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Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

STARTING WITH the Gorman fire on Thanksgiving Day, the Heppner area was struck with an unusual week of sadness and tragedy which have brought sorrow to many of our people but sympathy from all.

Death of Joe Palmer in an auto accident, a fire that destroyed the home of Mrs. Avery Taylor and family, and the unexpected death of Bill Farra, assistant fire chief, brought a rapid succession of sorrow. Other deaths have occurred, too, to touch the heartstrings of friends and relatives.

These are things that come to all communities. Sometimes it seems that sorrows overwhelm the good and happy news.

But out of such sadness comes the redeeming goodness in a community such as this. The sympathy of friends is not only evident in vocal consolation but takes constructive action in the way of thoughtful deeds and in helping those stricken.

What a blessing to live among such fine people when real trouble comes.

Generous and sympathetic action almost spontaneously follows the news of any sorrow, just as friends immediately responded to help the Gormans and the Taylors and did what they could to comfort the Palmers and the Farra family.

Doesn't it seem that there is more of the real and true Christmas spirit among the people of our rural area communities than we see evident in other areas—where hate, indifference and selfishness seem to prevail?

It is saddening to suffer unfortunate occurrences at the start of the holiday season, but the "goodwill towards men," so unselfishly in evidence through the past week, is in keeping with the deepest meaning of Christmas. This is the morale because the same spirit prevails here throughout the year.

front of the desk of the co-publisher, but somehow didn't break the glass. Then succeeding gusts started whipping it against the large pane.

The startled Mrs. Sherman ran out underneath it to try to keep it away from the window and would not respond to her husband's demands to stand clear. If the final fastenings had broken loose, she could have sustained some very nasty cuts. We had to literally pull her away.

Ray Ayers and Matt Hughes of M & R Company came right over, and at the height of the low, scaled ladders and dismantled the heavy awning at some risk to themselves.

At one point, a heavy sheet of 3/4-inch plywood, lying flat on the sidewalk, was picked up and flipped over by the wind—it was that strong.

While Ray and Matt worked on that awning we couldn't help but think what a great asset they are in the community. They do so many things well, and they are so willing and able to help.

We don't know what we would do without them!

TO THE EDITOR...

A Plea for Help

December 5, 1968

To the Editor:

Will you, please, help us find our daughter? My wife, Ruth, and I are directing this plea to you and to the ten thousand other newspapers in the cities, towns, and hamlets of this country.

Our daughter, Elizabeth Lurine (Liz) Erstein, was just two months short of her fifteenth birthday when she vanished without a trace last March 18.

She was last seen walking home from school along a lonely tree-lined street amid the orange groves of suburban Redlands. In her arms, she carried a blue notebook and a red algebra textbook. Neither has been found.

Since then, law enforcement agencies, family members, and friends have spent countless hours tracking down hundreds of tentative leads. But to no avail. Not one single, slender clue has brightened all our efforts. Seemingly, Liz has disappeared like a breath of air on a winter's day.

But, surely there is a simple



ELIZABETH ERSTEIN

explanation. Was she abducted? Did she run away from home? Is she dead? Or is she alive and, perhaps, in your town?

She was dressed in a blue dress with white flowers, tennis shoes and a dark-olive corduroy coat. Around her neck she wore a small gold chain with a pendant gold and blue star.

Elizabeth is five feet, five-inches tall, weighs 105 pounds and had brown hair and brown eyes. She is one of five Erstein children. The family lost one of these, a son, to polio in 1952.

"I can face the daytime better than the night," the distraught mother said. "At night I find myself saying: 'Is she safe? Is she warm? Is she fed?' and finally . . . is she alive?"

You can help us. Ruth and I are begging you to help us find an answer to our torment—to help us end the long nightmare of these past eight months.

The Lord willing, someone in your area may have seen her.

With sincere gratitude,
Norman and Ruth Erstein
776 Crafton Avenue
Redlands, Calif. 92373
(Editor's Note: Any information concerning young Liz Erstein should be reported promptly to this newspaper or to Capt. Charles Callahan, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office, San Bernardino, Calif., phone (714) 889-0111.

Your interest in our Christmas program will be fully appreciated.

