

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

**SADIE PARRISH**, county clerk, found herself in a hot spot when she went to Salem last week to attend a budget school with other county budget officers. The meeting was in the State Highway building and she stayed in the Senator Hotel.

About 4 a.m. fire broke out on the fourth floor of the hotel. Sadie had a room on the same floor. The hotel staff notified her by telephone to evacuate, and when she got out of bed, the smoke was so thick, she could scarcely see through it.

"It was terribly frightening," she said. "I opened the door and couldn't see anything in the hall because of the smoke."

Across the hall, however, were Mr. and Mrs. John Liveira of John Day. He is the clerk of Grant county. When they came out, they were fully dressed and had their bags packed.

Asked how come she wasn't up and around by 4 a.m., Sadie declared, "I was sleeping in."

Liveira had gotten up to get an aspirin tablet when he noticed the smoke. That's why he and his wife were ready to depart so quickly.

Fortunately Sadie's room was by a fire escape and she used that route to evacuate.

The hotel guests waited in the lobby while firemen put out the fire that had started in a man's room at the other end of the corridor from the Morrow county clerk.

"It is enlightening to see what well-dressed people wear at 4 o'clock in the morning," she said.

They had to wait until 7:15 and then were able to get back into their rooms. Clothing was pretty well permeated with the odor of smoke. Damage to the floor of the hotel was considerable, but Sadie escaped without any damage.

**ILLNESS** has been depleting the ranks of our Heppner business people and officials recently, we are sorry to say. Some are coming back on the job but others have some distance to go before full recovery.

Jim Myers was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital, Portland, Wednesday after being in the hospital here for several days. He has had severe pains in the head, and his wife, Mary Ellen, said that a spinal tap showed positive results, indicating need for further diagnosis and treatment. Everyone wishes for a speedy recovery go to him.

A spirit of helpfulness that is unique with small towns is shown in this instance. Without a registered pharmacist at Phil's Pharmacy because of Jim's illness, Rod Murray and Lynn Pearson of Murrays Rexall did double duty and went over and filled the prescriptions coming in until Mary Ellen could find other help. She obtained a Hermiston pharmacist temporarily but may need someone else to help out later if Jim isn't able to come back soon.

Mayor Al Lamb became ill on his return from Washington, D. C., where he attended the meeting of the National Farmer Cooperatives, suffering from the same type of ailment that troubled him last fall. After returning by air from Washington, he went to Salem to visit his parents and attend another meeting. Then he went to Portland to still another meeting. En route from Portland to The Dalles by auto Sunday, he felt an attack coming and called home for his family to come and get him.

He has been confined to his home and is under medication there. His speech has been affected temporarily by this last attack. Surely hope to see him out and around soon, too!

Meanwhile, on the recovery end, Dave Potter, county school superintendent, was downtown Wednesday and apparently feeling much better after his three weeks in a Portland hospital. It's good to see him back.

Mary Schwarz went back to Court Street Market after a couple weeks' bout with the flu. She is working just part of the day until she is fully recovered.

At Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co.,

Tim Moore has been battling a bug, too, but wouldn't yield until Tuesday, when he stayed home for a day. He was back on the job Wednesday, saying that he felt some better.

Ron Leonig of the Wagon Wheel is reported to be making improvement at Pioneer Memorial hospital after suffering a recent heart attack. He is able to sit up now, and maybe he will be able to be out soon.

**ALL THE GOVERNMENT** officials he could contact weren't of any help so Nels Anderson, in Niger, Africa, called on his home town merchant, Roice Fulleton for help.

He had been trying since July 30 to get parts for some Chevrolet pickups, especially an ignition switch and lock. They finally arrived in mid-January from New York, but the switch receptacle that came was without lock, ring and key.

In desperation, Nels decided to bypass the channels and appealed by letter to Roice for the part he needs, giving him the part number and other information. Our local Chevrolet dealer made up the order in jig time and by this writing is well on its way to Nlamey.

