

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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The Move to Lexington

There will be some disadvantages to locating the Morrow county school district office in the Lexington school building, but the advantages are preponderant, and it can only be concluded that it will be a good move.

The district staff will have to suffer a little more inconvenience, particularly in driving back and forth; the office will not have the close access that it currently has with county records—tax matters and so on; and it will be a considerable distance from all schools, rather than being close to those in Heppner and farther away from the others in the county.

But the building at Lexington is a big one and a good one. The change will eliminate the crowding that the office has had on the second floor in the courthouse; it will permit the use of this space for other needs in the courthouse. The Lexington building will allow ample room for storage and thereby help to implement a central county purchasing plan that could result in considerable economy. It will be more central to all schools, rather than just being close to those in Heppner. It will provide room for meetings of all kinds.

And aside from these, the move is a consideration that Lexington deserves. The community reluctantly but un begrudgingly gave up its school when this seemed the realistic and logical thing to do.

All in all, it is difficult to see how there could be much complaint on the board's decision on this matter, when everything is considered, and to this time none has come to our attention.

It's Time to Think of Forest Fires

Not so many years ago Oregon residents could expect a heavy and almost stifling pallor of smoke to hang heavy over the landscape in August or late July of each year. It seemed almost inevitable that the odor of burning forests somewhere would fill one's nostrils, and the effect was depressing.

Since then great strides have been made in forest fire prevention and suppression. Part of this has come about with a greater sense of obligation on the part of the public towards conservation and the need for care to protect our forest resources; and part has been due to much better organization and better methods for prevention and control.

A glimpse of this organization can be seen at the fire training school in progress this week at Tupper Work Center where first year men of the southern end of the Umatilla National Forest are being educated in latest methods of prevention and suppression. One cannot help but note that this is a far cry from the hit and miss techniques employed 25 years ago.

It no longer seems quite so inevitable that there be major forest fires, although there is an ever-present danger in the dry season. But even with man's greater consciousness for caution in forestlands, there will always be someone who tends to be wanton or heedless, and even if humans were perfect in their demeanor in the woods, lightning can start a fire, or it may begin from accidental causes.

Ralph Stickney, business management assistant, pointed out Monday night at the fire school orientation meeting that about \$1,500,000 was spent on fire control in the Umatilla National Forest in 1960 and about \$1,000,000 in 1961. In the last three years, with no big fires, the control cost was cut to about \$500,000 annually. The latter figure may well be considered the price of vigilance and preparedness, but it is much less than when conflagrations hit in the national forest.

The public, as well as organized agencies, can be proud of the improved record on forest fires, but it remains a never-ending battle. Forestlands in this area are probably as much appreciated as they could be anywhere because of the recreation they give and the significance they have for the economy. Because of their relative scarcity, woodlands in Eastern Oregon are particularly precious.

Forest fire time is at hand again, and as the call gets stronger to take to the mountains for picnics and outings and families enjoy this great forest resource, let's remember to be meticulously careful to prevent fires. It's an old, old warning, but one that will be reiterated time and time again. A constant series of admonitions has been partly responsible for gains made, whether in the form of Smokey Bear posters, Keep Oregon Green signs, advertisements of logging companies, editorials, or TV announcements. This is the only way to hold the line and make an even better record.

When we enjoy the woods this summer, one of the best ways to show appreciation for this resource is to be scrupulously careful with fire.

Angelenos Experience Heppner

Particularly intriguing is the letter from Lloyd and Danny Northrup, of Los Angeles county, Calif., printed elsewhere on this page. It is especially interesting because it gives hint of the astonishment of those accustomed to the ways and manners of a metropolis who suddenly experience the informality, friendliness and cordiality of a town like Heppner.

Perhaps it would be presumptuous to say that the Northrups could enjoy such treatment as relative strangers only in Heppner, for there are other towns which are characterized by this open western hospitality, but it is a reminder again that this is a wonderful place to live.

One of the joys that a newcomer gets in coming to Heppner, something that many old-timers have long since taken for granted, is this sincerely friendly reception. It is not feigned or pseudo; it is a real interest in a newcomer that gives him credit for being a worthy fellow man without doubts and reservations. From what we read in E. R. Jackman's and Reub Long's "Oregon Desert," it has always been that way in eastern Oregon.

Maybe it's borne partly from the fact that eastern Oregonians are self-reliant and resourceful; they can face a newcomer openly and fairly for they have nothing to fear. They, then, may look to a stranger to accept him for what he is worth, rather than to hold his motives in suspect.

Where populations are jammed together, crime is more prevalent and racketeers and schemers spawn—although the majority of persons in the cities are honest and friendly. Is it any wonder that doors are kept locked there, and wary unsmiling faces turn away?

