for everyone at this season. Although Thanksgiving is saddened because of national events, we trust that all will find real meaning in the holiday. Every family may be truly thankful for the blessings they enjoy in this country.

WE JOIN OTHER HEPPNER MERCHANTS IN CHRISTMAS OPENING SATURDAY



Join In Our Guessing Contest!

OUR PRIZE: Sunbeam Electric HAIR DRYER (Value \$19.95)

