

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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New Faces for Back to School

The year inevitably rolls around, and it is back to school time again.

This year the pupils and students of Morrow county will meet many new teachers and administrators, since there has been a heavy turnover of personnel. Some have gone to larger systems and others have been lost by saddening circumstances.

It is apparent, though, that Supt. David Potter and the county school board have chosen the new members of the staff carefully, and there is every reason to believe that they are competent, skillful and professional.

We welcome them to our county and urge parents and the general public to seek opportunities to get to know them and make them feel at home. They are not to be set apart but are to be greeted as friends and neighbors.

As this school year starts, we cannot help but look back to our first exposure to local education problems four years ago—the unrest and the controversy that came with the needed adjustments to a new administrative system. Morrow county still has some problems to iron out, but progress has been great. The relative peace is wonderful.

All those involved in the controversies had one thing in common—they were sincerely interested in school matters and worked zealously for what they considered right. The stormy times, though, made it extremely difficult on the teachers and administrators, most of whom were innocent parties to the whole thing, trying only to educate our children.

It is to their credit that they stuck to the job. In the past four years our residents have learned to cooperate much better on school matters and work together, though undoubtedly some scars remain.

Supt. Potter is demonstrating excellent ability and leadership, and with the advice and volunteer efforts of a good school board, significant strides are being made in the district.

There are hurts in the north end over the location of the Riverside school, and it isn't difficult to feel sympathy towards the feelings of all involved. It has been a mighty tough problem. The decision has been made, and it can only be hoped that this will not leave open wounds that will hamper the educational future of the children there.

It is good when a teacher or principal can step into a harmonious situation and pursue the business of educating students without being placed under pressure from outside.

It appears that this school year is starting on this note. May the spirit of cooperation between the schools and parents be the best it has ever been. If this is true, our children will be the ones who profit. Teachers and parents can share a mutual joy as they aid and watch them develop.

Danger on the High School Road

Some have expressed concern over hazards of the road going up the hill to Heppner High school. As school is starting, it is something that should be brought to the attention of the public.

Supt. David Potter and Principal Clayton Norton are aware of the problem and will make a one-way system of traffic to and from the school. Signs have been ordered for this purpose.

Perhaps they will be up before school starts. If not, the public may cooperate by voluntarily observing the system. In going to the school, travel up the Morgan street extension. Traffic in front of the school will be one way to the south and it will proceed around behind the school to go down, one way, via the new grade to the county (slaughter house) road.

Observance of this one-way system will not eliminate all the danger. The entrance and exit need to be protected by guard rails, and a sidewalk should be installed going up Morgan street. All drivers, including some of our super-charged youngsters, should observe the slow speed limit there. The city has twice requested state funds for paving the Morgan street extension, applying under a provision that permits funds for use on city streets where a sharply increased use of the street or added population create a need. The funds have not been granted to this time.

If these funds are not available, the school district, city and county should come to some sort of agreement on responsibility and get the job done. Going up Morgan street in late afternoon the sun is shining directly in a driver's eyes. At time of commencement in late May, the blinding sun made it necessary for those going up to grope their way. Under those circumstances it would be easy for a person to pull too far to the right and slip over the embankment.

Action should be taken before this first accident happens.

A Great Week—and Some Suggestions

Certainly the events of the past week have to rank the 1965 Morrow County Fair and Rodeo week with the greatest. It seemed that many worked just a little bit harder and participated just a little bit better than in some previous years.

Committees all the way around put forth every effort to perfect their events, and their work showed in the results. Comments overheard at the events showed appreciation of the public.

It's hard to look back on the week without using superlatives. It has to be said that the rodeo parade was one of the finest, and Randall Peterson, prime mover for the event, has to be praised for the job he did.

Improvements at the fair contributed to a better event here. Take the livestock auction and pig scramble for instance. Held in the new barn with bleacher seats for the public, these attractions brought out a standing room only crowd.

Chairman Tad Miller had vowed that this year's rodeo shows would attain a fast pace, and that they did. Charley Daly, Ray French and Art Vance kept the stock moving right out of the chutes for the various events. Announcer Joe Daley of Pendleton did an excellent job. The concessions and programs were handled better than ever, and Elmer Schmidt and his Chamber of Commerce crew handled the ticket taking and parking (under severe space handicaps) with dispatch. There just isn't space enough to give everyone credit; these are just some examples.