Well, anyway, it kind of tickles the cockles of our hearts to get a letter like the Northrups'. What they say is true, and it is quite a contrast from life in some other parts of our country.

America's Future...

TO THE EDITOR...



THESE ARE THE FIRST in the series of pictures of children being printed as the current "America's Future" series. All in these family groups are from Heppner. At top left are children of Mr. and Mrs. Randy Lott—Donny (left), 1 1/2; Michael (right), 3 1/2; and Patti Lou (center). 5. Top right are three of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Pratt—Jeff (left), 5; Judy (center), 10; and Terri (right), 9. At bottom left are children of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald D. Jonsson—James Dale (lower), 8 months; Duane Gerald (top), 6; and Michael Evi and Jon Victor (center), each 4. At bottom right are children of the Rev. and Mrs. Billie Alsop—Jr. Reading down are Stephen Lynn, 12; Sherry Renee, 11; Marcelle Dawn, 8; Donald Duane, 6; Starla Ann, 4; and Pamela Diane, 2.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ONE JUST can't always believe his eyes. That looked for all the world like Frank Turner riding by the office on a bicycle the other day. We ran to the door to see, and sure enough, it was Frank Turner. Oh, the bike was wobbling around the street somewhat but he did a pretty good job of it. Wish we could have gotten the camera out in time to catch him. It might have showed some of the youngsters around how to keep it trim. Frank later confessed that he figured he was going have to give up bike riding at his age, but darned if we would be surprised if we saw him putting around on a Honda.

THE PHONE rang at the school district office the other day. The voice at the calling end said, "I'm Mr. Loyd."

Secretary Shirley relied promptly, "I'm Mrs. Loyd."

No, it wasn't her husband, Jack, calling. It was Alfred Loyd of Dallas who is taking a teaching position in Morrow county.

When they finally determined for sure that neither was kidding about the name, they got into the spelling and learned that—without the double "l," which is a bit unusual. Apparently no relation, either.

DONNA GEORGE was amused the other day when she saw one of the Fullerton girls ride up to one of the gas pumps at her dad's garage. She wasn't in a car; she was on a horse. Donna really didn't expect to see the horse filled with Texaco, but it might be handy if Roice set up a feed trough by his pumps for the 'hay eatin' automobiles."

ONE OF our family's valuable cats (maybe worth two-bits) developed an abscess the other day. We couldn't see it suffer, so took it up to Dr. Jim Norene at his new veterinary hospital. It was the first time we had been in there.

That little cat got the best treatment she ever had, just as if she had been born with royal feline blood. It was interesting to see the care that the doctor gave her. Filled out a card to start her medical history, weighed her and assigned her quarters.

The hospital is conveniently arranged and is just about as clean as a hospital for humans. Dr. Jim is equipped to handle all sizes of animals, from the littlest to the biggest (maybe no elephants, please?).

When we picked our cat up Monday, after her period of convalescence, we thought how nice it is to have a facility like this in town.

AS AN epilogue to the above is the story about Ralph Beamer's German shepherd. Along late last week, we got a couple of calls from friends of the Don Greenups who wanted to know if anyone had called the paper to find a German shepherd. One had come to the Greenups' place, and it appeared that its leg was broken.

No one had called seeking the animal, so we couldn't be of help.

But when we went to get the cat Monday, there was the German shepherd—in the hospital. Someone had called Greenups before the dog arrived at their

place, asking if they had seen such a dog. At that time they hadn't. The caller didn't leave his name, and the Greenups didn't recognize the voice as one of the Beamers.

So when the dog did come to the place, the Greenups didn't know who to call. But somehow they finally got together on it.

Apparently, the shepherd, a fine looking animal, had fallen off a moving pickup.

When we saw it in the hospital, Dr. Norene had set its leg with some metal gadgets that he has, and the dog, though a little peaked, seemed to be doing real well.

SOROPTIMISTS are required to earn \$5 each during the year to go into their scholarship fund, and they each give a report on how they earn the money at their annual installation dinner, which for 1965 was Saturday night at the Jim Hager home.

Now this money cannot be earned in their regular walks of life, and so they find some pretty novel methods of getting it.

Judged the winner was Mrs. Charles (Gene) Starks, who earned hers making a basic pattern. Mrs. Olla Mae Groshens said that she had planned to sell vegetables from her husband's garden door to door, but this didn't work out, so she got \$5 playing for the Elks annual.

Mrs. Conley (Vi) Lanham earned her contribution by pulling rye and said that after several days at this occupation, she could hardly move her fingers.

Others gave bridge lessons, sold eggs, cut hair, and drew house plans.

The girls made some noble efforts in order to make their scholarships possible, didn't they?

Chamber to Print County Brochures

Printing of 5000 new and revised Morrow county brochures was authorized by the Chamber of Commerce board of directors, at a meeting June 7. The brochures, last printed in 1963, have been popular in advertising the county and the initial supply of 5000 is now exhausted.

