

# 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.



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

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

HAD THE publication of "Shamrocks and Shepherds: The Irish of Morrow County" been timed with St. Patrick's Day, surely there would have been a spontaneous celebration and parade in Heppner, stirring the Wearers of the Green!

Judge John Kilkenny has written the article and it is published in the June issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly. Mrs. Josephine Mahoney Baker calls attention to it in a letter to the editor (elsewhere on this page). The Judge thoughtfully sent us a copy.

It is well understood that the Irish had a very significant part in the development of Morrow county, and one hears many tales of the past, some of which testify that it took men of sturdy temperament from Old Ireland to meet the rough and rugged conditions that our earlier citizens often faced here.

This historical article points out that Heppner High school's athletic teams were known as the "Irish" for more than a quarter of a century.

Those of us in the Johnny-come-lately class, however, are not so inclined to realize the extent of the Irish influence until such an article as "Shamrocks and Shepherds" makes it clear.

If one but adds an "O" ahead of many of the names still prominent here, he gets the point. Apparently many families have dropped the "O" as time went on, but Judge Kilkenny tells how the "O'Dohertys," the "O'Mahoneys," the "O'Farrells (Farley)," the "O'Kennys" and many more wandering Celts have been on the move, ever westward.

Ah, 'tis fortunate for us, indeed, that a good many of them settled here!

Included with this 48-page article are 30 pages of family names of the Irish in Morrow county with brief sketches of each family, an invaluable census.

A number of historical pictures are included: Main street in Heppner, 1898; a picture of the city taken in 1893; one of a rabbit drive with about 1000 dead rabbits heaped in a pile; Kilkenny Hinton Creek ranch in 1914; and the cover, wrapping around to the back, is devoted to "turn of the century sheep shearers in eastern Oregon." We can only surmise that these might be from Morrow county.

Now, there may be many who would like copies of this. Those interested should write Oregon Historical Quarterly, 1230 S. W. Park Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205. Price is \$2 per copy.

In his note to us, Judge Kilkenny states that this article is an abbreviated version of his work, but it is one that will be cherished.

"Shamrocks and Shepherds" starts with this bit of verse:  
"Blue are the mountains of Morrow,  
Green are its valleys and hills,  
Lofty its peaks, and grassy its plains.

Its winters mean blizzards and chills.  
Then come the springs and the summers,  
With sunshine and flowers galore.

The livestock are fat and the wheat fields are brown,  
Thank God for abundance, and more."

Sure, and it's enough to make us wish our name was "O'Sherman." Oh, we've got a good bit of Old Erin in us, for sure, but somehow some Scotch got mixed in there, too — along with some Dutch and English — and that's a rather vitriolic mixture.

FIRST REPORTS of the grain being harvested in the north are not very encouraging. The

crop is pretty light, although a few good reports are filtering in.

But you would never see the countryside more beautiful at harvest time than it is now. In taking a trip to the river Sunday we were impressed with the many hues of brown, ranging from the light — almost tan — to dark chocolate browns. The

Gaines wheat and barley are a light contrast to the Moro and Omar which is a deep hue in its ripened state. And off in the distance, the worked fallow fields bring out an even darker cast to the harmonizing blend of browns.

Never could a camera capture the full beauty of this sight as it is visible to the human eye, stretching in a vast panorama in a random checkerboard pattern with the rolling rangeland hills forming a backdrop — themselves another hue of brown.

As the harvest moves southward, it is to be hoped that from this beauty will come bounty of a better crop than at first appears.

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### TO THE EDITOR

#### Morrow's Irish

To the Editor:  
The other day I received a surprise gift in the mail which thrilled me no end. It was the June issue of the OREGON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY and it contains things which proved so interesting that it "rolled back the universe" for 30 years.

The first chapter is written by John F. Kilkenny and is entitled "Shamrocks and Shepherds: The Irish of Morrow County."

In this nostalgic article the Irish of yesteryear in Morrow county, Gilliam County and a corner of Umatilla county are described in detail accompanied by photographs, the first one being a picture of John S. Kilkenny from the author's collec-

tion. There are also pictures of the Jim Carlys, the Jerry Bronan's, the Mike Kenny's, John Sheridan and a picture of the George Currin house and family in Heppner, among others.

