

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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History Hinges on Response

If there ever were an opportune time to publish a history of Morrow county, it is now. More interest is evidenced in the project than ever before, and Giles French of Moro is willing and able to compile the history at a very reasonable figure.

French's capability is attested by the several books that he has written and by his many years as an editor. He now has the time and the inclination to do the job for Morrow county, asking for his expenses in doing research and a modest sum from the sale of the book.

Even with his generous offer, though, the project will take considerable money. It is estimated that publication cost for 1000 books will approximate \$5000, exclusive of French's work.

There is only one way apparent that the job can be done—through the liberal response of those who recognize the value of such a publication.

If there are enough persons in the county and enough former residents who believe that such a work is important, they will have to step forward with donations to make it possible. If this response is not forthcoming, the committee of interested persons working on the project will consider it as evidence of general disinterest and the publication of the history will have to be abandoned—at least for the time.

As has been said before, it becomes more difficult to write an accurate history as time passes because those directly connected with the early days of the county are passing on. Those who cherish Morrow county and have personal attachments for it, may wish to see an accurate record in print so that it may be perpetuated for posterity.

A Johnny-come-lately to this part of the state—such as the editor of this paper—is probably the least of those who should urge such a publication. His roots were not sunk in Morrow county soil. But as a publisher in the county, he is in a position to see the keen feelings of longtime residents and of those who have moved away.

If 200 persons would step forward with donations of \$25 or more—which they never could really hope to recover except to have the satisfaction of having the book published and getting a copy for themselves—the job can get underway.

Those who desire to share are invited to use the coupon elsewhere in this paper.

Mother Nature and Conservation

Geologists say that the earth is in a constant process of evolution. A certain land mass may be in youth, another in maturity and another in old age. Essential to this evolution is erosion.

In youth, there are jagged mountain peaks and deep valleys. In maturity, the hills are rounded and the valleys are broader. In old age, the rivers become wide and sweeping with flat plains surrounding.

The erosion goes on as Mother Earth follows this pattern. Wind and rain constantly erode rocks and soil, as the youthful earth points towards maturity and old age.

Heavy rains wash gulleys and the water is chocolate brown with good soil as the erosion continues. Mother Nature will not be denied. Through eons of time the good earth will go through this cycle.

But man has come to realize the importance of good soil to productivity. He knows it is precious. It has a great economic value to the farmer and to all those he serves by producing crops.

So Mother Nature presents a challenge, and it is an undeniable one. Her erosion is inevitable. It can't be stopped, but man has learned methods to check it and conserve the soil that is in his stewardship.

In Morrow county, through the work of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation district, ranchers are doing an excellent job, as evidenced by their strip cropping, stubble mulching, diversion ditches and other important practices. They are working to retain and to build the productivity of the county in the face of nature's relentless challenge.

In the past several years, the district has used the Gazette-Times to present its annual report, rather than to duplicate the report and mail it to participating ranchers. It is contained in this issue on pages two and three of section 2. The report gives a good idea of the work being done by the district. It will be emphasized at the annual conservation meeting Tuesday night in the Lexington Grange hall.

That the work in the Heppner district is recognized elsewhere is evidenced by the fact that a Portland television station recently made a documentary motion picture about conservation in Morrow county. The film will be shown at the Tuesday night meeting.

But for every one who realizes the importance of soil and water conservation there are many who evidence little concern about it. Conservation is important to everyone. As population grows, the need for food will increase. Scientists are even now looking to the sea as a source of food supply on the theory that the land eventually cannot produce enough. And everyone realizes the demand for water in view of the recent move of the Southwest to seek the "surplus" from the Columbia River.

While old Mother Nature pursues her course of erosion, man needs to do all he can to save soil and water. This is the challenge.

The Heppner Conservation district would be happy to have you attend the Tuesday night meeting to see and hear of work being done and learn of the job that lies ahead.

Gets Advancement

News of recent advancement in service rating for Sherrill McDonald, serving in Vietnam, was received Friday by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McDonald, Heppner. On January 10, Pfc McDonald was notified of his advancement to Specialist 4. He arrived in Vietnam on December 22 and has been serving on patrol and as aid to the engineers in Co. C, 3rd Bn., 60th Infantry, in the Mekong Delta area.

