

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WHILE YOU are making those preparations for the happy time of Christmas, pause a moment to shed a tear for Carl Spaulding.

While he was attending a cable television convention in Portland in October, someone entered his hotel room and stole his credit cards, a Polaroid camera, and other items.

Since then, he has accumulated more than \$500 in bills through all companies, some of which was through his purchases. Carl has notified the companies of the theft, and so he apparently is not liable in some instances the oil company will take the rap, but perhaps some of the service stations will be the losers.

Whoever got the cards is making full use of them. He has a washer, toy trucks, deodorant, tires, spark plugs, and many other items on the bills, together with gasoline and oil. He has been making purchases at the rate of four or five per day in some cases, which means he must be doing a lot of traveling.

Another oddity is that licenses of nine different cars are listed on the slips that Carl has accumulated. Perhaps the few low or follows have an auto theft ring going, too.

Sometimes the fellow signs the name on the credit cards—Carl Spaulding—but sometimes he uses other names, even though the purchase slips are stamped with the Carl Spaulding name from the credit card.

Spaulding has learned a lot about credit cards since this occurred. He could give a lecture on the rackets in connection with them. There are organized rings that specialize in stealing credit cards, he says. A BankAmericard fenced by the thieves is valued at \$300, according to his information.

Since this happened to him, he was anxious to pass the word around so that others might be more careful with their credit cards. Some of us treat them rather carelessly, but they are the same as a blank check when they fall into the wrong hands.

When you throw away an old credit card, be sure you break it in two or destroy it in some manner so it can't be used.

IF YOU ARE decorating your home for Christmas, be sure to give the G-T a call or come in so that we can put your name on the lighting and decorating contest list. Saturday noon is the deadline.

The prize money has been doubled this year to create more interest, and an effort is being made to stimulate the beautifying of the city at Christmas time.

Some are sort of bashful about entering the contest, but this only makes it hard for the judges, who may spot some fine decorations and would like to award them prizes but they may not be entered.

A phone call will enter you (676-9228). There are two categories—one for outside lighting

and decorations and the other for window and inside decorations visible from the street.

GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN, under the direction of Terry Lincoln, art teacher, again have come up with some very cute drawings for the Christmas issue of the Gazette-Times. This will be published next Tuesday afternoon, just ahead of Christmas.

Merchants have been selecting greetings that they will sponsor, and the ones which have been chosen to date will bring chuckles as well as sober thoughts. One can read the minds of the youngsters as he views his drawing—he may come up with a humorous idea, or he may draw something religious and meaningful. The talent of some of the students is something to be proud of.

THE "RHYMING PHILOSOPHER," Harry Fletcher of Watsonville, Calif., is a genius. He can come up with a poem on any subject on a moment's notice. Lois Winchester has admired his work with the poems that we publish weekly, and she wrote and asked him to do one on animals for her on special request. He obliged immediately, and the poem will be used in next week's paper as the Christmas greeting message from Lois Beauty Shop.

We like the one he has written about farmers on this page this week, too.

Operation Santa Nears Deadline; Jaycees Appeal

Morrow County Jaycees issue an urgent appeal for donors of gifts for patients in Oregon's mental hospitals to bring their gifts to the Heppner Barber Shop or give them to any Jaycee member.

"Time is running out," Lyle Jensen, chairman, states. "We only have another week in which to make certain the more than 3,000 men, women and children in these hospitals will be remembered Christmas morning."

The state-wide project "Operation Santa Claus" is aimed at remembering mental patients with a Christmas gift. Collection depots and gift drives have been organized throughout the state in an attempt to make certain this is done. This activity is conducted by the Mental Health Association of Oregon and its county chapters and the Morrow County Jaycees.

Suggested gift lists may be obtained by contacting the collection depot, or calling Lyle Jensen, 676-9612. Such gift items include most things one would normally pick out for the family.

Cash donations will be used to purchase large items for patients, such as television sets, pianos, etc.

Irrigon Club Elects

Don Leighton, assistant leader of the Country Critters 4-H Livestock club, donated a pony for the Pony Drawing Fund. Second place prize is a 20 lb. turkey and third place is a fruitcake. Members are selling tickets for 50c or 3 for \$1.00.

We elected new officers. They are Tim Rice, president; Robert Richards, vice president; David Richards, secretary; Donald Leighton, treasurer; Karen Richards, reporter; Gelene Brant, sergeant-at-arms; Judy Snyder, record collector.

We talked about the livestock show at The Dalles and when we were to have our animals ready. We worked on the Animal Science Project which we ordered last year. Our next meeting will be December 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Don Leighton.

Karen Richards, reporter

## Salvation Army Offers Yule Help

The local Salvation Army committee is prepared to help anyone in need with food, shelter or clothing. A special effort is made at Christmas by The Salvation Army so that no child will go without toys and so that homeless, lonely persons of all ages will be touched by the peace and joy of Christmas. Ted Smith, local committee chairman, states.

