

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 13, 1912.



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Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.
Subscription Rates: \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Tuesday Meeting Important

Meeting scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 in the multipurpose room of the Heppner elementary school on the Willow Creek project is not to be considered a formal public hearing. Rather, it is an informational meeting and is called for the specific purpose of answering questions of all those who have any interest in the project.

This is the time when a person should be able to get a reasonably authoritative reply to any point on the project that may be of interest to him. It should clear the air of any misunderstandings or misconceptions that have developed concerning any phase of the project.

It is apparent at this point that greatest attention is being focused on the irrigation feature of the multipurpose project. Matters in this connection are the most difficult to work out. Without the irrigation feature included it is virtually certain that the dam would never become a reality because it tips the scales to the benefit side on the benefit-cost ratio worked out by the Army Engineers.

While it can hardly be expected that details of a workable plan for irrigation could be laid at this mass informational meeting, potential irrigators at least can get the answers to some of the questions they have in their minds.

Additional meetings, we are told, will deal specifically with the irrigation feature.

Importance of the Tuesday meeting cannot be overemphasized. It is vital for Morrow county as it looks to the future, not only because of the multipurpose benefits embodied in the project but also because it is a major factor in promoting the economy of the county.

Officials from the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the State Water Resource Board will be present, in addition to the district watermaster.

Those who have no questions should come for the information they may glean, since the project will affect the lives of all who reside here.

'Tempest in a Teapot'

Following a two-day meeting in Pendleton over the weekend the state legislature's interim committee on public lands now is apparently satisfied that there was nothing unfair or crooked in the filings on BLM lands in northern Morrow county under the Desert Entry act of 1877.

This conclusion is something of which local public officials and those close to the matter were convinced all along and made some effort to explain through sessions with state and federal agencies ever since the matter broke.

Judge Paul Jones has maintained throughout the fuss that it is a "tempest in a teapot," a term he used again at the week-end hearing, and that the trouble is of "newspaper manufacture."

While not overlooking the importance of the proposed development in the north end, we concur with him. We confess that we are not proud of our newspaper colleagues in the daily field who have consistently used such terms as "land grab," "probe," and "hanky panky?" in stimulating agitation and raising doubts in the minds of the people when there really was no basis for doubt.

Because of the interest in Oregon on development and because of the attention focused on Morrow county following the Boeing lease, this type of thing tends to stimulate the appetite of zealous reporters. After all, they reason, newspapers must be the guardian of the public interest. Judge Jones was thoroughly quizzed by the press in Portland, and he must have been a little awed at how they magnified this matter out of proportion. They were not close to the facts, and as a result of their lack of basic knowledge or research, their stories gave the inference that there just might be something going on that wasn't on the level. This is exaggerated further by the provoking headlines that use such tasty terminology as "land grab."

In turn, whetted by these accounts, elected officials, such as the esteemed Senator Vernon Cook of Multnomah county (who on occasion has expressed his disdain for eastern Oregon in such terms as the "land of sagebrush and jackrabbits") feel it their mandated responsibility to conduct an investigation. This, to all intents and purposes, is what went on Friday and Saturday.

Well, if that point is settled once and for all, maybe it is worth the expenditure of taxpayers' money to get the job done, and thoughts can turn to other things for hashing and rehashing.

It occurs to us that if there were any negligence or unfairness in connection with these filings, it was that of the State of Oregon in failing to publish notices that the State's hold on the BLM lands was being released last year. This was not done—at least locally.

Had such a notice been printed, it would have given all interested a fair start in the race for Morrow county's "Cherokee Strip." Now it remains to be seen whether the principal of the "fustest with the mostest" applies in determining who gets the land—the "Portland group" or the "local group"—if the matter doesn't get so involved in government red tape that neither gets the sections they are filing on.