The interest in our festivities from the outside is shown by the wonderful participation by neighboring cities and others coming a long distance. Think of the Salem Saddle Club coming all the way across the state to perform so beautifully and colorfully in our events! (It makes us feel glad that they are now in our Second Congressional District!). They came at their own expense, and it takes considerable effort to move all their horses and gear that far.

We understand that they were pleased with the hos-

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

AS WE PUT this issue of the old G-T to bed, we think we may feel like a drowning man must feel, trying to fight his way to the surface of the water. We're inundated in results, awards, honors, credits, congratulations for all those involved in the fair, rodeo, horse show, parade, and other events last week, and there is a sea of them!

We'll miss some, of course. We have enough material to put out papers for a whole month. If we make some glaring oversights, we will appreciate hearing of them and we'll make amends next week.

WE KNOW of one omission. We should have a great big picture of Tad Miller to run in this issue because of his fine work on the rodeo. We tried to catch him Sunday afternoon but didn't manage it. Jack Locke should have been pictured, too. He didn't even get to see the Sunday show. He had his nose in the books in the rodeo office below the buckeroo grandstand. Jack's wife, Fran, was right in there pitching through the whole thing, too. We did have Jack's picture last year.

SPEAKING of pictures: We have quite a batch of negatives on the parade, some on the fair and some on the rodeo. We covered the horse show for the Wranglers and will have all them available. Since there are so many, we don't have prints made unless there is a demand for a particular picture.

Ernest Royster of Umatilla covered the rodeo and horse show, and he expects to bring many of his prints to the G-T office for those who may be interested.

Pictures taken by the G-T can be obtained at 75c for 5x7 or \$1.25 for 8x10. If there is something particular in which you're interested, we would be happy to have you check at this office to see if we have it.

WE FELT sorry for the crew trying to stage the livestock auction last Thursday night when the speaking system went haywire. Ron Currin, superintendent, Auctioneer Ormer Bonney of Northwestern Livestock Commission Co. and his ring man, Everett Snyder, carried on in the "show must go on" tradition, but it was tough.

Elder Elwood Boyd stepped up to their rescue with a portable model that helped out. Haskell Sharrard arrived to give it some professional attention and spotted the trouble right away with an experienced eye. We had to leave and never heard whether they finally got going again or not.

PA systems are like projectors. No matter how well you set them up, they always seem to go haywire at the critical time. Who hasn't gone to a highly-publicized meeting of

some kind to see movies, only to have the picture start to flutter or the sound dissipate into raucous jibberish? We recently read a cute article in "The Forest Log" on the matter and will reprint it when we have the space.

BUT AN EXCEPTION on these public address systems is Rose City Sound. This firm has done the job for a number of years for the rodeo, and there is no complaint about them!

At the Saturday p.m. performance of the rodeo, the wind kind of threw a monkey wrench in things because before the sound got across from the speaker to the main grandstand the wind seemed to carry it away from the stands. But the Rose City man corrected this quickly. He went up the pole and adjusted things so that the crowd could hear perfectly.

We've heard many, many compliments about the manner in which Joe Daley of Pendleton announced the shows. We'd wager he'll be back next year if he wants to come.

THOSE WHO WIN cash prizes at the events can't complain about the speed with which they get their pay. Secretary Jack Locke had all cowboys paid off by 6 p.m. Sunday (and that's a whale of a complicated job). Lenna Smith and her fair crew was finishing up payment of the hundreds of fair premiums Tuesday, going out by mail; and prizes for the parade have also been paid by Randall Peterson.

WE'VE HEARD it said that some of our local people don't know the magnitude of their fair and rodeo perhaps because it is too close to them. They do not realize that some of these performers who come here are outstanding ones, rating among the best. This is one thing we are going to try to rectify next year. We'll try to get more advance information on those who come here to perform. The Salem Saddle Club could have had considerably more advance buildup, for instance.

LITTLE LISA COLLINS, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Collins, was the hard luck gal at the horse show Friday when she rode her sister's horse, Pecos, in the trail class. Eight-year-old Lisa found her arms were about half long enough to reach from the horse to the gate when she attempted to open it as one of the obstacles. She worked and worked and never gave up. The gate got off balance and started teetering. But she kept at it and got the job done. Once through the gate, Pecos backed off from the jump but Lisa squared the steed around and finally made it.

Just watch this little gal. In four or five years, she will be among the best of our local rid-

pitality shown them here. Certainly they should have been given every courtesy from a county that is known for its wholehearted western hospitality.

