

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Prayer Breakfast

Response at the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast here Friday was gratifying. This was the first time such an event was held in Heppner, and Mayor W. C. Rosewall was host with the Morrow County Jaycees as sponsors.

Because of limited space available, it was by invitation only. Most of those invited made it a point to come, and additional places had to be set to accommodate the crowd. It is a good sign when those in places of prominence recognize the need for prayer today and when they sincerely believe in the power of prayer.

Too often our leaders have manifested a pseudo religion. They have been too inclined to give lip service without truly espousing Christianity.

Some of our community leaders, in conversation at the breakfast, expressed the desire that such events be held more often.

While the world founders in a quagmire of problems and our leaders are bewildered and confused in their search for answers, the solution could be quite simple if mankind would truly accept the teachings of Jesus Christ and follow Him.

As we read the other day, at the root of every social disease that infects the world—war, race prejudice, poverty, drug addiction, crime and others—is human sin, pride, greed, avarice, lust, laziness, selfishness, jealousy, envy, and malice. This article said, "The gospel of Christ is the only remedy . . . and . . . like any medicine, it must be taken to work."

If mankind recognized this, if our leaders believe and follow this, then some real progress will be made on the world's problems.

When our local leaders acknowledge the power of prayer and publicly declare that a Higher Power is needed for guidance, it is a significant start.

John Day: Winners in Losing

Grant Union's Prospectors lost the district tournament to Heppner Saturday night in La Grande, but in our book, they won while losing.

Picture the conditions that set the stage for the Prospectors in the tournament: They had gone for a long time undefeated, but eventually lost a pair of games in late season. However, they had ranked consistently high in polls, finishing the regular season in fourth spot in the state. They still have one of the best win-loss records among Oregon high schools at 21-3. They went into the tournament with a 20-2 record while Heppner had only a 14-8 mark. The Prospectors could floor a lineup that boasted more than a 6-footer in every position, and some of them—like Dave Dieker, Chris Labhart, Mike Lenz and Bill Deist—are crackerjack ball players.

This looked like a real dream year for John Day, and no wonder hundreds of the Grant county community came to La Grande with the thought that they were going to state. They had a confident and spirited attitude; they wore little lapel ribbons boasting their team; their sparkling band was peppy; their cheerleaders optimistic and lively.

A week before tournament, bad news hit them when Labhart was stricken with appendicitis. But he was suited up Friday night even though he had been in surgery only a week before. He performed admirably during the time he was allowed in the ball game. Anyone not knowing that he had undergone the appendectomy would have found nothing in his play to indicate any deficiency. Those who did know it—as most did—had to marvel at his fortitude.

When the Heppner Mustangs edged ahead of the Prospectors in the second half of the game, the dismay in the faces of the John Day crowd across the way was apparent. Probably many already had made reservations at Coos Bay. Some of them looked crushed.

When it was all over, and the Mustangs had earned their victory, there were no sour grapes from the John Day side; there were no boos; no hard words evident on the floor.

The Prospector team proved itself composed of big men in more than size when its members were first to come to the Heppner players and congratulate them sincerely. This took some real doing from kids who must have been heart-broken inside.

Then from the John Day stands, while presentations were taking the attention on the floor, came a rousing organized cheer for the Heppner Mustangs. Out of the throes of stunning defeat, this was a gallant, noble and appreciated gesture.

Had the sponsoring Optimists' club sportsmanship trophy been awarded on conduct at the tournament itself, it would be pretty certain that the Heppner team and supporters would have overwhelmingly been for John Day. The finest gestures of sportsmanship came after the voting had been done for the trophy, and this makes them all the more meaningful.

Heppner fans had many thrills in the district tournament, but the cheer from the John Day side after the Prospector's defeat, was one of the greatest.

There have been some rather close ties between the John Day and Heppner teams. Labhart, once having lived in Heppner, is almost considered a home town boy. We join the Prospectors in feeling a little disappointed that he won't get a chance to play in the state tournament. There are some good friendships between Mustang and Prospector players.

Heppner fans know the feeling that comes from following its favored team, only to see hopes dashed. So there is some sincere sympathy to the John Day folks.

We're sure that Wahtonka deserved the sportsmanship trophy from the Optimists on their conduct through the days in the tournament, both in and out of the gymnasium. When one looks back, sportsmanship was outstanding through the event. Not one technical foul was called; there were no scuffles on the floor; few boos were heard.

The Optimists are to be congratulated for the manner in which they sponsored the district tournament. They have learned to have more seating available and promise it for next year!

But aside from the admiration for the performance of the Heppner team, the noblest part of the tournament was the sportsmanship displayed by John Day.

