

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Hospital Completes 15 Years

When the Pioneer Memorial hospital was built in 1950 it answered a need for medical and surgical care felt throughout the area. Today—15 years after its construction—it is virtually indispensable.

It has probably saved hundreds of lives and has given needed care and treatment to thousands. Being the only hospital in Morrow and adjoining counties to the south, it serves patients from a wide area.

The years slip by so fast there is a tendency to think of the hospital yet as new, but it is 15 years old. And because the staff there works so efficiently and quietly, there is also a tendency to take it for granted, although a week seldom goes by without some grateful dismissed patient expressing thanks for the care and treatment received.

A check with Will O'Harra at the hospital shows that it is beginning to feel its age, and the public should begin to think with him and others involved about what should be done to keep Pioneer Memorial a modern first-class hospital.

When one looks at this proud structure standing on the hill overlooking town, he does not think that much of the equipment that was the latest thing in 1950 is now getting out of date. He does not realize that hospital standards are becoming more severe and changes may be required soon.

A new fire sprinkling system was installed last year, by order of the State Fire Marshal, and this took a good portion of maintenance funds available. A generator to supply electrical power for emergency, bought from surplus at a fraction of its value, has been installed, and the kitchen has just been renovated because a settling floor made this necessary.

It is fortunate that the hospital has on its staff men like O'Harra and Bob Lowe who do an expert job of maintenance, being versatile enough to handle all manner of work which otherwise would require craftsmen in various fields. It isn't easy to get plumbing work done here, for instance, and the alternative is to do it yourself.

With this type of staff, the hospital has become almost self-sufficient.

But there are needs that must be faced. One of the greatest needs is replacement of the ambulance, a 1949 model. It has 63,743 miles on its speedometer, not great for a personal car, but a great distance for an emergency vehicle. It has given continuous trouble, and on one occasion, a piston went out through the top of the motor when it was on a trip with a patient to Salem. It has had five or six new heads installed in its history. The ambulance was not designed for the type of work it is doing, but is more adaptable for city use. O'Harra believes a disaster-type rig would be more suitable and efficient for this area.

Because of its relatively light use, an ambulance is a losing proposition, financially, here, but it is a most merciful and essential instrument when needed. Some arrangement should be made for replacement of this vehicle. It's a problem that must be faced.

O'Harra says that the state may require considerable changes in the obstetrics ward that might make a rather extensive remodeling program necessary. As the building is now designed, mothers are at the other end of the hall from the nursery, and it may be required that they be placed to adjoin the nursery, meaning the approximate position of the present hospital entrance and offices.

Exterior paint doesn't look bad from a distance, but if deterioration is to be prevented, a new paint job is needed. Some of the water pipes in the building have been virtually filled with accumulation of scale, and the administrator believes that this could be prevented with installation of a water softener. Sections of pipe have had to be cut out because they were almost clogged with the scale. These are at the hospital for viewing.

Operation of the hospital here is a cooperative venture that has proven remarkably good. It is a \$200,000 per year business from the economic standpoint, and it is almost self-supporting, but not quite. It needs to be subsidized from county funds from between \$8,000 to \$12,000 per year, a relatively small percentage considering the benefits it brings.

Generous individuals and organizations have helped by donating equipment and supplies. Many of these are made without fanfare or publicity, but this spirit has been a good sustaining influence for the hospital.

It doesn't take a second look inside the hospital to realize that it is clean and well maintained. It is a credit to this community and would be to any community. But looking to the future, if it is going to be kept modern and provide the service so vital to this area, these problems must be faced.

The courthouse is just now undergoing a cleaning and moderate renovation job as the result of the work of an advisory committee's recommendations.

It would seem a good step to organize a similar committee for planning needed improvements at the hospital, perhaps covering a considerable period of time. The administrator would welcome this help and interest.

Since the hospital is being operated so well, there is a tendency to think that all is well and nothing needs to be done. Now is the time to be working towards improvements which could become critical in the not-too-distant future.

More Volunteer Firemen Needed

One wouldn't have realized it by watching the good job done at extinguishing last week's hot fire, but the Heppner volunteer fire department is now down to 10 regular men, Fire Chief Charles Ruggles says.

It is true that in such an emergency as that last week former firemen and townspeople pitch in to help, and this makes a big difference.

But when the complement of volunteers numbers only 10, this would seem dangerously low. The help of others is fine, but the department needs training as a team. The men spend their drilling times figuring how they will attack fires of certain types and in certain places, if and when they occur. Those who do not get in on such drills cannot have this knowledge and thus cannot be most efficient as volunteers, regardless of their willingness to help.