And look at the support given by Hermiston and Pendleton. At least five floats came from Hermiston, not to mention riding groups. Pendleton had its Happy Canyon group, the Drum and Bugle Corps, the entire Round-Up court, President Ford Robertson of the Round-Up and other officials and entries. How can we show enough appreciation for such a spirit of neighborliness?

We don't think that our local committees are going to rest on these laurels. They will be meeting right away to consider suggestions, perfect details and plan for next year.

A letter from Mrs. Jim (Jewel) Hager elsewhere on this page has some suggestions of merit. Let's take a look at some of the things that might make our big celebration week even better. Shouldn't we be a little bit self-conscious about the lack of local participation in the parade?

There are some fine floats, riding groups, and humorous entries, to be sure. One wonders how the lone band, for instance, can become so snappy even before school is on. Those who entered floats from the Heppner area worked many hours on them, and they were good.

But visualize what our parade would be if Pendleton, Hermiston, Salem and other outsiders didn't come to participate with us.

Mrs. Hager's idea of 10 hours and \$10 towards participation is a good one. Businesses should never doubt for a moment the value of the fair and rodeo to them. Those who so generously come to perform without expense to the fair and rodeo contribute to our local prosperity, if it must be put on a mercenary basis.

The fair and rodeo is gaining a top reputation throughout the state and this puts a focus of attention on Morrow county and Heppner. They attract the interest and attention of people from a wide area. Miller, as rodeo chairman, has expressed faith that the local show is one to be proud of and should be continuously expanded. We're with him.

NRA cowboys coming from all over the northwest declare that this is among the best of those they work. They like the spirit of cooperation and the efficiency with which it is run. Jack Locke, rodeo secretary, by the way, had all checks paid to performers by 6 p.m. Sunday, and they are hardly used to such speed.

We'll have to say that the rodeo crowd was disappointing. Gate was only about equal to last year, the main grandstand was only half full Sunday, and the rodeo receipts don't meet expenses. We think that local people can make a better effort to attend; that they can encourage their friends from elsewhere to come and spend the week-end with them. Sure, there are complaints that the seats are too hard and the grandstand is uncomfortable. But, with support, it is hoped that a new grandstand can be built in a few years.

In a small community, there are scarcely enough persons available to work on events of the magnitude that we stage here. But the many who serve on our committees are extending themselves to do a fine job, and they have just one basic thing in mind as they give of their time and effort—to better the community by doing something which may bring pride, enjoyment and incentive to all.

Congratulations are due to all these hard workers. It is our feeling that anything less than full support to them from all able persons in the Heppner area is too little, for their efforts are aimed towards benefitting everyone.

We have found none of these leaders who are not open to suggestion and we are sure that anyone with constructive ideas for bettering the events will find that they are welcome. Now, while the events are being re-evaluated, is the time to give them.

TO THE EDITOR...

To the People of Heppner:
First, I would like to commend each and every one that worked on the Rodeo dances, the Fair, the Parade and the Rodeo for a job well done.

It is a lot of work to put on the "show" of last week. We are a small community, so every one needs to do his share, or labor involved becomes a burden for a few.

About our parade: We had the largest and in many ways, the best parade yet. It was very well organized, thanks to those members of the Chamber of Commerce that worked on this. The loud speaking system, however, was inadequate. Could not this be corrected before another year? It was shameful for our school band to not be in uniform with the pluck and determination she displays.

WE DON'T want to embarrass him but we had a particular interest in Ken Waud, the livestock and horse show judge, since he was in our English and orientation classes at Nysaa High nearly 25 years ago. He seemed to use good English in announcing the show and appears exceptionally well oriented! Sadly, we'll have to confess that he didn't learn a thing about horses from us, but somewhere he learned it well.

Ken, who is a nephew of Mr. and Mrs. Fred (Sadie) Parrish, told us that he enjoys coming here more than any other place because of the friendly and courteous attitude of the people and the sportsmanship he encounters. He is very much in demand, too. After leaving here, he went to a Benton-Franklin county show as judge and had to be back to Othello Sunday where he was in charge of a barbecue.

HAVE YOU ever noticed how street decorations stay up in some communities long after the celebration is over? They get tattered and windblown and reflect no credit to the town that they were designated to enhance. No such procrastination here! Columbia Basin Electric crews, who put up the street streamers, had them down by Monday ready to store for another year, and that is very much appreciated.