Perhaps it is little consolation, but it may be pointed out that in a sense John Day didn't lose. The team and community won respect and appreciation for their sportsmanship.

Mustangs: Aroused Giants

After the Heppner High basketball team "came alive" when they had an 0-2 record in league play, it became increasingly apparent that the Mustangs would be a contender for the western division Greater Oregon championship and would furnish strong opposition in the district tournament.

But their achievement of winning the district tournament verges almost on the fantastic in view of the eight losses against them on their total season's record. Watching them at La Grande Saturday night, one would scarcely believe, for instance, that early in the season the same team had dropped a game to DeSales of Walla Walla by nearly 30 points, had lost to Wahtonka at The Dalles and had taken two on the chin from Condon.

A few years back the Mustangs had a club that seemed to deserve the title of "Cinderella Team." Some would call this year's team by the same title. But this doesn't fit, for when the season opened it was apparent that there was considerable talent on the team. They didn't come out of nowhere like some of the Heppner teams in the past.

Others think they should be called the "Giant Killers" because they have knocked over the big ones. But again, they should have been equal to the "giants" all along for the ability was there.

Bob Dobbs, in a recent sports story, referred to them as the "Sleeping Giants" and this would seem a more accurate nickname. They did seem to be sleeping through some of the early games, but when they were aroused in mid-season, they proved to be giants in spirit and court wizardry, indeed, although they cannot be classed as giants in stature. Russ Kilkenny and Bob Dobbs, both at 6-4, are the only big men on the squad.

At the District tournament, though, they were truly aroused giants, leveling the lofty Prospectors of Grant Union and proving more than a match for the perennial contenders, the Vikings of Vale.

Probably the finest achievement for the team is the manner in which the boys proved themselves after being kicked around in early season. It was the spirit that said, "We're not going to continue to take such beatings."

And from that point they started clicking, knitted themselves together, knocked over the opposition by an average of better than 25 points per game, and kept their plumb to go through the district tournament in high gear.

It isn't often these days that a high school team goes to state tournament with eight losses against it. But these aroused giants have truly earned the right and deserve the berth they have won.

Perhaps other coaches and schools will look at the Heppner record and think that this will be the easy one. If they do, this will be their mistake for they don't know these aroused giants!

Reaching a peak late in the season puts a team in a favorable spot. Not only are they ready and raring to go, but they have a better psychological advantage, since they haven't been hexed by high ratings in the polls and singled out as the "team to beat."

Coach Bob Clough believes his Mustangs will be real contenders at Coos Bay, and every evidence points to the fact that they will make a good showing.

The community is immeasurably proud of the Heppner High team, the performance of the kids, the work of the coaches, and the great spirit displayed in turning a losing season into a winning one.

These aroused giants may still have a few surprises up their sleeves when they perform at Coos Bay. Those who cannot follow them and support the boys in person extend their heartiest best wishes for a fine tournament. They want the whole state to know that Morrow county is proud of the Mustangs.

Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

WE FEEL sort of sorry for any of our readers who don't enjoy the game of basketball. This was quite significant because Heppner was obviously tense in getting started. Jon's six points from the floor was a decided boost for the Mustangs and really got them rolling. He proved to be sort of the ice breaker for Heppner.

If the Vixs had taken much of an edge in that first quarter, the game story might have been different. So this was Jon's big night of the season.

THE SECOND fellow deserving of an unsung hero award is Bob Dobbs. Remember the scene? With 45 seconds to play in the first half against Vale, the Vixs had taken a 32-26 lead. This was the point that they threatened to break the game open. It was a crucial spot for Heppner. Dobbs had just reported in the game as a reserve.

He got his hands on the ball under the Heppner bucket and used his 6-4 frame to score a tip-in. Fouled in the process, he calmly sank the free throw. This brought Heppner to 29-32. A short time later John McCabe scored to bring it to 31-32 at halftime. Heppner only trailed by one, but if those three points of Dobbs' had been scored by a Viking, the lead would have been nine.

Later in the contest Dobbs scored another field goal, giving him five points for the night in the short time he was in there. In our book, that was worth a lot of bench riding through the season.

WE'RE NOT overlooking the boys who played outstanding ball through the tournament. Bill McLeod sparked all the way. He led the Mustangs in scoring with 35, and he zeroed in at the crucial times. Those shots from the baseline were deadly. Wee Willie surprises everyone with how he gets up to pull rebounds.

John McCabe, the sophomore of the team, was second in point total for the Mustangs with 30, 15 each night. A sophomore who performs like John is bound to bolster the club, and he was great.

