

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Is There Any Room?

By REV. MELVIN DIXON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Whether we are ready for it or not, Christmas is here once more; and from the Yuletide Narratives, there emerge parables, sometimes obvious, and at other times, more subtle, which God desires for us to learn.

In each historical fact of the Nativity story is a parabolic teaching of value worthy of our serious consideration. I have chosen one which perhaps is the most familiar, yet almost trite, and forces itself upon our attention, because it is still so true that, individually, we are hardly ready for Christmas, even as mankind is still not ready for the Christ, though born to us two millenniums ago.

On that memorable night, most people were not ready. The world lost the honor of providing a place where its Redeemer might be born, because it was very busy with "important things"—such as collecting taxes, filling inns with people, answering the summons of government's edict, and making provision for those who traveled.

The incarnation is still rather summarily dismissed from the modern mind, as the contemporary scene reflects more and more the earthy side of this Holy observance. Top priority demands that we, especially the People of God, recapture the true sense of this sacred season. Our preoccupied "busyness" has in itself been the thief of our peace and goodwill, which has left no room in our hearts for Christ.

Universal mankind estranged from God, with a thousand plans for peace which do not come except through Christ; too impotent to emancipate ourselves and often too proud to accept help from someone else (much less from God), we go on in our pitiable delusions of mirage-like happiness accompanied by the nagging uncertainty of life's true meaning. But Christ has come to change all this through His cradled infancy and magnificent power.

The babe in a manger that night was almost crowded out of Bethlehem, for the lack of available accommodation. But this holy child has strange powers. His own crowding-out power is tremendous! This explains why Christ is so crowded out of so many contemporary lives, for when allowed free entrance into the human soul, He crowds out anything that would tend to crowd Him out: selfishness, thronging cares, numbing pleasures, sinful habits, ill will and prejudices. These too often fill our rooms and Christ is the only reasonable alternative.

From the hopelessness and helplessness of the modern predicament, God's supreme gift of love has come and it is among men who have resolved this estrangement by humbly letting God in as King of their lives.

The Magi searched for a child and they found a King! The Shepherds were informed and they found a Savior! They had room in their hearts for the superior quest and the "Greatest Story Ever told!"

The late Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman reflects in verse so well a Christmas Prayer:

Still driven by a thousand cares The pilgrims come and go; The hurried caravans press on; The inns are crowded so! Here are the rich and busy ones, With things that must be sold, No room for simple things within This hostelry of gold. Yet hunger dwells within these walls, These shining walls and bright, And blindness groping here and there Without a ray of light. Oh, lest we starve, and lest we die, In our stupidity, Come, Holy Child, within and share Our hospitality. Let not our hearts be busy inns, That have no room for Thee, But cradles for the living Christ And His nativity!

Irrigon Club Awards 4-H Contest Winners

The last meeting of the Irrigon Community 4-H club was called to order by President Steve Acock. Awards were given for the poster contest. The winners were Don Leighton, who received a 4-H emblem sweat-shirt; Danette Leighton, who was given a necklace with the 4-H emblem, and Leon Wilson, who received an I-D bracelet with the 4-H emblem. All who took part received a notebook.

The skating party will be December 28, from 7:00 to 9:30. All Irrigon and Boardman members are invited, and there will be a charge of 50c per person.

An award was given to Marge Shade for being a leader of our club. After the meeting refreshments were served and we opened presents.

Cheryl Hinkley, reporter

M/Sgt. Calvin Cox, son of Ben Cox, arrived Sunday, December 15, for a week's visit here with his father, who is currently a patient in Pioneer Memorial hospital, and with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Borman, and other friends and relatives. He returned Saturday, December 21, from the Pendleton airport to his home in Peru, Ind., where he is stationed at Griffon Air Force Base.

Mrs. Martha Van Schoelack left Monday for a month's visit with relatives in Portland and Monmouth. She will spend several days at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Karlson, and family in Portland, and will also visit her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Andy (Beth) Van Schoelack, and family in Monmouth. Mrs. Van Schoelack is enrolled at Oregon College of Education, preparing for elementary teaching.

