

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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A Few Thoughts on '69

The hope expressed at about this same date in 1968 that the Vietnam war would be over before the end of the year has now proved to be only a hope and not a reality. But as young 1969 starts, there is more promise that the end of this year will, indeed, see the nation out of the Vietnam struggle. Of all things that most of us hope for in 1969, this probably is the most unanimous. With the peace negotiations at least in the starting stage, however derided they may be, there is some reason for optimism.

Thus, with 1969 in its infancy, this again is our greatest hope for the year—the end of the war. We hold hopes for other things, too, and there are signs that they may come to pass. The current weather that is so uncomfortable is a great thing for laying the foundation for grain crops in Morrow county and stimulating growth of grass to fatten our cattle on the rangelands. Surely, we may expect the drought of the past two years to be over and hope that nothing else comes along to deprive ranchers of a bumper year.

A third hope for 1969 is that we will see definite progress towards the Willow Creek project. Congressman Al Ullman and others in Oregon's delegation late last year indicated that there is hope of getting a pre-construction appropriation in the president's budget this year. Certainly the delegation has been working diligently on this, and we can expect them to do their best to see that funds are budgeted.

With the change in senators, work needs to be done to orient Senator Bob Packwood to this local need and enlist his help in working for the dam. Senator Wayne Morse was strongly pushing the project but he will not be back to lend support to Cong. Ullman and Senator Mark Hatfield on the project.

Progress was made on irrigation development in the county in 1968, and this brings some bright hope for 1969. The Willow Creek project, when it is completed, will tie in beautifully with irrigation, giving a supplemental water supply for the creek valley at least.

A more prosperous agriculture, development of the Willow Creek project, continued development of our recreational resources, and the steady lumber industry here can combine to lend strength to our local economy and bolster the business climate in Heppner, Lexington and Lone.

We hope for unity of our people, better cooperation, greater zeal towards making this an even finer place to live, and better communication to help promote understanding among us.

By working diligently and in harmony our people can achieve more than they may realize in reaching these desired goals on the local front, and they can contribute a bit, too, in attaining greater unity on the national level.

When it comes time at the start of 1970 to review, editorially, the past and the future, may we look back with some satisfaction on 1969 and note that some of those objectives were reached in '69.

Documenting the Weather

Through arrangements of Don Gilliam, weather observer, and Gilbert L. Sternes, state climatologist, the Chamber of Commerce and Morrow County Grain Growers have had printed a climatological summary for Heppner.

This gives valuable weather data and can be very useful. For instance, anyone wishing to start an irrigation project in truck gardening can determine from it the growing seasons, dates which he might reasonably expect the first frost in the fall, last frost of the spring and so on. He can determine the amount of rainfall he may expect in any month and the mean temperatures.

It is for such purposes that the Chamber had the summaries printed and they will be distributed, along with other information on this area, to those who may wish to locate here, or who otherwise have good uses for them.

Much of the information was compiled in maintaining the weather station here through three generations of the Gilliam family, and the community is indebted to them for their good work.

However, some of the information extends prior to the Gilliams' record keeping. For instance, it is noted that the coldest day on record was in 1893 when the temperature dropped to 21 degrees below zero. Until receiving these summaries, we had understood that 19 below was the record.

Hottest day in Heppner was 110 degrees in August 1898. Records in these two categories go back for 77 years. Rainfall for the past 30 years has averaged 13.66 inches. Most rainfall recorded during the past 30 years was 18.22 inches in 1948, and the least was in 1939 with 7.81 inches. It is significant that 1967 brought only 8.64 inches, second lowest in the 30-year period.

While many of us currently may be complaining about the weather, the snow and moisture indicate good things to come for the 1969 crop year.

There is a wealth of information on the front and back of this weather summary sheet, and it is important to have it ready for distribution.

The record keeping by the Gilliam family, dating back to 1911 through Frank, then Leonard (until his death in April, 1966), and now Don, gives Heppner a "unique place among all of Oregon's cooperative weather stations," Sternes states, since the station has remained continuously in one place for nearly 60 years.

"The more than 57 years of records kept by the Gilliam family are among the most complete and accurate available for Oregon stations," the summary states. "This, combined with their long continuity at one very representative location, provides an excellent set of data from which to prepare this summary."