Directors authorized sending three Boy Scouts to Junior Leaders Training Camp at Wallowa Lake June 26 to July 2 and will pay a total of \$24 for the purpose. Those going will be Bobbie Abrams, Jimmy Healy and Gary Munkers.

Purchase of 200 rodeo ties to be sold through local merchants was also approved by the board.

Directors discussed town decorations for the fair and rodeo and President Peterson said that each business would be asked to buy its decorations this year with the fair board to purchase street banners. It is expected that cost of purchasing the decorations can be amortized in about 1 1/2 years on the basis of the amount paid for renting them from a decorating company.

Peterson said that contacts would be made among business houses on the matter soon.

Matter of handling ticket sales and parking at the rodeo, handled annually by the chamber, was discussed.

An open letter to the citizens of Heppner.
Dear friends:

Jesus said these immortal words: "I was a stranger and ye took me in." How applicable these words seem to my son Daniel and myself as we say goodbye to the friendliest little town in the U.S.A. On June 4 we came into your town tired from our two-day trip from Southern California to Heppner. Our first stop was to admire the beautiful new Church of the Nazarene that was to be our "charge" for just four Sundays. Then on to the Ralph Crum ranch we headed to get the keys to the parsonage. But we got more than that. We got a friendly welcome and an armload of groceries to get us back to our two-day trip.

By now it was dark and we were warned that the lock on the front door was as cantankerous as a Missouri mule. That was the understatement of the year. I twisted and turned and fretted over that lock but all to no avail. Then from nowhere came a friendly young man and with a twist of his wrist the key magically turned in the lock and we were in!

Next day we were at the grocery store because we lacked one thing, sugar for our cereal. And what greeted us? A free pancake feed and the warm friendly conversation of people milling around enjoying the same thing. Frankly, we were overwhelmed. From that moment on, Danny and I have been literally "taken in" though we were strangers.

When we wanted to know where to catch fish or hunt varmints you showed us. When we visited in your homes to invite you to our church you extended to me the most wonderful courtesies to me that have ever been afforded me in church visitations across the nation for 18 years. Why I've had a banker (Bill Stewart) even mow my lawn for me! And give me elk steaks and entertain my son.

But I guess the most wonderful thing is that though you knew us, because we were strangers, you never treated us like such. You will never know like such a town can be by just being friendly until you have lived in a metropolis like my home area, Los Angeles county. My hat's off to you, Heppner, and thanks from the bottom of our hearts. Thanks for the free dinners, thanks for the radishes, thanks for the elk, thanks for the fishing and hunting, thanks for the putting up with us, thanks for everything.

As Danny and I leave we know that we have not contributed very much to your town, as such, but we have been enriched by knowing you folks. When we leave, another Nazarene stranger and his family shall move in to take up his cross and follow the Master over the hills and dales of Heppner and Morrow county. But I have no fears, for the Rev. Don McCarty and family will not let strangers very long. You'll take them in also. And more than you've done for us. I know you'll support him and encourage him and let him minister unto you in every area of your lives. You can count on our Nazarene ministers to marry your young, bury your dead, comfort your afflicted, and yes, even afflict you, comfortable. God bless you all and I hope we meet again soon, friends.

Lloyd and Danny Northrup
1000 Greer Ave.
Covina, Calif.

The Story of The Old Baptist church in Ione

By O. M. Yeager

The story of the old Baptist church in Ione brought a flood of memories to this writer. Rev. R. B. Brown was one of the last of the old circuit riders who used to saddle up his old horse and start out on his rounds. Rev. Brown was a carpenter by trade. He worked until he had saved up enough money to last him on his three months trip. He was a frequent guest at my father's home so I had the pleasure of eating many fried chickens. Someone once told me that all preachers liked this kind of a meal. He always refused to accept any pay for his preaching.

Later on, he moved to Ione and rented a small house there. I stayed a few weeks at his Ione home and worked a week or so on the church with him. I do not remember how many children he had but I know he had a red haired daughter and a son about my age.

Rev. Brown built what I believe was Ione's first water storage reservoir up on a rocky hillside soon after the church building was finished. Most of the labor on the church was donated, including mine, but Rev. Brown's wife refused to let me pay any board and room rent.

I think the people of Morrow county should buy this old bell and keep it at the fine museum at Heppner. All old Morrow county relics should be placed there. I do not know anything about the bell that was later hung in the belfry tower. I hope this will interest the people of Ione, and I have many other Ione stories I will write from time to time.

O. M. Yeager

When you patronize Gazette-Times advertisers, you help make a better paper. Tell them you saw it in the Gazette-Times.