Chaff and Chatter Wes Sherman

IT APPEARS that Coach Bob Clough and his basketball Mustangs are trying to do to the prep Holiday Basketball Tournament what Oregon State did to the Far West Classic for years—take a mortgage on winning.

When the Mustangs captured the tournament at Wadonka Saturday night, this made the fourth straight Holiday championship for the Cloughmen. They took the trophy twice at Condon, then captured it last year at Sherman County, followed by the win at Chenoweth this year.

Thus, in four tournaments, the Heppner teams have a record of eight wins against no losses. This year's victory had some added significance, too, in that they humbled the Eagles, who were labeled to be among the Greater Oregon powers this year, particularly boasting a 4-7 competitor in towering Butch Schmidt. The Mustangs held him to 16 points.

The Mustangs dropped Wadonka in the first game and won the championship Saturday night by downing Condon for the third time this season. The Blue Devils probably are getting a bit tired of pitting themselves against Heppner.

PERFORMANCE of the Mustangs has been a fine surprise so far. It isn't that any Heppner supporter doesn't always expect a title contender to come forth, since this has been recent history, but probably only a few of the most staunch boosters would have wagered that the Heppner club would walk away with its first six straight, including the likes of Grant Union and Wadonka.

What seems to be one of the real clues to the Mustangs' record to date is their work on defense. Highest total scored against them to date is the 49 points by lone here in the home opener. Not a team has topped 39 against them and the average of opponents is 39 per game. Meanwhile, the Mustangs' average is 55.

Oh, there are lots of rocky roads ahead, but it appears that the Heppner gang is going to be making a fight for the top again. At this point, the team seems to be developing solidly and coming on very well. Not only are they doing on offense but they are scoring evenly around the lineup.

PROBABLY the crowd didn't realize it, but when Heppner received the championship award Saturday night, they got a trophy for cross country instead of basketball. Someone dropped the real trophy earlier in the day and broke it. The substitute trophy was just for appearances sake to tide things over until the genuine article could be replaced.

When they told Coach Clough what they were going to do and why, he replied, "Why shucks, why didn't you tell me, and I would have brought one of the last three tournament trophies down from our trophy case."

WE'VE KNOWN Dr. H. S. Huber, the dentist, for more than seven years, but didn't realize until this very week that his ranch is actually known as "Tooth Acres."

If I had a wheat ranch here, with the way the price and crop has been, I think I'd call it "Belly Acres."

IT ALWAYS seems most enjoyable to get good news at Christmas time. Thus, it is with hope that we greet the word that Mike Benz has been spotted in apparent good health, in a UC prison camp. His relatives here have been on a high pitch of anxiety ever since he was reported missing about 11 months ago. One of the greatest gifts would be to hear that he was being released, although there is no indication at this time that such good news is impending.

WED SUGGEST that Orville Cutsforth and Mike Burcham of Lexington consider forming a "Rabbit's Foot" club. Orville had a narrow squeak when he was hit in the head in the woods last Tuesday. How he ever got home in his almost unconscious state remains a mystery.

Burcham was even more fortunate, surviving — with only light injuries — a crash with the 15-car freight train at Lexington Saturday. The impact knocked his vehicle away from the track.

As Sheriff Bauman put it, "That train could just have rolled right over him."

Congratulations and Merry Christmas to both of them!

—And to you, too, from all of us at the G-T.

School Bells



By RON DANIELS Superintendent, Morrow County Schools

PROPOSED LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE FINANCING OF SCHOOLS IN OREGON

Governor Tom McCall has presented his biennial budget for legislative consideration and has also recommended a 3% sales tax to be used as property tax relief.

It seems that both proposals merit a strong study by all of us interested in the operation of schools.

Governor McCall's biennial budget increases general fund expenditures from \$570 million to \$718 million. This is a 23% increase over a two-year period. There is no increase for the Basic School Support Fund in the budget. Any increase in Basic School Support Funds is tied directly to the sales tax and tax reform program. It would therefore appear that any aid to the schools will have to be the result of finding a new source of taxes and that no additional funds will be available as a result of available tax money. The legislature could see fit to revise this recommendation but it is too early to tell at this time.