Chairman Smith said that Christmas is more than a time for remembering family and friends. In the hustle and bustle of personal preparations, he urges the residents of this area to take time to remember those in hospital rooms, rest homes, those cut off from family and friends, the ill, prisoners, elderly persons, unwed mothers and alcoholics, all of whom The Salvation Army seeks to help all year long.

The Salvation Army has spent more than a century trying to spread the spirit of Christmas throughout the year.

Smith, chairman of the local Salvation Army service extension committee, urges all those who have not yet done so to send their contributions to help

In this annual Christmas appeal. Contributions should be sent to: Mr. Bill Stewart, Bank of Eastern Oregon, Heppner, Oregon 97636.

## McLeod Playing Basketball at EOC

Bill McLeod, former Heppner High school basketball player and chosen a Greater Oregon League All-Star in his senior year, 1967-68, is on the 15-man varsity basketball squad at Eastern Oregon College, La Grande, according to the roster issued by Coach Howard D. Richardson.

The 6 foot Heppner freshman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave McLeod, is one of five frosh on the college basketball squad, which lists four seniors, five juniors, and one sophomore.

Among the seniors this year is Rich Mikel of Pilot Rock who performed against Heppner in the Greater Oregon League and another all-star from that circuit. Mikel now has three years experience at EOC.

## Families are Guests

The Gooseberry Livestock 4-H club met December 1 at the Jack Sumner home. Our families joined us for a Christmas potluck dinner and a movie. We have two new members, Sally Sumner and Patricia Van Schoelack.

Louis Carlson, our leader, handed out records and booklets for each project. Bob Peterson told us how to feed our steers. The meeting was adjourned by the president.

## Declare Dividend

Board of directors of First National Bank of Oregon at its meeting Tuesday, November 26, declared a regular quarterly dividend of 45 cents per share payable January 1, 1969, to shareholders of record at the close of business December 16.

The Harlan McCurdy's had as their guests over Thanksgiving, their daughter, Karen, from Corvallis and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Moyer, and two daughters from La Grande.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

HEPPNER BASKETBALL  
Fri-Sat, Dec. 20-21, Christmas Tournament at Wah-tonka, The Dalles  
Sat., Dec. 28, DeSales at Walla Walla

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

RHEA CREEK GRANGE  
Annual Christmas Party  
Saturday, Dec. 21, Grange Hall  
Potluck dinner, 6:30, gift exchange, program

WRANGLER TRYOUTS  
Princess Tryouts, Indoor Pavilion, Fairgrounds  
Sunday, Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m.  
Girls 17-21, Wrangler members

RAINBOW DANCE  
Monday, Dec. 23, IOOF Hall, 9:00 p.m.  
Tickets on sale by Rainbow Girls  
Music by The Awakening, Pilot Rock combo  
Admission, \$1.50 per person

SCHOOL VACATION  
Morrow County Schools  
Christmas Vacation  
From December 20-January 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS, FRIENDS!  
SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY  
C. A. RUGGLES  
Insurance Agency  
P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625  
Heppner

## Set Aside a Little Time . . .

Editor's Note: The following was written by Bill Sherman, son of the publishers and student at Gordon Divinity School, Wenham, Mass., as part of a Christmas greeting to friends. It is printed here because of its pertinence to the Christmas season.

By BILL SHERMAN  
As we approach the celebration of Christ's birth, we are again aware of the great changes which have occurred since the original event.

The first Christmas morning took place in a very simple, natural setting. Yet the supernatural significance was incomparable in all of God's plan for mankind. Today the occasion is known for its more elaborate and ornate worldly aspects, but with little real meditation on the relevance of this historical event in our spiritual lives right now. Perhaps sufficient criticism has been already made against the over-commercialization and glaring glitter of Christmas.

But as we find ourselves caught up in all the excitement and hustle of preparations, let us set aside just a little time to be all alone and quiet . . . to thank God for His patience with us and to praise Him for the love which caused Him to humble Himself to the extremes of the manger and the cross.

This is really quite amazing when we stop to think about it. But, of course, it can be completely empty of any deeper significance if we are unwilling to take the time and effort to examine the real claims of this Person, Jesus, on our individual lives.

From the prophecies of Isaiah, written long before that actual event, we read:

"Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call him Immanuel (God with us) . . . He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

What do you think about this God-incarnate Person of Jesus . . . or do you?  
Best wishes for a truly joyful Christmas season.

## Morrow in the Spotlight

Reports are coming back from the annual convention of the Oregon Wheat League in Portland last week about the great part that Morrow county played in the proceedings. At the annual banquet last Tuesday night Morrow was really in the spotlight and all of our people came through with flying colors.

This year Morrow was tabbed as host county for the convention, and many program arrangements were made by Bob Rietmann, chairman of the Morrow County Wheat Growers association.

Harlan McCurdy, Jr., manager of Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc., was toastmaster at the banquet, and the report from those attending is that he did a super job. He set a precedent that will see him called on for similar appearances in the future.

One of the top achievements was the selection of Herb and Bob Peterson of Morrow county as State Conservation Men of the Year. This means that our county has had the top conservation men twice in a row statewide and is tribute to the great work being done here on conservation.