**BOB PENLAND**, ex-editor, is doing a fine job on his paper at Tillamook. He's putting out a shopper, "Headlight-Herald Shopping Smiles," as well as the weekly paper. Even the jokes in the shopper are good. Sample:

"It's called 'take home pay' because after taxes and deductions you just can't afford to go anywhere with it," but on second thought, maybe that isn't a joke. "We'll have to ask our linotype operator, Reggie Pascal, who, without dependents, turns over nearly 25% of his check each week to 'de ducks'."

Another: "Two workmen sat down to eat their lunches. One began to unwrap a package some 18 inches long. "What's that asked the other."

"My wife's away," said the first, "so I made myself a pie. A bit long isn't it?" his friend asked. "Long? Sure, it's long. It's rhubarb."

**THANKS** to Ora Yeager for the reply on the "If I old rainmaker of 1905." (See letter elsewhere on this page). We'll pass the information along to L. A. Moore of Hermiston.

You're right, Ora. It would appear that the rainmaker would have to be the world's greatest optimist, figuring on selling the county on rainmaking just a couple of years after the big flood of 1903!

**Sgt. John Pickens** Awarded Medal

Senior Master Sergeant John L. Pickens, son of Mrs. John McGovern of 9208 Holly Drive, Everett, Wash., has been awarded the U. S. Air Force Commendation Medal at Spokane International Airport, Wash.

Sergeant Pickens received the medal for meritorious service as a personnel superintendent at Ent AFB, Colo. He now is an Air Force technical advisor to the Washington Air National Guard at Spokane. He is a member of the Air Defense Command which protects the U. S. against enemy air attack.

The sergeant is a graduate of Heppner High School. His wife, Clara, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Ledbetter of R.F.D. 2, Heppner.

**Mr. and Mrs. Jim Devine** and family, formerly of Heppner, are moving this week-end from Goldendale, Wn., where they have lived the past year, to Madras. Devine started working the first of January for Foster Manufacturing Co., as a factory representative out of Madras. The company is a manufacturing outlet for straw carts equipment.

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

### The Northwest Rodeo Association Says Thank You, Heppner For Your Fine Hospitality!

We wish to express a big "Thank You" to the merchants of Heppner for the wonderful hospitality they showed us during our convention. Also thanks to the Morrow County Fair Board, The Wranglers, the girls who served the banquet, Fred Mankin for making the coffee each day for the meetings, Lois Winchester for the decorations. The Gazette-Times for the publicity and name badges, and to Roice Fulleton for the big job he did in getting the preparations all set up. If we have overlooked anyone, we thank them for their part in the convention's success.

NORTHWEST RODEO ASS'N.  
By Joann Griffith, Sec., Spray, Ore.

### TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:

I am very much interested in the little article in the Chaff and Chatter section titled "WAS THERE A HI old rainmaker in Morrow county in about 1905 to 1910 or somewhere along there?"

In answer I say, yes, there was such a man came to Heppner trying to collect money to produce artificial rain in parts of our county. At the present time I cannot remember his name. But as it was just a few short years after the great flood of 1903, the Heppner people wanted no part in causing a downpour like he promised.

I remember in the spring of 1903 we had no rain for several months and crops were drying up, especially in the Eightmile and Gooseberry sections, so the men of Heppner and farmers in the Eightmile country decided to do something about it.

They made arrangements with the local blacksmith to loan them their big heavy anvils. They took two anvils and placed a big charge of blasting powder with a cap between and set it off with a torch. I could see the men all afternoon and all during the night exploding this powder. It made a big booming sound like a cannon being fired very close.

I saw the coal oil lanterns swinging on the arms of the men on the big western hill behind Heppner. The men of Eightmile did the same thing out there.

The following is an excerpt from my forthcoming "History of Morrow County": "About 10 o'clock on the morning of July 3rd a bombardment was begun at Heppner and from that time until noon shots were fired at short intervals. At 1 o'clock the firing was resumed. As per arrangement, heavy firing was resorted to at Eightmile, but these efforts failed to produce a cloud even the size of a man's hand. What men could not do, unaided in her own good time, and before many days the rains descended in great abundance, invigorating all growing crops and materially improving the prospects for a good harvest."