When dense black smoke billowed up last week, it appeared as if there were a major conflagration in progress. Fortunately, it wasn't that bad. But one never knows when that "big one" will hit, and in such case there would be need for all the trained men that are available.

At this writing, delivery of Heppner's new fire truck is expected at any time. This would be a good time for young men, particularly, to step up and join the volunteers. They will have a great pride in the new equipment, and they will be doing their community a fine service.

WILLOW CREEK PROJECT HEPPNER, OREGON

(Editor's note: Because of continuing interest in the Willow Creek dam project and recent developments in Congress that are encouraging supporters of the project, the following summary on the project from the U. S. Army Engineers is printed on the thought that it may be of interest to readers. Some may wish to clip the "Pertinent Data" below for future reference).

The flood of 1903, which killed 247 people out of a total population of about 1,300 in the city of Heppner, Oregon, was one of the worst natural flood disasters of its kind in the history of this nation. Cloudburst floods of lesser intensity have inflicted damages and loss of life elsewhere in the basin. The chief desire of the people of Heppner and of Willow Creek Valley is to obtain relief from the ever-present threat of recurrence of a similar or even larger flood. Other important needs include storage of winter and spring streamflow for irrigation during the summer months when Willow Creek is normally dry, additional water supply for the city of Heppner, and improvement of a water quality problem throughout the valley. The basin has very limited facilities for recreation and sports fishing; consequently, there is considerable local and regional interest in additional facilities for these purposes.

In response to specific Congressional authorization, an investigation has been made of the flood control problem, water resource utilization, and associated needs of the basin. As the result of this investigation, the District Engineer finds that, to a major extent, these requirements can best be met by construction of a multiple-purpose dam and reservoir, located on Willow Creek immediately upstream of the city of Heppner, together with an immediately adjacent channel below the dam extending 1.5 miles through the city. The reservoir would have a total capacity of 11,500 acre-feet and the channel a capacity of 1,500 cfs. This project would have completely stored the 1903 flood, would prevent 86 percent of the potential damages from floods originating upstream from the dam, and reduce potential loss of life. The reservoir would produce an average yield of 8,400 acre-feet of water for irrigation, provide the city of Heppner with 100 acre-feet of storage water for municipal and industrial use, improve the water quality problem through the city and downstream, and provide much needed recreation and sport fishing opportunities.

The proposed dam, reservoir, and channel would have a construction cost of \$6,690,000. Average annual benefits and costs, based on a 100-year economic life and 3 percent interest, are estimated at \$279,800 and \$233,100, respectively. The benefit-to-cost ratio is 1.2 to 1.0. The proposed plan of development has extensive local support and incorporates to the maximum extent practical the desires of interested State and Federal agencies. It is considered to be compatible with any comprehensive plan of basin development.

In addition to the favorable benefit-to-cost ratio, the potential loss of life from cloudburst floods is of commanding importance and the District Engineer recommends construction of the project.

PERTINENT DATA

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| GENERAL: | |
| Location - Willow Creek, SE City Limits, Heppner, Oregon. | |
| Drainage area, square miles | 96 |
| RESERVOIR ELEVATIONS: | |
| Maximum pool | 2120 |
| Flood control pool | 2104 |
| Top active storage | 2098 |
| Top dead storage | 2042 |
| Streambed | 1975 |
| RESERVOIR AREA, ACRES: | |
| At top active storage, elevation 2098 | 224 |
| At top dead storage, elevation 2104 | 76 |
| At flood control pool, elevation 2104 | 242 |
| RESERVOIR STORAGE CAPACITY, ACRE-FEET: | |
| Dead (Sediment 1,400; fish, wildlife, and recreation 500) | 1,900 |
| Active, controlled (Flood control, irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply, water quality control, fish wildlife, and recreation) | 8,300 |
| Exclusive flood control, uncontrolled | 1,300 |
| Total | 11,500 |
| DAM: | |
| Type | Rock fill with impervious core |
| Crest elevation | 2125 |
| Crest length, feet | 1,700 |
| Height above foundation, feet | 155 |
| Height above streambed, feet | 150 |
| SPILLWAY: | |
| Type | Rock cut |
| Crest elevation | 2104 |
| Crest width, feet | 300 |
| REGULATION OUTLET CONDUIT: | |
| Type | Controlled |
| Conduit | Concrete |
| Type | Control |
| Slide gates | Slide gates |
| Number | 2 |
| Diameter | 2'-6" |
| Operation | In tandem |
| FLOOD CONTROL OUTLET: | |
| Type | Uncontrolled |
| Location | Slot in spillway |
| Slot width, feet | 37 |
| DOWNSTREAM CHANNEL: | |
| Capacity, cfs | 1,500 |
| Length of improvement, miles | 1.5 |
| Bottom width, feet | 25-40 |
| Levee top width, feet | 12 |
| Levee and channel side slopes | 1 on 2 |
| ECONOMIC DATA: | |
| Construction Cost: | |
| Dam and reservoir | \$6,540,000 |
| Downstream channel | 150,000 |
| Total | \$6,690,000 |
| Average annual benefits: | |
| Flood control | \$ 130,800 |
| Irrigation | 80,000 |
| Water quality control | 7,300 |
| Recreation | 20,000 |
| Sports fishing and wildlife | 26,900 |
| Municipal and industrial water supply | 2,400 |
| Total | \$ 279,800 |
| Average annual costs: | |
| Interest and amortization | \$ 222,100 |
| Operation and maintenance | 9,500 |
| Replacements | 1,200 |
| Total | \$ 233,100 |
| BENEFIT-COST RATIO | |
| | 1.2 to 1 |