Charles A. Malet, Chairman
Christmas Committee
McLaren School for Boys
Woodburn 97071

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COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

HEPPNER BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 14, Heppner vs. Condon, here
Tuesday, Dec. 17, Heppner vs. Condon, here
Fri.-Sat., Dec. 20-21, Christmas Tournament at Wah-tonka, The Dalles

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
Corner Main and Center Streets
By Heppner Chapter FFA
Priced as marked. Flocking available

ADVENTURE FILM
Monday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Canadian Wildlife in action
Sponsored by Heppner Chapter FFA
High School Multipurpose Room

WATER CONSERV. MEETING
Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Lexington Grange Hall
Special program on underground water rights, well drilling zoning, etc.
Everyone welcome

RAINBOW DANCE
Monday, Dec. 23, IOOF Hall, 9:00 p.m.
Tickets on sale by Rainbow Girls
Music by Pilot Rock combo

ROCKHOUND CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Dinner and gift exchange
Harris Drive-in dining room
Members and invited guests

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City Dads' Headache

The one thing that has become very clear about the city's still-young zoning ordinance is that it is a "headache" to administer.

Through the months since its adoption, the city council has been torn at nearly every meeting to make a decision that would live up to the letter of the ordinance on the one hand, or show sympathy to a particular problem of a resident or property owner on the other hand. Very often there is a conflict between the two points of view.

The city has tried to temper the inflexible provisions of the ordinance by altering the method of providing for variances, making this more discretionary on the decision of the council.

From the legal point of view, it has often been difficult to bend the zoning provisions to fit what the council believes to be the course that is in the best interests of the resident and consequently, as they interpret it, to the best interest of the city.

Problems they have encountered seem to defy simple solution, but they keep wrestling with them.

When they decide in favor of a property owner, perhaps not strictly complying with the ordinance's provisions, they may set a precedent that they will be unable to follow. This could bring more complications.

The tendency might be to repeal the ordinance, but this is not the proper course. The principle is right. Zoning provides for orderly growth and development. It helps prevent one property owner infringing on the rights and privileges of another. If the city grows in the future, the need will be greater for zoning.

Somewhat, though, the ordinance seems a bit too elaborate for a city of Heppner's size and "personality." Its provisions are too rigid for current conditions. It's too bad that experts in city government and engineers haven't worked out a plan designed for small towns which wish to develop in attractive, clean and orderly fashion. The ordinance here is essentially the same as one that would apply to cities of perhaps 50,000 population or more.

Indulging in hindsight, there is little doubt that the council adopted the zoning ordinances too quickly. All seemed right, but they had no idea of the many and varied problems they would face.

Perhaps if the city continues to wrestle with its "headache" and makes amendments as needed to adapt the ordinance to the Heppner situation, these adjustments may prove to be the "aspirin" that will bring a happier, more comfortable situation.

School Bells

By RON DANIELS
Superintendent,
Morrow County Schools

LIBRARIANS AND COUNSELORS

As I indicated in an earlier article, one of the purposes in writing the "School Bells" series is to discuss some of the comments voiced by voters prior to the budget elections last spring.

One of the comments we heard most frequently was in regards to the counselor and librarian positions in our schools.

The opinion expressed by several people was that these positions were unnecessary frills and that they should be eliminated.

In answering these comments I could list many duties performed by these people which would stress the importance of their positions. However, even if one should disagree with the importance of the duties performed by counselors and librarians it would still not be possible to eliminate these positions as they are positions required by the State Department of Education.

The State Board of Education has adopted a set of minimum standards for public schools that outlines some specific requirements that school districts must meet in order to maintain a standard school program.

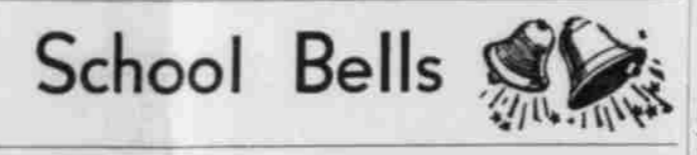
Failure to meet these standards, as established by the State Board of Education, can result in a loss of basic school support funds, as well as sub-standard rating which would make it difficult for graduates to enroll in many colleges and universities.

