

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Ready For A New Start

With the coming of the new year, probably most of us look back on old 1964 with the feeling that it treated our citizenry rather badly. Certainly the biggest news story of the year, which came late in December, was not a good one—that of the disastrous flood. It was a holiday spoiler and brought misery and hardship for many.

Decline of farm income shows that it wasn't a good year for agriculture with cattle prices being down and wheat growers also showing a decrease of income. Property taxes continued to edge upward, and business had only a fair year in Morrow county.

Death claimed some of our more prominent citizens and accidents took a toll.

Capricious weather was noted, not only in the December storm, but in the Alaska earthquake, which threatened to dry up the grain crop. Ranchers were kept guessing in the fall, too, when rains were late and held up their seeding. Then it came! Many still haven't been able to plant and prospects are for the heaviest spring seeding in history, aggravated by a shortage of seed.

That's a part of the black side of 1964. These things tend to overshadow the good, but let's give the old year some credit.

The rains did come in June and saved the crop at the last moment. The December storm didn't treat Morrow county as badly as it did others. Retail business closed out on a good note in December, tending to nullify a fall slump. Effect of the new wheat grading regulations didn't turn out as badly as had been feared by grain growers.

Remember, too, that this was the year that the Boeing project became a reality on the industrial site in the northern part of the county. While taxes went up slightly, the county's assessed valuation also climbed considerably. The Willow Creek dam project continued to gain momentum and is closer to reality with its promise of flood control, recreation, irrigation, wildlife refuge and other benefits, all of which will contribute to a better economy.

Progress was made on the educational front, and the report of Dr. Errett Hummel provided a guide for long range planning. The controversy that marked school affairs here in previous years was tempered in 1964, and residents appeared to be pulling together better than at any time since the countywide district was formed. Morrow residents, too, gave strong support to Blue Mountain college and this backing contributed to the progress the new community college is making.

There was some local progress on the industrial front with Heppner Lumber Company expanding and bringing an ever-increasing payroll (although absorbing a punishing blow at Spray in the December storm). Kinzua Corporation rolled on with full operation, adding its continued great stability to the economy.

There were individual achievements in many areas, too many to list. Milton Morgan of Ione led the Oregon Wheat League as president in a critical year, and others from Morrow county were prominent in state and national activities of the wheat growers.

Old 1964, too, had the excitement of a presidential election year. Results were interpreted as good by the winners and bad by the losers. Democrats in Morrow county were exultant when they topped Republicans in registration for the first time, but the GOP members, of course, looked on this development with misgivings. In any event, the county had a fine voting record, percentage-wise, and probably nowhere in the state was there greater interest in political activity than here.

There was some fun in 1964, too. Another great celebration came in fair and rodeo week with one of the best rodeo parades in history, and Heppner merchants staged a very successful Sidewalk Bazaar in July that brought a carnival spirit. Recreation front showed development with Arbuckle Mountain ski run being improved and Wright Memorial park being developed.

Athletic teams in the county made fine records. Championships were hard to come by for the county's high schools, but our teams were also right near the top in competition. Dick Ruhl's performance as a football player for Oregon State University was a notable achievement on the athletic front.

Hunters had a fine fall with a goodly percentage getting their deer and elk, although the bird hunting wasn't so good. The Heppner Ranger district made progress with its "forest city" being expanded and developed into a first-class work station at Tupper. There were no serious forest fires, and this was one great blessing that 1964 afforded.

So, old 1964, leaving somewhat scarred and bruised, wasn't such a bad old guy after all. He provided many challenges, and the significant thing is how the citizenry arose to meet them with resiliency, cooperation and in a spirit of neighborliness. Without these challenges, it would be a pretty drab life indeed.

But the new year finds everyone ready for a fresh start and looking and working for better things ahead. In our local government, some of our experienced people have retired with their achievements behind them and new leaders are stepping forward with a desire for accomplishment.

When 1965 passes into history a year from now, it, too, shall have given some disappointments, but at this point we can all look forward with expectations of a real year of progress and culmination of plans started.

Unordered Merchandise

(From "It's Your Law," column of the Oregon State Bar) Suppose the mailman delivers to you a package containing a necktie—or a book, key-ring tags or a phonograph record—that you didn't order. Either with it, or by later mail, is a bill or request to remit the price.

What are your obligations, assuming you don't want the merchandise? Must you return it? Can you use it and not pay for it? Must you keep it, or can you throw it away?

Generally speaking, recipients of unordered merchandise are under no obligation (a) to return it; (b) to acknowledge its receipt; (c) to pay for it unless used; (d) to give it any particular care; or (e) to keep it beyond a reasonable time.

You are obligated to surrender the merchandise if called for in person by the shipper or his agent within a reasonable time. But you can demand storage charges before surrendering the item. If you mail it back at your own expense, you very likely will stay on the sender's mailing list and will receive other shipments in the future.

