

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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What's Happening to the Mail?

Complaining about the U. S. post office department is probably no more effective than a complaint about high taxes, but it has appeared recently that instead of getting better, the service offered by the department is getting worse.

Whatever is wrong is not the fault of the local offices. In places we've lived we have never known a postmaster to be other than very accommodating, courteous, helpful and efficient. There have been many cases when they have gone beyond the line of duty to be helpful. This is true in Heppner, and it is true with the local carriers.

But somewhere in the bowels of the system—and we think it is in the big cities—something is wrong. Mail coming from California often takes an unusually long time to arrive in many instances and sometimes it does not arrive at all.

For instance, this newspaper office ordered Christmas cards from a Los Angeles supply house on December 19 for a local customer. The cards have not arrived at this writing, although they were invoiced out of the office there on December 12.

Another expected package also failed to arrive. Still a third parcel took nine days to make the trip from Los Angeles.

The Christmas season with its unusually heavy volume of mail is difficult, of course, and it imposes unusual demands on the postal system. But it is the same rush that has come every year since the department was started and by now it should be geared to take whatever steps are necessary to move the mail in stride.

First class mail is delayed during these rush periods, and with important business mail tied up in the tidal wave of Christmas cards it imposes a hardship on those businesses which depend upon mail for their commerce.

We have had more and more complaints about newspapers from this office not reaching their destinations on time even though they invariably leave here at the same time every Thursday. One subscriber in La Grande said he never receives his paper earlier than the ensuing Monday. Another in Portland has complained of getting his a week late.

Packages coming by parcel post seem to be getting rougher and rougher treatment. In this area, parcel post offers an out on shipment of smaller items needed instead of paying the premium cost on freight, but packages are coming through in increasingly battered condition. This office often orders envelopes from a supplier by parcel post. They are well packaged, but seldom does a box arrive without one end being crushed.

Postmaster Jim Driscoll believes that this is due to the fact that the department is experimenting with sorting machines instead of handling the packages manually in larger offices. Apparently considerably more research needs to be done!

By and large, our postal system is a wonderful thing and a marvelous service. It has been so reliable that the public takes it for granted that its mail will come through in the shortest possible time.

Volume has increased exceedingly, of course, and this imposes great demands.

But with this good foundation, it now appears that the department is losing ground, even in the face of the Zip Code. Indeed, it seems that service has worsened from about the time of the inception of this code.

To date, there has been only token use of the code, and maybe this is adding some confusion. Some conscientiously have adjusted their habits to include the code but others seem to be disdainfully adopting an attitude of passive resistance towards it.

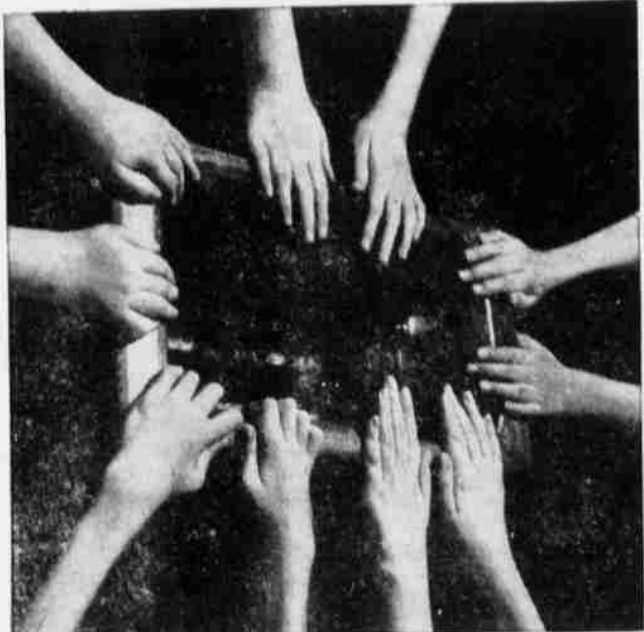
Many have been unable to see how the Zip Code can improve service, and others—like us—have adopted the attitude that if the department is convinced it will expedite service, the best thing to do is to cooperate, even though we don't understand all about it. But if good results are to come, they are not evident as yet. It certainly is evident that 90% of the mail coming through is without Zip Code addresses, and the system could not be effective in the face of this response.

Postmaster Driscoll is good about hearing complaints and he does his best to check them out, sending letters up the line, but at that point they seem to get lost.

Now that the public is paying more for postal service, it would not seem unreasonable that it could expect the department to improve its service so that it keeps pace with the present-day demands on communication.

It would still be interesting to know what happens to the parcels coming from the south. Do they get caught at the bottom of a pile in a big sorting station somewhere with more coming in constantly so the bottom of the pile is never worked? It would be interesting to see what happens to take nine days for a parcel to get from Los Angeles.