If you would pass my name on to Mr. Moore, I am sure I might help him out a bit, without any charge. Am very sorry to hear of another one of the M. J. Devins' girls passing. The Devins and Yeager families were early day friends and I went to school with some of them.

I am going to make it back home again next Pioneer day celebration if I possibly can.

O. M. Yeager  
Castle Rock, Wn.

To the Editor:

I am now receiving the Gazette-Times and enjoying it very much. My brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clell B. Rea, of Ione subscribed for me.

I was born in Heppner in 1899 and although times and people have changed, I still recognize many of the old names.

In the copy of January 13 there is an item in your Chaff and Chatter pertaining to a copy of the front page 1903 flood edition of the Heppner Gazette. I would like very much to have one if it is possible, as I was there at the time and still have quite vivid memories for a four-year-old.

Would you pass my request on to Mr. Ron Leonig?  
Yours very truly,  
Mrs. H. C. Wood  
353 E. 85th Street  
New York, N. Y.

### 'Oregon Beautiful' Chapter Organized; Second Meeting Set

Mrs. Fred Martin, Ione, as District Director of Blue Mountain District No. 10, Federation of Garden clubs, and also representing Morrow county, attended a steering committee meeting in Pendleton Tuesday to organize a Umatilla chapter for the "Oregon Beautiful" program, recently set up by the governor and other state leaders.

The newly formed organization is concerned with all types of county and community improvements through suggested ways of beautification, and is working in cooperation with federal and state levels.

Gene Walls of Pendleton was elected chapter chairman, with Leroy Follett, of Blue Mountain college, vice chairman, and David Burkhardt, Milton-Freswater, as secretary.

Another follow-up meeting was set for Friday, February 18, at Gunther's restaurant in Pendleton, at 12:00 noon. Anyone is welcome to attend and Mrs. Martin is anxious that several will represent Morrow county and become familiar with what is available for improving beauty spots within the county.

### PUBLIC CARD PARTY

SATURDAY NIGHT  
JANUARY 29  
7:30 P.M.

LEXINGTON REBEKAH HALL

Proceeds Go To  
Odd Fellows Eye Bank

### McRoberts Injured In Cycle Accident

Arlo D. McRoberts, son of Mrs. Austin Devin of Heppner, is hospitalized in the Arcadia Methodist hospital, Arcadia, Calif., for injuries received in a motorcycle accident there last week, according to word received by his mother. His leg was severely broken above the knee, requiring him to be in the hospital and in a cast for some time. He had been going to school in California this winter, following his discharge from the Navy, where he had served eight years.

McRoberts is the twin brother of Ellis McRoberts of Kinzua, also has a brother, Lee McRoberts in Kenwick, and a brother, Oliver Devin, in Heppner.

See us for envelopes of all kinds. The Gazette-Times.

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### Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL

Friday, January 28, Heppner vs. Sherman County Heppner High gym Jayvees, 6:30 p.m., Varsity 8:00 p.m. Support the Mustangs!

FIRST AID COURSE

Second session, Jan. 31, 7 to 9 p.m. Junior High Library Standard course and advanced course Public invited.

PUBLIC CARD PARTY

Monday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Altar Society Catholic Parish Hall Bridge and pinocle Everyone welcome!

MOTHERS' MARCH

March of Dimes Tues., Feb. 1 Heppner, Lexington and Ione Give generously.

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P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625 Heppner

### Community Responds on TV

Officers of Heppner TV, Inc. report a strong community response on last week's plea for support in fighting an expected regulation of the Federal Communications Commission. This regulation, designed to protect local TV channels, would result in abandonment of plans to bring television by microwave here, and could well mean that the Heppner system could no longer receive Portland stations.

Many, many persons have written to Congressmen to protest the FCC action. This local stream of letters joined those from many other areas, such as Pendleton, where cable systems also would be impaired by the ruling. It was reported that one senator had received 5000 letters on the matter.

Congressman Al Ullman, who has the reputation of keeping abreast of problems that are important to his constituency, was quick to respond, and in a wire report Tuesday was quoted as saying that he had asked the FCC to postpone its ruling indefinitely.

He added that if the FCC does not satisfactorily resolve the controversy, congressional action may result.