Thus, with such data and a nod to Mark Twain we can certainly continue to talk about the weather with some degree of accuracy. It may be noted that we probably can't change our weather patterns, but at least we can profit by them and use them to our advantage.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Melland traveled to Enterprise the weekend following Christmas for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Winings, at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ruggles traveled to Richland, Wn., recently to enjoy a Christmas holiday visit with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fastabend and six children.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

PROBABLY not many realize that the big safe in the Heppner city hall was "peeled" late last week. The inner door was burned out with a cutting torch, but apparently nothing was taken.

Yes, sir, it's a fact. We're telling the truth. Funny part of it was that the city police were right there, and it happened in broad daylight. Oh, we didn't say it was done by a prowler, or a burglar, Harold Becker did it, and Vic Groshens was helping.

It seems that the metal inner door of the big safe has a combination lock on it, too, which hasn't been used for years, and no one remembers the combination.

Someone—not Elaine George—closed the safe the other day and twirled the dial. That did it. The safe was locked and no one could get in. That's the story on why the safe was "peeled."

If there should be any of criminal intent who figure this makes the city vulnerable to burglary, forget it. There isn't enough cash on hand to make it worth the effort, since the safe contains old records mostly. The biggest deterrent, though, is that the big heavy outer door is still intact and formidable.

Harold wouldn't have cut through that in a hurry!

FRIEND LOUIE MYERS of "Shangri-la" country on the Little North Fork of the North Santiam has dropped us a note that our dryland folks will envy, so we will pass it along. Louie, who has a place sandwiched between timbered mountains and with the North Fork vending its way below his home, has recorded 110.3 inches of rain for 1968, the greatest, he says, since he started keeping records in 1956. December alone brought 18.33 (more than Morrow county's record high for a year!) and November had 17.26. Other months were as follows: January, 9.38; February, 13.27; March, 7.13; April, 5.01; May, 6.67; June, 3.64; July, .88; August, 10.50 (that wet August that did so much damage in the western part of the state); September, 4.61; October, 12.75.

In sending the rain record for his beautiful Elk Horn country, which isn't far from Detroit Dam but back in the mountains, Louie says, "I bet it is more than Morrow county." This must be the understatement of the new year!

If we had nine feet of rainfall in Morrow county in a year, maybe we'd be raising rice and cranberries instead of wheat and raising ducks instead of cattle.

HEPPNER'S MUSTANGS are surely entitled to the basketball ratings they received Tuesday—the for ninth in the A. P. poll and alone in tenth in the Oregonian poll—by virtue of their 7-1 record as of this writing. They present a well balanced team and show promise of developing into a cool-headed, solid squad.

The team may have "lost its cool" a little Friday night against the Prospectors of John Day and suffered its first loss thereby. It was sort of a hard loss to take, since it broke the long win string, but the HIS lads have a previous win over the Prospectors.

If we may philosophize, in consolation, it may be a good thing to suffer a defeat at this time, since it takes the pressure off an undefeated record and should fuse the squad into realizing that they have to work in playing each game for itself regardless of reputation or what has gone before. This should help hone the team for the league season ahead.

What a fine team they are to watch and to root for!

School Bells

By **RON DANIELS**
Supt. Morrow County Schools

Contract Renewals for Teachers and Administrators

Comments from patrons of the school district frequently refer to the procedure and time schedule for rehiring teachers and administrators. That time of year is rapidly approaching and I thought perhaps it would be helpful to discuss this procedure.

The law that applies to our school district provides that teachers and administrators will have their contracts reviewed each year during the first three years they are in our district. In other words they are hired for a period of one year with the contracts either renewed or rejected at the end of the one year period. When a teacher or administrator has been employed by the district for a period of three consecutive years, they must either be dismissed or rehired for a period of three years. Their contract is then subject to renewal every three years. For this reason not all teachers are up for a contract renewal each year.

The law also provides that the board must notify the teachers, in writing, by March 15, of their contract renewal or nonrenewal. The teacher must then notify the board, in writing, by April 1, of their contract acceptance or rejection.