Arthritis Cripples the Young, Too



SEVERELY crippled by rheumatoid arthritis, these hands belong to five girls, aged 9 to 12, who are under treatment at the March of Dimes-financed Arthritis Treatment Center, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago. The youngsters are about to immerse their hands for several minutes in a tub of hot paraffin, a form of therapy which lessens pain, reduces stiffness in the finger joints, increases circulation and sometimes prevents contractures and "clenching." March of Dimes programs assist 11 million Americans afflicted by arthritis diseases.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

DOES ANYONE know anything of an ancient stone sepulcher that is supposed to be located near Lexington?

Mrs. Donna L. Thurber, who represents a San Francisco concern which is engaged in getting out folders for the Union Oil company has written to the Chamber of Commerce asking for the information.

At the present time this firm is engaged in publishing a folder on "Mystery Spots" for Union 76, and in two letters to the Chamber asks about this sepulcher. The folder is printed and distributed for benefit of tourists and includes such famous "Mystery Spots" as the Winchester House, San Jose, Calif.; the house that defies gravity at Gold Hill; Trees of Mystery in Northern California where redwood "roots" grow up and the "trunks" grow down; and a place in the "Bigfoot" country where footprints seven inches wide and 18 inches long keep appearing in the Trinity wilderness.

In the most recent letter she speaks of the "ancient Mayan sepulcher" near Lexington but does not state where she heard about it.

At a recent Chamber of Commerce meeting with Orville Cutsforth and other old timers present, no one could shed any light on it. Is there anyone around who can?

If not, it will probably have to go in a file with Gar Swanson's dinosaur.

IF GARNET Barratt, now of Mesa, Ariz., is going to appear on the TV program, Bonanza, he doesn't know about it. This is the word that comes via Mr. and Mrs. Marion Saling of Pendleton, brother and sister-in-law of Mike Saling of Heppner.

The Pendleton couple is in Arizona for the winter, saw Garnet and he said the rumor of his expected TV debut is all news to him.

Now the Bonanza's ratings in this area will fall down to normal at once more. Still think our ex-judge would have made a good actor with Lorne Green.

VIC GROSHENS, city superintendent, says we left out one of the most important local developments of the year in the summary story on 1963 last week. This is the digging of the city's artesian well, which has supplied 20 million gallons of good water since it was put on the line. The water flows at the rate of about 110,000 gallons per day without pumping.

ALSO HEARD we failed to mention some of the new signs around the community in the little item about the bright appearance Main street is taking. We didn't really try to name them all, but we did miss Pete McMurtry's new sign at Heppner Auto Parts.

IN SUMMER time on the lakes in the state there is a controversy between water skiers and fishermen, each annoying the other. Soon we may have another winter controversy on the lakes—that between cold weather fishermen and ice skaters. At Bull Prairie fishing is now in full swing with those who enjoy chopping holes in the ice. Skaters are also enjoying the frozen lake surface, and will until they pop into one of the fishermen's holes.

A word of caution that comes via the Rev. Melvin Dixon: If you do go fishing at Bull Prairie, don't leave your pole unattended.

PETERSON'S JEWELERS, we discovered the other day, is a second post office in Heppner. If you need stamps and don't get to the post office before the window closes at five, Randall will sell them to you—at least he did to Frank S. Parker, who apparently is a pretty regular customer.

Frank, though, declares that some of Randall's stamps aren't of top quality. He wanted a penny rebate on one that had a corner torn off.

Noticed that Frank licks the corner of the envelope instead of the stamp. Declares it is better tasting. That's a good cue for us.

We'll have to develop flavors for envelopes we sell in our job printing plant, maybe in strawberry, cherry, raspberry, orange, lemon and lime.

THERE'S AN interesting article in the January issue of Northwest Ruralite on the town of Monument, picture of which is on the front cover. It tells of the town being incorporated in 1914 after a post office was first located there October 27, 1874. At one time a newspaper, the Monument Enterprise, was published there by Billy Crabtree, father of Mrs. Wave Jackson, who still lives there.

The story also tells of Mark Stubbfield, 82, another resi-

dent since childhood days. He recalls the Indians coming through in the spring of the year and also remembers the freighters making the trip from Heppner to Long Creek.

WE CAN'T help but share the pleasure that Sgt. Jim Chauncey of the Condon Air Force Station and other personnel there feel on the selection of their monthly paper as the best in the Air Defense Command across the United States in its category, for stations with personnel of 1000 or less. It is really quite an achievement for them, and the Gazette-Times shares, because it composes and prints the paper, "The Scope," for them. Lt. Tom Goldie, public information officer who did much of the work building up the paper, has been transferred but Sgt. Chauncey now does most of the work on the publication under Lt. Joe Bigelow, information officer.

Citation and presentation of the award will come at a later date at the station, according to word from Major Richard Solomon, commander.

