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GUEST EDITORIAL

'What About Thanksgiving?'

By THE REV. DIRK T. RINEHART
 Pastor, All Saints' Episcopal Church

It isn't unusual to hear people say, "I don't see what difference it makes whether I believe in God or not since the universe and my life continue on day after day, whether I believe in Him or not."

My friend, it does make a difference. It does make a difference whether you understand yourself to be an accident of natural forces or a creature, a child of God.

Central to this difference is what we mean by Thanksgiving. An "accident of nature" owes nothing to anyone. Life simply is the result of a coincidence of events, which may or may not be happy, bring pleasure, or have meaning. Probably the giving of thanks plays no special part in a person's life who understands himself to be an "accident of nature." After all, how can a person thank an accident?

On the other hand, the giving of thanks plays a central role in the life of a person who understands his life to be a gift from the Almighty. This person knows that he didn't bring himself into the world and that he owes his very being to God. Since his life is understood to be a gift, there is no room for boasting or complaining, the two attitudes of men which especially warp life. How can a person boast about what is given to him?

"What do you possess that was not given you? If then you really received it all as a gift, why take the credit to yourself." (I Cor. 4:7). Also, how can one complain when nothing is deserved, when all of life is a gift from outside ourselves?

The Christian faith teaches that the difference between giving thanks and not giving thanks is the difference between "life" and "death." People who have never had or who have lost a sense of thanksgiving in their lives are "dead" people. Oh, their hearts may be beating and they may be walking around, but they are dead—spiritually dead, which is the worst kind of death.

A very large part of the abundant life promised by God in Christ is a life filled with thanksgiving. To be "alive" in the fullest sense is to be truly thankful to God for our creation and for new life in His Son, here and now. Why wait until the grave? The grave may be too late. Abundant life is promised to us now. "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10).

This Thanksgiving Day, 1966, is a most appropriate time to become a new person, to respond to God's promises, to be His thankful children. When every day is a day of thanksgiving we shall begin to know what life is all about—life, that is, in its fullness.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

RIVERSIDE HIGH school's football team, which has made its way to the state finals in the class B 8-man ranks, is paying a great tribute to the venerable old school. As the present building is about to bow out to make way for the rising of the John Day dam pool, the Pirates on Coach Dan Daltoso's football squad are making it a red letter year for the school and a fitting climax to its long history.

The Pirates will play Fossil's Falcons at Boardman on Saturday, November 26, at 1:30 for the state championship. Because it is a "neighborhood" affair now with the two teams coming from our section of Eastern Oregon, there is more than usual interest in the finals. It should be a great game, and regardless of the outcome, both schools have made excellent records.

The old phrase, "often a bridesmaid but never a bride," might be applied to Riverside's winning of the league championship this year — their first time for a title after coming in second five consecutive years, but they have done much better by moving on to the finals.

The Pirates are making a fine chapter to add to Riverside's colorful history, as are the Falcons of Wheeler County high at Fossil. Congratulations to both schools and their teams!

THERE WAS quite a bit of an uprising apparent after the Chamber of Commerce recently took action to recommend controlling speed on the new 3-mile stretch of highway coming into Heppner. The G-T received phone calls and some visitors on the matter, all protesting the fact that holding speed down would neutralize the benefits of the driving on the new highway. Seems as if most of the protest came from lone.

The chamber of commerce reversed itself Monday and decided not to seek the lower speed after all, emphasizing instead that efforts be directed to enforcing the basic speed of 55 miles per hour which is supposed to apply to all highways not otherwise marked, although this is not a speed limit.

That seems to be a reasonable compromise. Our hope is that it doesn't become a speedway because the hazards of a rather congested area are still present.

Since the Chamber has backtracked, now, those incensed about the matter should be able to rest in peace. However, we'd caution those using the highway not to travel too fast so some don't wind up resting in pieces.

WELL, HERE it is time for Christmas Opening again! The pages of the 1966 calendar certainly have flipped by fast, and just when it seems as if September should be here, suddenly it's almost December.

Old Santa Claus, with his big red nose, twinkling eyes, rosy cheeks and long white beard, has confirmed his first visit to Heppner for Saturday, November 26, at 2 p.m. and all kids from far and wide are invited to come and greet him. He'll

have treats for all. The popular window guessing contest will be held throughout the city Saturday, and there should be plenty of fun for everyone. If you can't get in the holiday mood yet, come along and see what the decorations, the Christmas tree, Santa Claus' visit, and the gift merchandise in the stores do for you.

ABOUT THE ONLY time some sprawling sections of the state see their elected state and national officials is in the heat of a campaign when they come to mend fences, tell what a great job they plan to do, or decry what a miserable job the opposition has done or would do.

Thus, when Rep. Irvin Mann announced this week, on the heels of his reelection for representative in the 28th district, that he is making a tour of four of the five counties in his district to hear from the people what they want from the 1967 legislature, it is a bit unusual.

It is an excellent idea. He is going to be at the various county seats according to the schedule elsewhere in this paper, and anyone who wants to come and chat with him about their ideas on proposed legislation — taxation, agriculture, business, or whatever it may be — is invited to come.

It's a big job to keep in touch with the people in a district as big as the 28th district, and Rep. Mann deserves a big pat on the back for making this additional effort.

TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
 We felt that we would like to take this opportunity to express to the townspeople, merchants, and all the others in Heppner who have made us feel so welcome, our sincere thanks for all the kindnesses and considerations that have been shown to us since we arrived here this past fall.

Everyone seems to have gone

out of his way to be helpful to us, and we are sure we express the appreciation of the new teachers for this warm welcome we have all received.

So, as is befitting this season of Thanksgiving, we would like to say to all of you that we are glad to be here, and thankful to be a part of such a friendly community.

Sincerely,
 Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Weitzel
 Heppner High School



Coming Events

ROCKHOUND MEETING

Morrow County Gem and Mineral club
 Saturday, Nov. 26, 7:30 p.m.
 Old City Library, Heppner
 Program—Slides on "Story of Fluorescence in Gems and Minerals"

TURKEY HOP

Teenage Dance, Saturday,
 Nov. 26, 9:30 to 12:30
 County Fair Pavilion
 Music by The Henchmen
 Sponsored by Soroptimist club

ECW BAZAAR

Episcopal church bazaar, luncheon and "flea market"
 Saturday, Dec. 3
 Many Christmas gift items for sale

GOLDEN AGE CLUB

Tuesday, Dec. 6
 Episcopal Parish Hall
 Potluck dinner, 7 p.m., entertainment following
 Guests welcome.

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ANNOUNCING

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