The governor's tax plan provides for a 3% sales tax, a 16% increase in corporate income taxes, disallowance of federal income tax payments as a deduction in the payment of state income taxes, and the state income tax rate, guarantees that property taxes shall not be increased after a person reaches age 65, and give special property tax relief to person's whose income are less than \$3,500 a year.

This tax program would provide approximately \$200 million for the Basic School Fund. It is felt that this would provide 50% of the operational costs of schools. It should be pointed out that this does not mean that all districts would receive 50% of their costs as the funds are tied to an equalization factor. This means that districts with a high TCY per pupil would receive less than 50% and those with a low TCY per pupil would receive more than 50%. Morrow county would receive considerably less than 50%.

The governor is also proposing a constitutional amendment to establish new tax bases for school districts. The proposal is it now stands would create a tax base for every school district based on total current expenditures as approved in the 1968-69 budgets. This new tax base could be increased by 4% each year with 2% coming from the local property tax and 2% coming from Basic School Support Funds.

Since our budget this year is for \$1,266,220 it would permit us an increase of \$50,648 for the 1969-70 budget without a vote being required.

The established base could be exceeded by a successful vote but the number of elections is restricted to two votes during election years and only one vote during off years.

Educators around the state seem to feel that the 4% increase is not enough and that the one election during off years is too restrictive. I personally feel that while it may be a little too restrictive, it is certainly more desirable than the present system. The present schedule calls for the legislature to be ready to present a bill on property tax relief and the tax base amendment to the people for a vote by the end of March or first part of April. While the governor did not recommend any changes in the Basic School Support formula, it is felt that if a new tax source is passed the legislature will also pass legislation changing the present distribution formula.

Bowling Enthusiasts Enter Co-op. Tourney

The Pacific Co-operative's tenth annual bowling tournament, held Saturday and Sunday, December 14-15, at Moses Lake, Wn., attracted many local bowling enthusiasts who traveled there on Sunday to participate in tournament activities.

Placing second in the ladies team entries were Mrs. Delbert Piper, Mrs. Roy Quackenbush, Mrs. Gene Cole, Mrs. Robert Lovgren and Mrs. Al Lovgren, who compiled a team total of 2620. A men's team composed of Al Bunch, Archie Munkers, Vernon Munkers, Art Watkins and Johnny Ledbetter, also entered tournament competition, but did not place.

Gets Hospital Release

Gerald Peterson of Ione is expected to be released from Emanuel hospital in Portland within a few days, according to information from his father, Oscar Peterson, who was visiting him on Monday. He has been in the hospital for several weeks for major back surgery and treatment, and is now able to be in a sitting position. It was thought that he might be home for Christmas, but with a lengthy convalescence ahead.

TO THE EDITOR...

Proud of Volunteers

December 18, 1968

Dear Wes: The thought I wish to express in this letter passes through my mind every day and I am remiss in keeping it to myself rather than shouting it to the skies.

How many people realize and appreciate what the Heppner Volunteer Firemen do to protect us and our property?

Those of us who know what the Heppner Volunteer Fireman does for us should raise our voices loudly enough to squelch out the few who are very verbal about how to fight a fire while carefully avoiding any offer to participate or help.

I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank the Heppner Volunteer Fire Fighters for looking after me and mine and my town. My daily contact with the Fire Chief and the knowledge of the unnumbered hours the entire department devotes to the City of Heppner makes me so proud of those great guys I could burst my buttons!

Sincerely, Elaine S. George

Pioneer



Ponderings

By W. S. CAVERHILL

Christmas Shopping 1898

If the beauty and variety of Christmas gifts displayed in our modern stores make it difficult for you to make selections, why not roll back about 70 years and visit the merchants in the towns along the Road South and see what they had to offer? If you have grandma in mind, what about a long handled button hook to keep from stooping to button her shoes, or a heavy woolen shawl? or a new churn?

