

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## Christmas Opening Again!

Thanksgiving is over, the community Christmas tree is up, colored street lighting is being installed at this writing. Santa Claus is getting his reindeer hitched up (we understand), and Christmas Opening in Heppner is at hand.

Merchants for the fifth consecutive year here are inviting the public to take part Saturday in their guessing contests and are displaying their gift wares to the shopping public.

We agree with those who feel that the trend now is to "start Christmas too early." In larger cities, it tends to supersede Thanksgiving, and one can find department stores festooning their displays for Christmas as early as October. In the popular vernacular, this is too much!

But now that Thanksgiving is past, there is no containing the excitement that accompanies the preparation for Christmas. Thoughts turn to others—of sending them greetings and of remembering friends and relatives with gifts.

While we mortals have made this a somewhat hectic time with our hurry-scurry, nevertheless there is always a noticeable change of spirit as this season approaches. You notice it in the more ready smiles of those you see on the street, the light of anticipation in the eyes of one who has found just the right gift for that certain person, and more consideration is shown for the other fellow. That is the spirit of Christmas.

It is in this spirit that Heppner merchants invite all to come Saturday to take part in the happy proceedings. The more the merrier!

Oris Crisp, logging contractor for Kinzua Corporation, and his crew have furnished the Christmas tree. Columbia Basin Electric Co-op men and Vic Groshens' city crew have set it up in downtown Heppner. The power company also is installing the lights as of Wednesday. All in the community are cooperating to make Christmas Opening another fine event.

It seems apparent that merchants are doing a better job than ever to provide merchandise that Christmas shoppers are seeking. Some stores have enlarged since last year and others have added new lines and built up their stocks.

The stage is set, and the invitation is out. Heppner welcomes those who will come to start the Christmas season of 1965.

## Signals Needed to Avoid Freeway Pileups

As the year nears its end, motorists in the state of Oregon have already set a gruesome new record in traffic deaths. How much the slaughter of 1965 will exceed any previous year remains to be seen, since nearly a month still remains. This month of December includes the holiday season in wintertime when driving conditions are particularly hazardous. December always brings a sorrowful and shameful carnage, the antithesis of the happy and gay spirit of the holiday season.

No matter what laws are passed to promote greater highway safety or what steps are taken to improve equipment with the hope of lessening hazards, the toll rises.

But one might conjecture what the toll would be if continuous attention were not given to promoting safety. Use of seat belts, for instance, has undoubtedly spared many lives.

One particular type of accident that has developed with the construction of freeways and is generally associated with winter when fog, rain and darkness are prevalent is the multiple pileup. Prior to Thanksgiving, telescoping crashes on the Baldock freeway involved dozens of autos. These usually start with a two-vehicle collision of some sort or a breakdown on the highway. Other vehicles, going at high rates of speed, plow into the pileups before they are aware a hazard exists. The result is staggering in property damage, injuries and deaths.

This week, east of Boardman, two lives were taken on a two-lane section of Highway 30 when a camper-trailer rig became involved in an accident with a large truck. Before the highway was cleared, two other vehicles collided head-on and the lives of the two Chicagoans were taken.

It is reported that efforts were being made to signal traffic around the accident scene, but the midwesterners apparently missed the signal, or ignored it. Perhaps it was insufficient to give adequate warning—we don't know about that.

It would seem entirely possible that auto manufacturers could come up with a device that would provide adequate warning to others in case of such an involvement. Most motorists are pitifully unprepared with any kind of signal system for a night accident. In cases where most of those initially involved are injured, they may be unable to get out and signal others around the scene of hazard.

Perhaps the manufacturers could develop an automatic device that would shoot off some sort of flare, for instance, with the touching of a button. Surely they could develop some sort of electrical attachment that might be bright enough to penetrate the darkness for a safe distance, or even to be visible through fog for a reasonable space.

On today's super-highways, the faithful flashlight or small red electric signal isn't enough. Some of those which hook into the cigarette lighter only have a 12-foot cord. State highway maintenance trucks now have amber flashing signals mounted on top that are visible for good distances. This might be a clue for the auto industry to work on, incorporating the signal into the vehicle so that design and symmetry of the auto would not be impaired.

It certainly seems that there is a weakness in our traffic laws about providing adequate signalling in such cases of emergency on the highways. Truckers are generally well equipped, but even their requirements are outmoded by the freeway speeds and conditions that motorists have today.

Until the time comes that the auto industry incorporates such devices and until laws require the use of something with candlepower enough to do some good, a prudent motorist who uses the freeways, particularly in the gloomy months of winter, should equip himself with powerful emergency lights that he might set out as a warning in case he is involved in an accident or breakdown.

