

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836  
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## Inventory Time Again

With the New Year at hand, it is time to take inventory again. Businesses will check their stocks and make their physical counts to see what is left after the Christmas shopping period and determine the amounts on which they must pay taxes.

But it is also a time to look back on the old year to take an inventory of community accomplishments and to prepare for the new year coming.

There probably is a tendency to think that at the time of New Year, we can erase the old slate and start fresh. All the bad things are over and done, we rationalize, and now we can get down to cases with only good things ahead. Hope springs eternal in the human breast, and this is fine, because it brings rejuvenation. Despite setbacks, disappointments and sadnesses, man is still basically optimistic, and from the depths of his soul he has the capacity to become re-inspired.

The end of the old year and the coming of the new gives him a chance for a clean break.

But on the local scene at least, we can't kick old 1966 out without a few compliments. Morrow county had no disasters. It had no devastating floods nor storms, no major crimes, few destructive fires.

There were some economic setbacks. Our lumber industry was hit with a depressed condition, and a lack of spring rain hurt our crops. But harvest turned out not nearly as bad as many had expected.

While Morrow county is so situated that it does not necessarily reflect the abundant prosperity of the nation as much as more industrial or populated areas, neither does it sag as badly when recessions occur. There is a stability here because the county is not susceptible to temporary booms.

Gains made here are of the slow, steady and sure variety. The interest in recreational development in southern Morrow county picked up in 1966, and plans are in the offing for greater things in the new year. A number of major building developments are contemplated in Heppner, indicating a faith in the soundness of the community. At Ione, the Pacific Gas pumping station will give some help to the economy there and will go on the tax rolls upon completion to help pay a share of the burden.

Developments in the north end of the county are beginning to surge, and 1967 should bring some rather striking developments there. The new town of Boardman blossomed during 1966, and it is giving the county a "new look" at its "front door." Despite the troubles in getting Riverside High school construction under way, it is sure that it will be on the way up soon, and this will be another milestone in an ever better county school system.

As we view it, the school year of 1966-67 shows the steady gains being made in the educational opportunities and facilities offered here. Teaching and administration staffs seem to have attained a new high in excellence, and the work of the school board and county administration in pressing forward against many problems (some of which seem almost insurmountable at times) are paying dividends. It can be seen in the attainments of our students. Consider, for instance, the number of our high school graduates who are now in college. It is a high proportion, and most of them are doing very well in higher education.

We think, too, of the attainments of our adults whose worth and merit are recognized at state and regional levels. Bob Jepsen has just been elected president of the Oregon Wheat League, and Gene Pierce recently was elected president of the Independent Bankers. There are many other such attainments.

At the holiday season, it is good to take inventory, too, of all the fine things our people have done—how they have rallied to help others in the many different projects undertaken through the year. There have been many. Work for the hospital, work for the kindergarten, work for the churches, contributions for the Heart Fund, the Cancer Society, the Red Cross, the March of Dimes. In our Morrow county, neighborliness is an outstanding characteristic, and when a person or family or institution has need of help, it is generally forthcoming on a voluntary basis.

We note that Roger Babson's national forecast for 1967 has a rather pessimistic tone, and we see in this morning's paper that in Vietnam they are preparing for a 50-year war.

Although somewhat insulated from the rest of the world by its location, Morrow county cannot help but be affected by national and international events. Our boys are serving in Vietnam and are going through the miseries of that war. We all pray for a speedy end to the conflict. The greatest accomplishment 1967 could bring would be to see it ended in some manner.

Our wheat, cattle and lumber conditions are dependent upon national legislation to large extents.

At the same time, Morrow county, with its self-reliant people and no boom-or-bust industries, can enjoy a fair prosperity when conditions elsewhere may not be too good.

Add it all up, and it has to be conceded that 1966 was a good year. There is every indication that 1967 will be even better in Morrow county.

There may be unforeseen events of adversity, but, just as our people can welcome and enjoy the good things, they are also hardy and resilient enough to meet problems with confidence.

These qualities are pretty hard to beat, and they give our people a long stride in assuring a Happy New Year.

