

# 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 15, 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.

## The Tail Wags the Dog

We see by the morning paper that football coaches are now grumbling because enforced television time outs for commercials may come just at the time their teams are making sustained drives or at other inopportune moments.

The commercial becomes the Big Thing and cannot be denied, whether it be for cigarettes, deodorant, an automobile or some kind of hair goop. Even the most super of Super Bowls must stop on cue for The Commercial. Thus the tail on television wags the dog.

A Portland TV station came out with a special hour-long telecast on Oregon Inauguration's day. There was a rather elaborate title introduction with pictures of the Capitol grounds and so on, and the viewer waited with some anticipation to see the opening scenes of the production. But when the camera shifted, what came into view?

One woman jawing another, "You've got bad breath!" That was a rather lowly start for the 1967 legislative session!

We don't know just where this is going to lead to eventually, since commercials are vital to the support of television, but we are thankful that in our medium—newspapers—the "commercials" (advertisements) are not the obnoxiously intruding things that they are on TV. Short of getting up and turning off his set, the TV viewer must sit through the commercials, whether he wants to or not. Newspapers give the reader a freedom of choice. He can read the ads or leave 'em alone.

## That's the Spirit!

Because not many students signed up for band at Heppner High school this year, there has been no pep band for the early basketball games.

But apparently the students decided that this was a situation that could not continue. They got together, apparently on their own volition and sparked by an editorial in the high school paper, came up with a volunteer pep band.

There is plenty of fine talent in the schools, and we understand 30 turned out for some of the practices.

Those who went to the Enterprise game Saturday night saw and heard the result. The kids were good. Their effect on school spirit and morale cannot be underestimated.

This sort of spirit helps restore faith of some of those disillusioned adults who are prone to think that the modern younger generation will do nothing without ample pay or reward.

These kids saw the need and met it.  
That's the spirit!

## TO THE EDITOR...



TUMBLEWEEDS IN ALL THEIR GLORY: Mesa, Ariz., decided to have a tumbleweed tree instead of a pine Christmas tree this year, with the beautiful results shown above. Garnet Barratt, former Morrow county judge and now living in Arizona, sent this clipping of the tumbleweed Christmas tree from a Mesa newspaper. He referred to a recent Chaff and Chatter item about a road being clogged with tumbleweed. (See Letters to the Editor). (SPUR Photo by Dale Welker).

## Arizona Tumbleweed

Dear Wes & Helen:

Greetings & Best Wishes. May the new year be a progressive and prosperous one for you and the citizens of Morrow County this coming year. I trust the new office and enlarged shop area will inspire you to even greater achievement with each weekly issue. To insure our receipt of each issue I am enclosing our check for a yearly subscription. I look forward to each issue even if some weeks it is a week or more in arriving here.

Your experience with the road full of "tumble weed" as reported in the December 8th issue surely brought back memories of many such incidents traveling the back roads of Morrow County. In the days before all the farming interests believed in "clean cultivation" and the county was limited to a meager maintenance of county roads by restricted funds, the narrow, deep rutted rights-of-way would fill up with either tumble weed or deep snow. The snow filled roads were usually insurmountable. If one couldn't go around then he just had to go back. However, the tumble weed would burn and a lighted match would soon clear the way without danger to the farm fences as the roads were narrow and the ruts were deep.

When I travel the roads and highways of Morrow County these days every mile is a bad memory of the past. During the past 20 years the citizens of Morrow County with foresight, perseverance and tax money, in cooperation with the county courts, have eliminated many of these inconveniences and the county is blessed with one of the best county road systems in the state. To them I will al-

ways remember and owe a deep debt of gratitude. I am also enclosing a copy of a picture to show how they use tumble weeds down this way. Yes, they do grow them here also.

Sincerely,  
Garnet Barratt

## Warp's Museum

Dear Mr. Editor:

Often in your paper an ad of the Warp's screen cloth appears. It is interesting to note that this fine old western company had built in Minden, Neb., what I'd call the finest family museum of its kind. The admission is modest and if it were used on American farms since 1850 they have it. It is arranged as a village complete with church, rail depot, engine and caboose, land office, city hall, some 50-100 old cars on exhibit, threshers, traction engines, barber shop, country store, fire equipment, etc, etc, etc. This Pioneer Village which is located on HWY 6—a main east-west route in Nebraska—is without a doubt one of the nation's top treats in nostalgia—from Grandpa to juniors—something for everyone and surpassed not even by the Metropolitan of NYC or Smithsonian of DC. When on any cross country forays to pass this wonderful show up is to rob one's self of great genuine enjoyment in American lore.