Surely in this age when the auto industry has done such a wonderful job developing cars into the mechanical marvels they are, it should be able to develop an emergency signalling system adequate to protect the persons who occupy these vehicles on super highways where (according to a recent article in a national publication) speed limits of 100 miles per hour are now being contemplated.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ANSWERS to last week's quiz on Oregon and Morrow county, printed in this column, are as follows:

1. 97,000 square miles
2. about 1/4 of its potential
3. ryegrass seed
4. wheat
5. \$81,941,000
6. approximately 75%
7. 451 billion board feet
8. all the houses in the U.S. with some left over
9. \$59.5 million
10. 78,749 miles
11. 100,000 per year
12. nickel
13. 50% of its manufacturing labor force
14. 1,906,000
15. five major railroads
16. 2,133,000 autos
17. \$245,000,000
18. two persons
19. \$2,679,337,000
20. 6000
21. \$112.01
22. tenth largest
23. "The Union"
24. Douglas fir
25. Oregon Grape
26. Western Meadowlark
27. Chinook salmon
28. highest in the nation
29. 2,659 square miles
30. \$8,200,000
31. 372,306 acres
32. \$23,431,050
33. 202,000 acres
34. \$9,600,000
35. \$2,500,000
36. February 16, 1885
37. 65.1 degrees
38. 36 counties
39. 2,331
40. six years

HOW MANY did you miss? Anyone who missed less than five (without looking up the answers) should consider applying for a position with the State Department of Planning and Development or go into some form of Chamber of Commerce work. We don't suppose anyone checked "scissor-tailed flycatcher" for the Oregon state bird, but don't laugh too loudly. This is the state bird for Oklahoma.

Anyone who might want a copy of this quiz for any reason can get one at this office. We have a limited supply printed and on hand.

MANY IN THE community will experience some pangs of regret at the announcement this week that Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware is going out of business. This is one of Heppner's most venerable institutions and perhaps has the longest history of continuous operation of any

local business. We have not had time to check into it as yet, but do know that it covers a span of some 80 years.

We noticed in a Heppner Gazette of 1903 that Ron Leonnig brought in this week that Gilliam and Bisbee had an ad in that paper. This was at the time of the flood, and the firm had been in business for a considerable period by then.

Owners Margaret and Claude Buschke, both natives of Heppner, wouldn't think of leaving here but will seek something less strenuous than the business operation entailed. Loss of the store and the services it offered in association with hardware lines will leave a considerable hole in the business community that will need to be filled either by other existing stores or someone taking over to replace it.

We know that the Buschkes are taking this step with considerable reluctance, and we wish the best for them in the future.

WAYNE EVANS, one of the cogs in the Heppner High basketball team that went to the state tournament in Coos Bay in March, is sticking right in there with the Oregon State University freshmen, according to Mustang Coach Bob Clough. Wayne, a sharpshooter, is handicapped by lack of size in college ranks, being about 6-0 but rather light. But he apparently has been performing real well even though he needs more meat on his bones.

At last report he was still on the freshman basketball squad, and Coach Clough thinks that the last cut has been made. All the fans he thrilled with his performance on the maplecourt

### DANCE

To Live Music

Friday, Saturday

Nights

Wagon Wheel

HEPPNER

Phone 676-8997

here wish him well with the Beavers.

WE NOTICE that after months of detouring around the John Day River bridge on Highway 80N, workmen are about to heal the near fatal wound that the bridge suffered in last winter's flood. Steel girders are in place and motorists going around the detour have noticed, with some spine-tingling, how the construction workers nonchalantly climb around those narrow girders high in space.

It won't be long until traffic will be zipping across the bridge again and this fantastic happening, which continues to awe the public, will start to fade into history.

Tell the advertiser you saw it in the Gazette-Times.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL  
Opening game of season,  
Saturday, Dec. 4  
At Enterprise, 8 p.m.  
Support the Mustangs!

LEXINGTON GRANGE BUFFET DINNER  
Lexington Grange Hall, Sunday, Dec. 5  
Varieties of delicious foods  
Serving from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Tickets \$1.50 and 75c

GARDEN CLUB SHOW  
Special Christmas decoration ideas  
Sat., Sun., Dec. 4, 5  
Lexington Rebekah hall, 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday; from 12:00 to 5 p.m. on Sunday  
Everyone welcome.

CHRISTMAS OPENING  
Downtown Heppner, Saturday, Dec. 4.  
Prizes for Window Guessing Contests. From 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Santa arrives at 1 p.m., free gifts for kiddies  
Shop at home and SAVE!

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY  
**C. A. RUGGLES**  
Insurance Agency  
P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625  
Heppner

# Big Surprise Coming!

## WE'RE QUITTING BUSINESS

# Closeout Auction

## Friday and Saturday, December 10 and 11

STARTING AT 10 A.M. FRIDAY

EVERYTHING GOES! OUR ENTIRE STOCK WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION

- PLUMBING  
PIPE FITTINGS, FENCE POSTS
- GUNS, AMMO
- SMALL APPLIANCES
- TOOLS  
HAND TOOLS, CARPENTER TOOLS, POWER TOOLS
- SHEET METAL

MANY FINE  
ITEMS FOR  
**Christmas  
Gifts**

- FISHING TACKLE
- HOUSEWARES  
MELMAC DISHES, CORNING WARE, TEFLON PANS  
AND KETTLES
- CHAIN SAWS
- ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES  
SUNBEAM, PRESTO, HAMILTON-BEACH, PROCTOR
- NAILS, STAPLES, NUTS,  
BOLTS, WIRE, ROPE

**Free Gifts**  
To The First  
**200 Buyers**  
COFFEE AND  
COOKIES SERVED

MANY, MANY OTHER ITEMS--Sleeping Bags, Lawn Chairs, Bicycles, Some Office and Store Fixtures and Some Shop Equipment. TERMS: CASH

DONALD KENNEDY,  
AUCTIONEER

**Gilliam and Bisbee Hardware**  
HEPPNER

CLAUDE AND MARGARET  
BUSCHKE, OWNERS