

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Plight of Nyssa and Vale

Maybe, as a practical matter, one might paraphrase an old saying and come up with an axiom for high school athletic teams: "No team can serve two leagues."

This is the problem that Vale and Nyssa of the Greater Oregon league face with the announcement that football games in the league next year will be played on a round-robin basis. This means that every team in the league will play every other team, regardless of whether they are in the east or the west.

The round robin will mean that each Greater Oregon team will have nine league games with the champion representing the A-2 district in state playoffs.

In this part of the state, where distances between schools is great, it has been difficult to devise a league that would provide equal competition for all. Until recently, most of the competition has been in the west. Only Enterprise, Nyssa and Vale have competed in the eastern division, making it relatively easy to win a title. Vale's Vikings, who seem to be perennially strong, have emerged winners year after year.

Meanwhile, the other seven—Heppner, Grant Union, Wah-tonka, Madras, Sherman County, Burns, and Pilot Rock—have gone through tough schedules against each other to produce a division champion.

Pilot Rock, which dropped out of A-2 ranks for a while but now is back, was shunted into the eastern division this past season, which meant some long road trips for the Rockets as well as their opponents.

Nyssa and Vale for many years have been tied to the Snake River Valley conference in Idaho. This is convenient for them because most of the schools are within 25-50 mile range, such as Weiser, Payette, Parma and others. They have common interests, and they have a good league.

However, with the Vikings and Bulldogs allied with the Snake River Valley, the Greater Oregon has always been beset with problems and complications.

League members recently took the bull by the horns and decided that the two far east teams would have to decide whether they want to play in Oregon or Idaho. This is a pretty stern edict, but a reasonable one.

While Vale and Nyssa have competed in the short end of the circuit, their championships cannot be minimized. Vale has been so strong and dominated that end of the league so long that, in football, one almost concedes the Vikings to be the annual winner. West teams have had little luck in trying to subdue them in district playoffs, and Vale's record of state championships surely has been a boon to the Greater Oregon banner.

While the Vikings' ties are strong with the Idaho teams, they are not eligible to compete in championships in the Potato State. Their trophy case must be bulging with awards won in Oregon. It would be a good guess that if they cannot squeeze out of the plight in which they now find themselves, they will reluctantly bid adieu to Idaho teams and come home to the Greater Oregon League.

In doing so, though, they will have trips far beyond those of their past seasons.

Addition of Vale, particularly, to a round robin will mean a tougher schedule for the rest of the teams unless the Vikings undergo some unexpected drought.

If they continue as powerful as in the past, it might be speculated—perhaps facetiously—that some of the league members who voted for the round robin may regret it.

One wouldn't think that the round robin schedule will continue very many years. Once the Vks and Bulldogs pledge allegiance to the GO league the circuit may decide on an equitable east-west split that will eliminate some of the long trips that will be demanded by the round robin. The hope is that Vale and Nyssa will think first of Oregon competition without being wooed by the attractive Idaho teams.

TO THE EDITOR

'Complete Coverage'

Dear Wes and Helen:
Peggy and I extend to you our sincere wishes for a very happy and prosperous new year.
We enclose our check for another year's subscription to the Heppner Gazette-Times. Although our many friends in Morrow county keep us well advised as to important personal events during the year, we are indebted to the Gazette for a complete coverage of news and events that are vital to the welfare of Morrow county and its fine citizens.
Thanks for your efforts.
Sincerely,
Garnet Barratt
901 Longwood Loop
Mesa, Arizona 85201

Couple Make Steady Gains After Surgery

Charles Monagle is convalescing in Pendleton and expected to be home soon following major surgery in November and December. He is reported as making satisfactory recovery following amputations of part of the left leg.

Mrs. Monagle is staying with him in Pendleton until he returns home, and to be nearby for medical care for herself. She underwent major eye surgery to her left eye on December 15. Her son, Larry, has been taking care of the family ranch since he came home from service in Vietnam in early November.

Boardman Resident Dies in Pendleton After Long Illness

BOARDMAN — Catherine McEntire, 77, a 38-year resident of the Boardman community, died Saturday, January 6, in a Pendleton hospital following a long illness.

She was born in Longford, Ireland, February 3, 1890. She was married to John McEntire on February 15, 1917, in New York City. After coming to Oregon they resided at Arlington and Cecil before coming to the Boardman area in 1929, where they have since made their home. Her husband preceded her in death in December, 1964.

Mrs. McEntire was a member of the Catholic Church and of the Altar Society.

Recitation of the rosary was at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston Tuesday evening and the funeral mass was Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic church in Irrigon, with Father Simon Coughlan as celebrant. Interment followed in Boardman Riverview cemetery.

Surviving are one son, John, of Boardman; one daughter, Josephine, of Portland; five sisters, two in Ireland, one in England and two in New York City.

A recent visitor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Spaulding has been Mrs. Spaulding's mother, Mrs. Jessie Simpson of Springfield. Mrs. Simpson arrived to enjoy the Christmas and New Year's holidays and remained to be here to help her granddaughter, Janice, celebrate her ninth birthday.

