

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WE WONDER what surprises are in store for the audiences who will attend the Heppner High junior class play, "Green Valley," Friday and Saturday nights? In the past few years, the drama department, under the direction of Mrs. Janet Groves, has always had some delightful or novel surprise for those attending the plays—some innovation that was striking, such as the black lighting of the Christmas program last year. From the sound of the advance publicity on "Green Valley" this will probably be the best of all. Indications are that the properties will be quite ingenious and right down the alley for Mrs. Groves and her interested students. The fantasy-type production offers all sorts of fascinating possibilities.

Our guess is that those who do not attend the play either Friday or Saturday night will miss an outstanding production. The Heppner High drama department takes a back seat to none when it comes to staging plays. Local people don't have to attend plays purely as a matter of obligation or courtesy; they can be assured of first class entertainment here.

CERTAINLY by far and away the biggest surprise of the week was OSU's selection for the Rose Bowl after everyone had figured that if Southern Cal did well against Notre Dame, the choice would go their way. USC did better than make a good showing; it won. The surprise was that the AAUW faculty representatives didn't allow the "power politics" of the confer-

ence to influence their fair judgment of awarding the choice on the basis of the team with the best record. Nevertheless, it would be interesting to know just how the vote went. It probably is pretty well acknowledged that most of the California schools voted for USC. The wails and moans and cries of anguish from the southern part of their state can almost be heard in Oregon without benefit of radio transmission.

In any event, Morrow county is now assured of having a representative in the Rose Bowl with Dick Ruhl as co-captain of the Beavers. Those fans who can't get to Pasadena for the New Year's event will have their eyes glued to their TV sets. Ruhl's work through the year has had the local populace about bustin' its buttons with pride. He hasn't had a bad game all year, and he'll give a top performance in the Bowl.

DICK'S WIFE, Susie, gained a lot of publicity when newspapers called for reaction from Ruhl after the team's selection for the Bowl. At it happened, Dick was out with Booker Washington rounding up some of the rest of the players to share the moments of exultation, and Susie turned out to be a spokesman. Her comments went out on the AP wire.

She was quoted as saying that Dick was "happier than happy." We happened to be in Eugene Monday and found the Duck partisans pretty well behind the Beavers now on the theory that they had a good team and a better record than USC.

### Think Twice about Medicare

(From Blue Mountain Eagle, John Day)

Let's start out by saying we're not against medical assistance for our elderly needy people. Let's face it—we do have lots of older folks in this country who can't begin to meet doctor and hospital bills. Welfare doesn't always take care of them in certain circumstances. What can they do?

This is why some time ago the federal Kerr-Mills law was derived. It is a joint federal-state project which puts the administrative responsibility at the local level. It offers health care to all elderly people who are in need. It is a complete program with hospital, nursing home, medical, dental, surgical and drug care.

In view of the weakened financial status of our social security system, we believe it would be safer to use the Kerr-Mills law as a foundation for medical help for the elderly instead of bringing on the Medicare program, which could be a financial back-breaker.

Our present social security system is spending money faster than it is coming in. And it appears this trend will continue indefinitely—unless something is changed. Medicare could make this problem much more critical and faster.

If Medicare became law, it would increase social security tax, borne by workers and employers, to 10.4 percent of the first \$5,600 annual income by 1971. This would be \$582.40 for each worker. And, it is not certain that this would be enough to meet the costs of the system. If taxes had to be increased to meet expenses of the system, we would be in the same boat as England, or maybe even France.

In France, the whole social security system and its "Medicare" program have gone bankrupt. It has been announced that the "Medicare" part of their social security program has been the main downfall of the whole system.

It seems common sense to assume that if medical aid is to be free, there will be many who will take advantage of it. "As long as it's free, let's make the best of it," we'll say. Doctors' calls will be more numerous than necessary, and costs will go up. And we'll wind up paying more and more for this type of system as each year progresses.

Taxes and more taxes. Do you suppose someday there will be a nation where people turn their entire paychecks over to the government as taxes and get in return so much allowance for food, rent, clothing, retirement benefits and medical care? Communism is close to this right now.

We believe the Kerr-Mills law can provide the medical help that is needed for our older residents. States on a participating basis can offer medical hospitalization and treatment to these unfortunate citizens on a separate program. This law does not add any complications or strain to our social security system. This program is now working in Oregon and other states. If more is needed, let's do it through this existing law. Let's protect our social security system—we don't want to lose it like France did.

IT LOOKS AS if the Gazette-Times is going to have to pick an All-American team if for no other reason than to get Ruhl on an All-American eleven. It is kind of ironic how he has been bypassed after his strong play and defensive leadership for the Beavers all year. Dick was picked for the second team on defense on All-Coast, but shucks, he surely should have been on the first team.

WOULDN'T IT BE great now if those Southern Californians could be big enough and generous enough to throw away their crying towels and give OSU a great welcome to the southland; if they could root for them in the Bowl and do credit to the squad that has been chosen to represent their conference? Do you think they'll do it? We'll wait and see. We're cynical, remembering the last time OSU was in the Bowl. The California papers performed abysmally after the Beavers were defeated in that one. Our position is that they are a bunch of cry babies down there. Just watch the rabid fans on a televised pro football game when any little thing goes against them.

