

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ROCKHOUNDS had a blast at Opal Butte Sunday. In fact, they had three or four of them. Some of their group—more properly and sedately known as the Morrow County Gem and Mineral Society—went out to the butte and set off some dynamite charges, and others and their guests came along to sort through the rubble for opals.

They apparently did pretty well at it and set off a few more charges during the course of the day. This wasn't exactly the ideal way to uncover the opal because the blasts tended to shatter it, but it was a lot of fun anyway. They had a picnic lunch and made a regular holiday out of it.

A NEWS RELEASE came in from the U. S. Department of Commerce the other day, and in the upper left-hand corner was the notation, "This local news item was prepared by a Census Bureau Electronic computer and typed at 10 lines per second especially for the Heppner Gazette-Times."

The item was about 14 lines long, so that means it was prepared in about 1.4 seconds. Maybe we should say, "Shucks, that's nothing, McDivitt and White were a second off on their re-entry procedure and missed their mark by 46 miles." That's speed, isn't it.

At any rate, the electronic computer did considerably better than any secretary could do. The article was all in capital letters, so had to be rewritten. The best we could do was to type it in about 3 1/2 minutes.

One thing the note didn't tell us is how long the computer takes off for coffee breaks.

WINNING that thar Spray rodeo saddle brings moans from as far as Stayton where old compatriot and columnist Jack Powell laments, "Why is it that winnings in prize drawings always seem to be directly geared to the winners' lack of need? . . . The joker that wins the new sedan already has all his garage space taken up with his four other new cars. And the character with the 1927 Hudson and 12 kids couldn't win if he bought all the tickets that were printed. (Ed. Note—How about a conniving printer who prints the tickets himself? Heh, heh!)

"The guy that wins the boat comes from Dry Gulch, where the only water for 500 miles comes from artesian wells. Bachelors win a year's free diaper service; Spanish-American war vets win skateboards and pogo sticks; debt-ridden clerks with large families win glamorous trips to Bermuda.

"We . . . needs a saddle like we need a year's free service at a hair-twirling parlor. But maybe he can have it built onto a swivel chair."

Wal, now, hold on thar podner! We got a pitcher right-cher which shows us ridin' high in the saddle of a genuine hay-eatin' automobile. You just might get the surprise of yore life if you looked under the mask of the Lone Ranger.

Nope, we can't make an easy chair out of it, Jackson, it don't have no footstool on it. But just as one drug store cowboy to another, come on over to this hyar country, and we'll give y'all a chance to mount up on it, yeseif.

THINGS OUGHT TO work out pretty nicely Saturday. A person can go to community auction at lone and get bids in on all kinds of interesting items. He can have a fine barbecued beef feed at noon, continue the festivities in the afternoon and then come back to Heppner for the Boy Scout pancake feed in the evening.

There's a lot of fun promised at the auction, and a person can buy anything from half-hour airplane rides to the old Baptist church bell.

At the Scout's pancake supper, as we understand it (but can hardly believe it), you can feed the whole family for \$3. That's sure a bargain for any family with two kids or more.

Both the Lone United Church and the Boy Scouts causes are real worthy ones and deserve the best of community support.

QUITE SOME improvements

that we are seeing in the downtown section, and we hope the ball keeps rolling with more. Always seems that when someone starts it, someone else breaks loose with more improvements. Humphreys' expansion project is nearing completion, and this is going to be a fine big store for our downtown district.

Across the street, the Wagon Wheel and Heppner Auto Parts have a bright new red and white metal awning that brightens up Main street and will bring shade and shelter to the public, too. Cafe is brightening up inside, with new upholstery at the booths and new arrangement and decorations in the Chamber of Commerce (banquet) room.

Bud and Marvel Hebert at the Heppner Grill have been working along for weeks to redecorate their place of business, and the atmosphere is real cozy and comfortable with their unique ideas.

Ray Ayers and Matt Hughes of M and R worked hard in the hot sun, getting up the awning at the Wagon Wheel and Heppner Auto Parts, but their work surely looks nice.