June 18, 1965

To The Editor

Dear Sir:

Maybe there are people in Morrow county who ask why people in Irrigon are upset about the new high school being in Boardman. My husband and I can very easily answer why we are upset.

If it wasn't for the geographical location of the towns in Morrow county, the ideal location would be a consolidated high school in the middle of the county. This would provide a number one high school and meet state standards. This would be a wonderful idea only we aren't able to do this, transportation costs would be prohibitive. Our school representative has put 10,000 miles on his car in his term of office just for school board meetings alone, averaging two meetings a month.

There will be 83 pupils from Irrigon, all residents, not from the influx of construction workers, that will be attending junior high and high school from Boardman, 88 pupils, excluding construction workers. Some of these construction workers have already gone and others will leave after the roads are completed. An article written in a recent paper was very misleading when it stated that all property from the Gilliam county line, including Columbia River frontage, would be included in the Morrow county school board recently. All that was asked was that the North end school district of Morrow county be annexed with Umatilla school district. Umatilla has a larger school and the curriculum would be so much better for our two girls. The town of Umatilla is only seven miles from Irrigon and Boardman is 13 miles.

The recommendation from people who are interested in the best education for Oregon schools and are paid for their work (including Dr. Himmel, who the school district paid over \$2,000 for his advice) recommended that a high school should be in an area of the greatest student population. When recommendations of experienced people are overlooked, thinking people begin to ask questions.

1. What made the board go against these recommendations? It surely wasn't on account of saving tax dollars. Dr. Himmel had already pointed out why his ideas would be more economical.

2. Was this a political decision when the School Board decided on the Boardman school site?

We only wish we knew the answers to just a few questions.

We have always felt that a child's education was very important, becoming more so in this day and age. If we are to keep up with other nations, it must be the best. America has never taken second best, we have always demanded the best so why should we settle for a second rate education for our children when they are the future generation of our country? The idea that a school should be built to make a town grow is a very poor excuse for building any school, let alone a high school.

My husband and I would appreciate every thinking person in Morrow County to put themselves in our place, if it were their children, how would they feel? All we ask is the best education for our children for our tax dollar. Is this too much to ask?

Yours truly,
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Early
Irrigon, Oregon

Mass of Angels Held For McElligott Baby

Mass of the Angels was celebrated Monday, June 14, at St. Patrick's Catholic church for Eunice Helena McElligott, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. McElligott of Ione. Father Raymond Beard officiated and interment followed at the Heppner Masonic cemetery. The baby died Thursday, June 17, the same day it was born at St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton.

Ione, Oregon
June 21, 1965

To The Editor:

It was with a great deal of apprehension that I read in the papers, the decision of our Morrow County Court, and other Interstate Highway 82. This was especially disturbing to me since groups, pertaining to routing of this highway routing had been one of my major projects for many years.

There is one side of the issue on which I am quite certain. Had it been kept out of politics and permitted to go by way of Blalock Island and Boardman, there would never have been an issue. This would have been the most direct route and most feasible for what it was intended. Also for Morrow county, a tremendous asset.

I have over the years made an intensive study of this matter and had the assurance of some quite prominent persons that ours was the only route. Although it would not have crossed the Umatilla bridge it would have been a great asset to Umatilla county and Pendleton also. Certainly much more so than the Van Sycle Canyon route. As it now stands, there is a greater question whether we get it into Oregon where the united effort seems to have been placed than if placed as originally intended.

As of now, it seems that for us, the door has been closed. And some of our own people have helped close it. As said, I feel badly about it, as do many others in our county, but we are in a position where we must accept it. As it is, with the Washington senators and others coming into the picture, the Umatilla bridge is no longer considered an inflexible control point. And with the Boeing people coming into the industrial park and most interested in the crossing at Boardman we felt we had a talking point.

Umatilla county has a talking point also but, actually, some of the members of the court there have shown little respect for Morrow county or the interests of the people thereof. So why must we bow to them? However, since some of the most noted leaders in Morrow county helped make this final decision, it is up to us to abide by it. I shall do so, although reluctantly.

Sincerely,
Oscar E. Peterson

Yes, the Gazette-Times can print the form you need for business or ranch use. Phone 676-9228.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

SWIMMING POOL
Open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 4, 7:00-8:30; 2-6 on Sundays.
Closed Mondays.
Season tickets and daily tickets available.
Swim lessons now available, mornings.

IOOF PANCAKE FEED
By Lexington IOOF Lodge. Saturday, June 26, 5:30-8 p.m. All you can eat, \$1.50 adults, 75c children.
Lexington IOOF Hall

PUBLIC INSTALLATION
Ruth Chapter No. 32, OES. Monday, June 28, 8 p.m. Masonic Hall

RESERVE THE DATES—
For Sidewalk Bazaar, Friday, Saturday, July 9, 10. Lots of fun for everyone!

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