This is as it should be, for legislation should be enacted in the Congress and not by a board, commission nor bureau. Another point that has been brought out since this matter came to light is that the pending ruling would make it virtually impossible to bring educational TV to our county. It had been planned to look into the matter of using one of the channels for educational TV on the microwave system. But without microwave, this development, which seems to be a coming thing, would have to be abandoned.

Officials of the Heppner cable system are encouraged and grateful for the local response to their plea for help. They are pleased by the actions being taken by Congressman Ullman.

While the situation looks a little more encouraging this week, it cannot be said that the battle is won yet. Those who have not yet written are encouraged to do so. Congressman Ullman will need this evidence of support in his presentation.

### One Man Gang 'On the Hill'

Development of the Arbuckle Mountain ski course came close to being abandoned prior to the winter season. In fact, the directors voted at one meeting to discontinue the venture because of the financial problems being encountered. But a spark of life flickered and a "one man gang" in the person of Bob Henry took the responsibility of getting the operation going again this year.

At this writing, it appears that he is doing a remarkable job as he devotes most of his spare time at the project. He stubbornly worked on a plan to get a bus route started to "the hill" on Saturdays. Through the cooperation of Bill Platt of Condon, the bus was obtained at minimum cost and it hauls a good load to the mountain every Saturday.

Skiers each week at Arbuckle number approximately 100. This is far from making it a profitable venture for stockholders in the corporation who invested primarily for the sake of developing the community's recreational assets, but it is probably sufficient to keep the operation at a "break-even" point until something better can be done.

If it were just the simple operation of the ski tow and the matter of taking care of regular expenses, the project could be showing a profit now, but fixed costs are heavy for the little project.

It costs approximately \$300 per season for insurance; another \$100 is needed for the U. S. Forest Service use permit; a performance bond costing some \$100 is still another item; and there is the matter of a State Industrial accident fee. These are just a few of the fixed expenses that must be faced.

Henry reports that he can virtually see the way clear at this point so that the Arbuckle course will come out even this season, paying back \$640 that directors borrowed on their personal signatures to underwrite part of the season's costs. Remainder comes from season and daily ticket sales, and from receipts on the bus run.

Among those who are good skiers are those who insist that Arbuckle Mountain is as good or better for the sport than many of those much better publicized. The problem, in an area of small population, is to attract enough sports enthusiasts to make it pay. Arbuckle has been unable to finance the better types of tows that will add the necessary glamor to the hill to attract those who are the ardent devotees of skiing.

As a result of Henry's work as a "one man gang" on this project, together with the assistance of those faithful to the venture, Arbuckle is staying alive. It is having its best season. Youngsters making the trip by bus are getting instruction and they are becoming interested in one of America's fastest growing sports. It's a good wholesome activity and good for them.

When it seemed a few months ago that the project might be doomed, directors were reluctant to break the faith that community backers had shown by investing in stock. The board is fortunate that Henry came through with enough impetus, energy and fortitude to save the season.

While admittedly this year has been something of a stop-gap for Arbuckle, who knows what the next year may bring? More and more good skiers may "discover" Arbuckle. Maybe some source of funds may be found to boost the promotion of the course; maybe others will step forward to give Henry some much needed help.

With the eye toward development of recreation in our adjacent mountain country, Arbuckle could become a part of a great year-around playground some day, bringing thousands here, just as other resort developments have done in other areas.

Under Henry's leadership, Arbuckle has met a big hurdle this year, and those genuinely interested in building the community owe him a debt of appreciation.

### Boardman Cooking Club Has Election

Officers were elected for the Boardman Busy Bakers 4-H club at the meeting January 20, held at the home of our leader, Mrs. Hoffman.

Those elected were Diane Rash, president; Karen Phillips, vice president; Cyndi Duncan, secretary; Linda Hoffman and Charmale Flock, recreation and song leaders; Helen Cook and

Winifred Kiks, news reporters.

It was decided to have all meetings at the home of our leader, Mrs. Hoffman. Handled out recipe books and we talked about them. Charmale and Linda will make muffins and Helen and Glenda will make scrambled eggs at our next meeting.

Helen Cook, reporter.