

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836  
Phone 676-9228

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.



WESLEY A. SHERMAN  
HELEN E. SHERMAN

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER  
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

ARNOLD RAYMOND  
Shop Foreman  
Printer

REGGIE PASCAL  
Linotype Operator

GAIL BURKENBINE  
Society  
Circulation

RANDY STILLMAN  
Apprentice  
JIM SHERMAN  
Pressman

Subscription Rates: \$450 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHETHER HUNTING season opens or is postponed Saturday, the nimrod army can sing the same theme song, the way it looks at this moment. That song will certainly be, "How Dry I Am."

And the Morrow county ranchers can come in on the chorus with an obligate, "How Dry I Am."

These two segments of society are probably feeling equally gloomy at this moment. The hunter will declare that it won't do much good to open the season without rain anyhow.

And the rancher is surely getting behind in his farm work. Take D. O. Nelson, for instance. He often has his next crop planted before much of the county has finished harvest, since he gets his crop in early from his northern plot.

This year he hasn't started to plant yet. No moisture.

PROBABLY THE MOST disconcerting omen on this rain situation is the fact that the association for artificial precipitation, as we understand it, is throwing in the towel.

A little item came from Harry Proudfoot of Butter Creek Tuesday saying that the Weather Research association is suspending "Project O-6." This group was organized to see what might be accomplished through seeding clouds with silver iodides. Lack of interest and enthusiasm at the present time was given as reason for the suspension.

It undoubtedly is hard to get very enthusiastic about the amount of rain that has fallen here since June.

But a lot of good men are believers in this cloud seeding, just as there are many who swear by "water witching" to locate sources of water for wells.

Now we don't want to get into any argument over either. Some might declare that one is a scientific fact and the other is pure sorcery. We admit complete ignorance but have tended to believe that the cloud seeding venture seems logical.

The only trouble is that you first have to have some clouds to seed before you can generate anything. In other words, there has to be some little inkling of a storm brewing, and maybe that's where the system falls down.

Anyway, to hear that the weather research group is quitting the rainmaking project is a blow to morale. We surely wouldn't think they would desert us in this hour of need.

SEEMS AS if this little matter about Mrs. Bill Weatherford putting the family on a crash diet as a result of seeing her picture in the paper is gaining considerable attention around here. She thought she looked a little plump in the picture.

We saw Bill the other day, looking as rotund and sassy as a Hereford in lush, year-around grass.

He knew from the way we looked at him that we knew he hadn't been suffering much from lack of vittles.

"Yeah, but . . ." was his opening remark, "I've been away for a week, and they've been feeding me pretty good where I was at."

Today came an anonymous telephone call from someone to report that Mrs. Weatherford was seen buying sugar and cinnamon at the store. Does that mean that she, like a lot of women, is "sugar and spice and everything nice" even though she might bespeak harsh words on occasion? Or could it mean that she is going to feed Bill more appeasance?

Now I imagine we better close this out on this comment. After all, we don't know just how far Mrs. Weatherford can throw a rolling pin.

DROPPING IN for a visit from Las Vegas, Nev., the other day was Earl Wilson who owns ranch property around here and comes up every year to see how things are coming in old Morrow county.

He is son of Seymour Wilson who homesteaded in the county in 1875. Earl brought an old account book that had many interesting items that his father had kept—old receipts, bills, and an assortment of items.

He also kept a record of his daily activities: September 13, for instance, might be "Fixed fence." September 14, maybe, "worked in fields." September 15, "Sunday." September 16, "Went to funeral." A lot of old time names were in the book.

Wilson also had an old-time convention program of some lodge here, and he turned this over to the museum.

Seymour Wilson left the county in 1921 upon retirement and went to Huntington Beach, Calif. The son, Earl, took a job with a bus company when he got out of college and finally went to Las Vegas where he is now in the real estate business.