If it's grandpa, why not a half dozen clay pipes, or a cuspidor? Ma might want a new corset with whale bone stays, or a beaded fascinator, or a heavier hat pin, or dotted veil.

Dad could use a pair of "congress" shoes, ornamental boot jack, German Sox, or felt boots. Sister would be charmed by a hair rat, and jeweled side and back combs.

Brother needs a pair of brasted boots, or a "smock" or "wamus."

A girl friend would appreciate a ring, but be careful what you select.

A boy friend, a 4 section buckskin purse would be suggestive. For others, the men, a plug of tobacco, good to chew or trade. For others, the women, wooden or cotton bolt goods, and ribbons. Suitable for anyone, you might consider a pearl handled gold-pointed pen, silver or ivory napkin rings, a 3 minute sand glass for timing soft boiled eggs, and a set of double ended egg cups. "You dump 'em in one end and eat 'em out of the shell in the other." You might even think of a set of candle molds, and a candle snuffer. I am sure our older readers can add many items to the above list.

Ralph Samples, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Samples, is here for a Christmas visit at his parents' home. He expects to remain through the holidays, after which he will return to his home in Hyattsville, Md., where he works for the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D. C.

Internal Revenue Tells Regulations Of New Gun Law

The publication of final regulations under the new Federal Gun Law was announced today by the Internal Revenue Service, according to A. G. Erickson, District Director of Internal Revenue for Oregon. They appear in the Federal Register of December 14, 1968.

The new gun law does not prevent sportsmen from buying firearms and ammunition in the states in which they reside. However, the sale and delivery must conform with state and applicable local laws. In addition, a retail purchase will usually have to be made in person and the buyer will have to show sufficient identification, such as a driver's license to establish his name, address and age.

Interstate Sales Tightened

The major restriction on sales in the new law forbids residents of one state from buying firearms, but not ammunition, in another state. One important exception to this rule permits a resident of one state to buy a rifle or shotgun, but not a handgun, in an adjacent state if certain procedures are complied with. The purchase can only be made if the buyer's state of residence enacts legislation that permits it to take place and the sale is legal in both states.

A sworn statement in a prescribed form must also be forwarded to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the purchaser's place of residence and be acknowledged by him.

Licensed collectors, who are limited by the Gun Control Act to transactions in curios and relics, will find in the regulations the tests for determining whether a gun falls into this category. The regulations also point out that clubs furnishing ammunition to be used on their premises in skeet, trap and target shooting activities may do so without a dealer's license. The ammunition may also be furnished to participants under 18, though the new law prohibits its sale to anyone below that age, such transfer not being considered a sale.

Records Required

Included in the regulations are details on the preparation of the records to be completed by a dealer for each firearm transaction. To further aid dealers in complying with the new law, illustrations of required firearms and ammunition acquisition and disposition records are shown.

The regulations implement those sections of the recently enacted gun control act of 1968, which went into effect December 16, to provide firearms and ammunition control assistance to Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies in their fight against crime. They also cover part of the earlier enacted Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 dealing with the unlawful possession or receipt of firearms by persons such as criminals and fugitives from justice.

Thomson is Treated For Eye Condition

Mr. and Mrs. Rod Thomson returned recently after spending two weeks in Portland, where Thomson received medical attention for an eye condition.

Thomson reports that there is little hope for retaining the vision in his left eye and that he must undergo surgery early in January for removal of a cataract from his right eye. He will travel to Pendleton for a check-up January 3, after which he expects to enter Community hospital for the surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg were hosts for a birthday dinner at their home on Sunday, honoring her son Eldon Tucker. Others present were Mrs. Tucker and their family, Mrs. Rose Marie Stroeber and Claude Buschke.

Servicemen Home On Holiday Leaves

Two local servicemen are home to spend the Christmas holidays with their parents while on 21-day leave of absence from military duty.

Gunnery Mate Mike Burcham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Burcham of Lexington, is home following an eight-month tour of duty in Vietnam and Korea aboard the USS Rogers. He will return to Vietnam early in January.