County School Calendar

- February 4**
Basketball: Stanfield at A. C. Houghton—2:30
Ione High at Riverside
Ione Elementary at Umatilla
Heppner Elem. at Echo—2:00
Wahtonka at Heppner High & Frosh at Grant Union
- February 5**
Riverside High at Echo
Weston at Ione High
Dist. Speech & Parliamentary Procedure Contest—Boardman—9:00 A.M.
- February 7**
Ladies Volleyball at A. C. Houghton—7:00
Ione Advisory Committee—7:30
- February 8**
Boardman Irrigation Advisory Committee—Boardman
Budget Presentation at Lexington Dist. Office—7:30 P.M.
Arlington Frosh at Heppner—5:00
Iowa Test of Educational Development for Heppner High Freshmen
Boy Scout Court of Honor at A. C. Houghton Cafeterium—6:00 P.M.
- February 9**
Ione PTA and Heppner PTA at 8:00 P.M.
- February 10**
Home Extension at A. C. Houghton Cafeterium—10:30 A.M.
4-H Community Club at A. C. Houghton Cafeterium

Rev. Melvin Dixon Undergoes Surgery

The Rev. Melvin Dixon, pastor of the Heppner Methodist church, went to Portland Tuesday for scheduled surgery in St. Vincent hospital on Wednesday. It was to correct a hernia condition.

He was expected to be hospitalized for a week or 10 days and will be out of his pulpit here for two Sundays. The Rev. Fletcher Forster of Pendleton, former pastor here, will be at the morning services on the Sundays and will be assisted by laymen in the church.

Mrs. Dixon accompanied him to Portland but planned to return this weekend.

Amateur Radio Classes Billed

Classes in amateur (ham) radio are scheduled to start again Wednesday, February 9, at 7 p.m. at the home of the instructor, Ray Smith, 190 S. Chase, Bob Jessen announces.

Classes are for both novices and advanced amateurs, and all are requested to come to the first meeting at the time set. Those who have had no previous training are also invited.

Ex-Teachers to Meet

Morrow and Umatilla counties' Retired Teachers' association will meet at the Rhea building, north of Hermiston on the main highway, on Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Rees Morgan, publicity chairman, announces. A sack lunch exchange is planned. Coffee, tea and punch will be furnished. A film, "Bird's Eye View of Alaska," furnished by Genevieve Mayberry, will be shown, and officers will be installed.

Communion Slated

Father Chandler Jackson of Hermiston will conduct communion service in All Saints Episcopal church Sunday morning at 8 a.m. Bob Abrams of the church reminds members. Previous announcement erroneously set the time as 8 p.m. Correct time is 8 a.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Munkers returned Monday from a seven-weeks vacation trip to Arizona and Mexico. They were holiday visitors at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Harris, and three children at Phoenix, Ariz., and while traveling in the area, called on Mrs. Leta Thomas in Tucson, where they visited with her new mobile home in Tucson, and visited with Mr. and

Talk on Africa By Earl Hardie On Grange Agenda

LEXINGTON — Lexington Grange will be hosts on Saturday, February 12, to a meeting which will start at 8 p.m. and will be open to the public when Earl Hardie of Condon will be the guest speaker. Mr. Hardie recently returned to his home in Condon after three two-year tours of duty in Ghana, Africa.

Hardie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Hardie, long time Gilliam county ranchers. He graduated from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry and a master's degree in livestock production. In Africa he was employed by the Agency for International Development, and was a livestock specialist attached to the Ghana Ministry of Agriculture.

In Ghana he lived at an animal husbandry station. There are about 39 men stationed there, in Ghana, who are distributed over the country in different aspects of agriculture. Some of these men teach agriculture in school, some are heavy equipment advisors, some are soil conservationists and some are specialists in rubber growing. Hardie worked primarily in the field to teach better management of beet cattle, with much of his work similar to the soil conservation work in this country. Some of Hardie's work consisted in developing grasses of high nutrient value, and how to build dams and ponds to hold the water supplies.

Ghana is the same size as Oregon but has a population of seven million people. Much of Ghana is open grassland with few scattered trees. The temperature is between 60 and 90 degrees.

Hardie will talk on the habits of these people and their farming methods and present slides to make a most interesting program.

Lexington Grange meets for its regular meeting on Saturday, February 12, at 8 p.m. but will start with this program which will be open to the public prior to the regular meeting. Potluck dinner is planned for 6:30 to which all members and interested friends are cordially invited to attend.