The Rhyming Philosopher

BEGINNING

COME LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS AND BE SINGING,
SOME RIFT IN THE CLOUDS MAY APPEAR;
EACH DAY THERE'S A NEWER BEGINNING
AWAITING THE FLOUTING OF FEAR.

NO PROBLEM WAS EVER THE GREATEST,
NO PAIN BUT'S BEEN SUFFERED BEFORE;
AND NOTHING IS EVER THE LATEST
SINCE TIME CREATES NEW EVERMORE.

THERE'S ALWAYS NEW HEIGHTS TO BE SCALING,
NEW CHALLENGES TESTING YOUR SKILL,
NO USE SITTING DOWN AND BEWAILING;
GET MOVING TO WIN WITH A WILL.

IN SPITE OF WHAT SOME HAVE ACCOMPLISHED,
NOT ALL THAT'S WORTHWHILE HAS BEEN DONE;
AND ONLY THE WEAK STAND ASTONISHED
WHEN UNATTAINED GOALS HAVE BEEN WON.

YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO GET STARTED,
AND NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR A TRY.
THINK NOT OF THE PAST THAT'S DEPARTED,
BUT HAIL THE NEW DAWN IN THE SKY!

HARRY W. FLETCHER

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

BEFORE THE backshop of The Gazette-Times was rewired a few years ago, it wasn't too common to come up to press time, only to have a motor start blowing fuses or some other electrical disorder.

It was then that we would send out a frantic call for Herman Strober. And he would come, day or night, to bale us out and get the current flowing properly again.

Sometimes, while he was helping here, he'd get calls from others who had emergencies in their electrical systems—maybe an irrigation pump motor gone dead. He'd leave from here to help someone else.

Strober seemed to be almost the indispensable man at the Kinzua mill. Were it not for him, or someone like him, the plant undoubtedly would have had more shutdowns than it has had.

Fortunately, there is a little better situation in the electrical repair line here now. Rich Vinson has come along to bolster Randy Lott's staff and others are doing work in the electrical field.

Death claimed Herman Monday, just when it seemed that he was making a good recovery from his illness. Although he is gone, we'll remember his willingness to help us out and others in the community.

AFTER SEEING four Rose Bowl games, Dr. A. D. McMurdo, our good physician-surgeon neighbor across the street, should be getting to be a little expert on the annual January 1 game.

After returning from a flying trip both literally and figuratively to Pasadena this year, he is in a position to give an exceptionally good description of one part of the Bowl—the goal posts.

There was some sort of mix-up on tickets, and when Dr. McMurdo reached the Coliseum, he found that his seat was directly behind one of the goal posts. He had sort of hoped for tickets on the 50-yard line but didn't know for sure because his son, Scott, of Corvallis had obtained them and had arranged for them to be picked up at will-call on arrival.

This poor location was a bad break after going all that distance. May we suggest that next year the doctor take a portable TV set—just in case.

He left Heppner on December 29, driving to Portland to be with son, Ted, then he and Scott flew down, stopping at San Francisco to see the doctor's brothers, Percy F. and Hew B. McMurdo.

ALMOST AS disappointed as Dr. McMurdo were the parents

and basketball fans who went to Enterprise Saturday night to see the game that wasn't played.

The highway was very icy for a time over the Blues to La Grande, and a truck mishap virtually blocked one of the bridges near the Union county seat.

The player bus was held up there for an hour and 45 minutes, but officers let cars proceed. So some of the Heppner fans passed the player bus and continued on to Enterprise, only to find the gym dark and deserted.

After the long delay, and with conditions being what they were, the decision was made for the team to turn back, and state police stopped the spectator bus and advised them. But there was no way to advise the parents and fans.

Making the situation worse, the would-be spectators upon arrival at Enterprise, though advised that the game would not be played, were sure that the information was wrong because they had passed the player bus at La Grande.

Parents reported that, ironically, the road from La Grande to Enterprise was clear and dry—even the dreaded Minam grade. But information that the team had received apparently was discouraging, and so they headed home with Leonard Munkers at the wheel of the bus.

When the bus came over the Blues the highway was really slick, but by the time the spectators came over, the route had been sanded and wasn't bad at all.

Well, no one was hurt even though some of the fans had a long ride in the cool of the winter. It appears to us that anytime conditions seem to be such as to jeopardize the safety of the players and students, the right decision is to turn back. They had no way of knowing that worse conditions didn't face them ahead nor that the highways might be more difficult to travel later at night.

Columbia Basin's Phones Changed

Telephone numbers at the Heppner office of Columbia Basin Electric Co-op are now 676-9146 and 676-9147, Manager Harley Young advised.

A new system has been installed, and if one phone is busy, the other will ring automatically, he said.

All in the area are advised to jot down the numbers in their telephone books for use in case of an emergency. The new system is another step in an endeavor to give increasingly better service to all power users, Young said.

Rhyming Feature Starts This Week

With this issue of The Gazette-Times, a new feature, "The Rhyming Philosopher," is being started on a weekly basis.