Winter Attends Marines' Session

Herman Winter, a captain in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve, went to Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sunday by airplane to participate in a planning session for the Marine Corps summer camp. Winter is training officer for an artillery battery with headquarters in Yakima, Wash. He expected to be back in Heppner by Wednesday.

Too Big a Bite

"LBJ Urges Higher Social Security" said the morning headline. This evoked a comment from one reader. "The president is biting off more than he can chew."

But more correctly, the president is biting off more than we (the people) can chew.

Why, we just had an increase! But he is asking Congress to increase the amount of annual income on which Social Security taxes are collected next year from the present \$6600 to \$7800, then to \$9000 in 1971 and \$10,800 in 1974. The present \$6600 is up from the \$4800 of 1963 and prior.

He also proposes that the present 4.4 per cent rate be increased to 5 per cent in 1969, instead of 4.9 per cent already in the law, and to 5.55 per cent in 1973, instead of the 5.4 per cent in the present law.

No matter how humanitarian a small businessman may be by nature, this is enough to stun him again. Many take a triple jump on a jump like this. First, he has to match the funds contributed to Social Security by his employees. Second, he pays over a longer period of time as the covered payroll is increased (going from the \$4800 of 1965 to the proposed \$10,800 in 1974). Third, for those business people who are covered by Social Security as self-employed, they also pay the higher rates on themselves. If they aren't so covered, they can look forward to drawing nothing upon retirement.

This is a condition that is becoming staggering and oppressive. It is bad enough on the wage earner, some of whom now—depending on the number of dependents they can claim—give up nearly one-third of their paychecks for taxes and deductions in the guise of "security." It is worse on the small employer.

If continued, these messianic policies of President Johnson and the Great Society, already demoralizing the people, spell extinction for small business.

Social Security, which was designed to benefit citizens in retirement, as well as those bereaved or disabled, is becoming a gargantuan parasite that is voraciously consuming the productive capacity of workers and destroying their incentive and initiative.

Those in the higher echelons, like President Johnson himself, certainly cannot see what conditions they are imposing on the people for no such high percentage of their income goes to "security." Put him in the shoes of a small husband-wife business for a year or two, however, and he would learn that another segment of the population is being forced into dire distress.

The principle of the working people laying something aside for retirement, death in the family or disability, is a fine one. But the Social Security program, which has spiraled far out of proportion from original intentions, is no bargain for the working person.

The January Reader's Digest quotes the Tax Foundation as saying that a 21-year-old man who starts working today at "maximum covered earnings" (\$6600 per year or more) and retires at age 65, unmarried, can expect the value of his Social Security pension benefits to total about \$12,792 less than the value of his tax payments plus compound interest.

Over 44 years of working, he will have paid Social Security taxes totaling \$32,496, including interest compounded at 3 1/2 per cent. The value of his expected benefits will amount to only \$19,704, based on the estimated 13 years he will live after he reaches age 65.

"This is insurance?" asks the Reader's Digest. When Social Security was first proposed, a plan might have been devised to make it mandatory for a person to put aside a portion of his earnings to a special account in his name in private banks. This would have been held in trust until something occurred to qualify him or members of his family for social security. The interest would accrue to his account—not to the government to squander. The money, placed in private channels and available for loaning through the banking system, would have contributed to the country's prosperity and would have stimulated growth. Think what these billions would do to the economy in free enterprise channels!

Provision might have been made for the elderly who qualified for social security who had no opportunity to accumulate an account.

The plan, in its mechanics, would be as easy to implement as it is for employers to collect and deposit federal income taxes on payrolls now.

Original intention of Social Security was to provide benefits that would assure happier lives for all citizens. As it is developing today, however, with the Great Society "biting off more than we can chew" it is making slaves of the people and giving them a poor bargain at the same time.

TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor: Of the many fine features each week in the Gazette-Times, I seem to be drawn to this particular column more than some of the others; mainly, I suppose, because there is often some "ancient history" which to an old-timer like me, for instance, has strong appeal.