Mrs. E. M. Baker who are vacationing this winter at Mesa, Ariz. They enjoyed a short sight-seeing trip into Mexico.

Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

IF IT HAD been known that there would be as much interest in the Bureau of Land Management lands in the north end of the county as there now appears to be for irrigation development, the government might have turned back the pages of history to determine how to open the lands to the public.

In 1889, Oklahoma found itself with some 2,000,000 acres of choice land available after treaties with the Indians provided lands for their use. A tremendous interest developed in this "Cherokee strip" which President Benjamin Harrison opened for settlement.

The would-be settlers lined up with their teams and wagons at the Oklahoma border and at a given signal took off at full tilt for the lands in the famous "Race for the Cherokee Strip." There were 20,000 in the race.

Incidentally, the father of the co-publisher, Mrs. Sherman, was in this race. He was Harvey E. Stevens, a man with the bearing of a Kentucky colonel who lived in Oklahoma in his youth. He died in Buhl, Idaho, in 1943 at the age of 82.

Of course, it might be a little difficult to follow this procedure today. The event for the North Morrow irrigation lands might have been advertised, and then all contestants could have lined up in their high-powered autos at the Morrow-Gilliam line on highway 80. The route to the available sections might have been pretty well strewn with wreckage as the pack roared eastward at some 100 mph!

Even with the hoses and wagons in 1889 in Oklahoma, it must have been quite a sight to see the anxious settlers head pell mell for the "promised land." Unfortunately, we never had the opportunity to visit with Mr. Stevens much about it, but he probably had a story to tell on this famous race.

IT IS often said of Herman Green that a person can almost set his clock by the times he makes his pickups on his sanitary service route, he is that steady.

But on Monday he was a real ball of fire—almost literally. He and his helper had picked up some ashes and dumped them into the load of paper and trash on the truck.

As Herman drove down the street, he saw in his rear view mirror heat waves issuing from behind. He stopped the truck and found the load ablaze.

Herman was close to the fire station and wheeled the rig in the alleyway behind it, then ran to Fire Chief Charlie Ruggles for help. The chief took out one fire

truck and they soon had the blaze extinguished. Herman customarily runs his gloved hands through ashes when he picks them up, since he learned to take this precaution by previous incidents, but his helper didn't do it. He knows now!

WITH ALL the stories of deaths, tragedies and war in the newspapers, there is one bit of good news this morning—the John Day River bridge is open at last.

No longer does one have to drive down "in the hole" going to or from Portland. It has taken over a year to replace the bridge which was lost in the flood of December, 1964, but the job is done. This time, the piers are on bed rock and it shouldn't wash out for a few generations at least.

WE HAVE some new helpers on the Gazette-Times, and we appreciate their work! Students in Mrs. Rachel Dick's Heppner High journalism class have been writing school stories for their Hehisch page once each month, but they are also helping out with sports and other items of continuing interest on a weekly basis.

We've always felt a little at a loss to give the schools the type of coverage we feel they deserve since we just don't have the staff to cover the ground, but this assistance on the part of the young journalists certainly helps. We're finding that they are doing a real good job, too.

We extend them our hearty thanks and hope they enjoy seeing their work in print.

MEANWHILE we have a promising photographer coming up, too. Bill Johnson, Ione High student and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd (Jim) Johnson of Lexington, shows a talent and ability in photography and is interested in going into it here as an avocation.

He is getting an enlarger and hopes to be "in business" soon. Bill took the photos of the players on last week's basketball page. While he lived at Corvallis, he did much of the photography on the Corvallis High school annual, and his work shows a knowledge of composition, backgrounds and other technical aspects of photography.

This community has need of a good photographer, and Bill may come along to fill this need. We get many calls for taking pictures and we try to provide the service as much as we can, but we'd certainly welcome someone to do "shutterbug" work while we stick to newspapering.

Cecil Community Club Aids March of Dimes

By KATHERINE LINDSTROM

IONE — Members of the Friendship Club in the Cecil area and their families and friends gathered at the Community Hall on Saturday night for a potluck dinner and party.