Spauldings Enjoy Month Trip East

A week's visit with "Doc" Severinsen and Mrs. Severinsen (the former Yvonne Evans of Heppner) in New York, meeting Johnny Carson of the "Tonight Show," a visit to the World's Fair, a visit to the World's Fair at New Orleans, and watching a big league ball game in Houston's Astrodome.

These were some of the highlights of a trip across the United States and back enjoyed by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spaulding during the past month.

The Spauldings, long time friends of the Severinsens, spent a week at their home at Warwick, a suburb of New York City. They have a five-acre place there. The visitors attended two of the Tonight shows but had more fun attending rehearsals for the show. They met both Johnny Carson and Skitch Henderson while there.

Spaulding said that it is a 4-hour round trip commuting by auto from Severinsen's place to the television studio, and highway and bridge tolls total \$3.85 one way.

They went to the World's Fair one day, enjoyed it, but saw all they wanted to see in the single day. They did not find it necessary to wait long to see most of the exhibits.

At Washington, D. C., they took a sightseeing tour around the capital and then went on to Charleston, S. C., where they visited friends. At New Orleans, they met Mrs. Spaulding's sister and brother-in-law from Houston, Texas, and enjoyed touring the city with them. They heard Pete Fountain, formerly featured clarinetist with Lawrence Welk, and Al Hirt, and said that the French quartet "was really something."

The Spauldings had ordered a new car through a local dealer, picked it up on the trip and came home in it. They traveled across Texas to Phoenix, Ariz., where they had dinner one evening with Helen Graham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Graham of Heppner. She works in a bank there.

Continuing to Long Beach, Calif., to visit Spaulding's father, they found that he was quite seriously ill, so it was decided that Mrs. Spaulding would go home by airplane while Carl remained longer. She flew home last Wednesday and Carl arrived back Sunday.

At Houston, Texas, they had the pleasure of enjoying the comforts of the nationally-publicized Astrodome. The Astros played and lost to Cincinnati that day. It was very comfortable and the admission price was very reasonable, they said. The ceiling of the covered stadium had just been repaired again in an effort to solve the glare problem.

All in all it was a "wonderful" trip, Carl reported. "I'd go back in another two weeks if I could."

Local Students Get OSU Degrees

Five students from the Heppner area were graduated Sunday from Oregon State University.

A total of 2424 degrees—an all-time record—were conferred at the university's 96th annual commencement program. The total included 1830 bachelor's degrees, 495 master's degrees, and 99 doctor's degrees.

Members of the graduating class represented 34 Oregon counties, 34 states, and 36 foreign countries.

The five local graduates were:

Melvin Eugene Martin, lone, bachelor's degree, School of Agriculture; Robert Earl Akers, lone, School of Education; Jean Marie Martin Brazell, lone, School of Home Economics, and Dick and Susan Ruhl, Heppner, School of Education.

Martin and Miss Brazell are son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Martin; Akers is son of Mr. and Mrs. Berl Akers; Miss Ruhl is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. McQuarrie; and Ruhl is son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Ruhl.

Mrs. Ruggles' Brother Dies

Seral Searcy, 66, brother of Mrs. Charles Ruggles, died in Portland Saturday morning, June 5, following a stroke.

Mrs. Ruggles had gone to Portland Tuesday, June 1, after hearing of his serious illness. Later in the week he showed some improvement, and she returned home Saturday only to learn that he had died that day. Mrs. Ruggles went back to Portland Sunday to assist with funeral arrangements and Mr. Ruggles left Tuesday night for Portland.

Funeral services were Wednesday morning. Mr. Searcy was retired office manager for Mitchell, Lewis and Staver, a machinery company in Portland.

He is survived by the widow, Mrs. Ethel Searcy; a daughter, Mrs. Audrey Thorgerson of Santa Rosa, Calif., granddaughter, Sheryl Dewey of Santa Clara; three brothers, Morris Searcy of Portland, Owen Searcy of Salem, and John Searcy of Hillsboro; and two sisters, Nina Pinkerton of Moro, and Mrs. Ruggles of Heppner.

Mrs. Leta Thomas returned to her home in Heppner last Wednesday after spending the winter months at her trailer home in the Tucson Estates in Tucson, Ariz.