ARS Inspectors Find Vast Pest Array at Borders

From time to time we hear criticisms mainly of the nuisance of plant inspections or quarantines. Many people have complained of losing some fruit or something at state lines or the Canadian border while on vacation. Some interesting facts have come to life which might make some of us better understand and appreciate why these inspections or quarantines are necessary.

Those responsible for the inspections, the Agricultural Research Service, inspectors intercept an average of one plant pest every 16 minutes—around the clock. In the last decade, these inspectors have prevented nearly a quarter of a million insects, diseases, nematodes, mites, and snails from entering the United States. Their action safeguards the productive ability of U. S. Agriculture.

Without plant quarantine inspectors might not be the best fed and best clothed people in the world. Without these inspectors, one American farmer could not produce enough for himself and 28 fellow Americans. Here are some examples: "Sixty bright red berries in a suitcase. Just a souvenir to show the folks back home, an air passenger thought. They were coffee berries from Brazil; they were pretty—and they were infested with the Mediterranean fruit fly."

But not too long ago another traveler, at Laredo, Tex., obviously did not know about the regulations. Inspectors found orchids stuffed into his pockets and tree seeds concealed in his money belt. Both the flowers and the seeds harbored dangerous plant pests.

ARS inspectors are stationed at major U.S. airports, seaports, and border crossings to enforce the plant quarantines. Since 1953, these inspectors have made 230,747 interceptions of insects, diseases, nematodes, mites and snails. These interceptions included many of the world's most important plant pests. Included were the European cherry fruit fly, Mediterranean fruit fly, olive fruit fly, Mexican fruit fly, West Indian fruit fly, citrus black fly, Durra stem borer, Khapra beetle, Mediterranean land snail, pink bollworm, Japanese citrus scale, Canker B, citrus canker, golden nematode, sweet orange scab and scab and black spotted citrus.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1963, ARS inspected 144,601 airplanes, 59,556 ships, 25,962,219 vehicles and 66,010 rail road cars. They also cooperated with custom officials in examining 43,910,990 packages. They intercepted damaging plant pests 31,439 times and found 394,915 lots of prohibited plant material.

In addition, by accident, they found the second largest shipment of pure heroin ever intercepted in the United States, stopped last October at the Mexican border. While this job is so custom officials, an alert ARS plant quarantine inspector discovered the heroin in a tourist's car. The inspector became suspicious when he tested the car's rear seat with his knee and noticed that it was unusually hard. A search revealed 27 plastic bags of heroin jammed up under the springs. Thirty-nine more bags were behind the four door panels.



Jones to Head Farmers Union; Vote Resolution

At a recent meeting of the Farmer's Union, Morrow county local, discussion was held on fair trade and the world market, with particular emphasis on beef and poultry.

Officers for 1964 were elected. Clarence Rosewall retired from the president's chair, after serving for 1962 and 1963. He was succeeded by Marcel Jones. Paul Brown was elected vice president, and Mrs. Orville Cutsforth replaced Mrs. Paul Brown as secretary-treasurer.

Bob Jepsen, representing the Wheat League, reported on the Oregon Wheat League meeting held in Portland. He urged all wheat growers to write immediately to congressmen concerning a voluntary wheat program. Mr. Jepsen also read resolutions from five wheat raising states, all favoring the voluntary wheat plan.

The local Farmer's Union then passed the following resolution:

"Whereas: The Morrow County Farmers Union wholeheartedly supports the Oregon State Wheat League stand, that we take aggressive steps to secure a voluntary program for wheat, encompassing the principles of the CERTIFICATE PLAN (urging a voluntary certificate program)."

Smith Offers Class In Radio, Electronics

A class in elementary electronics, radio theory and practice will be started soon by Ray Smith if enough demand is shown, he announced this week.

Smith, an experienced and licensed technician, would like to have anyone interested get in touch with him or phone his home, 676-9725. He conducted such a class a few years ago, helping start several young people in interesting radio and "ham" operating hobbies. The class will be open to men, women or young people and will probably meet in the evenings. If enough interest is shown, an organizational meeting date will be called.

Mrs. Smouse Spends Holidays with Bakers

Mrs. Anne Smouse returned to her home here Monday after spending the holidays at the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Baker and family in Corvallis, and visiting friends in Eugene.

While at the Baker home she became acquainted with her new grandson, Dick Kiger, born to the Bakers on Thanksgiving Day. He weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz., and joins three sisters, Deborah, 7; Martha Ann, 6; and Elizabeth, 3. She accompanied her son, Kenneth Smouse of Ione, home from Corvallis where he went to return Kenneth Lynn to his studies at Oregon State University.

All Moore business forms the county to get the forms you need.

One-Shot Roscoe

As Told By
ORVILLE W. CUTSFORTH

(Editor's note: This is another in the series of anecdotes about the late Roscoe Cox, Morrow county outdoorsman.)