One fine exception is Johnny McKay, coach of USC. He was quoted Wednesday morning as saying Oregon State has a fine team and is a fine choice. He said that he would be fully behind them. That's typical of John McKay.

But he has some Oregonian blood in him, having been backfield coach for the U of O for a number of years. It seems to us that McKay exemplifies the kind of spirit that a coach should show. He knows the game, has a sense of good sportsmanship, and a real sense of humor.

By the way, he's one of the best after-dinner speakers we've ever heard and will never forget one of the funny stories that he told at a dinner meeting in the valley a number of years ago about an alleged character named Jim Bailey. It seemed to go on forever but got funnier all the time. John seemed scared to death when he got up to talk, but it was all part of his act. He used kind of a minor key voice that contributed to the humor of the stories he told. Too bad all Southern Californians don't take McKay's attitude on the Bowl selection.

Wonder what will happen in Southern California if OSU beats Michigan? It will probably ruin a lot of pre-conceived vindictive sports pages that the newspapers there will have cooked in advance!

THE GAZETTE-TIMES gets some 50 or 60 newspapers on an exchange basis with other papers, and they furnish some real good reading if a person can find time to sit down and go through them.

A mystery was turned up by an elk hunter from Bond, according to a story in the Wallowa County Chieftain of Enterprise. The hunter, Bill Snider, shot a cow elk, and in its mouth was a partial denture plate with three front teeth, a roof and some hooks and wires.

Now everyone is trying to figure out how the elk got the artificial plate. Some think that the animal might have been one caught for checking and banding and that the game commission might have found teeth missing and provided the plate. Others figure that some scared or incensed hunter might have expelled the plate when the animal might have charged him, and still others with more morbid minds theorize that the animal may have dispatched and consumed some unfortunate hunter, clear down to the dentures.

In any event, the Chieftain's story draws this conclusion, "An elk hunter should keep his mouth shut!"

AND DON MOFFATT'S Mill City Enterprise of last Thursday's issue carried the story of an inebriated driver whose car slammed into a power pole and sheared it. After breaking the

### TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:  
My letters to the Gazette-Times containing the names of some of the old timers, with the amount of the property taxes they paid seemed to interest quite a few people from the letters I have received. Even my brothers and sister have been sending me names. Following is another list of names of pioneers who paid taxes some years before the Heppner flood: Henry Welch, \$3,105; A. W. Wright, \$4,000; W. H. Yerkes, \$1,975; David Baker, \$1,035; James M. Hamblet, \$1,155; C. E. Holland, \$1,415; John Jordan, \$3,030; E. G. Sperry, \$2,140; H. M. Thornton, \$3,940; Robert C. Willis, \$1,470; R. F. Willmot, \$1,015; J. L. Ayers, \$1,335; W. A. Ayers, \$1,640; Jerry Brosnan, \$3,645; C. R. Cates, \$3,235; Charles Cunningham, \$1,510; Ed. F. Day, \$5,355; James Daugherty, \$2,010; B. P. Daugherty, \$2,200; W. M. Douglas, \$4,000; Henry Jones, \$2,980; W. Ayers, \$3,630; Felix Johnson, \$3,375; Mrs. E. Kilcup, \$3,035; Walter Kilcup, \$1,200; Joe Luckman, \$3,565; B. B. Mann, \$3,200; John Molally, \$1,025; John Marshall, \$3,000; Towns Mathews, \$2,800; Hugh Fields, \$3,500; J. M. Waddell, \$1,130; Davis & Burgoyne, \$1,220; William Penland, \$45,600.

Next letter there will be more names of "old timers" that I know many Morrow county people will still remember, but they will have to be up in their years to do so.  
Sincerely,  
O. M. Yeager  
Box 476  
Castle Rock, Wash.  
98611

pole, the driver went to sleep. When someone found him and aroused him, his first comment was, "I'm going to sue the city!"  
Said the Enterprise, "That would have been quite a feat as he was in the county."

THEY SAY that Santa Claus came into a Washington city Friday via parachute from a plane. He was supposed to land in a certain area, but winds carried him six blocks away and he found himself hanging in a tree with a sprained ankle.  
That's strange. We didn't see Santa hobbling around when he arrived here Saturday!

### To Attend Meet

Don Turner, Lexington, Morrow County Republican Central Committee chairman, will go to Salem on Saturday, December 5, for a meeting of the executive committee of the state Republican Central committee. He is chairman of the credentials committee. On Sunday, December 6, he will attend the general session of the central committee. The meetings are in the Marion Hotel.

### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

**JUNIOR CLASS PLAY**  
Friday, Saturday, Dec. 4 and 5  
High school multipurpose room.  
"Green Valley." Tickets \$1.50c.