Ora Yeager is a most interesting contributor to this column and his vivid memory always recalls so many interesting incidents of the "old days" and I dearly love to read about them. In his most recent letter to the editor he refers again to the Hart family in relation to Mr. Hart as station agent at Heppner. Mr. Hart had neither "died or retired at the time of the flood"; he had been transferred to a station on the (Oregon Short Line) part of the U.P. System as was the O.R.&N. This station was, and still is Meacham.

In reference to Vi Hart's survival in the Titanic disaster may I mention that she was more fortunate than her youngest sister, Ruth, who lost her life in the early 1920's when the S.S. Alaska went down after striking the rocky reefs above the Golden Gate while en route from Astoria to San Francisco. She attended the "investigation" of this disaster, held in the office of Commissioner Dolan in the Customs House in San Francisco and this is where I learned of the sad and tragic death of Ruth. Another former Heppner girl, Evelyn Shipley, sister of Mrs. Sylvia Wells of Heppner, had embarked on the Alaska with her girlhood chum Ruth (the latter had been making her home in Pendleton or La Grande for the several years after her family had moved from Heppner, as I recall for a vacation in San Francisco and other California points of interest.) This I learned from Evelyn as she related it tearfully to me in Mr. Dolan's office. She had been called there to give testimony as to what had or may have happened in that fateful morning hour when disaster struck the ship, its crew and its passengers. It developed that the lifeboat in which Ruth Hart, among others, was to be lowered to safety cap-

sized before it reached the water; due in some degree to mishandling of the ship's davits, or possibly failure of the davits to operate efficiently, plus a very rough sea and the rolling Alaska, and spelled doom for many who might otherwise have safely abandoned ship.

I had attended the proceedings at the Customs House in the regular routine of duties as a ship's reporter for the paper where I was then employed and was well acquainted with Mr. Dolan and his office assistants. Little did I realize on this particular morning that I was to be reminded of what a small world it is. There was Evelyn, still some what in shock from grief and a terrifying experience, and Ruth was dead; two lovely girls from out of my early Heppner childhood days.

Art Crawford
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Biology Students Take Field Trips

The students of Kirk Horn's Biology I and II classes at Heppner High school went field tripping recently. They left the high school at 8:00 and went to Rock Creek to do some bird watching. The students all took sack lunches and ate at the bottom of Rock Creek Canyon. John Rawlins, one of the students on the trip, said they observed 20 species of birds which was very good because of the time of the year and the weather. John also said that the prize discovery of the day was some pictures Horn took of a Long Ear owl.

Greenup in Vietnam

Pfc Jerry L. Greenup left last week from Fort Lewis for military service in Vietnam, according to word received here from relatives. He is stationed near Saigon with the 87th Transportation Co. His wife, Cindy, and baby daughter, Joanne reside in Seattle.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHEN JIM NORENE returned from service in World War II after being twice wounded in the European theater, he brought few things home with him. About the only things included that he remembers were his wrist watch and a knife.

The knife had a wooden handle, and the blade folded inside.

It came from a sailor in an Atlantic convoy. The sailor gave it to a buddy of Norene's, and the buddy passed it on to Jim who served in the 101st Airborne Division.

Most of those who had possession of the knife at various times saw heavy combat action and were hit, but they always pulled through.

So the knife earned the reputation of being a good luck omen.

Recently Dr. Norene learned that Greg Pierce is now serving in Vietnam in his old outfit—the 101st Airborne. He dug the knife out of a drawer at home and gave it to Greg Pierce to pass on to son Greg with the good wishes of another from the 101st and the assurance that it will bring him home safely from duty there.

BOB PENLAND'S last edition of the Tillamook Headlight-Herald (January 29) carried a story on the treasure diggers of Neah-kah-nie mountain. The yarn tells how a Salem painter has decided that he has solved the secret of the long sought treasure and asked the state's permission to dig in the beach sands for it.

The story points out that going through the red tape of getting permission to dig is tougher than finding the treasure itself. Because the supposed treasure is located on the beach (according to the Salem man's deductions), permission of the State Land Board was required. This came through in good time. But because of the fact that any such treasure might have archaeological or historical importance, the man is faced with a state law passed in 1935 that requires permission from the president of the University of Oregon. And before President Arthur S. Flemming would give such permission, the Headlight-Herald learned, he asked for an opinion of the attorney general as to his authority and responsibility for granting such a permit.