Old Roscoe Cox and his 22 Winchester pump. We seldom saw him when he wasn't carrying this little rifle.

I saw him one day when he came in from making some wood and I said, "Roscoe that rifle will be the death of you yet."

He said, "Why?"

"Well," I said, "Roscoe you'll meet a bear up here one of these days (there are lots of bear here) you'll shoot him with that 22 and you won't be able to stop him and he'll get you."

I was up about a week later and Old Roscoe was grinning. He says "Orville, I did it."

"Did what?" I says.

He said, "I killed a bear with this 22."

I said, "oh, no."

He said, "Yes, the bear was going along the hillside and didn't see me. So I shot him behind the front leg. The bear ran away, the dog, Old Bob, took after him, and the bear and the dog went around through the brush. Pretty soon the dog 'Kie-yiked' and I knew he had the bear in a tree. So I cut through the brush and got to the tree and the bear was up a small tree and the tree was leaning over. The bear was dying and about to fall out of the tree. I knew he had life enough to kill 'Old Bob.' So I had to shoot him in the eye."

Two shots.

SCHOOL MENUS

Week of January 13-17

MONDAY—Spaghetti and meat balls, string beans, carrot sticks, fruit, milk, and bread and butter.

TUESDAY—Hamburger gravy, potatoes, celery sticks, fruit, milk and bread and butter.

WEDNESDAY — Navy beans and ham, cabbage salad, hot rolls and butter, fruit and milk.

THURSDAY — Macaroni and cheese, Jell-O vegetable salad, cake, fruit, milk and bread and butter.

FRIDAY—Potato soup, peanut butter sandwiches, lettuce salad, upside down cake and milk.



Wranglers Elect New Officers

New officers were elected Tuesday evening at the regular meeting of the Wrangler Riding Club.

Elected president for the coming year was Gene Harryman, Ione High school principal. Other officers are Mrs. Beverly Steagall, vice president, Mr. and Mrs. Dimple Munkers, secretary-treasurer. On the board of directors are Fred Mankin, Art Vance, Everett Struckmeier, Jerry Dougherty and George Luciani.

Plans were made for the coming year. The date of Sunday, January 19, was set for a work day at the Wrangler play grounds. Discussion was held on spring playdays, but no dates were scheduled.

The Wranglers will sponsor a girl for princess of the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo this year. The last Sunday in March will be the time for tryouts at the playgrounds.

The club's objective is to stimulate more interest and activity for members this year.

Dr. and Mrs. Jim Norene served refreshments to the 25 members attending.



Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL Heppner vs. Sherman High of Moro. Heppner High school gym.

Friday, January 10. Jayvee game, 6:15 p.m.

Varsity game, 8:00 p.m.

Support the Mustangs! REBEKAH-ODD FELLOWS DINNER

Saturday, January 11. IOOF Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Joint installation of officers.

HEPPNER EXTENSION UNIT Home of Mrs. Frank Connor

Tuesday, January 14. Noon luncheon.

Lesson on "Wills."

HEPPNER PTA MEETING Elementary multipurpose room.

Wednesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m.

Panel discussion. Band students.

SKIING AT ARBUCKLE 20" to 30" packed snow on hill.

Tow operating Saturday, Sunday.

Skilling hours, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Ski lessons available Saturday.

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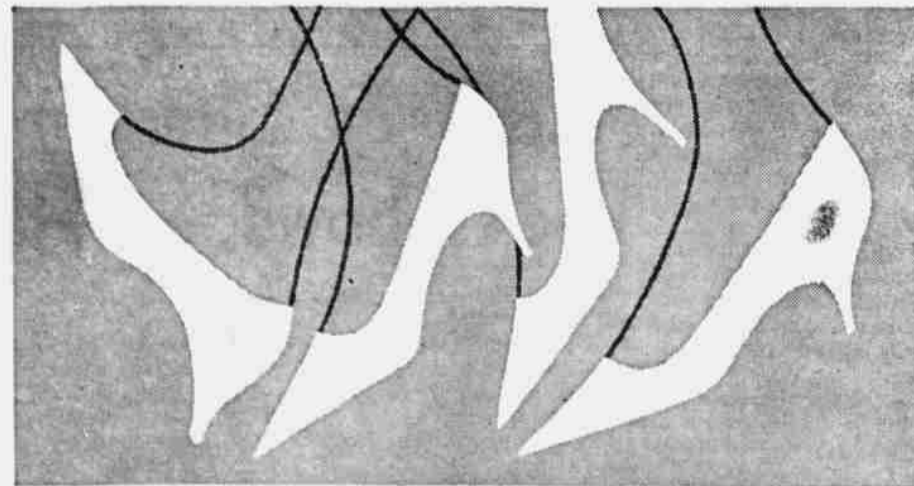
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