## Rainbow Dance Set For Thursday Night

Ruth Assembly No. 50, Order of Rainbow for Girls, will sponsor its annual Christmas Dance on Thursday evening, December 29, at the Heppner IOOF hall. The semi-formal dance will carry out the theme, "Silver Bells." General chairman for the dance will be Linda Clark, worthy associate advisor of the Heppner assembly. A queen and two princesses, chosen by the assembly, will be announced during the intermission. The public is invited to attend. Live music will be furnished by the "Go-Fers," a combo from The Dalles, with admission at \$1.50 per person. Dancing will be from 9:00 to 1:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served during the evening.

Mrs. Olive Hughes and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hughes and family of Heppner spent Christmas in Sweet Home with Mr. and Mrs. Keith Marshall and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hughes and families. Mrs. Marshall is a daughter and Tom and Bill Hughes are sons of Mrs. Olive Hughes. The Tom Hughes were due back by mid-week but the mother is continuing on to California to spend several weeks with relatives in Sacramento and southern California.

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Fielder for Christmas were friends, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne McLarty and three children of Anton, Texas. The McLarty's drove to Heppner, arriving Friday, December 23, and leaving Monday. They reported a good trip up.

## TO THE EDITOR...

O. M. Yeager  
Box 476  
Castle Rock, Wash  
December 19, 1966

To the Editor:  
Like Oscar E. Peterson, I, too, want to thank you for the fine write up you gave us in the issue of December 8, about my history of Morrow county.

Oscar has been working hard to have this book published. I think Oscar is the one to push it. Giles French is the one to edit it and myself to write it. When I first started to write my version of the subject, I had no idea of ever having it published, but the farther I got into the matter the more urgent it became to have a complete history of Morrow county to leave behind me. This much I am to do if I can.

More than 15 years ago I made many trips to Portland to talk to Fred Lockley and to get his advice on how to go about the job. Fred Lockley had written and published many volumes centered around the Columbia river. Fred was the first

outside reporter to reach Heppner a day or so after the great flood of 1903. At that time Fred was part owner of the Pendleton East Oregonian. My father, James L. Yeager, the local furniture dealer and of course, the undertaker, as they were called then, told me to go out and pick up several men and start building boxes to bury the dead. This I did. I worked for weeks on this job, then the mayor, Frank Gilliam, asked me to start rebuilding the several bridges over Willow and Hinton creeks.

At that time Hinton creek emptied into Willow creek almost opposite the old stock yards near the old railroad station. Mr. Hart was the station master then.

There were more than 10,000 men came to help in the searching for the unfortunate victims. I have the complete story of the great flood in my book and if it is a success I will write at least two more volumes. Jesse O. Turner, attorney once told me there were enough stories of

Morrow county to fill several books, and I want to be the one that writes them. I am very sure that the people of the county would prefer to have a native, born in Heppner to write this. I understand there are others going to attempt to write this. All they could write about is hearsay. Before I left Heppner many years ago I spent several months interviewing every one of the old timers still living then. Now they are all dead. I have been told that there are several writers that have tried to see and copy my manuscript, but that would be against the copy right laws of the U. S. Government.

In the United States of America copy right laws on page 4, section 2 is, this: "Rights of Author or Proprietor of unpublished work: Nothing in this title shall be construed to annul or limit the right of the author or proprietor of an unpublished work, at common law or in equity, to prevent the copying, publication, or use of such unpublished work without his consent, and to obtain damages therefor."

I did tell Mr. Tom Glass he could use my flood story in writing his thesis on his graduation from the Oregon University, but nothing more.

Sincerely,  
O. M. Yeager  
Castle Rock, Wash.

Dear Editor:  
My highest compliments to the Rev. Donald R. Pederson on the Guest Editorial he wrote for the Gazette-Times last week.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

AS WE write this, we expect the week between Christmas and New Years to be an unusual one for the G-T publishers. For the second time since we have been in Heppner, we expect to be gone when the paper is printed. We're taking advantage of the "light time" of the "13th month" for a little vacation, while Arnold, Spike, Marion, Reggie, Bill, Jim and Randy get out of the home.