There are no postal regulations governing unordered merchandise, except where fraud is involved. However, if you know what is in the envelope or package, you can write "REFUSED" across the face of the piece of mail and hand it back unopened to the mailman. No further explanation is required. You don't have to accept any class of mail. Further, your refusal probably will result in the sender having to pay return postage.

A ruling by the Federal Trade Commission holds it a violation of the Federal Trade Act for a sender of unordered merchandise to claim that "the receiver is under obligation . . . to pay for or return the merchandise." Hence if you don't use the merchandise, you are within your rights in refusing to pay for it.

In summary, unless you want to use the item, in which case you should pay for it, you should keep it for a time and then may throw it away. (Oregon lawyers offer this column as a public service.)

What Medicare Would Not Do

(From Industrial News Review)

One wonders how many people—and especially those in the 65-and-over age group—actually know what Medicare would and would not do.

It seems apparent that the number is comparatively small—and that most people, if Medicare is ever adopted, will be depressingly surprised at its limitations.

As U. S. News and World Report points out, "Even the name is a misnomer . . . The very term Medicare is raising expectations that will not be met in the opening plan."

Medicare does not—repeat not—cover physician's bills or dentist's bills. It does not pay for needed drugs when given in a hospital or a nursing home. And, of course, it would do nothing for those under 65, except tax them heavily to pay for it.

Medicare is essentially a hospitalization plan. And even in that it is severely restricted. It would pay the whole bill for only 45 days. The maximum hospital stay for which it would provide benefits would be 180 days and then the patient would have to pay part of the bill.

Ironically, despite all the vastly exaggerated claims made by some Medicare advocates, the existing Kerr-Mills law, which provides aid to the needy under a federal-state arrangement, is more liberal and inclusive. So are various local welfare plans, public and private. And the medical profession has pledged itself to serve any who need attention, regardless of the ability to pay.

The last Congress found Medicare wanting and refused to approve it.

Judge Peterson Issues Statement as Term Expires

Judge Oscar Peterson who left office as county judge officially on Monday after serving seven years in that capacity, has issued a statement to the public as he retires from the position.

It is as follows: "We are now at the end of another calendar year, at the end of a period when we might take a reconnaissance of what has been accomplished and reflect a bit on what might have been done better. For me, it might be an end to public service, at least so far as political service is concerned, that began some seven years ago. This bothers me just a little because I am extremely interested in much of the work I have been doing and feel that I want to continue on in much of this same work."

"So far as losing out politically is concerned, it can very well be said, I asked for it. Where it hurts me to lose, it can also be a gain in disguise. There is always someone to finish what we have begun. I certainly hope that will be the case with the several projects that I have begun, and I believe it will be."

"They say I am getting old. And I am. The ironic part about it, though, is that I don't feel old. I am happy about that. I have always enjoyed good health and certainly am thankful for it. There is much work still to be done in developing some of the resources of our Morrow county. There are battles to be fought for the promotion of the best interests of the development of our county. I still want to be along in the front line."

"In the development of roads, recreational resources (of which we have many), and the bringing of industrial development into our county, the program is actually just beginning. Our agricultural and livestock economy is pretty well developed, but even here there is room for improvement. I am intensely interested in the highest and best use studies that are now being made by our county planning and zoning committee, as well as the studies being made by the six-county group, the Mid-Columbia Planning Council. These groups are particularly interested in looking toward the future for what might be the best use of an area that is just on the eve of development. The potential in Morrow county is tremendous and we must look toward the future and plan wisely."

"Water is a great asset. We have it. Water can certainly make a mess of things also. We have just seen some of that in the past few days. While it might be called an Act of God, that type of water use is devastating. I can recall what E. R. Jackman, who was farm crops specialist with Oregon State extension service, said a few years ago, 'One bad runoff can cause more damage and loss to our agricultural lands than 100 years of cropping.' We certainly can see glaring examples of that here in our south Morrow county this year. In fact, we can see it over the entire county. Certainly it hurts to see



JUDGE OSCAR PETERSON

how much destruction has come about to our summer fallowed fields because of the erosion. Also to roads and bridges. I have been in Morrow county a long time but never have seen anything quite like this.

"As I said, water is an asset for us in the fields of irrigation and recreation and certainly should be a point for study in the highest and best use studies. I believe it is being done, but we all need to help."

"This was supposed to be a sort of 'swan song' but I recognize now I have rambled quite a bit. Morrow county is my home and I intend to continue to make it that. It is the place of my nativity. I have many friends and I appreciate them. They are in Morrow county and I will want to continue to serve them and all the people of our area in some different capacity."

"As I now leave the office of county judge, I will say that I will still remain with you and certainly want to thank you all for the fine support you have given me always."