Teletype operator, Richard Wallace, son of Mrs. Colleen Padberg, also of Lexington, arrived home last week following 13 months of duty in Okinawa. Following his leave he will report to Camp Pendleton, Calif., for further assignment.

News Media Gets 'Blame' for Good Success of Fair

By ROBERT L. STEVENS, Manager, Oregon State Fair

Is news news? That's what the Oregon State Fair Commission thinks in pinning the blame on Oregon news media for much of the success of the 1968 Oregon State Fair.

It might not be news to the news media that any show or special event of interest to the people cannot well succeed without the attention and the assistance of the far-flung news media. But the Fair Commission believes that it is news to the public that hundreds of newspapers, magazines, special publications, radio and television stations, printed and aired thousands of stories concerning Oregon's biggest family show.

Publications from the nationally circulated Family Circle magazine to the Santiam Girl Scout Scourier carried news of the State Fair on everything from politicians to pumpkins. Even the nationally televised Wednesday night movies mentioned the State Fair as did Ed Sullivan and Johnny Carson. Radio stations throughout the state reminded Oregonians of their web feet and urged them to attend the fair in spite of the deluge of rain which inundated the first four days of the big show.

So, news or not, the State Fair Commission wishes to officially thank all of the reporters, editors, columnists, and correspondents who let Oregon know what was happening at the 1968 State Fair. To the news media, the State Fair Commission publicly proclaims the following:

Commission and management of the Oregon State Fair, upon reflection of the great effort expended on behalf of the 1968 Oregon State Fair by all members of the Oregon news media, press, radio, television, special publications, and magazines, wishes to express their sincere appreciation for an effort which in great measure contributed to the most successful event in the 103-year history of the Oregon State Fair. (Final attendance, 384,020—all time record—previous high 351,898 in 1956).

The Commission makes special note of the double effort extended by the news media in their extensive coverage prior to the fair and then again during the fair. The fair has now survived both fire and flood. This would not have been possible without the sincere assistance of the news media.



Coming Events

HEPPNER BASKETBALL Sat., Dec. 28, DeSales at Walla Walla Friday, Jan. 3, Grant Union, here Sat., Jan. 4, Burns, there

WRANGLER TRYOUTS Princess Tryouts, Indoor Pavilion, Fairgrounds Sunday, Dec. 29, 1:30 p.m. Girls 17-21, Wrangler members

GOLDEN AGE CLUB Regular meeting will not be held in January Next meeting will be Tuesday evening, Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m. Episcopal parish hall

ELEMENTARY PTA Business meeting and program Wednesday, Jan. 8, 8:00 p.m. Special panel discussion of interest to all parents and teachers Plan now to attend

ELKS HOLIDAY PARTY NEW YEAR'S EVE, Crab Feed, 8:30 p.m., Dec. 31 Dance, 9:00 p.m., music by Gordon's Trio

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. 676-9825 Heppner

The Rhyming Philosopher YULETIDE RING OUT BRAVE CHRISTMAS BELLS, NOR BE DISMAYED THOUGH EVERY FORCE OF HELL IS LOOSE, INTENT ON SHEER OPPRESSION. NOR ARE WE AFRAID THAT CHRISTIAN FAITH SHALL WAVER OR CONSENT TO E'EN A MOMENT'S GIVING WAY TO FEAR. SO NOW WE RALLY 'ROUND OUR SACRED FOUNT OF BLESSED PROVIDENCE, PRONOUNCING CLEAR THAT LAW AND ORDER SHALL BE PARAMOUNT. FOR CHRISTMAS IS A FAMILY AFFAIR, REUNION TO PEACEFULLY REJOICE AND PRAY GOODWILL FOR ALL MEN EVERYWHERE. SO ALL OPPRESSED SHALL JOIN IN FREEDOM'S VOICE. RING OUT THOSE CHRISTMAS BELLS, RING LOUD AND TRUE. PROCLAIM OUR AGE-OLD FAITH, AND HOPE RENEW! HARRY W. FLETCHER