The Hon. John F. Kilkenny describes the O'Bradys; O'Brennan (Tommy Brennan, a long ago blacksmith in Heppner); O'Breslin; Cunningham; Dohertys; Jack Dundas; O'Farrelly (Farley); Fitzpatrick; O'Healy; Hiri; Hughes; O'Lennox; O'Mahoney (P. W. Mahoney, an attorney of Heppner); Monahan; Walter E. Moore and on and on.

It is a "must" for residents of the above mentioned counties and should be in every library for reference.

I'm still walking on "Cloud Nine" and happy I have a friend in the Oregon Historical Society.

Josephine Mahoney Baker  
2545 S. W. Terwilliger,  
Portland, 97201

### COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

#### Coming Events

**YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM**  
High School Gymnasium  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. Planned recreation

**SIDEWALK BAZAAR DAYS**  
Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13  
Downtown Heppner

Join in the fun; look for great bargains. Support the home town merchant and organizations. Something for everyone at terrific savings!

**REBEKAH IOOF PICNIC**  
Annual Summer Picnic, Cutsforth Park  
Sunday, July 14, 12 noon  
Coffee, ice cream and pop furnished  
Families and friends invited

**MORROW COUNTY PICNIC**  
Laurelhurst Park, Portland  
Sunday, August 4, picnic dinner, noon  
All present and former County residents and families invited

**FAIR & RODEO DANCE**  
First Princess Dance, Saturday, July 13, honoring Princess Marcia Jones  
Heppner Fair Pavilion, 9:30-1:00

Music by The Western Gentlemen, Condon  
Dance honoring Princess Sue Ellen Greenup  
Saturday, July 20

Music by Tommy B. & Chain Reactions, Hood River

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P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625  
Heppner

### Meeting Nature's Challenge

Those dedicated to forest fire prevention have shown remarkable progress in educating the public to be careful with camp fires and cigarettes in forest areas.

But they have no such influence over the caprices of nature. When searing weather sets in and the thunderheads boil up to result in bolts of lightning, the result can be catastrophe.

A multiplicity of strikes, such as came this past weekend, can ignite fires in many places, and they bring a frenzy of activity as those charged with safeguarding forest lands rise to meet the challenge.

But how fortunate we are that both governmental and private forces are ready! What an amazingly good job they do in combatting these fires with the odds stacked against them—adverse weather, rough terrain, enveloping smoke, lack of access, and long distances to travel.

But through the years, those who are attached to the forests have gained wisdom. They know when trouble is coming, they have trained to meet it, they have developed equipment and methods to do the job, and they have a special kind of courage and resourcefulness to face the hot, grueling and wearisome work that each fire brings.

Were it not for the fact that federal, state and private foresters are so well prepared for these fire emergencies, the situation as of this moment could be terrifying here.

Perhaps some 30 fires were set in the Heppner Ranger district and in the Kinzua area by lightning. Two are still major problems, but they are keeping things very well in check, considering the hazardous circumstances.

Were it not for the work of these fire fighters, a much more terrible toll would be taken in our valuable forest lands, and our economy would be staggered.

Even as the fire burns, Kinzua Corporation is making plans for salvage operations to begin just as soon as the area cools enough to get on the land. Plans are underway, too, for reforestation of the blackened area, illustrating the dedication of an enlightened company to the sustained yield concept.

While man is helpless to prevent the power thrusts of nature that sometimes do him damage, his indomitable spirit, as exemplified by the woodsmen in this area, will not give up. He comes fighting back, and he utilizes nature's other mysterious powers to restore, reproduce and repair the damage done.

### Unfortunate Conflict

Remember the collision of the Andrea Doria and the Stockholm off the East Coast of the U. S. some years back? Each of the ships' officers knew the other was there, and there were miles of unblemished ocean around them, but by some bizarre coincidence—and perhaps human error—they crashed just the same, sending the Andrea Doria to the bottom, where the luxury Italian liner still reposes.