Clair Hampton Cox, Realtor  
127 N. 4th  
Corvallis, Oregon

Doug Gunderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gunderson is recovering from corrective leg surgery performed December 28 at Emanuel hospital in Portland. His family took him to Portland December 27 and returned January 2.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHEN WE READ last week of the two robbers who abducted a Safeway manager and his wife in Baker and took them to the store where the culprits made off with several thousand dollars, we were struck with the similarity of a case that happened perhaps 12 years ago in Dallas. The modus operandi was almost identical.

In the Baker case, the two came to the home of the Safeway manager and forced him and his wife to go to the store in downtown Baker, using the manager's car. After robbing the store, the men returned the couple to the home, tied them and fled in the "borrowed" car. It later was found abandoned.

We recall the Dallas case quite vividly because of its dramatic circumstances and because it involved some good friends, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dalpez.

The writer had just returned home from teaching an evening class at OCE in Monmouth and had settled down to watching Playhouse 90 on television. Oddly enough the TV program concerned a kidnapping case.

It was sometime after 10 p.m. when the telephone rang with someone giving us the news break that the Dalpez family had been abducted and the Safeway store robbed.

We grabbed the camera and went to the Dalpez home. By this time, Henry and his wife were back intact but still shuddering from the experience.

Dalpez said that he had come home from the store after working late and drove his car into the darkness of the garage. As he got out of the car, he felt what appeared to be a gun poking him in the ribs, and a husky voice demanded that Dalpez go into the house.

Now, the Safeway manager was a great practical joker. His neighbor across the street, Bob Stever, J. C. Penney manager, was also a practical joker.

When Dalpez felt this "gun" in his ribs, he knew, of course, that it was held by Stever, and played along with the gag.

When the two got into the living room of the home, though, it took no second look for Dalpez to realize that this was no joke. "We've always wished that we had a picture of his face at that moment!"

The fellow who held the revolver was dead serious. He asked if there were any child-

ren in the home. The quavering parents replied that their children were in bed in their rooms. The man demanded that they be brought out.

Then, holding all at gunpoint, he herded the entire family into the Dalpez car and made the manager drive him to the store. The robber stayed in the car with the revolver on the wife and children, insisting that Dalpez go in and clean out the safe. Henry wasn't about to disobey the order with his family in jeopardy. He scooped out all the cash—and it was a goodly sum—then brought it back to the robber.

Then the man told Dalpez to drive the car home. There he permitted the children and Mrs. Dalpez to go free, but kept the manager in the car to assure time for the wife, as she saw her husband drive off with the man holding the gun on him. She could well picture what might happen to him.

But a short distance in the country, Dalpez was turned loose and he got home unharmed. The couple was still stunned by the experience when we got there 15 or 20 minutes later.

Sheriff Tony Neufeldt, now deceased, did an admirable job as a law enforcement officer. He got to work on the case and through a process of deduction decided that the prime suspect was not an outsider but a man who lived with his family right in the middle of town. When Neufeldt went to the apartment to question the occupants, he learned that the husband was gone to parts unknown.

The sheriff immediately set a stakeout. A man was planted in the upstairs of a building adjoining the apartment house to keep it under surveillance.

As we recall, it was a couple weeks before anything happened. Then one night, a city officer's suspicions were aroused by a car that drove slowly into town in the proverbial "car the policeman followed at some distance behind. The suspect's car went through the downtown district and out Washington Street. Then it pulled to a curb and the lone occupant got out, walking back towards the center of town but cutting across lawns and through alleys.

Immediately the sheriff was alerted. He was ready. Several officers were posted around the apartment house. When the man started to climb the stairs to the second floor apartment, the story unfolded as dramatically as the production on Playhouse 90.

The sheriff commanded the man to halt. Floodlights were turned on him, as the officers advanced with pointed rifles and drawn pistols. He surrendered without a fight.

The fellow was taken to the sheriff's office, and the Dalpezes were called to undergo another ordeal. They had to come for identification. The couple stood in a hallway of the sheriff's office when the man was brought down from the second story jail.