Louis Carlson, last year's county and state winner, had a part in the proceedings as chairman of the conservation man selection committee. Together with Don Robinson of John Deere, he made the state presentation to the winners at this convention—this occurring, too, at the banquet where Morrow county was truly in the spotlight.

The Choralettes of Ione High school, a girls' singing group, directed by Darrell James, furnished entertainment, and they were a smash hit, being called back several times for additional numbers.

To all from this county who had a share in doing such a remarkable job we extend congratulations. Such fine work as this will make other counties around the state sit up and take notice!

## Elections Choose Irrigon Officers

IRRIGON—Results of the annual election for the Irrigon Rural Fire district on December 2 saw Fred (Red) Murtishaw, who ran unopposed, elected for a 3 year term.

Donald Leighton was elected over incumbent Chester Wilson for a seat on the board of the Irrigon Cemetery Maintenance District.

In a special City election, held at the same hour, a tie which occurred in the November election was broken for the third seat on the city council for a 4-year term. Mrs. Elva Sanders was elected by a narrow margin over James Keith, Sr., who is now serving. Officers for all candidates will begin January 1, or as soon as they are qualified.

## Delegation Supports Wheat Convention

Oregon Wheat Growers League convention activities, held Monday through Wednesday of the past week at the Sheraton Hotel in Portland, attracted many local families. Among those who attended were Mr. and Mrs. John Venard, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Gar Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Harlan McCurdy, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Milton Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Lindstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Lindstrom, Don Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Peterson, Mrs. Doris Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Carlson, and Bob Rietmann, president of the Morrow County Wheat Growers League.

McCurdy served as master of ceremonies for a Tuesday night banquet, for which Morrow county was the host group. Ladies who attended were taken on a tour of OMSI where they enjoyed a special Christmas showing of the story of the Star of Bethlehem.

## Pioneer

### Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

#### Our Taxation Problem

Tax revision will be a sticky problem for the coming session of the legislature. Speaker-elect Smith is asking for suggestions. Our coffee club has some.

1. Don't go overboard on property tax relief. Twenty-five percent should be enough.

2. Revise the income tax to absorb the loss. (There would be no added expense in collection.)

3. Put a property tax on automobiles graduated by book value and collected when license is issued. (This would accomplish what most agree should be a tax contribution from everyone.)

4. Take a close look at exemptions and fees for service.

5. Urge restraint in wage increases both public and private. We have come to these conclusions over many cups of rain water flavored with a leading brand of coffee. Thanks, Speaker Smith for inviting us.

## PROPERTY TAX FAX

If you have a question concerning real or personal property please state all the facts as briefly as possible and mail it to Mrs. Joyce Ritch, Morrow county special assessor, or to P. O. Box 418, McMinnville, Oregon, 97128 under the name "PROPERTY TAX FAX". Please ask only one question per sheet. Then watch this column for the answer.

QUESTION  
I am a World War I Veteran and have been getting an exemption due to my 40% disability. This has been \$1,880 assessed value. What amount will I receive now that all values are going to be shown at 100%?

ANSWER  
You will receive \$7,500 of true market value of your homestead.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Arbogast and two daughters, Mary and Ellen, spent Thanksgiving Day in La Grande visiting her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Sams and family. Joining them there were Mrs. Arbogast's parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Taylor from Milton-Freewater.

## The Rhyming Philosopher

### HUSBANDRY

OH! THE LIFE OF A FARMER IS EASY  
WHILE HE WAITS FOR HIS CROPS TO GROW GOLD,  
AND EXCEPT FOR HARD LUCK AND DISEASE, HE'S  
GOT IT MADE—AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I'M TOLD.

HE GETS FACED WITH SOME HUNDREDS OF QUESTIONS,  
SO THE ANSWERS JUMP OUT OF HIS HAT,  
WHILE ENCOUNTERING WELL-MEANT SUGGESTIONS  
THAT HE'D BETTER NOT PLANT THIS OR THAT!

SO HE GAMBLES ON WEATHER CONDITION  
AND CONTENTS WITH THE LABOR SUPPLIED;  
A MACHINIST AND BOSS ELECTRICIAN  
HE'S A JACK OF ALL TRADES ON THE SIDE.

AND OF COURSE HE CAN DOCTOR HIS CATTLE,  
AND THE MARKET IS UNDER HIS SPELL;  
IF IT RAINS SOMETIMES THAT'S HALF THE BATTLE,  
IF IT COMES AT THE HARVEST, THAT'S HELL!

SO THEN HERE'S TO THE PLEASURES OF FARMING  
FOR MEN BUILT OF BACKBONE AND GUTS:  
AS A BUSINESS IT'S FRANKLY ALARMING  
THAT MORE OF THEM HAVEN'T GONE NUTS!

HARRY W. FLETCHER

WREMEMBER the "W" is silent!

oh, joyous jeans!  
CORDUROYS  
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Stringbean slim in luscious thick 'n thin corduroy that laps up compliments while you're living it up in style! Wrangler-tailoring means curvy fit, newest details! Blue, brown, green, red. Sizes 5/6-18...

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