NOTICED this item in The Madras Pioneer of September 14 in a school board report: "In another report Clifton told the board that the average daily membership for the last school year totaled 604, which puts the White Buffaloes into the A-1 division if they are to compete for Oregon School Activities Association championships. According to division classifications, the A-2 enrollment (currently the status of the Buffs)

## Rep. Mann Scores Straub Tax Plan

Speaking to the Wheeler county Farm Bureau in Mitchell last week, Rep. Irvin Mann, Jr., of Stanfield, scored the Robert Straub homeowner's property tax relief proposal as a "cruel hoax" and "an attempt to buy votes" by its proponents.

"It's a hoax because it does not provide permanent property tax relief, and it is cruel because it would mask the symptoms of the real disorder, which is too much reliance on property to finance local services," Rep. Mann said.

He added, "It is an attempt to buy votes with general funds—votes against the one and one-half percent limitation and votes for those pushing the scheme."

Mann was presented with a plaque at the meeting by county president Zach Keyes for the coveted "Top Hand" award for "outstanding service."

## TO THE EDITOR . . .

### Home Paper

Dear Gazette-Times: Just to thank you for the paper, I don't want to miss it. It's a home paper for me. I know lots of people up there. Thank you.

Lulu M. Wright  
3600 No. Baldwin  
Portland, Oregon

### Image Changes

To the Editors: As Congressional interns this past summer, sponsored and financially supported by our respective schools, we were selected to serve in the Office of Senator Wayne Morse.

When we arrived in Washington, D. C., our image of Senator Morse was the typical stereotype purveyed by the news media. Any misgivings we had were quickly dispelled. Having had ample opportunity to observe Senator Morse closely, we can state with confidence that few Senators are as capable or as effective as Oregon's senior Senator.

During the last three months we were able to attend committee sessions open only to Senators and their staffs. In these closed sessions we saw Senator Morse skillfully employ the arts of persuasion, well-reasoned arguments, and superior knowledge to secure passage of important and worthwhile legislation in the fields of education, labor, public welfare, and foreign policy.

Because of Senator Morse's wide experience as Chairman of the Education Subcommittee, ranking member of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and Chairman of the Latin American Subcommittee, his judgment is highly respected

## Pioneer Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

### Horse Thieves and Humor

It seems that some men just naturally "love" horses. When that interest extends to include animals belonging to others, there is likely to be trouble.

About 1905, one of our neighbors was one of those characters. By a lot of night riding and "drifting" horse herds back and forth on the open range he came under suspicion as being a thief. Finally the law caught up with him, but not before a domestic problem arose. The old rascal had two boys. He was very strict with them. He promised a "lickin'" for either if he lost the family hammer (tools were scarce). Bud lost it and to avoid punishment crawled under the house. While the old man was trying to dislodge him, the sheriff rode up and took dad away for a year's stay in Salem. Bud never got the "lickin'." When the old man got home he had forgotten all about it.

Another unusual incident occurred in the Three Mile country. A settler reported to the sheriff that someone had stolen his horse and saddle. He said, "Sheriff, I want my outfit back, but I don't want to know who took it. He might be one of my neighbors. Good neighbors are hard to come by."

and sought after by his colleagues in the Senate.

Since our work for Senator Morse dealt primarily with constituent problems we became aware of the Senator's ability to get things done for Oregon. The Senator's seniority, his carefully-reserved briefs, and his closely-reasoned arguments account for many of the public works projects that Oregon has been granted in recent years. From our personal observations we have come to realize that Oregon receives more funds per capita for public works than any other state in the nation, largely due to the efforts of Wayne Morse.

We have penned this letter because the accomplishments of Senator Morse are often ignored by the news media. During this past summer we have noticed many instances in which Senator Morse gained important projects and programs for the state, or introduced important and requisite legislation through the Senate—and such achievements were not mentioned in the Oregon press. It would be most unfortunate for Oregon if Senator Morse failed to win reelection because Oregonians were not cognizant of his effectiveness in the Senate.