Two of the established minimum standards require assigned time for counselors and librarians in all schools. Standard III states that each school shall have a centralized instructional materials center to provide services to all pupils.

Each school is also required to have available the services of a librarian and an audiovisual coordinator. The time assigned to these duties varies according to the number of teachers on the school staff.

The duties of a librarian are not simply to check books in and out but rather they have a complex procedure involving selection of proper materials, updating of old materials, proper cataloging and classification of material, and assisting teachers and students in locating material to be used in class reports and debates.

Standard IV states that every school shall provide an organized guidance program based on a written plan. In addition every junior high or senior high school will provide an assigned counselor for counseling and re-



lated duties with the exact amount of assigned time to be determined by the number of students enrolled in the school.

Here again the duties of a counselor are many and varied. They are charged with carrying out the standardized testing program for the school, with providing information relative to vocational schools and jobs, with assisting students in selecting the proper college, with assisting seniors with college enrollment, with providing information relative to scholarships available and to discuss with parents and students any matters that are of concern regarding the future growth and development of the individual students.

We do not exceed the minimum standards in most of our schools and we are, in fact, below the minimum standards in some of our elementary schools.

The counseling position at Heppner Elementary was eliminated last spring as a result of the budget defeat and we must look to future improvement in this area.

Even if the positions of counselors and librarians were not state requirements, I feel that they are very necessary positions if we are to maintain a well-balanced program.

Gift Needs for Boys

December 5, 1968

Dear Friends:

As the Christmas Season nears, we are aware of the needs of the many boys who are in our care here at McLaren School for Boys, Woodburn, Oregon. If at all possible, your assistance would be appreciated in that the more unfortunate of our boys receive an expression of good will during the Christmas Season.

Many of our boys come from broken homes, and therefore, receive very little, or no recognition at Christmas except through donations. During Christmas of 1967 approximately 300 boys, both on our campus and in our foster homes, received gifts through donations.

In addition to money, the following are some suggestions relating to Christmas gifts:

Clothing, (shirts, socks, etc), musical instruments, musical records, games, hobby materials, combs, subscriptions to magazines or newspapers, shaving equipment, men's toiletries, models, wallets, school supplies, ball point pens, address books, stationery, pocket-size books, money for the purchase of canteen cards \$1.55.

Salvation Army Urges Response To Appeal Letters

Ted Smith, chairman of the local Salvation Army Service Extension committee, announces that the annual Christmas appeal letter has been mailed.

Motivating the appeal, he said, is the fact that Christmas means caring for and sharing with others, with the Salvation Army at work more than a century trying to "spread the spirit of Christmas through the year."

The local committee is alert to those in need, especially at Christmas time.

Smith states his committee helps the needy with food, shelter, clothing and food baskets. A special effort will be made to see that no child will go without toys this Christmas.

Food, clothing and toys are the principal items provided at Christmas time to brighten the holidays for the less fortunate. The Salvation Army requests that contributions be in the form of cash or checks, since there are no facilities for collecting and handling gifts of goods. Also, money can be used to purchase the items best suited to the needs of individual families.

Money remaining after Christmas is used for the continuing welfare program of the local service extension committee, which provides some 23 different services, including care for unwed mothers at Salvation Army facilities, emergency assistance for transients, farm fire relief and many others.

The local committee matches needs with gifts, giving of their time and talents in service to the less fortunate. Smith urged the support of this local community effort by sending a contribution to the local Salvation Army Committee Treasurer, Bill Siewert, aBnk of Eastern Oregon, Heppner, Ore. 97836.

Thanksgiving holiday week-end guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Anderson were their daughters and families, Mr. and Mrs. Al Parent and daughters, Lisa, Shelly and Alison, all of Oregon City; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Porter and son, Ricky, of Portland, and Mrs. Adelia Martin and daughter, Suzanne, from Portland. All remained to visit throughout the week-end, returning to their homes Sunday afternoon.

Coming from Arcada, Ore., to join his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Hudson for the Thanksgiving holiday week-end, were Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hudson and family. Joining them for Thanksgiving were Mr. and Mrs. George Perkins and son, Keith, of Pendleton, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hudson and three girls and Mr. and Mrs. Jack McTimpney and Jack D., all of Heppner.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

By Heppner Chapter FFA

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