It has been so long since we missed a paper, we're almost afraid to go, although we know we have a very competent staff of hard workers. We've wanted to go down to California for years to see the farm operation of George Barkley, friend since childhood, and to Truckee to visit the Sierra Sun, published by a cousin, Walter Barrett, and to Monterey and Oakland to see Mrs. Sherman's sisters and families. Right at this moment, we don't know whether we'll get to all these places or not. We do think, though, that Christmas time is an occasion to think of friends, and we'd like to get this opportunity to visit some we've neglected.

IN THESE pre-Christmas days, we have been touched with the many nice things that those among our G-T readers have sent our way. The mail has been filled with many nice notes and letters—perhaps a sentence penned across the corner of a renewal notice with a check for a year's subscription. Others have come in to express some nice pleasantries. We surely appreciate these gestures which impart the fine holiday spirit from the great people our paper serves.

SANTA CLAUS had 67 calls in two hours on "Call Santa" night in Heppner, the sponsoring Jaycees report. His local crew kept pretty busy most of the time handling the calls. We understand that the youngsters could even hear the jolly gentlemen making toys in his North Pole shop.

One report has it, though, that the first call was a complaint from a youngster who told Santa he didn't like the train he got last year. Poor old Santa can't win them all!

WE EXTEND hearty congratulations to Bob Jepsen on his election as president of the Oregon Wheat League. He makes a fine looking president and he still has a year to go to reach Jack Benny's recognized age, so this gives Bob a real youthful approach in working on the complex and difficult problems of the wheat growers.

We share the county's pride in seeing our wheat growers taking leading positions in the state league. In 1964, Milton Morgan was at the helm and he now is doing work on the national level with the wheat interests.

A number of our county growers have positions on committees of the league. Generally speaking, Morrow wheat growers are younger than the state average. They are vigorous, progressive, active, and this brings a good outlook for the future.

Noticed that Giles French had a quip about how wheat growers used to appear at their conventions in overalls, but now they go all dressed up. Personally, we think this is to their credit. Probably it is brought about by the fact that wheat growers now have to take an active part in national affairs and must put a good foot forward in promoting their welfare.

In choosing Jepsen, they have a fine looking representative who is equally at home in a well-fitting suit or in dusty work clothes on tractor or combine.

THE THING we can't get over about wheat is how complex an operation man has made it. Basically, man puts the seed kernels in the ground to raise a crop to feed himself and his fellows. But in this complicated society and government of ours we have such things as party allotments, certificates, surpluses, foreign markets, Public Law 480, and other terms

ad infinitum. It's enough to drive a person goofy. Some of the new releases on wheat read like a graduate student's thesis on some technical problem. We don't see how the ranchers can keep all these things straight. How great it would be if somehow the farmer could revert to the simple procedure of planting his wheat, cultivating it, harvesting it, and selling it just as we produce and sell newspapers.

At least we can publish a paper without holding half of them back and depending upon a paper supplier to furnish certificates to bring us to parity. Nor does the government control the papers we send abroad, except to fix the postage.

IT'S ALL in the point of view. If you don't believe so, compare writeups in different weekly papers on the same basketball game where home loyalty is at its zenith.

For instance, we note in the Pilot Rock paper that the Rockets almost upset the Mustangs at Heppner last Tuesday (which is true). The account then continues that when Gene Harrison fouled out, "It gave the odds to Heppner."

Which is by way of saying that if the Rockets hadn't lost their best man (late in the game), they might well have conquered Heppner.

But when we wrote the story from the Heppner angle, we resisted the impulse to say that the score might have been much wider in favor of the Mustangs if one of our stars, Mac Hoskins, hadn't been ill and out of uniform—Or even a greater victory yet for Heppner if Russ Kikenny was back on the roster from his injury. (Odd that the Pilot Rock Record overlooked these things!)

This is not to belittle the Rockets. They are coming up with a mighty fine team—a big team—and they know how to use their height under the basket. The height factor about killed the Mustangs—and we'll sneak in, parenthetically, again "without Mac Hoskins."

But it seems a popular thing in hometown sports writeups—and we confess we are guilty on occasion despite our desire to be objective—to join the "We Woulda if We Hadda" club.

Oftentimes, the officials bear the brunt. "If the officiating hadn't been so rotten, we'd have won," so to speak. But despite all the excuses and the ailments and the shortcomings, the score is the only thing that goes on the record.