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

The current "Medicare" program is now the law of the land. The following are some features of this act:

The "Basic" hospital plan provides inpatient hospital services, post-hospital extended care (nursing home) services, post-hospital home health visits, and outpatient diagnostic services.

Those eligible for this "basic" plan include: 1—Everyone over 65 who is entitled to a monthly Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefit, and 2—Every one else who reaches 65 before 1968. Those who reach 65 from 1968 through 1973 will be required to have 3 quarters (9 months) of coverage under the program.

Although almost everyone age 65 or over will be covered by the benefits, everyone will be required to help pay for these benefits. Just those "fortunate" enough to work under Social Security and those who pay their wages will be "permitted" to bear the cost. The benefits will be available to almost everyone without regard to need and likewise those who pay for the program will bear the cost without regard to ability to pay. Social Security rates which

were 7 1/4% in 1965 will move up to 8.4% in 1966, and the amount of income upon which payment must be made for full coverage will advance from \$4800 to \$6600. In 1965 the maximum payment shared by employer and employee was \$348.00. In 1966 this will be \$554.00, in 1967-68 it will be \$580.80, and continue to rise through 1967 when it will be \$745.80.

These rates are based upon tables already set up on the assumption that there will be no further expansion of the program. You can rest assured that your "liberal" politicians will not be content to let the matter stand at this level, for they do all want to make "progress." We must conclude that the sky is no longer the limit: The movement into outer space is not to be limited to physical travel.

When we see that those covered under the payment end of the Social Security program are to be paying for a larger and larger slice of the total welfare burden of the nation, we must conclude that such was the intent of those who initiated the program, for why else would they label it "S. S." if not to designate "selected suckers"? You do not volunteer but are selected to bear this burden.

Earl Gildwell
915 N. 1st St.
Hermiston, Oregon

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THIS WEDNESDAY afternoon was a hubbub of activity on West Willow street for a while as the crew of Percy Jellum company laid a lift of asphalt and gravel on the street in our block. A big oil truck, two big gravel trucks and a power roller came and did the work in about an hour. Now all is quiet again.

It is interesting to watch those men work. Their truck drivers are particularly expert, backing those big rigs as straight as a die as they lay a covering of rock over the oil. They don't seem to vary six inches from the edge from one end of the block to the other.

SOMETIMES a man—even a clergyman—can get into an embarrassing situation, although completely innocent. We just have to tell this true story, although we may have to stay out of the way of Rev. and Mrs. Mel Dixon until they get over the shock.

George Peck, who lives with the Dixons, was sleeping outside with a friend behind the parsonage on a recent night.

About 2 a.m. he came into the house and awakened Rev. Dixon. He said that there was a porcupine in the backyard. Mel thought the young man was having nightmares, poo-pooed the information, and told him to go back to bed.

But George insisted, and so Rev. Dixon, clad only in pajamas, went out to take a look. Sure enough, in the beam from the flashlight that pierced through the darkness was a prickly porcupine cowering in a tree.

The reverend went and got his 22 and brought down the maddening little animal, then he took another shot on the ground to be sure it was dispatched.

Quiet reigned again, and Mel started back to the comfort of his bed.

But just as he reached the patio, carrying the rifle and still only in pajamas, two women came walking down the alley heading for one of the houses at the other end.

They recognized the minister and one said, "Good evening, Rev. Dixon."

A bit abashed, the reverend responded with a greeting, then recognizing the need for an explanation said, "I'm shooting porcupines."

At least they didn't send for a man in a white jacket driving a white truck. But if they are still dubious about Rev. Dixon, this should serve as an honest and true explanation.