University of Oregon  
Lee Bollinger, Jr.  
Jonathan Unger  
Reed College

Mrs. Pat Brindle and her daughters Jennifer and Jacquelyn Brindle Meyers have returned from a 2½ week vacation trip to Canada with Mrs. Brindle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shewfelt from Spokane. The party camped in Shewfelt's trailer during their trip that took them to Radium Hot Springs, where Mrs. Brindle says the swimming is marvelous. Jasper National Park, Banff, Lake Louise and Calgary. She also points out that the majestic scenery is worth making the trip. Jennifer Brindle became ill on the way home and is now convalescing in Pioneer Memorial hospital. She will return to college upon her recovery as will Mrs. Meyers, whose husband is stationed in Vietnam. Both girls are going to Eastern Oregon College of Education at La Grande.



### Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH FOOTBALL  
Friday, Sept. 29, Wahtonka at The Dalles, 8:00 p.m.  
Friday, Oct. 6, Pilot Rock at Heppner, 8:00 p.m. Rodeo grounds  
Jayvee Game, Monday, Oct. 2—Condon at Condon, 4:30 p.m.  
Support the Mustangs!

PUBLIC CARD PARTY  
Saturday, Oct. 7, 8:00 p.m.  
Lexington IOOF Hall, Sponsored by Holly Rebekah Lodge  
Bridge and Pinochle  
First in Series of 6 monthly parties.

LEXINGTON GRANGE  
Booster Program, Sunday, Oct. 8  
Lexington Grange Hall  
Potluck dinner, 1:00 p.m., program following

GOLDEN AGE CLUB  
Monthly meeting, Tues., Oct. 3, Episcopal Parish hall  
Potluck dinner, 7 p.m., entertainment following

PUBLIC DINNER  
Turkey Dinner, Sunday, Oct. 15  
St. Patrick's Parish Hall, 12-4 p.m.  
By St. Patrick's, St. Williams Altar Societies.

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## Bank Robbers and Shoplifters

Those who watch Westerns on television and witness the frequent bank robberies pictured may be inclined to get some contentment, from the comfort of the easy chair, by thinking, "Them days are gone forever."

But actually it is worse today than it is in the imagination of those writers of fiction who exaggerate the wild and woolly days of yore. Portland has just experienced a \$40,000 bank robbery, fourth worst in the history of the city.

The robbers of today don't come in with kerchiefs over their mouths and six guns blazing. They are smooth and suave. In the big job in Portland none of those in the bank, except for the persons approached, realized that a robbery was in process. That must be some sign of progress in a more sophisticated and refined civilization!

But one has to come back to the growing-old cliché, "In this day and age when we can send a rocket to the moon, why can't we . . .?"

Well, why can't we? With all our technological advancement, it would seem that some foolproof method could be devised to thwart bank robberies. For instance, we can photograph the moon and send the signals all the way back to earth. Why can't a camera be devised that would photograph an entire bank robbery? They have cameras in use at present, but the systems seem to be of little value. Can't one be devised that would sweep, through its lens, an entire robbery from start to finish? Couldn't it be designed with little trips in various hidden locations all over the place, so a bank official could start it in motion by merely brushing into one of the secreted switches?

A device to put an end to shoplifting has been developed and was demonstrated in Portland the other day. A merchant puts a tiny drop of some sort of chemical on each item in his store, probably at the time he marks the price. When an item is sold, this chemical's properties are somehow neutralized by passing the article over a device designed for the job.

If the drop isn't neutralized and a shoplifter attempts to walk out with it after hiding it on his person, an electronic device at the door picks up an impulse and sets off a commotion that sounds like a four-alarm fire.

This, say the creators, brings the possibility of stopping shoplifting once and for all. Even our local merchants can testify to what a great boom such a thing would be. In our quiet and relatively crime-free town of Heppner loss by shoplifting is amazing.