Kilkenny was third in scoring, with 23, and Dave Hall followed with 19. In going back over the tournament statistics, we note that time and again Dave made a key feed to a teammate for scores. His teamwork paid off for the Mustangs.

Everyone on the traveling squad got to play for the Mustangs, and everyone is important. Calvin Ashbeck came in to score two beautiful twisting jumpers against Vale.

The state tournament could possibly bring out some more

for 14 points. Three of Jon's buckets came in the first quarter. This was quite significant because Heppner was obviously tense in getting started. Jon's six points from the floor was a decided boost for the Mustangs and really got them rolling. He proved to be sort of the ice breaker for Heppner.

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The Rhyming Philosopher

DECISIONS

YOU'RE A NORMAL SOUL, SO YOU MEDITATE
ON THE VICES AND VIRTUES OF MEN;
ON WHAT CAN BE DONE, AND WHAT CAN JUST WAIT,
OR THE TASKS YOU MUST TACKLE AGAIN.

NONE OTHER THAN YOU MAY DECIDE WHERE OR
WHEN
SINCE THE PROBLEM IS YOURS ALL ALONE,
THAT IS THE TIME TO WITHDRAW THERE AND
THEY
JUST TO THINK IT ALL OUT ON YOUR OWN.

YOU LOOK AT THE TREES AND GLANCE AT THE SKY
AND YOU'LL SIT WITH YOUR HEAD IN YOUR HAND,
AND YOU'LL ASK YOURSELF A THOUSAND TIMES, WHY
THESE SOLUTIONS DON'T COME ON DEMAND.

STILL NO OTHER PERSON CAN QUITE UNDERSTAND,
THOUGH YOU GNAW AT IT DOWN TO THE BONE;
WHEN THINGS DON'T DEVELOP THE WAY YOU HAD
PLANNED
YOU MUST THINK IT OUT ALL ON YOUR OWN.

IN THIS CHALLENGING WORLD WITH ITS NEEDS TO
MEET
THE QUESTION YOU FACE IS AVOIDING DEFEAT,
AND NO BETTER ANSWER HAS EVER BEEN KNOWN
THAN SIMPLY TO FIGURE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN.

HARRY W. FLETCHER

Grange Plans Supper

Families and friends of the Rhea Creek Grange are invited to attend the pancake and ham supper on Saturday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the grange hall, with tickets priced at \$1.25 for adults and 50c for children. Those attending are invited to stay for a free card party following the meal.

Activities of Dad's Week-end at Oregon State University on Friday and Saturday were enjoyed by several local fathers. Among those spending the week-end with sons or daughters at the university were Frank Anderson, Phil Mahoney, Harlan McCurdy, Don Evans, and Bob DeSpain of Arlington. Parents enjoyed the two basketball thrillers when OSU played the University of Washington and Washington State University on Friday and Saturday nights.

"heroes" from the unsung ranks. Watch these fellows—Randy Stillman, Larry Pettyjohn, Steve Pettyjohn, Jerry Healy and Pat Kilkenny. Their chances may come a state when they are slipped in during a tight spot. They all have the goods and they are all important to the Mustangs.

WHEN THE VALE game was over, it was the end of an "era" for Heppner in one way. It was the last time that Rick Johnson will be dynamite for them. This should call for some sort of celebration in the Morrow county seat, partly as a tribute to this tremendous little competitor.

This Johnson scored 28 against Heppner in the district tournament at La Grande last year and knocked the Mustangs out when they had every hope of going to state. With his 24 this year, that's 52 in the two tournays.

And in football—in the fall of 1967—Johnson led the Vikings to a 36-0 win over Heppner for the district grid title. Rick passed for three touchdowns and ran over another.

This year's district basketball was sort of an avenging game for the Mustangs, but it was no fault of the 5-8 guard that the Mustangs were respectable enough. He just failed to blast Heppner off the court this time.

Rick Johnson may look forward to commencement exercises at Vale this year, but it is a tribute to him that Heppner High will be happier than he is when that great day comes!

ONE FINAL tournament tribute should go to Dave Dieker of Grant Union. He proved every bit as good as he was heralded in the Wahtonka game, scoring 24 against the Eagles.

Heppner's defense was geared to stop him, with one man coming out of a zone to sag on him—a great job by Bill McLeod, by the way—and he was held to 11.

Dieker seemed to be the most disappointed in losing and probably felt he had not performed to his best. But that man was really defended in this game. He is still just a junior, and so he has another year of high school competition.

WRAPPING UP the tournament with a few miscellaneous comments: Heppner's Pep Band, small in number, did a real fine job and the school and community should appreciate the work of these kids who refused to see the school go by default in this department. We heard many good compliments about them.