And that's something we have to live with. We admire Coach Mas Wat-anabe and his crew, though, and we think they are going to go far this year.

WONDER HOW President John Kennedy would feel about all that fuss over the book on his death if he were here to express himself?

## Salem Scene

by Everett E. Cutler

This waning year of intensified popular demand for tax reform promises to haunt the 1967 session of the Oregon legislature, which commences January 9.

Demand for overhaul of our state's tax structure has appeared chiefly in the form of property tax reduction proposals. Most notable among these was the 1 1/2 per cent property tax limitation measure proposed for the November ballot—the Oregon Supreme Court killed it on grounds of insufficient signatures, but the sentiment behind it is far from dead.

Admittedly, property taxes in Oregon are too high, disproportionately so. Gaining one of the finest educational systems in the U. S., one which now consumes two-thirds of all local tax revenues, has been a major factor in the steady rise of property taxes.

Property owners cannot be blamed for wanting to shift some of their inequitable burden. But, it is generally agreed, there must be better ways than that ventured by the 1 1/2 per cent lid proponents, and our elected lawmakers now find it imperative to find them.

Interestingly enough, Oregon has quite enough revenue to operate at existing state levels, but not enough to meet rising property tax reduction demands. In the current biennium, state direct property tax relief amounted to \$31.8 million in state general funds. Governor Mark Hatfield's recommended 1967-69 budget earmarks \$20 million for direct property tax relief; it also provides for \$178 per census child in basic school support (up from \$160), increased aid to community colleges and increased shares of gasoline tax revenue to cities and counties—all indirect relief measures which shift the load from local property taxpayers.

In addition, general fund surpluses at the end of each fiscal year are to continue to apply to direct relief, as per the de-

## Planning Started On Immunizations

Distribution of immunization slips among county school children have been made, according to Dr. L. D. Tibbles, health officer, Morrow County Health Department. However, clinics will not be held until 1967. Dates will be announced later for each school.

Written parental consent is necessary before the immunizations can be given. Parents of both grade and high school students are asked to sign the slips and have each pupil return the slip promptly to his teacher. This is necessary so that the needed biologicals can be ordered and clinic sessions scheduled.

Immunizations available, according to Mrs. Lowell Chally, R.N., include—the DPT (combined diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus) series of booster, for ages 5 and under; DT (combined diphtheria and tetanus) series of booster for ages 6 and over; smallpox vaccination, initial or booster; and, polio Salk injection (booster, only) for those who have completed the series of Salk injections.

## Golden Age Club To Meet Tuesday

The Golden Age club will hold a potluck meeting Tuesday, January 3, at the Episcopal Parish hall, 7:00 p.m. Music and games will be on the agenda. All members and potential members are invited.

Fatal accidents occur early in the holiday period. During the last six hours of Christmas Eve, the hourly rate for fatal accidents is approximately five times greater than it is for the remainder of the holiday.

### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL  
Heppner vs. Ione, Friday, Dec. 30, Heppner High gym  
Heppner vs. Ione, Jan. 3, Ione High School gym  
PTA Spaghetti Feed, Ione Cafeteria, 5:30-7:00 p.m. January 3.

RANIBOW DANCE  
Thursday, Dec. 29, 9:00-1:00  
Heppner IOOF Hall  
Semi-formal. Music by "Go-Fers" of The Dalles.  
Admission \$1.50. Public invited.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
Saturday, Dec. 31  
Elks Crab Feed, 6 to 8 p.m.  
BFOE No. 358  
Dance following, music by Roy Miller orchestra.

OUR WISH TO EVERYONE—A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

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Jr. Girls' coats and jackets nylons, corduroys, wools Sizes 3 to 6x	<b>788</b>
Girls Storm coats, wools, textured nylons Sizes 7 to 14	<b>988</b>
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## NOTICE

Beginning Tuesday, January 3, we will be in business in association with Lyle Jensen at Heppner Barber Shop at 166 Main Street.

I have been forced to move because of the sale of the building in which I am now located. I will be happy to meet and greet all my customers at Heppner Barber Shop.

--Jerry Hollomon