The "rhyming philosopher" is Harry W. Fletcher of Monterey county, Calif., who has served as an editor, publisher and printer. While objecting to being called a poet, Fletcher comments on various subjects in rhyme, ranging from litterbugs to friendship.

His friends in Monterey county felt that his talents should be offered outside his home county and consequently have sent it to other weekly papers for consideration.

Gazette-Times publishers felt that its readers might enjoy the feature. Comments on it are invited.

Pioneer



Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

An Acme of Hallucination

No other name can be given for the behavior of two characters found in a field north of town. The report (there is some evidence to support it) concerns the actions of a couple of boys who much have been under the influence of LSD. No combination of Scotch whiskey, mountain moonshine, and larkspur could have provided the "trip" the boys were on. They were "far out and going high."

It seems that a passerby saw a man fly-fishing in the dust of a summer fallowed field. His partner in a boat trailer was parked by the roadside. The passerby inquired about the fellow in the field. "Oh, he's my buddy. He had been fishing all night. I'm taking the boat out to bring him in." That's the story as we got it. The boys were not morons. Their expensive outfit proved that. So, if you happen to see a lad climbing a tree backward or a midget trying to upset a mountain, think nothing of it. He is just an addict on a "trip".

Mrs. LeRoy Gardner has been in Portland since last Tuesday to be near her father, Fred Payne of The Dalles, during his convalescence at St. Vincent's hospital. He is reported to be improving very satisfactorily following an operation there. LeRoy Gardner went to Portland over the week-end and expects to go again Friday and accompany Mrs. Gardner home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Struckmeier have returned to Oregon after living the past six months at Bonsall, Calif. They moved last week to Feeder Spring Ranch near Arlington where they will make their home. Their son, Earl, has remained in Heppner during this school year to complete his senior year. Mrs. Struckmeier was a former commercial teacher in the Heppner High school.

4-H Skiers Open Season January 6 At Arbuckle Mt.

By CHERI CARLSON

It was a very exciting day! For some, it was a first! For others it was a belated continuation of last year. Yes, it was an exciting day, for January 6 was the opening day of the 1968 ski season at Arbuckle Mountain. The Morrow county 4-H Ski club boarded the bus at Ione, Lexington and Heppner to initiate the new snow pack in the Blues! Dick McElligott, 4-H leader, and, by the way bus driver, introduced 14 new members to the 24 veteran skiers from last year. Upon arrival at the ski area, this year's officers were elected as follows: Tom Stockard, president; Rick Barnett, vice-president; Kathleen Ayres, secretary; and Cheri Carlson, news reporter.

After the formalities of the day were concluded, the snow rush began. Veteran skiers proceeded to pack the hill and swoosh the ski runs while the beginning skiers received their first lessons. Sprained ankles and other minor casualties remained light, resulting in a good day's skiing for the ski patrol consisting of Alan Martin, Heppner Grade school principal, and Loren Luocore, of the U. S. Forest Service.

Arbuckle Mountain lies approximately 30 miles east of Heppner. Traveling up Willow Creek road, ski fans will find hard packed, well-bladed roads leading to the area. Facilities at the ski area include a basic ski lodge with a good selection of candies, soft drinks and snacks for lunch. An improved rope tow this year pulls skiers up the challenging timber studied slopes, almost to the summit. There the most basic ski student will behold an awesome view of the Blue Mountains seldom seen by many. During the past year, McElligott, along with other interested people, has made a number of improvements on the slope. These include removing timber at the upper landing and thinning of pole thickets in trail areas. Since this is a public ski area used by 4-H clubs, and since public funds help to maintain roads leading to the area, we of the Morrow 4-H Ski Club invite and urge anyone who would like to enjoy the snow and out of doors to come on up to Arbuckle and ski in the sky.

Cheri Carlson
News Reporter

Boy's Leg Broken In Skiing Mishap

Chris Culp, 4½, son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Culp, is at home with a cast on his leg as a result of a skiing accident on opening week-end at Arbuckle Mountain Sunday.

The boy was one of a number of youngsters learning to ski when he took a tumble and broke the leg in four places. His father said that it was a spiral break. He was right there, along with members of the ski patrol to assist his son.

The boy is undaunted and says that he is going back as soon as he is able.

One of the 4-H youths suffered a laceration to the forehead Saturday when he took a spill and his head hit the tip of his ski.



COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL
DeSales at Heppner Saturday, Jan. 13
Burns at Heppner Friday, Jan. 19
Pilot Rock at Pilot Rock Fri., Jan. 12, League game

ADULT EDUCATION Organizational Meeting Thurs., Jan. 11, 7 p.m. Heppner High School Variety of courses through BMCC

REBEKAH-ODD FELLOW DINNER & INSTALLATION Willows IOOF Hall, Heppner Saturday, Jan. 13 Dinner, 6:30 p.m.; Installation at 8:00 p.m.

ELKS DINNER Swedish Smorgasbord Dinner Saturday, Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m. Followed by dancing to Western Gentlemen Old Timer's Night, Jan. 25

ARBUCKLE SKIING Bus leaves Heppner Library each Sat. morning, 8 a.m., returns 5 p.m.

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