**IONE COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**  
Sunday, Dec. 6, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.  
Willows Grange hall.  
Ham dinner, 12:30 to 2:00.  
Booths, Games, Drawing at 4 p.m.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH BAZAAR**  
Saturday, Dec. 5  
Episcopal Parish Hall  
Luncheon—11:30 to 1:30 p.m.  
Bazaar items on sale from 11:30 a.m.

**HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL**  
First games of season  
Friday, Dec. 11  
DeSales at Walla Walla  
Saturday, Dec. 12  
Enterprise at Heppner

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### The Hummel Report

On the face of it, Dr. Errett Hummel's recommendation for a site midway between Boardman and Irrigon for the Riverside school might seem to be a compromise solution designed neither to hurt nor enhance either of the two communities.

Any such conclusion, it seems to us, would do an injustice to the professional integrity of Dr. Hummel. When he took the task of making the impartial study of the situation in the northern part of the county, he made it clear that one thing would be paramount in his mind—the education of the students in the area to be served.

His decision, which has been accepted by the board of directors, seems entirely logical, sound and true to his announced purpose; so much so, in fact, that it now seems strange that the problem loomed so big for the past three years. The proposal for a junior-senior high school, with grades 7 to 12, has understandable merit in our county of light population, since it would bring more students under one roof with the consequent advantage of being able to offer a broader and better educational program for those attending the school.

His recommendation that each city have a school for grades one through six would mean that the small youngsters would be provided education without need for transportation for long distances. Each community would have a school of its own that would fill the role as a local center.

It is only natural that there would be some disappointment in each of the cities in not obtaining, or in losing, the high school, whichever the case may be. However, when Dr. Hummel presented his report at the school board meeting recently, his reasons quite obviously were pointed towards the welfare of the students in the area, and it is pretty hard to argue with such reasoning when the school district is organized for the education of children.

His recommendation brings up some new concepts here, such as the trend towards junior high schools in the county; and it broaches some new problems, the first apparent one being the question, "Can the district finance construction of the new Riverside school and the six-year elementary school in Boardman with the some \$900,000 it will have available?"

Supt. David Potter believes that this will come very close to doing the job, but when it comes to construction, no one can be fully certain until specifications have been drawn and bids are in.

It was interesting to see reaction of those from the north end in attendance at Dr. Hummel's report meeting. Most were in accord with his recommendation. In fact, he was given a hearty round of applause which recognized a thorough and painstaking job. His comment that all Morrow people must recognize that they have common interests and must work together as one community is certainly appropriate and goes much broader than just in the county's educational system. It is a good theme to remember from now on. At the same time it is hoped that those involved will forget any controversy that might have aroused animosities over the location of the school.

Dr. Hummel's complete report, embracing 103 typewritten pages, is quite an amazing document considering the short time he had to prepare it. He has made what appears to be an exhaustive study of the entire district and the report is considerably broader than many had expected it would be. The educator points out, however, that a problem such as the location of the Riverside school has an interrelation to concepts throughout the entire district; hence, when a recommendation is made on such a problem, it necessarily has a correlation to the whole system.

Dr. Hummel's report will give the district some real meat to chew on for a long time to come. It was made clear when the report was accepted that this did not mean that all the individual recommendations are being approved by the directors. This just could not be possible. There are too many ramifications that require stringent study.

The least that can be said for the report in general is that it does give a good objective look at the county's educational system by an impartial professional person. It thereby sets up a proposed general course that could be used as a guide for future development to the extent that the district finds the recommendations feasible. Dr. Hummel's frank and forthright method of presenting it was refreshing.

### Teen Seamers Choose Officers for Year

The Teen Seamers 4-H club of Ione elected officers at the first meeting of the year, October 24. Officers are: Kathy Keene, president; Maureen McElligott, vice president; Merri Lee Jacobs, secretary-treasurer; Deniece Matthews, news reporter, and Teresa Tucker, recreation leader. Our leader is Mrs. Keith Rea.

Mrs. Robert Hoskins was a guest at our last meeting on November 14. She talked to us on the district "Sew It With Wool" contest. Mrs. Hoskins told us that there was not only a lot of competition but a lot of fun involved in the contest.

We met again November 28 at Maureen McElligott's home. Deniece Matthews, reporter

### Arrington Family Moves to Heppner

Mrs. Darlene Arrington and her three daughters, Katherine, Dale Ann and Bonnie Lynn, arrived here Friday from Moses Lake, Wn., with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wise.

Widowed recently when her husband, S/Sgt. Ed Arrington, lost his life when an Air Force B52 bomber crashed near Glasgow, Mont., and claimed the lives of sixty other airmen, Mrs. Arrington has purchased the Grace Nickerson home and plans to make her home here. She and her children will stay with her parents until the house becomes available. The two older daughters, Katherine and Dale Ann, were enrolled at Heppner Elementary school, Monday.



### Have you priced a tiger lately?

Take the GTO, for instance. Comes with 335 hp. Or 360 at extra cost. Plus bucket seats, Carpeting, Walnut dash. And like that. Yet it sells for less than a lot of pussycats with imitation stripes. Then there's the Le Mans. Same kind of pizzazz. Same kind of crackle. Same kind of low price. Slightly smaller teeth. So price a tiger.

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