"I also wish to ask you, my friends, to support my successor and those who will be carrying the work here on the county level. Alone, it is difficult to do much, but we can really go places by working together. Let's continue to do that."



Salem Scene

By Robert L. Darnedde

During the past three legislative sessions—and at the recent general election—attempts to reform and up-date Oregon's Workmen's Compensation law have been high on the list of controversial subjects.

Since the election, however, where voters defeated a monopolistic plan initiated by the Oregon AFL-CIO, controversy has somewhat lessened, because election results have been interpreted as a directive from the people that a competitive workmen's compensation law as desired.

Accordingly, the Fair Workmen's Compensation Committee, which coordinated the campaign against ballot measure No. 3, began drafting a bill consistent with campaign promises.

Farmers, contractors, physicians and business and industrial leaders joined to draft the bill in an effort to obtain broad general agreement on its provisions. Consulting with the State Industrial Accident Commission as to what would be most administratively feasible, the committee has completed a bill with increased benefits and wider coverage under a competitive system for introduction during the first day of the session.

Specifically, the bill completely separates conflicting functions of the commission which presently acts as judge and jury, as well as payer.

Insurance company functions would be transferred to a new accident insurance department under a manager appointed by the Governor. The judicial function would be a review board appointed by the Governor, and the remaining regulatory, enforcement and administrative functions would be left with the

State Industrial Accident Commission. The bill provides for uniform guaranteed benefits to all injured workmen at the same statutory schedule of disability payments and the same full unlimited medical and hospital protection plan. At the same time, it protects employers from liability for damage or negligent actions under the Employer's Liability Law.

Increased benefits of roughly 18% per cent in each category—death, permanent disability, permanent partial disability, and temporary total disability—are also provided. Certain farmers, home-owners, and employers having less than three employees would be exempt from the act, but could participate if they so desired.

Additionally, improved accident prevention programs, claims handling procedures, hearing and appeals procedures and the broadening and extension of special programs makes the committee's proposal as comprehensive and modern as possible.

Meanwhile, the AFL-CIO announced it will not submit a comprehensive workmen's compensation bill but, instead, will ask for an increase in benefits of 25 per cent—6% per cent higher than the provision in the initiative proposal; extensions of five years of the time for filing aggravated injury claims; an increase in employee contributions to finance a retroactive relief fund, and group rates.

Although the legislature will work for speedy and efficient session, the bill drafted by the Fair Workmen's Compensation Committee will get careful and complete consideration by the legislature and will, no doubt, receive favorable judgment.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHAT DOES 1965 hold in store?

We don't exactly know, but here are a few things we don't expect during the new year:

Barney Malcom, Spray's leading industrialist and Heppner's leading stud manufacturer, being down in the dumps about anything.

Bill Collins giving up bowling to devote full time to his new duties on the city council.

Southern California sports writers praising Oregon teams and athletes for a great effort.

The office of Turner, Van Marter and Bryant being used as a meeting place for Ladies Aid Society.

First Chief Charles Ruggles sleeping through a midnight alarm.

Police Chief Dean Gilman tagging overparked cars every day.

Randall Peterson entering the Northwest Amateur bronc riding championship at the Morrow county rodeo.

The Union Pacific depot with a new coat of paint.

County Agent Nels Anderson punching a time clock.

Clint McQuarrie giving up coffee drinking in favor of another arm climbing a fence on a fishing trip.

Father Bruce Spencer driving a big four-door sedan.

Orville Cutsforth complaining because taxes are too low.

Claude Cox catching a 18 lb. steelhead in Ditch Creek.

Bill Weatherford joining the Ku Klux Klan.

Red Leonard calling a special city election in Lexington.

Boardman and Irrigon consolidating their city governments.

Harold Erwin wearing a derby hat and spats.

Al Lamb changing his registration to Republican and Don Turner writing a letter to the editor praising him for it.

Vi Lanham without a smile.

Jim Farley lobbying for an increase in unemployment insurance rates.

Max Barclay and Sid Murray giving up raising quarter horses to start a Morrow county kennel club with Roice Fullerton as manager and Charley Daly as trainer.

IT COULDN'T have been too bad down south on New Year's day. Clint McQuarrie came back with a smile and Dr. McMurdo came back with laryngitis. Apparently the doctor shouted his best support for OSU and Clint can still be philosophical about it.

Apparently all those who went down had a good time despite the reversal in the Bowl. The McQuarries had opportunity to visit with quite a few Michigan people, and they had a good time ribbing each other before the game and the Oregonians found that the Michiganers didn't rub it in afterwards. Most of the agitation came from sportswriters who hopped on the defeat as a chance to pour it on with some (to them) delightfully degrading copy.