SHORTY HUDSON and Cliff Aldrich figure that it is about 56 feet from the lawn in front of the courthouse straight up to the face of the tower clock.

We'll allow that, all right, but will swear that it is at least

1,531 feet from the clock down to the ground.

The Lions club of lone wanted to get a picture of some of their officers by the clock while repairs were going on, and so we made a date for Monday evening. New Lions President Ron Bishop and Charlie O'Connor agreed to come for the occasion.

We got up the first ladder, which runs from the second floor of the courthouse to the attic, but Bishop, who has had a bit of heart trouble, discretely decided to stop at that point. Charlie and the daring photographer continued on up the ladder from the attic to the tower.

This put us where the bell and clapper are located. Aldrich was merrily perched on the scaffold, painting the clock face on the west side. To attain that spot, one had to step to the outside of the scaffold while clinging to a third ladder, go up it and over the outer portion of the scaffold.

Mr. O'Connor and the editor spent some moments in contemplation. We looked in the direction of Mr. Aldrich, looked dubiously at the scaffold, and looked at the concrete side-walks and green grass below.

If we were to get a picture, there just wasn't any place to go but up that scaffold.

A plank ran back from the tower to the peak of the courthouse roof. Maybe we could walk out there and get enough perspective for a shot. We stepped over the rail, put a tentative foot on the plank.

The old brain ordered the legs to walk on out, but the legs just wouldn't obey. They kept wanting to bend at the knees.

So we turned to Charlie, and said, "No, we can't get a picture from there—we'd be shooting right into the sun."

Some more long minutes of contemplative silence.

"You want to go on up, Charlie?"

"Well," Charlie drawled, "I can . . . but I don't really want to."

So we decided the only way we could get a picture was to go down to the ground and shoot up. Charlie would stay by the bell.

So down we went, proclaiming that there just wasn't any way to get a picture from up there.

Next week, we hope to have the picture in print for you.

THIS COURTHOUSE tower, we find, is a home for pigeons. Efforts of all kinds have been made to drive them out, but even attempts to poison them have failed.

Their litter is several inches deep all over the tower platform—a great place to start a greenhouse. When Charlie and I left their

roof, they came back in force. One thing sure, nobody was gonna make pigeons out of Charlie and me on that tower.

BUT NOW consider that fellow Aldrich. He flits around that scaffolding as if it were his living room. When they hoisted up the new clock face that weighs 300 pounds, there were three men on the scaffold, and they took off the handrails to allow the big face to come into place. If a fellow slipped and grabbed for the railing, he would have had a handful of air.

If you have never noticed how good it feels to stand on the courthouse lawn, try climbing the tower, then go down and you'll understand what we mean.

Mr. and Mrs. Wes Sherman and family attended a Barrett family reunion Sunday in the Dallas city park. The Sherman family is a branch of the Barrett family. They also visited friends in Dallas and their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Sherman, of Salem.



COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

RODEO DANCE

Honoring Queen Judy Sherer Saturday, Aug. 14, 10 p.m. Music by The Road Runners, La Grande Coronation Ceremonies, Rodeo Grounds, 8:15 p.m.

HEPPNER SCHOOL REUNION

Saturday, August 21. All former students, teachers, administrators Heppner High school Registration from 9 a.m. - afternoon program.

MOBILE X-RAY UNIT

Free chest X-Rays for all Morrow County residents lone, Aug. 19, 2-6 p.m. Heppner, Rexall Drug, Aug. 20 and 21.

NOTICE, TRAVELERS

SPECIAL Auto Insurance ID Card is required in Canada. See your agent before you leave.

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Heppner

Know Your Newspaper Better

Are We Fair in Our News Reports?

We think we are. In our news columns, we do our best to bring you facts only . . . without expression of personal opinion of reporters or editors.

We Always Do Our Best

. . . to give you both sides in our news reports, if there are two sides. Or three sides, if there are three. Everyone deserves fair representation in a news report.

Who You Are Doesn't Matter

. . . if the publisher of this newspaper were caught speeding on Main street . . . or anywhere else. . . you'd find it reported in this newspaper . . . more than likely on the front page! And so with the banker, the baker, the candlestick maker . . . and the advertiser, too. Business accorded this paper does not buy protection against news reports.

This Is Only Right . . .

To be fair, a newspaper must report what happened . . . to whom . . . where . . . how . . . and why—with-out regard to who it is . . . or his position . . . or how much money he has . . . or how good a friend he is of the editor. This is this newspaper's news policy—a policy we believe fair and equitable to all.