When Mrs. Dalpez looked through the window separating the hall and the office, she did not need to say anything. Her expression told clearly enough that this was the man who had abducted them.

The robber was duly processed by law and was sentenced to a long term in the penitentiary. It came to light that he had gone to California after the robbery and apparently squandered virtually all of the stolen money at the race tracks.

Whether the man is still in custody or is on parole, we don't know. But the similarity of the Baker case was striking.

JUST HAVING received a new 1967 Reader's Digest Almanac, we glanced through it and turned to the page on the Principal World Floods. We were a bit chagrined to find that the Heppner flood of 1903 was not listed, and wrote a letter to the editor, to tell them so. Then we looked up in our copy of the World Almanac and find

## SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

Heppner Elementary School and Heppner High School  
January 13-19

January 13—Toasted cheese sandwich, stewed tomatoes, upside-down fruit cake, milk, cole slaw.

January 16—Sloppy Joe, spinach, pears and cottage cheese, milk.

January 17—Chili, corn bread, Jell-O salad, milk, cobbler or apple sauce cake.

January 18—Beef stew, bread and butter, tomatoes, prune cake and milk.

January 19—Mor. peas, milk, quick bread, fresh fruit.

Mattie Green, who spent some time before Christmas visiting her daughters, Mrs. Les Lundblad and Mrs. Omer McCaleb in Portland, entered Portland Sanitarium Tuesday, December 27, and is receiving treatment for a back ailment. Her address at the hospital is Room No. 303, Portland Sanitarium, 6040 S. W. Belmont, Portland, Oregon 97215.

that it is not included there either. We don't know by what means the editors decide on the magnitude of a disaster. However, some floods are listed ever as few as 37 died. Reports on the Heppner flood of 1903 are still in some dispute, but accounts we hear range generally from 247 to 252 deaths with other estimates going higher.

But on the world scene, there have been some terrible, terrible floods. One in China in 1939 claimed more than a million lives. Three others in China claimed 300,000, 900,000 and 100,000 in 1642, 1887 and 1911.

The flood of Johnstown, Pa., took an estimated 2,000 lives in 1889, and 6,000 were dead after a tidal wave at Galveston, Texas, in 1900. In Ohio and Indiana in 1913 a total of 730 lives were lost when the Ohio and Indiana rivers flooded, and in 1928, 450 died at St. Paul, Calif., when the St. Francis dam collapsed.

Flooding in Oregon and northern California in 1955 when 74 died was listed in the Almanac. Property damage was set at \$150 million.

Maybe the Heppner flood wasn't listed because property damage wasn't as heavy as many of these. If the editors respond, we'll find out.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

**HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL**  
Heppner vs. Burns, Friday, Jan. 13, Heppner High gym  
Heppner vs. Grant Union, Sat., Jan. 14, Heppner High gym  
Heppner vs. Sherman, Friday, Jan. 20, Moro High gym.  
Support the Mustangs!

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH DINNER**  
Sunday, January 15, 6:00 p.m.  
Heppner Christian Church host to Lexington Christian Church basement.

**LODGE INSTALLATION**  
Sans Souci Rebekahs, Willows IOOF, joint installation  
Saturday, Jan. 14, dinner, 6:30 installation 8 p.m.  
Heppner IOOF Hall.

**ORGANIZATION MEETING**  
Tuesday, January 17, 7:30 p.m.  
To organize Blue Mt. College extension classes  
Heppner High School. Variety of adult classes offered.

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## Smiths Enjoy Plane Trip During Holidays

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Smith flew to Ventura, Calif., December 23, to visit his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Smith and daughter Barbara. Also visiting with the Dick Smith family were another brother, Ted Smith, of Heppner and his wife, Ella.

While they were in California, the Harvey Smiths also visited Frances Wilson, in Sun City and Frank Engkraft, formerly of Heppner, in Ontario.

They then continued on to Las Vegas, to visit Earl Wilson in that city, returning to Ione by plane last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Anderson enjoyed a reunion with family members during the Christmas holidays. Gathering together at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Al Parent and girls in Salem were the Andersons, their daughter and granddaughter, Mrs. Dee Martin and Suzanne and a son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Porter, all of Portland, and the Parents.