This somehow comes to mind when we think of the conflict of the Shrine A-2 and B football game in Pendleton and the Morrow county Rodeo in Heppner—two of the major summer attractions of this area. Each organization knows of the other, and they always have tried to avoid conflict of dates. But suddenly now it is discovered, with the events just about 1 1/2 months away, that they are going to be held on the same date. A "crash" is inevitable.

The Shriners, the Morrow fair board and the rodeo committee know that this is not a happy situation.

The events will compete against each other for crowds, and their parades will be vying for entries. Normally, the rodeo parade gets numerous entries from Pendleton, including the Main Street Cowboys, the Pendleton Round-Up court and others. Chances are, however, that these groups will not be able to come to Heppner this year.

This area, on the other hand, has been a staunch supporter of the Shrine game with ticket sales reported by Dr. L. D. Tibbles running as high as \$1200 some years. Certainly the rodeo will eat into this figure for the 1968 event, especially in view of the fact that there are no Morrow county boys playing in the game.

In setting up the dates, the Shriners have certain limitations that restrict their dates, and so does the rodeo. The latter must be out of the way before State Fair starts. So maybe this year this is just one of those unfortunate circumstances that couldn't be avoided. However, in the future the groups might check with each other before setting dates, thereby avoiding a collision. One may not send the other "to the bottom" but the conflict could dent and damage both of them for crowds and gate receipts.

The local committees avoided the date of August 17 this year, apparently thinking that the Shrine game was on that date. Only a few days ago, when publicity started to come out, was it realized that both the game and the rodeo are on August 24, with the rodeo continuing August 25.

Chamber of Commerce here, sponsors of the parade, showed concern at the meeting Monday as members discussed the situation. A letter has been sent to the Shrine chairman suggesting that if at all possible the Shrine parade be held late in the day with the hope that many, who are interested in both, might take part in the morning parade here.

In future years, the respective organizations should get their "radar" working better to avoid another collision.

**Mr. and Mrs. Larry Martin**, on two week's vacation from their home in Moro, have been visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Ellen Campbell. The Martins, accompanying her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Campbell and Mrs. Campbell's two brothers, Mark and Mike of Longview, Wn., spent several days fishing and camping at Meadow Creek, located in the Blue Mountains. Returning to Heppner for a few days, the group then traveled to Portland, from where the Campbells returned her brothers to their home in Longview and the Martins spent time visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Martin at Warren.

**Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Matteson** returned from two weeks vacation Friday, spending the first week at East Lake with Delvin Matteson and Cecilia Matteson. They spent a second week at Colfax, Wn., visiting with a son-in-law and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Parks, Delvin Matteson and Cecilia Matteson returned to East Lake where they were joined by her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Scott, of Heppner, and another son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lynch, of Springfield. None of the vacationers learned that the Matteson's brother, Lawrence, had died here suddenly July 4 until they returned home.

### Pioneer Ponderings



By W. S. CAVERHILL

#### Our Loss of Confidence

Much is being said and written about the "credibility gap" and growing disrespect for law and order. Various reasons are being assigned for it, poverty, ignorance, affluence, a changing economy, and political chicanery. Perhaps, each of them contributes something to our social unrest and over economic dismay.

Our beginning as a nation began in turbulence, but out of it came a strong concept of government, among the men who formed it time has marked some as statesmen. Today, the best title a man's spirit for high office can expect from the public is "a polished politician."

In our complex society he can expect no more. Only a dictator has a chance to display statesmanship. Problems must be resolved by compromise, and each compromise creates an element of suspicion. As these elements grow, a large part of our people tar all politicians "crooks." There is no place in our mixture of interests for a statesman to operate. We wouldn't let him.

# DANCE

MORROW COUNTY  
FAIR and RODEO

SATURDAY  
JULY 13

9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

MUSIC BY  
The  
Western Gentlemen  
CONDON

ADMISSION

\$1.50 Per Person

Honoring Princess

MARCIA JONES

MORROW COUNTY

# FAIR PAVILION

HEPPNER