Incidentally, when the flags were first put up, the wind tangled them pretty badly, but it was discovered that each had a long pocket sewn in the fabric for inserting a stiffening lath. The Columbia Basin boys stuck in these laths and the flags thereafter dropped pretty and straight.

form. Band parents and the community have supported money raising events to make certain our band would have the nice uniforms they deserve. Why were they not in uniform?

Hermiston Chamber of Commerce and others from Hermiston contributed very substantially to our parade. Why doesn't our Chamber show as much public spirit and have a float to go to Milton-Freewater Pea Festival, Condon 4th of July Parade, Umatilla County Fair Parade at Hermiston, Pendleton Dress-up Parade, as well as our own Morrow County parade? It would be great to see one by next summer.

The Main Street Cowboys and others from Pendleton have supported us wonderfully. It is time to show by actions that we truly appreciate all of these good people rather than talk about it. "Talk is cheap—it takes action to show how we feel," is a wise, old saying to follow.

Also, wasn't the Salem riding group wonderful? Please express everyone's sincere appreciation to them, Dimple.

Now for a realistic look at what our community has benefited. Between dances, parade and rodeo, we have between \$1500 and \$2000 new dollars circulating in our community. Each one of us benefits from this. Are you entitled to benefit? You aren't if you did not donate at least 10 hours in labor and \$10 in cash. Many contributed many times this.

Let us resolve right now that we are each one going to do our part, take pride in a job well done, and it won't be such a burden on a few.

Let us not forget by next year, but find out now, today, what we can do to help!

Sincerely,
Jewel Hager

Dear Wes:

Hope you have a spot to give folks their just dues. The rodeo dances this year all had record crowds and I wish to compliment all the young people on their fine behavior. I was real proud that this community and surrounding territories have such fine teenagers in it. They deserve a lot of credit for not bothering or molesting any of my hand-painted rodeo decorations; and I would like to thank them.

Mrs. Lois Winchester

Mrs. Ray Taylor returned to her home in Heppner Saturday after visiting the past two months with relatives and friends in various towns in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

English Traveler Visits in Heppner

"They won't believe me when I tell them about this country back home!"

So remarked Mrs. John Adamson of Kinston Surrey, England, who was a guest of Mrs. Mary Bryant here August 21 to 23. The comment came after a trip to Madison Butte in the Heppner Ranger District.

Mrs. Norman Lynn, Portland, sister of Mrs. Bryant, accompanied Mrs. Adamson here. The English woman is Mrs. Lynn's sister-in-law.

Mrs. Adamson was on a tour across the country and into Canada. She said she likes the west coast much better than the east coast. With Mrs. Lynn she returned to Portland Monday, August 23, and left from there for home.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER SWIM POOL
Closes Sunday, September 5

MORROW COUNTY SCHOOLS
Open doors Tuesday, Sept. 7, 8:45 a.m. Heppner, Ione, Boardman and Irrigon.

RAINBOW MEETING
Ruth Assembly, Order of Rainbow for Girls
Important meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m., Masonic Hall.
Members urged to be present.

HEPPNER HIGH FOOTBALL
First game of new season
Heppner vs. Pilot Rock
Friday, Sept. 10, 8 p.m.
Heppner Rodeo Grounds
Support the Mustangs!

Stores Closed Labor Day—
Travel safely; don't be another statistic.

DON'T FORGET TO WATCH FOR THE SCHOOL KIDS IN THE CROSSWALKS!

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Know Your Newspaper Better

Dear Editor:

Now This Is What I Think!

Did you ever write a letter to the editor?

It's fun to see yourself in print. But actually, you're not writing to only the editor. If he prints your letter—and he probably will—you are really writing to all the thousands of readers of this newspaper. That's a substantial body of readers, but don't let that scare you... write as if you were talking to just one of them.

What Do You Write About?

Perhaps you are really mad at the editor and want to tell him off on some opinion he has voiced. Perhaps you can't contain yourself any longer on some important local issue. Perhaps you just like to sound off now and then on topics of current interest. Whatever you choose, the "letters to the editor" column is your opportunity to speak your opinion.

We Welcome Good Letters

In writing them, please follow the rules printed at the top of the letters column. These rules ask that you keep your letters reasonable in length, reasonable in tone... free of defamatory matter. Remember, the editor must "boil down" your letter if too long, and will take out statements that are libelous... even though the letter has your name printed underneath.

Plenty of Topics

It's really fun to write to the editor. We don't recommend that you become a "chronic" letter writer, but every now and then we'll be glad to hear from you... taxes, highways, elections, the legislature, streets, parks, schools, city government, accidents, safety, business... scores of things to write about!