Comic book writers years ago conceived what was considered rather fantastic ideas of the exploration of outer space. Amazingly, many of their ideas are now realized, with surprising similarity to the comics, in the scientific progress of today.

It would seem that the current crop of writers, who turn their talents to such programs as "Mission Impossible," "Man from Uncle," and others, could figure out some wonderful gadgets and devices that might serve as blueprints for criminologists in thwarting bank robbers.

After all, these robbers are becoming a little monotonous!

## OTHER EDITORS SAY . . .

### A British Diagnosis

FROM THE PENDLETON RECORD

Arnold Toynbee, an eminent British historian, visited the United States recently and in writing of his visit, gave the nation a diagnosis much as a physician would an ill patient. He found the United States had several fatal diseases. For one thing, he believed the people of the nation have lost their way. He sees the United States as a semi-socialist country in which the public sector of the economy is gaining at the expense of the genuinely private sector.

"The American taxpayer," he says, "and even the American Congressman who vote the tax-money can no longer keep track of how the money is being spent and what it is being spent on. He no longer believes that the Administration is telling him the truth and appears not to care to do anything about it. He is shocked by startling revelations of an official 'hidden hand' spending the taxpayer's money for objectionable purposes. The taxpayer's money has even been used to 'condition' the taxpayer himself. We are witnessing a struggle in America for the American peoples' soul, and this struggle is fateful for us all."

Unfortunately, Mr. Toynbee is right. So long as the American people as a whole have enough, they will not revolt against federal spending and handout programs. A look underneath the top layer of Americans is another scene. From these people, the underprivileged Negroes who want more (and often don't want to work for it), the whites who would like all the things the so-called average American is supposed to have, these are the ones who are revolting. This is a fatal disease of America, yet it is not a national malady that is beyond cure, if the people have the will to do it, if they are enraged and their own pleasant livelihood is endangered, they will act. But, it may take some disastrous events before the semi-socialist country secures its rampant, angry poor, its race upheaval, its inflation, and super-government. It can be brought under control, but not until the disease has spread and a diagnoses is made. Yet, is there a qualified advisor for the nation's ills? Toynbee says there is—"time."

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Gilman have returned to their home in Long Beach, Calif., after spending a week in Heppner visiting his mother, Mrs. Walter Gilman, and his sister, Mrs. Hank Stotts, and his brother, Dean Gilman, a former Heppner resident, has been an officer of the Immigration and Naturalization service since 1941, and is currently working in the regional office in San Pedro, Calif., commuting from his home in Long Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Sr., made the return trip

to California with the Gilmans, taking their trailer. The McCurdy's have been here for the summer, but will now be making their home in California for the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Webb and daughter Melanie have moved to Adrian, Ore., September 16. Webb, who was a mechanic here for several years, will operate his father's repair shop upon his retirement. The Webbs were active members of the Wranglers Club.



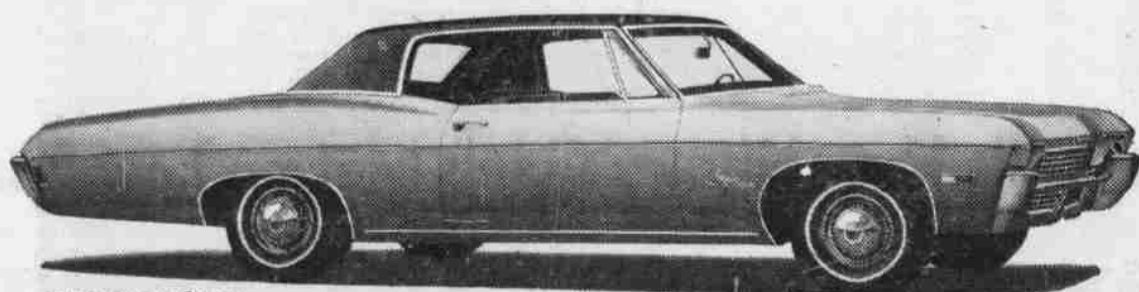
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