Eulenna Vaughn Writes of New Home

Mrs. Charles B. Vaughn (Eulenna Corley), now of Hayfork, Calif., has written to tell friends of her new home there. She sold her home in lone to Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Weaver of Irigoen, and the new owners plan to move into it during the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn went to Hayfork on June 1.

"Leaving Morrow county and telling all my wonderful friends 'Goodbye' was just too hard on me and I ended up in tears, so I left without too many knowing the exact time of my departure," she writes. "I know I will miss so many people there, but this is going to be a real happy life for me."

"The country is beautiful with so many lakes, mountains, camp grounds around that it will be an exciting life—doing something different and new nearly every day."

Mrs. Vaughn said that contractors are to begin construction on their new home this week.

"Naturally I am excited over this," she writes. "This is my first experience at planning and building a home, and it is a challenge."

Doctor on Trip To Alumni Reunion

Doctor A. D. McMurdo left last Tuesday by airplane for Virginia to attend the alumni reunion at the Medical School of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

In a card received from him Wednesday, he said that he arrived at Charlottesville on June 2 and visited with an older brother, Aston McMurdo, who will be 92 this month. The elder brother has been living on the McMurdo family place.

The Heppner doctor said that he spent six hours in Washington, D. C. Mrs. McMurdo said that she was expecting him home probably Thursday.

"Time has vanished like a shadow but every minute a joy," the doctor wrote on the card.

Abrams, Hughes Lead Hood Climb

Bob Abrams and Tom Hughes led a climb of the Mazama club on Mt. Hood over the week-end with 29 participating. They started at 1:30 a.m. Saturday and were off the mountain by 3 p.m., reporting a very beautiful climb.

Despite the fact that there was still considerable depth of snow all climbers in the party made it to the top. Bob particularly shows one of the best early season tans for his efforts.

The Gazette-Times appreciates getting news copy early.

Eleven at Lone On Honor Roll

Eleven lone High School students made the honor roll for the second semester, according to announcement from the school.

Included are the following: Cheryl Lundell, Dentee Matthews, Berniece Matthews, Janice Snider, Karen Nelson, Kathy Keene, Sid Zinter, Cheryl Smouse, Janet Palmateer, Mark Halvorsen, and Maureen McEligott. Grade point averages were not listed.

Mark Halvorsen was elected president of the student body in elections held towards the end of the school year. Jay Ball was chosen vice president, Karen Nelson secretary-treasurer, Dentee Matthews assistant secretary-treasurer, and Cheryl Smouse, yearbook editor.



Coming Events

SWIMMING POOL
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4, 6:30-8:00; 1-5 on Sundays.
Closed Mondays.
Season tickets and daily tickets available.

ALL COUNTY PICNIC
Honoring Neils Anderson family.
Sunday, June 13, Fair Pavilion Bldg., 2:00 p.m.
Coffee and punch furnished.
Everyone invited.

SCOUT PANCAKE DINNER
By Scout Troop 661
Saturday, June 12, St. Patrick's parish hall, 4-8 p.m.
Benefit for camp fund.

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62 A. F.—Heppner Time Dates From Flood

June 15 will start a new year in Heppner—62 A. F. (After Flood). For while no calendar recognizes it, time in Heppner dates from the year of the big flood on June 14, 1903.

An old timer is known by whether he was here at the time of the flood. Prior events are described as happening "before the flood." At reunions and when old friends gather, the talk inevitably goes back to the great disaster. When someone goes to a city and tells a stranger that he is from Heppner, the latter's only knowledge of the town may be that it was where Oregon's greatest catastrophe in point of loss of life occurred 62 years ago.

Life of buildings in town are designated by whether they were here and withstood the flood, or whether they were built later.

Any discussion of history about the area is inevitably centered around the flood.

It could only be thus, for it was a terrific shock and a numbing thing that would indelibly impress those who went through it. Even from the distance of more than six decades, the memory of the flood is as vivid in the minds of those who witnessed it as if it happened only last week.

