

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## Our Champions Go to State!

Our exultation is showing, this we know, but we have no apologies!

Heppner High has won the district basketball championship by dint of hard work and determination, and the achievement is great. A good many fans who watched them come on so strongly late in the season had the confidence that they could make the state tournament, and the championship at La Grande thus came as no surprise to them.

They have been dubbed the "Cinderella" team, and in this case, it's a fitting title. They did come from "rags to riches" after losing the first three league games of the season. They had to battle mightily for a third place tie in the western division.

They've earned every bit of what they've won and they did it the hard way. In the past two weeks they have, in order, defeated Burns, which was tied for third in the western division; downed Enterprise, second in the eastern division; defeated Pilot Rock, first in the west; and Grant Union, second in the west. Nyssa, first in the eastern division, was the only one of the kinglypins that the Mustangs didn't face and defeat, this because Grant Union knocked the Bulldogs out of the running.

Now, as the Heppner team goes to the state tournament, they will enter as underdogs—a good position for a fighting outfit to be in. They have been so underrated that the state officials didn't even bother to send them information on the state tournament—it all went to Pilot Rock and Grant Union.

Heppner hasn't been jinxed by being ranked in the polls through the season. Statistically, their record didn't justify a rating, but some sportswriters are now wising up and have rated them 10th in the state.

With a record of 16-7, the Mustangs will enter the meet with the poorest statistics of any of the eight district champions. Probably any of the other seven, not really knowing their ability, would like to have drawn Heppner—an honor that goes to Dayton for the opening round.

This gives our boys a psychological advantage, and they are just the kids who know how to make the most of this chance. Our wager is that they are going to pull some surprises in Coos Bay, just as they did at La Grande.

As a young team, Heppner is going up and up. Many teams peak in mid-season. Heppner did not. We don't think it has hit its peak yet. This could come in the state classic.

It's a fine start for Coach Bob Clough in his first year at Heppner. It's fine for the morale of the school, and it brings exhilaration to the entire community. It has been a long time since the state B tournament of 1955!

Those who get to follow the team to Coos Bay are to be envied. For those of us who stay behind, though, three firms are going to make it possible to get in on the play-by-play. The Bank of Eastern Oregon, Morrow County Grain Growers and Heppner TV Inc. are sharing the cost of bringing all the games via FM on channel 3 on TV, audio only. This is the same channel that now carries the music without picture.

What a nice thing to do! This is the kind of support for which the school and coaches are so grateful—the kind that has helped make such a team as we have this year.

At La Grande, Heppner demonstrated it was the best team to represent district 7-A-2. They will give it their all at Coos Bay.

## Visitors Enjoy Museum

A story last week reported that 1100 visitors signed the guest register at the fine Morrow county museum in the year ending June 1, 1964. They came from 150 towns and cities and from 20 states and three other countries.

The museum and library, given by Mrs. Amanda Duvall, in memory of her husband, Harry Duvall, and daughter, Erma, is a fine tourist attraction. Those who come to town as guests of our residents and who are really interested in learning something of Morrow county's history readily become absorbed in going through the old pictures, antiques, and items on display.

Dedicated in 1960, the museum had some 1200 articles on display by the following year, and there must be many more than that by now.

The library-museum building is a striking structure to the newcomer, and there are many other small towns in the state who would dearly love to have such a facility.

While the library is a valuable aid to learning and source of continuous enjoyment for those who like to read, the museum is providing a valuable service by preserving our history.

If you haven't been to the library-museum lately, it would be a good idea to drop in for a visit and reflect, with appreciation, how nice it is to have it here.

The library gets good use, but only a small part of the use that it could be if more of us took a little time to discover what it really offers through its more than 5,000 volumes.

If friends come for a week-end, be sure to take them to the library-museum. The museum side is open Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday afternoon. If they come in mid-week and want to see it, Mrs. Rachel Harnett, curator, will undoubtedly make arrangements to open it.