With Mrs. Ed Patton as chairman, the group gathered dimes all during the evening for the March of Dimes fund. Dimes were charged for dessert and for all kinds of situations while card games were played. A total of \$50.81 was raised.

Dick Ekstroms Have Daughter
Friends and relatives here were pleased to hear that a third daughter has joined the Dick Ekstrom family in Concord, Calif. The baby was born on January 18 weighing 8 lb. and has been named Kathryn Ann. Her sisters are Vickie and Karen and her grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Ekstrom, Sr. and Mrs. Ida Coleman of Ione. Great grandparents are Mrs. Lester Wilkins of Albany and Mac McLain of Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smouse and Carl are spending a few days in Portland and also plan to visit their son, Kenneth Lynn, in Corvallis before returning home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. Earl McCabe spent Saturday in Kennewick visiting the McCabe's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Klingler.

A service of dedication and installation of all officers, both newly elected and those now serving, and all committee members and the Board of Christian Education is announced for Sunday morning at the Ione United Church of Christ.

The Ione Dance Club will have a dance at the Legion Hall Saturday, February 5, at 9:00 in the evening for members and invited guests.

Terrie O'Connor and a school friend, Leslie Harrison of Mt. View, Calif., left on Monday for Portland after spending a few days visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Connor. The girls are classmates at St. Helen's Hall and were enjoying a semester break.

Among those spending a few days in Portland last week were Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pettyjohn, Sr. and Mrs. Ray Heimbigner, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lundell, Mrs. Garry Tullis and Mrs. Roy W. Lindstrom.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Rohde and son were visiting this week-end at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rietmann.

Guests of Mrs. Ida Grabbill are her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wright of Baker.

Nelson Reaches 80th Birthday
Alfred Nelson, Sr., celebrated his 80th birthday January 27 at his home in Oakgrove, Oregon. Mr. Nelson farmed for many years near Lexington on the farm now operated by his sons, Norman and Alfred Jr. Those present for the occasion were Mrs. Nelson and their sons and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Mason, Jr. and family, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Slonecker, and Norman Nelson of Ione. Another son, Alfred Nelson, Jr., was unable to attend.

Topic Club will meet at the

Sister-in-Law Dies Following Stroke

Mrs. Herbert (Frances) McQuarrie, sister-in-law of C. E. McQuarrie of Heppner, died in Tacoma last Thursday night following a paralytic stroke.

Mr. and Mrs. McQuarrie went to Tacoma for the funeral services Saturday and returned Sunday.

The death came suddenly and was a shock to members of the family. Besides the husband, she is survived by one son, Herbert, Jr., serving in Connecticut with the Coast Guard.

Ex-Resident Ill

Maurice A. Frye, brother of Mrs. Blanche Brown of Heppner, is in a hospital in Alameda, Calif., where he has been quite ill, Mrs. Brown reports. However, he was showing good improvement at last report. Frye, now retired, was a resident of Heppner in his youth, leaving about 1924 when he was about 16 years of age.

Mrs. Edward L. Burchell has been spending a few days visiting here with her mother, Mrs. Margaret Healy, from her home in Salem. Her husband, Col. Burchell, is now stationed with forces in Viet Nam. Their son, Capt. Larry Burchell, is also in service in Viet Nam, and although in separate divisions, the two men were able to spend a week-end together recently.



Coming Events
HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
Friday, February 4, Heppner vs. Wahtonka
Heppner High gym
Juvvees, 6:30 p.m., Varsity 8:00 p.m.
Support the Mustangs!

HEPPNER MOTHERS CLUB
Annual Sweetheart Dinner
Saturday, Feb. 5, 7:00 p.m.
Heppner Grill.

PUBLIC MEETING
Public meeting on Willow Creek Project
Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1:30 p.m.
Heppner Elementary Multipurpose Room
Public urged to attend.

HEPPNER HIGH PTA
Wednesday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
High School Multipurpose room
Special Program
All parents, teachers and public invited.

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