When a contract has been signed by the board and the

teacher the law permits a teacher to resign the contract any time prior to 90 days before the start of the contract period. However, if a teacher resigns within the 90 day period, the board does not have to accept the resignation unless it so desires.

If the board does not accept the resignation and the teacher chooses not to fill the terms of the contract, then the board can have the teacher's teaching certificate revoked for a period of one year.

The procedure on contract renewals in Morrow county is to have the advisory committees in each area consider administrator's contracts at their January meeting and teacher contracts at their February meeting. The advisory committee then makes its recommendations to the district school board meetings during the same month.

The district school board will take official action on administrators' contracts at the January 20 meeting in Lexington, and official action on teachers' contracts at their February 17 meeting at Riverside High school in Boardman.

If you have comments regarding teachers or administrators, please contact your local principal, school board members, advisory committee members, or call the district office. We invite your comments and urge you to make them known in sufficient time for the comments to be considered at the time contracts are renewed.

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:

On January 15, my home burned to the ground. I reported this to the Assessor and asked for a rebate on the taxes I had paid in full in November. The Assessor replied that not only could he not give me a rebate on past taxes but that he would have to continue the building value on the rolls for the year starting July 1. This would mean that I will have to pay taxes on this destroyed building for about 18 months after it had been demolished.

ANSWER:

Oregon Law requires all taxable property, real and personal, to be appraised as of January 1, for the assessment and tax roll of the tax fiscal year beginning July 1. If the improvements are destroyed or removed before January 1, their value can be removed from the roll; if the removal occurs after January 1, the values must be carried on the assessment and tax rolls which start on July 1. By the same token, improvements added after January 1, go untaxed for that year. In any case, please notify your Assessor of any change in your property affecting value.



Ponderings

By **W. S. CAVERHILL**

A Dubious Contribution

Some of the current TV programs are giving us that in volume. It is no longer necessary to visit a barroom to enjoy barroom type of entertainment. It is channeled to us in our living room. Some of it is slimy of course. It is bound to be if it is gathered from the human gutters of thought and action. It presents a sorry picture of moral decay. It is regrettable that an otherwise informative and entertaining service is smudged by interludes of smut. The programs I refer to have not yet reached the level of a "dive" but they are moving toward it. They are usurping the perogative and exchange "barn talk." They are exposing the entire family to it. It is a dubious contribution.

Varieties of wedding and reception invitations at Gazette-Times office.

Monahan Service Held in Condon

John J. Monahan, 88, a resident of the Heppner and Condon areas for many years, died Friday, January 3, at St. Anthony hospital in Pendleton following an extended illness.

Funeral services were held at St. John's Catholic church in Condon, and interment was in the family plot at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Condon. Recitation of the rosary was Sunday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m., and funeral mass was Monday, January 6, at 10:00 a.m., with the Rev. Raymond Beard of Heppner officiating.

Mr. Monahan was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, March 10, 1880, came to the United States from Ireland in 1898 and lived at Lowell, Mass., for four years. He came west to Heppner in 1902 and was employed here for three years.

In 1905 he went to Gilliam county, bought a ranch and engaged in the sheep, cattle and farming business. He was married to Margaret Russell, daughter of pioneer parents in Gilliam county, in Condon, on June 24, 1911. They sold their ranch upon his retirement in 1946, and moved to Heppner to make their home.

His wife preceded him in death on October 21, 1968, and one son, John Edward, died in the 1930's.

Survivors are one son, Frank Monahan, Condon; a daughter, Mrs. Homer Hager of Hermiston; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Illness Claims Frank C. Jones

Frank Carter Jones, 75, died unexpectedly of a recurring heart illness, on Thursday, January 2, at Pioneer Memorial hospital.

He had become well known in the community during the past two years while making his home with his son, Dr. Gerald A. Jones, and family. He was a retired mechanic.

Mr. Jones was born at Waterloo, Iowa, on November 15, 1893.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 3, at 3:00 p.m., at Sweeney Mortuary chapel. Pastor H. E. Preston of the Heppner Seventh-day Adventist church officiated, and interment followed in the Heppner Masonic cemetery.