## June, 1903, Paper Tells of Flood

Original papers printed at the time of the Heppner flood are getting more scarce as time goes by. Many front pages, which reflect the horror of the catastrophe, have been reproduced but the originals, which many have held as keepsakes, seem to be getting in shorter supply.

Harry Smith brought in a copy to the Gazette-Times this week of the Heppner Gazette of June 18, 1903, reporting "Days of Sorrow in Heppner," as the banner headline. "Awful Destruction of Life and Property Caused by Cloudburst," "141 Bodies Have Been Recovered," "The Dead and Missing Number About 250-2000 Men Now Engaged in Relief Work Here."

The paper is addressed to Jos. Luckman, who apparently was a subscriber at the time.

The front page is familiar to old timers who may have copies of it or have seen it reproduced, but seeing it again never fails to deliver an impact on the reader.

# Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THOSE of our readers who aren't interested in basketball may not think they are getting their money's worth in this issue of the G.T., but we feel that the Heppner High basketball team, the cheer leaders, drill team, band, coaches and staff have made a great showing, and we just have to more or less dedicate this paper to them. That means also taking a good share of the space in the paper.

It isn't just their athletic victory that is important but the manner and determination in which they set out to do a job—and did it—and the good sportsmanship that they have shown all the way.

AT THE district tournament in La Grande, where our kids were crowned champions, there were so many Heppner people that it seemed everyone was there. Chief of Police Dean Gilman and Officers Pat and John Mollahan were not present though. Apparently someone had to stay home and prevent looting in the nearly-evacuated town!

PROBABLY THE most touching point of the tournament for Heppnerites came during the Nyssa-Pilot Rock game for third place Saturday night. The Mustangs had defeated the Rockets Friday night and thus knocked the western division champions of the Greater Oregon league out of the tournament.

Led by the vivacious Heppner cheerleaders—Karen McCurdy, Barbara Gribble, Barbara Blake and Ann Brindle, who have done such a great job all year—the Mustang rooters stood up and cheered for the Rockets. This was met with roaring applause from the Rocket side and one unidentified Pilot Rock man was moved to respond by standing alone and shout, "Hooray for Heppner!"

This proved to be the keynote for sportsmanship in the tournament. Heppner was solid in backing the Rockets the rest of the way, and Pilot Rock cheered for Heppner all through the final game.

WHILE EXULTANT at the Mustangs' victories, there probably was not a Heppner supporter in the place who didn't feel a tinge of sadness for the Rockets, particularly because of their great player, Rich Mikel, who by popular consensus is undoubtedly the best man in both divisions of the Greater Oregon League and probably one of the top players in any league this year east of the Cascades. He could play, as one person put it, on any high school basketball team anywhere.

Mikel, not only a fine athlete with many fine sports skills, is also a smooth operator and a fine sport. In the three games we saw him play against Heppner, we never saw him "grouse" once.

He had a fine tournament, making a total of 45 points, and when he left the Nyssa game Saturday night with five personals, he was given a standing ovation by Pilot Rock and Heppner supporters, as well as many others in the gym.

As he came to the bench, it was only natural that he had to dab at his eyes with a towel to control his emotions. It was his last high school game. There would be no state tournament for Rich Mikel, but everyone hopes he will have a fine career ahead.

ALTHOUGH ONE sports writer called Heppner's win over Pilot Rock "an upset" (and it might be considered that since the Rockets had won three in a row over the Mustangs), Coach Bob Clough's boys actually have outscored the Rockets, 208 points to 207, in the 4-game total. That, incidentally, shows how evenly matched the two teams are. The Rockets victories have been 55-50, 54-51 and 49-46, with Heppner claiming the important game, 61-49, the 12 point separation being the only sizable margin of the series.

SPIRIT OF THE players was best manifested where few of the crowd had an opportunity to observe it. After the Heppner-Pilot Rock game, everyone of the Rockets and coaches came to the Heppner dressing room and congratulated everyone of the Heppner players and wished

them well in the state tournament.

After the Heppner-Grant Union game, every member of the Prospectors and the coaches came to the Mustang dressing room and did the same thing.