Yet, with the passage of time, discrepancies on details grow, and it becomes increasingly difficult to separate the stories that border on the legendary from the accurate accounts. As was pointed out at the Pioneer Reunion, there is a very real need to get an accurate Morrow county history published that will record for posterity the true account. Hundreds of thousands of words have been written on the Heppner flood, but discrepancies have developed, too. While some points can never be definitely established, pro or con, it is quite likely also that there would have been different versions on these points even at the time of the disaster itself when confusion was paramount.

At this 62nd anniversary of the flood it would be good to announce that the Willow Creek project is a sure thing to prevent another similar catastrophe. Progress looks very good, indeed, as reported both by Oscar Peterson and Mayor Al Lamb after recent trips to Washington, D. C., but one more official signature is needed from the Army department before the project is ready for being included in the omnibus bill. It is felt that this will surely come, and that it will be a part of this year's bill.

But there are still a number of vital steps ahead before the project can become a reality, and even at best, the Willow Creek dam is still several years away.

It would be a fine thing if, on June 14, 1968, the 65th anniversary of the flood, a memorial program could be held by the Willow Creek dam under construction. But the wheels of government on projects such as this grind slowly, and that might be too optimistic.

It would not seem too much to anticipate, though, that the dam be finished and in use for a year or two by the year 70 A. F.—in 1973.

But whenever the job is done—and if it reaches culmination—there should be a dedication in the form of a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Flood of 1903.

Reduction of Excise Taxes Welcome

President Lyndon Johnson's proposal to repeal or reduce excise taxes amounting to about \$4 billion should be universally welcomed throughout the land.

As Senator Maurine Neuberger reports in her most recent report from the capitol, "Washington Calling," many of these levies came into being during World War II to raise funds for combat and to curb buying pressure on war-short goods or services.

Once established, however, they became a fixture, and despite protests, it appeared to the citizenry that they would be exacted forevermore.

Mrs. Neuberger quotes President Lyndon Johnson: "The proposed program of excise tax cuts and revisions will spur growth and move us closer to full employment by removing an unnecessary drag on consumer and business purchasing power. . . . To insure that the excise tax reductions make the maximum contribution to continued price stability and balanced prosperity, I call on American business to translate lower excise taxes promptly into lower retail prices for consumers."

Senator Neuberger adds, "This is the key to effectiveness of the tax cut. The tax savings must be passed along to consumers so as to increase purchasing power. This benefits business because rising volume should boost profits and create more jobs."

The senator states that the first reduction would take place July 1, wiping out the annual \$550 million levy on jewelry, furs, toilet preparations, luggage and handbags. Manufacturer's excises amounting to \$608 million annually on TV sets, appliances, business machines, lighters, etc., would go also. Auto taxes would be cut \$570 million this year, and more in 1966 and 1967. The cuts on amusement, telephone, telegraph, club and other taxes would come January 1, 1966.

Elimination of these taxes at long last would seem to be a longed-for relief for the American public which rose to the occasion in the emergency and then was to be saddled with them far beyond the time when their original purpose would be served.

It is hard for the man in the street to understand how taxes may be cut while the government embarks on more programs and accelerates spending, but it is quite conceivable that tax reductions can be made by cutting waste and wanton spending. Examples of federal waste are legion, but it seems today there is no voice nor sympathy of protests that are anything more than faint cries in the wilderness. For instance, a wave of indignation swept over the nation when the new architectural monstrosity, the House Office Building, was approved at something in the neighborhood of \$100 million, but to no avail.

How can this sort of thing be done and taxes be cut, too? The reduction of excise taxes will seem almost too good to be true, but it should have some stimulus to the economy, and therefore is to be commended highly.

Businesses and concerns who have had to do Uncle Sam's collection work on excise taxes will heartily cheer getting rid of the nuisance, too. And think how nice it will be to buy an item at its stated price, without having the clerk add, ". . . and 15c Federal tax."

Senator Neuberger says that she is concerned about the auto tax "because after the reduction becomes effective we cannot be certain that the savings go to the buyer, as the President intended."

However, at least one auto manufacturer has advertised the price of cars will be reduced by the amount of the excise tax after the effective date of the repeal. It would seem that the public would not stand still for any price hikes to absorb the tax savings, particularly when they are anticipating a drop in cost. It is to be hoped that the competition of a free enterprise system would see to that.

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