He is survived by two sons, Gerald of Heppner, and Terrence of Portland. Also, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Palmer Ill

Mrs. Ron Palmer was reported Tuesday as recovering satisfactorily at Pioneer Memorial hospital from a case of pneumonia. She was taken to the hospital Saturday night after becoming ill the previous day. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer own and operate the Wagon Wheel Cafe and Lounge.

On Honor Roll

Dennis O'Donnell of Heppner, a law enforcement major at Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, has made the dean's list on the honor roll, according to a report from the college. It is necessary to have a grade point average of 3.25 or better to receive the honor.

Leon Magill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Magill, Cecil, was met by his parents at the Portland airport on Saturday, December 21, on his return from Ft. Knox, Ky., where he has been stationed for the past several weeks while on duty with the National Guard. Magill remained for two weeks leave of absence while visiting his parents and his wife, the former Vicky Robinson, in Pendleton. He left January 3 for the return trip to Kentucky, where he will finish the remainder of his basic training prior to beginning an additional eight weeks of specialized training.

TO THE EDITOR...

Humane Society Likes Children's Art

To the Editor:
I wish to compliment your newspaper and advertisers for putting out an exceptional edition on Thursday, December 26. Section (2) was most enjoyable showing the drawings of animals by grade school children.

I have seen a number of small town newspapers go out of business for the lack of advertisements. It appears though that businesses in your area realize that they can only prosper if there is an active local newspaper.

The Oregon Humane Society, 1067 N. E. Columbia Blvd., Portland, Oregon, extends best wishes for a prosperous New Year to the Gazette-Times and the fine people of Heppner.

Very truly yours,
Gene R. Burgess
Executive Director
Oregon Humane Society
1067 N. E. Columbia Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211

Christmas Emphasis

To the Editor:
I refrained from writing this letter when Heppner's Christmas season began with colored lights lighted downtown on the eve of Thanksgiving, but I can no longer remain silent. Much has already been said about the commercialization of Christmas, but where is there better evidence of this than here in Heppner? Was it not December 26, (the 2nd day of Christmas) when many homes and businesses dismantled trees and decorations and a day later when the city removed street lights and trees? Of course, some will understandably argue, after a month downtown and two or three weeks in homes evergreens and decorations look tired. It appears then, that it is the almighty dollar which buys the gifts for Christmas morning which we really celebrate, after all there left to celebrate after all the gifts have been sold, bought and given?

Speaking personally, I find that it is only after the days of preparation for this joyous season, that the celebration of God's coming into our lives so specially by His becoming one of us in Jesus Christ can really begin. The twelve days of Christmas then, are hardly enough for singing and hearing the carols, hymns and festival music of Christmas, for welcoming friends and family into our halls decked with holly and evergreens, and for letting our Christmas lights shine forth to the world the good news of the Prince of Peace.

Those who would celebrate the religious season of Christmas for twelve days beginning not ending on December 25 should be unhappy at the emphasis this holiday season receives here and in most American communities.

Yours truly,
Karen E. Rinehart

Remember Pets, Too

Dear Editor:
During cold spells, many people will throw out an extra tidbit for the birds, however it is amazing how many neglect their household pets. Short haired animals, especially, need extra care when the weather is wet or cold, but many people neglect these meager necessities. Watch dogs are particularly neglected, often chained to protect the family and possessions, but forgotten when it comes to fresh water and adequate protection from the weather.

So many people make the remark, "But my dog is used to the cold and always stays outside." Come now, how many are used to the sub-zero weather that makes us all hit for the warm comfort of our homes and build larger fires or turn up the heat to off-set the miserable uncomfortable cold? All animals like a cozy warm dry bed, the same as you and I.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lois Winchester

Auld Acquaintance

My Dear Editor:
"Should Auld acquaintance be forgot?" Apparently not. New Year's Eve I received a surprise long distance call from Tom Farrell of Boston who spent some time at Camp Heppner about 30 years ago.

He with some 200 other tenderfoot boys from Boston were placed on a train and rushed from the South Station in Boston out west, really west, Tom, with 5 sisters, had scarcely seen the inside of a kitchen. But it was decided Tom would be the chef, and from this experience he became one of the assistant chefs in a prominent Boston Hotel and from there went on to being a chef in a Jesuit school and now is the day chef in a convalescent home.