"This was something that made us real proud to be in coaching," Athletic Director Pete Glennie said later.

NYSSA'S BULLDOGS brought a little touch of nostalgia to the G-T publishers. The editor and Mrs. Sherman became acquainted teaching at Nyssa High, he in the commercial studies room and she (as Helen Stevens) in home ec across the hall.

Though this was back more years than we like to believe, many of the Bulldogs' yells are the same, and some of the basketball players have familiar names (they could even be sons of those we taught)—Kerby, Wyckoff, Mauding, indeed, Dr. K. E. Kerby, who delivered our first beer, Dick, in the old Nyssa Nursing home, was a spectator at the game, and we had just a moment to reminisce with him.

Nyssa's yelling section really went all out. Their band is a crack outfit and accepted an invitation to appear in the January 1 Pasadena Rose Parade, making the trip by dint of a great community effort. Unusual about the girls in the pep club is that they stand up all the way through a ball game. We found this out the hard way—sitting behind them Friday night. After the game was well underway, and the girls were still going through their standing routines, we tapped the nearest one on the shoulder and asked pleadingly, "Do you stand up all during the game?"

She fixed her sympathetic but solemn eyes on us and slowly nodded her head as if she were engaged in some awful crime. They tried to space themselves so those behind had a fighting chance to see, but they remained on their feet throughout the contest.

STU DICK, the best dribbler one will see in many a moon, is one of the hardest workers you'll see in basketball. In the final game, he was nearly blind when he came to the bench during a time out. He was perspiring so hard that it ran into his eyes, and we heard him tell the coach he couldn't see out of his right eye at all. His vision was good enough, though, for him to turn in his most sparkling game of the year.

All the kids were great—Carl Bauman, Wayne Evans, Gene Heliker, Jim Doherty, Bruce Spencer, Mac Hoskins, Bill Snyder, Jim Jacobs, Tim Driscoll, David Clark, Mark Brown and Dick.

As much as was the only one who didn't get in. He came to the varsity from the jayvees late in the year. Coach Clough tried to get him in with a few seconds left in the Grant Union game, but the play didn't break right for the officials to let him in and he stood waiting by the scorer's bench as the time ran out. A strong bench has been one of the real strengths of this year's team, though, and Brown has as much right to share in the championship as if he had the opportunity to show his stuff.

ANYONE who doesn't believe that a coach's wife lives every minute of the strain and pressure of the ball games, experiences the gloom and shares in the exultation, should have seen Mrs. Clough after the game. Her face was buried in her hands at the end of the championship game, and it took all her will-power to look up and stand up. When she finally stood up, tears were streaming down her face. However, hers weren't the only moist eyes in the gym.

## Food Sale Set

Hoof and Horn Livestock 4-H club will hold a food sale at Central Market Friday from 4 to 6 p.m., Dean Graves, leader, announces. Proceeds will be used for club activities.

OFFICE SUPPLIES, typewriters, adding machines—sales and service. In Heppner regularly. Standard Office Equipment. Call Gazette-Times, 676-9228

## Clean-up Day Among Garden Club Projects Planned at Meeting

IONE — The Ione Garden club met Tuesday, March 9, at the home of Mrs. Elmer Griffith with Mrs. Gene Pierce of Heppner as co-hostess.

Roll call, "A lovely garden I have seen, or would like to see," was answered by 16 members and two guests.

The club decided to add two new trees in the Woolery City Park, since the caretaker said there was room for the new plantings.

It was reported that during a conference with Mayor Charles O'Connor a clean-up day is planned for the city in the near future. Anyone with trash to be disposed of may pile it at the curbing and it will be picked up free of charge. Citizens are asked to watch for the dates and further instructions.

A number of junior gardeners have indicated a desire to grow flowers on a small plot of ground and make entries in the fall flower show from their gardens. Any children from 9 to 12 years old may contact Mrs. Ralph Crum, Mrs. Ernest Christopher, Jr. or Mrs. Herman Winter.