Mrs. Arnie Hedman and some of the band players' mothers did a lot of work getting those blue vests made, and they looked very nice.

Rally girls did an exceptional job and got some good publicity in La Grande for it.

The crowd was so large that latecomers couldn't find a place to sit Saturday night. Even the Pep band had a bad time finding a spot to roost.

Late in the game with Grant Union, someone knew that Heppner had the game sewed up for cello bags of confetti started going through the crowd to be ready for the final whistle.

Welsh Story Pictures Author's Background

Mrs. Gene Ferguson entertained members of the Bookworms club with a review of the book, "A Welsh Story," by Joyce Varney, at their recent meeting, held Tuesday, February 27, at the home of Mrs. Virginia Turner.

The story reviewed is an autobiographical story of the author's childhood, and tells of where she lived while growing up in a mining town in Wales while living with her grandparents. Time of the story is between the first and second world wars and tells of her going to work at age 14 as a servant for the same family, whose ancestors had employed her ancestors for hundreds of years. The author is now living in New Hampshire with her two sons.

Mrs. Cornett Green, president, conducted the evening's business meeting for the 11 members present.

Mrs. Turner was assisted during the evening by co-hostess, Mrs. Don Turner.

Pioneer



Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

1968 Leap Year!

So far this year has evoked little interest or activity on the part of the ladies who should be exercising the free hunting license that is given them every four years.

I wonder why? Could it be that they have already made a kill, or have they forgotten their established privilege?

In the years past, Leap Year was something the ladies should forward to. Early in December of the year previous feminine hearts would begin to flutter in anticipation of the time when they could declare their love for the man of their choice without embarrassment.

I cannot understand the present lack of activity. Perhaps in this modern age they have already put the question, or they may have put their questions through a UNIVAC machine, and the answer came out "No."

Maybe the gals are marking time until the wily bachelors come out of the bushes, and then overcome them in a mass rush.

Whatever happens, Leap Year isn't what it used to be along the Road South.

Lodge Makes First Plans for Convention

Plans to attend a state convention of the Degree of Honor-Protective Association were in the making at the February 27 meeting of the group.

Mrs. Clara Gertson spoke to the lodge members urging them to memorize their parts for the convention and to make every effort to attend. Mrs. Gertson is national treasurer for the Degree of Honor and is also a state director.

The convention will be held April 24-25 at the Cosmopolitan Motor Hotel in Portland.

President Ardith Hunt made suggestions to the club that members be divided into two groups for a contest in memorizing parts and working on membership, to encourage non active members to participate more regularly.

Two teams have been organized for this, with Mrs. Lincoln Nash and Mrs. Mary Bryant as captains. They will be assisted by Mrs. Earl Soward.

Mrs. Bill Farra has requested that members who have been saving Flavor Pac labels to please turn them in. Anyone wishing to assist with this project will be appreciated.

Lodge members are making plans to conduct a white elephant auction at the March 12 meeting. Proceeds from this fund raising affair will be used to help with convention expenses.

A humorous "Who's Who" guessing contest provided much fun during the evening, with members bringing baby pictures of themselves.

Mrs. Lucille Parrish and Mrs. Alice McCabe provided refreshments for the lodge members and Mrs. Ed La Trace was the recipient of the door prize.

Names of two lodge members who attended the State Degree of Honor convention held recently were Mrs. Adolph Majeske and Mrs. Ron Haguewood.

Are you moving? Subscribers are reminded to notify The Gazette-Times of new addresses, and please include your old address.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

STATE A-2 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
Monday - Wednesday, March 11-13
Coos Bay Gymnasium
Heppner vs. Rogue River, Monday, March 11, 8:45 p.m.
Broadcast locally over TV Channel 3 and Radio Station KUMA

HHS Pep Club Food Sales, Thursday and Saturday, Central Market
Drill Teams—Car wash, Sat., 10-4, Richfield Station, \$2.00 and \$2.50

ELKS INITIATION
Thursday, March 7, 8 p.m.
Ladies Night Dinner, 6:30 pm.

Noodle Feed, Sunday, March 10, 4-9 p.m., \$1.00 person

GRANGE SUPPER & PARTY
Saturday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.
Pancake and ham supper, \$1.25 and 50c
Free evening of cards
Public invited

4-H LEADERS MEETING
4-H Clothing Leaders training session
Friday, March 8, 10 a.m.
Lexington School

HIGH SCHOOL PLAY
"Arsenic and Old Lace," 3 act play
Friday, Saturday, March 22-23, 8 p.m.
High School Multipurpose Room

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