Apparently this ruling has come through, but the U of O president's office hasn't revealed what it was. As it now stands, the whole matter is in the hands of the University of Oregon Anthropology and Natural History departments. They are to come up with the answer on how many strings are attached to the permit, and when and if it will be granted.

"All this proves just one thing," says the piece in Penland's paper. "The wheels of government grind slowly, even when it comes to digging in the sand."

This story has more than passing interest to us since in days of yore we have spent some time roaming Neah-kah-nie Mountain. But we hastily add that it wasn't in search of treasure.

Hearing Slated On Interstate 82

A formal public hearing will be held in the Vert Auditorium of Helen McCune Junior High School, Pendleton, beginning promptly at 2 p.m. (PST) Thursday, February 23, to take testimony on proposed plans pertaining to the alternate routes of Interstate 82, connecting Interstate 90 N in Oregon with Interstate 90 in Washington, as determined by a study and report of a consulting engineering firm.

The study and report covers four alternate routes in Oregon which are approximately as shown on the attached map.

Maps showing the proposed alternate lines will be on display in the Supreme Court Room of the Umatilla County Courthouse in Pendleton on Monday and Tuesday, February 20 and 21. State Highway Department engineering and right-of-way personnel will be present on both days from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., for informal informational hearings. They will be prepared to discuss the alternate routes with those who may be affected.

Mrs. Duvall Buys Tract of 480 Acres

Mrs. Amanda Duvall has purchased the balance of a 720-acre piece of land known as the Kincaid estate. She has farmed this land and has been owner of one-third of it for several years. It is located 7 1/2 miles north of Heppner in the Blackhorse district and joins her other holdings. This is wheat land with a minimum of scab land. Purchase price from the Kincaid heirs of their two-thirds interest, consisting of 480 acres, was \$60,000 cash.

Bob Kroll Takes Basic at San Diego

Bob Kroll, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. D. O. Nelson, is now taking basic training with the navy at San Diego, Calif., and he expects to conclude this phase of the training as of March 21. He left Morrow county on December 20 after he and his wife, Phyllis, had been with the Nelsons, her parents, helping on the ranch since last June.

Mrs. Kroll went to Corvallis when her husband left for service and is staying with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kroll, while she is working in Corvallis.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bartlett and daughter, Kathy, of Wellington, Texas, are now at the Nelson ranch where Bartlett is employed on the ranch. The daughter is in the sixth grade in Heppner.

Parents of Mrs. Bartlett are Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Roberts, who are employed on the ranch of Max Barclay. The Bartletts are not strangers to Morrow county, having lived here for a few years a number of years ago.

Two Doctors Guests At Annual Banquet

Dr. Wallace Wolf and Dr. A. D. McMurdo were among guests at the annual banquet for the St. Anthony hospital staff in Pendleton last Thursday night. The banquet is given for the staff by the sisters at the hospital.

Children from St. Joseph's Academy furnished musical entertainment. There were no speakers, and emphasis was on visiting. The Heppner doctors reported a very enjoyable evening.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

BASKETBALL
Heppner vs. Enterprise at Enterprise, Friday, Feb. 3
Heppner vs. Burns at Burns, Friday, Feb. 10.

PANCAKE LUNCHEON
Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 7
All Saints' Episcopal Parish Hall
Serving from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Everyone welcome!

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 p.m.
Lexington IOOF Hall, sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge
Bridge, pinochle, prizes, refreshments
Public cordially invited.

ANNUAL MEETINGS
Soil, Water Conservation District Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 7, Lexington Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Lexington Oil Co-op Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 14, 10:30 a.m.
Lexington Grange Hall. Free noon dinner.

ANYONE FOR BASKETBALL?
OSU BASKETBALL, 3:00 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 19, OSU vs. UCLA, KATU Channel 2.

OSU BASKETBALL, 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 12, OSU vs. OREGON, KATU Channel 2.

Meet the man from NORTH-WESTERN during breaks in the games.

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