Mrs. E. C. Heliker gave a very interesting talk on the cultivation, fertilizing, selecting plants and seeds, and staking of the beautiful varieties of delphinium plants.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Oscar Lundell with Mrs. Edith Nicholson as co-hostess on April 13. The theme will be "Our National Forest Garden." Mrs. Fredrick Martin will lead the discussion. The annual plant sale and sale of food articles will be held all day on April 28 in the Melena Builders Supply sales room. Pie and coffee will also be served.

## Elks Ladies Meet For Social Evening

Eight tables of bridge and pinochle were in play during Ladies' Night activities last Thursday evening at the Elks' temple.

Pinochle winners were Mrs. Marvin Casebeer with high score, Mrs. Don Townsend, second high, and Mrs. Vera Keithley, winner of the door prize. Bridge prize winners included Mrs. Richard Wells, high, with Mrs. P. W. Mahoney, second high. The door prize for the bridge play went to Mrs. Robert Fielder.

Hostesses serving openface sandwiches with coffee during the evening were Mrs. Stacey Lovgren, Mrs. Bob Buschke, Mrs. Bob Mahoney and Mrs. Dick Robinson.

## Gene Harryman School Principal

Gene Harryman, former principal of Ione High school, will be principal of Comanche, Okla., High school for the year 1965-66, according to a clipping from The Comanche News. Harryman was named to the position at a school board meeting in early March.

Comanche High school has 360 students. The town is located in south central Oklahoma. Harryman, who was Ione High principal from 1962 to 1964, was recommended by Supt. Charles Holleyman, who said, "His interaction with students, faculty and community in the short time he has been here is tremendous."

## Rainbow Girls Plan Annual Spring Prom

Preparations are underway by members of Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow Girls, to make the annual spring formal, set for Friday evening, March 26, an outstanding event of the current year.

"Live music" will add to the gaiety of the evening with the presence of the "Igniters," a band from Hood River, coming for the event. The dance will be held in the American Legion Hall from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Open to the public, admission will be \$3 for couples and \$1.50, singles. Tickets will be distributed through Shirley Erwin in the high school and Linda Orwick in the grade school. They may also be purchased at the Bank of Eastern Oregon the week of March 22-26, or at the door.

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### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL State A-2 Tournament Heppner vs. Dayton, Monday, 7:30 p.m. Coos Bay gym March 22, 23, 24

TRAVELING FOOD SALE Ruth Assembly, Rainbow for Girls, Saturday, March 20 Benefit for Spring Formal

SKIERS' SPRING CARNIVAL Arbutle Mt. Sunday, March 28. Fun for all ages. No bus run on Saturdays.

BLOOD BANK DRAWING Register now with Mrs. Orville Cutsforth or Rev. Billy Alsop. Drawing Monday, March 29, Elks Temple.

SPRING VACATION For all county schools, March 20-29.

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## Thank You!

As we close our Red and White Grocery here we wish to thank all our customers for their patronage. Because of the many fine associations that we have enjoyed in our 10 years of business in this location, this has been a most pleasant time in our lives. We extend sincere appreciation to all who have helped make it so and wish the best to everyone.

—Roy and Melba Quackenbush

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## Benefit Evening Set

The Rhea Creek Grange has scheduled its annual pancake supper and benefit public card party for Saturday, March 20, at the Grange hall, beginning at 6 p.m.

## Death Takes Mother Of Esther Kirmis

Mrs. Ida Kirmis, mother of the late Esther Kirmis, died February 21 at the Hillcrest Manor in Enderlin, N. D., according to Miss Adelheid Kirmis of Lisbon, N. D., another daughter.

The mother had been ill for about four years and lived just about nine months following her daughter's death in a Portland hospital. Esther Kirmis was county home extension agent here and was held in high esteem by many.

Adelheid Kirmis, in writing the Gazette-Times of Mrs. Kirmis' death, said that she realized many of Esther's former friends would want to be informed of the mother's passing.