Hearing his voice after 30 years! It was really thrilling. I also talked to his wife, Marjorie. They have 3 children, one married.

Then adding to good fortune, I received a travelogue from Ellis Thomson of New York City and formerly of Heppner, who tells of his sixth trip to Europe, stopping in Holland, London, France, West Berlin, taking a trip to East Berlin, where he says in one year there is improvement with new buildings; people looking more prosperous and happier. They were even allowed to stop at a modern hotel for a very short time, but not talk to any East Berliners; then Italy, Sicily, Spain, where he saw some bull fights, among other things. Of course Ellis, an artist in his own right, visits all art museums and takes all of the side trips, so he misses none of the beautiful countryside.

Then Joe Hughes, who in the last year has made worthwhile strides in the business field, in Los Angeles. He is the elder son of Olive Hughes and the late Joseph J. Hughes.

So 1968 went out on a very happy note.

Most sincerely,
Josephine Mahoney Baker
2545 S. W. Terwilliger,
Apt. 525
Portland - 97201
Tel. 226-4911

First Aid Class Getting Started

Sign up for a standard first aid class, sponsored by the Morrow county chapter American Red Cross, was Tuesday night, and classes are scheduled to get underway shortly, according to Mrs. Betty Doherty.

Classes will be once each week on a night to be selected, from 7:30 to 9:30. There will be four sessions, and there is no charge other than 75c for a text book.

This class will be followed by an advanced first aid course. Those interested who have not signed for the standard course are asked to contact Mrs. Doherty (676-5566) or Ken Methvin.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Gazette-Times want ads pay. Phone 676-9228 for G-T want ad service.

Coming Events

HEPPNER BASKETBALL
Saturday, Jan. 11, Enterprise, here
Friday, Jan. 17, Pilot Rock, here
Saturday, Jan. 18, Burns, here
Support the Mustangs!

GRADE SCHOOL
Fri., Jan. 10, Pilot Rock, here 2 p.m.
Fri., Jan. 17, Umatilla, here, 2 p.m.

RAINBOW INSTALLATION
Installation of officers for Winter Term
Ruth Assembly, Rainbow Girls
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2:00 p.m.
Heppner Masonic Hall

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

LODGE INSTALLATION
Joint installation of officers, Sans Souel Rebekah's and Willows IOOF
Saturday, Jan. 11, IOOF Hall
Dinner at 6:30 p.m., open installation at 8:00 p.m.

EVENING ADULT CLASSES
Blue Mountain College extension classes
Starting this week
Contact Heppner High school (676-9138) for particulars

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The Rhyming Philosopher

FULFILLMENT

SO WHAT DOES IT MATTER YOUR NAME'S NOT INSCROLLED
ON TABLETS OF TIME AND TRADITION
TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE WITH CONTENT TO GROW OLD
IS VIRTUE ENOUGH FOR AMBITION.

THE TALENT GOD GAVE YOU TO JUST BE YOURSELF
IS THERE AS YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS MENTOR,
WHICH ISN'T A MATTER OF STATION OR WEALTH
BUT A GUIDE TO WHAT YOU WERE MEANT FOR.

SOME PEOPLE, FOR INSTANCE, FEEL CALLED ON TO PREACH,
WHILE OTHERS JUST HAVE TO BE LEADERS,
AND SOME LIKE TO LISTEN, AND SOME LIKE TO TEACH;
FOR THOSE WHO WOULD WRITE, THERE ARE READERS.

THEN SOME FIND FULFILLMENT AS MOTHERS OF MEN,
AND SOME ARE GOOD HELPERS OR AGENTS,
WHILE SOME TILL THE SOIL, YET YOU'LL FIND NOW AND THEN
SOME EXPERTS IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS.

THERE'S FISH THAT DON'T FLY, AND THE LINNETS DON'T SWIM,
THE SUN SERVES ITS PURPOSE BY SHINING,
YOU'RE MADE TO BE YOU; SO DON'T TRY TO BE HIM;
REMEMBER IT'S HEAVEN'S DESIGNING.

HARRY W. FLETCHER