It was cold down south, too, Clint said. When they got out to watch the Rose Parade in early morning there was ice on the bleachers. At the Bowl game he succeeded in getting a sun burn, but as soon as the sun went down they about froze to death.

While it was a sad day for OSU, it must have been greatly relished by the midwesterners. A block of 18,000 seats was reserved for them and they had 50,000 applicants.

Getting away from the game was some chore. The McQuarries

spent some time eating hotdogs while watching the departing motorists battle to cross the one small bridge out in the parking lot.

Notwithstanding the 34-7 score against the Beavers, there isn't any reason to mourn. Oregon State wasn't even rated at all at the start of the season and came a long way. Their defeat in the bowl, though disappointing, wasn't much worse than they administered to mighty Syracuse, 31 to 13.

Dick Ruhl has given us a real good year, and his home town supporters have enjoyed the excitement and thrills he created, as well as the attention he brought to Morrow county. Heppner got prominent national mention over TV through him.

It was a great thing to have a local representative in the big game and it was no discredit to lose to a team like Michigan. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ruhl, who were there watching, can be very proud of Dick.

Wouldn't it have been nice if just one of those southern sportswriters had been man enough and had the courage to say, "OSU is our representative and we're for them 100%. If they lose, we know they did their best against a superior team." Yep, they're real big that way.

IT'S A NICE thing at holiday time when all the grown or growing-up kids come home for Christmas but it is mighty quiet after they leave. The Bernard Dohertys now have two in college and one in service. Mrs. Doherty says that it seemed so eerie when all left Sunday and she was alone at home Monday, that she had to turn television on full blast to keep her company.

COACH BOB CLOUGH and his basketball boys have been going great guns so far this season with four straight wins to date, but we hope the hex hasn't been put on them. They have been getting some pretty good attention in wire service and daily newspaper polls, one giving them five votes this week. Quite often that seems to put a linx on the team, and Bob himself says he would just as soon not be rated in the polls. Just forget the polls, kids, and keep on the way you're going.

Six students from Morrow county are listed on fall term honor rolls at Blue Mountain Community college, Pendleton, according to announcement from the college. On the high honor roll are: Wayne Hams, Ione, drafting, 3.67; and Henrietta Tatum, Heppner, practical nursing, 3.60.

On the dean's honor roll are: Elnora Marlow, Irrigon, lower division, 3.00; Cheryl Witherpoon, Irrigon, business, 3.20; Archie Ball, Heppner, mechanical tech., 3.43; and Jane Mattair, Heppner, practical nursing, 3.26.

The Paul Jones home was the scene of a large holiday family gathering that included the presence of Mr and Mrs. C. M. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Jones and family, Mr. and Mrs. Keithley Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graybeal and family, Toppensish, Wn., Mr. and Mrs. Jon Blake, Kent, Wn., Mr. and Mrs. Gary Jones and family, Hood River, and Miss Loma Mae Jones from Indiana.

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Six from Morrow Earn BMC Honors

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Tuberculin Tine Tests Scheduled For Three Grades

A tuberculosis case-finding program is planned for Morrow county schools for the month of January by the Morrow County Health Department under the direction of Dr. L. D. Tibbles, health officer. A signed consent slip from the parent or guardian is necessary before the tests can be given.

Grades scheduled for Tuberculin Tine-testing are 1, 7 and 12. Parents will be notified of positive reactions found when the tests are read and a follow-up chest x-ray recommended.

Materials for Tuberculin Tine-testing are provided by the Morrow County TB and Health Association through Christmas Seal sales.

Proposed schedule for testing is as follows: January 19 at Heppner schools, January 26 at Ione schools, and February 2 at Irrigon and Boardman schools.

Lt. Dennis Doherty Reports for Duty

Second Lieutenant Dennis Doherty, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Doherty, left Portland Monday for Fort Gordon, Georgia, where he has been assigned to the Signal Corps after receiving his ROTC commission at the University of Oregon. He graduated with the class of 1964 at the university.

Lt. Doherty expects to be assigned to Korea in March for two years. He has been at home part of the time since graduation and was with his parents and other members of the family through the Christmas holidays.

Need scratch pads? Get them at the Gazette-Times.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
Friday, January 8
Heppner at Pilot Rock
Tuesday, January 19
Ione at Heppner
Jayvee game, 6:30 p.m.
Varsity game, 8:00 p.m.
Support the Mustangs!

HEPPNER PTA
Regular meeting Wednesday,
Jan. 13, 8 p.m. High School
Multipurpose room.

FIRST AID CLASSES
Starting Tuesday, January 12,
Junior High Library, 7:30
p.m. Standard and Advanced
Red Cross First Aid.

4-H LEADER'S BANQUET
Wednesday, Jan. 27, 6:30
p.m. Episcopal Parish hall.

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