

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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Phone 676-9228

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nov. 29, 1969

To the Editor:

I read with great interest your article regarding what may have been the "first Thanksgiving" in Morrow County. The only thing that really troubles me is the date, 1874, when Oscar Clark was said to have taken up his claim at the mouth of Clark's Canyon. I was under the impression that Clark had taken up this claim in 1863, and I assumed that Andrew Reaney, who was the areas first Justice of the Peace, was on the place in 1874. In Parson's "History of Morrow County," I recall reading that Mrs. Ben Matteson was attacked by an Indian named Charley. He was tried in Justice Reaney's court in 1874. It is possible that Andrew Reaney was still living in the Weston area when this incident occurred, and had not yet moved to the Clark place. At any rate, there were many families living along Willow and Rhea Creeks by 1874.

The first permanent settler was John H. Jordan, who built a log house out of cottonwood trees near the forks of Willow and Rhea Creeks in 1859. The exact location was below the present Jordan Elevator station where the double rock cut was made for the railroad and the highway.

Your article mentioned a "well traveled road" from Umatilla Landing. This road reached Willow Creek at Jordan's place where he operated a freight station for many years. Jones did not have any neighbors until 1862. At that time T. W. Ayres settled on Butter Creek, 27 miles away; the Ayres' place also becoming a freight station. Jordan died in 1900 and was buried in the Penland Cemetery at Lexington, alongside three of his sons. One son, Luther Jordan, born in 1877, recently passed away in Portland, but left no son to carry on the name Jordan.

In 1863 A. J. Breeden settled on Willow Creek about two miles above the present site of Lexington. Also in 1863, William Cecil settled on Willow Creek at the place which bears his name, and also where the Old Immigrant Trail crossed the creek. This site had previously been used as an encampment for U. S. soldiers during the Yakima Indian Wars of 1855. My records indicate that Oscar Clark also settled at Clark's Canyon in 1863, and in 1864 C. A. Rhea took up a claim along the creek that came to bear his name.

The next permanent settlers on Willow Creek were William H. Penland and Amanuel C. Pettys in 1868. Penland soon became the leading property holder in Morrow County and gave over part of his place for a townsite. He was the founder of Lexington which was built in 1885 to give Heppner some competition as a site for the courthouse. Mr. Pettys located above the Jordan place at the forks of Willow and Rhea Creeks. Pettys had the first post office on Willow Creek and distributed mail to the early settlers for fifteen years. Mail addressed to Willow Forks, Oregon, and later Pettysville, Oregon was picked up at The Dalles for distribution. In 1868 also came Jesse J. Adkins who established a homestead on Rhea Creek. George Stansbury came in 1869 to where Heppner is now located. In 1871 Joseph Mason settled on Rhea Creek, and Elsha Sperry took over Cluff's claim where lone now stands.

The early settlers had to go either to The Dalles or Umatilla Landing for provisions. There probably were no more than 25 families permanently established along the creeks in 1872 when J. W. Morrow and Henry Heppner started a store on Stansbury's claim, but in the 1870's came the Wrights, the Milnors, the Gilliams, the Gays, the Hayes', and the Kirks to Rhea Creek. The Rhea Creek area was settled quite extensively in the '70's, and it being a more natural route to the interior, it does seem ironic that all the towns should spring up on Willow Creek.

A post office was established at Heppner in 1873 though the Heppner townsite was not incorporated until 1887. There were approximately 700 people living in the new city when it received its charter. Morrow County came into being by an act of the State Legislature in February, 1885, and the famous county seat fight between Heppner and Lexington took place in 1886. It really was a hot fight and almost two generations had to die off before the courthouse issue could be forgotten and safely tucked away in the archives of history.

The first fortunes were made in sheep, and sheep raising continued to be a very profitable venture for many years to come. The settlers along the creeks did have cattle, but cattle raising was not as remunerative as was sheep. In those days the cattle roamed the hills, and, except for the semiannual roundups when the calves were lassoed and branded, little attention was paid to them.

By 1880 the bottom lands of Willow Creek, Rhea Creek, Hinton Creek, Balm Fork, and Butter Creek were pretty well taken up, and the influx of settlers coming in the 1880's took up homesteads on the hill land, thus starting the wheat industry. The first wheat raisers were Edward S. Duran and John B. Carmichael, who in 1882 settled the Blackhorse and Swagart Butte areas. These pioneers demonstrated that a large portion of the county was more valuable for wheat raising than for stock. One of the first settlers of the Eightmile area was J. W. Becket who arrived there in 1880, and he, too, demonstrated that wheat could be profitable produced in that area.

I suppose one could go on and on in his recounting of Morrow County history, and one can never forget the people who lived there. Depression, cyclone, fire, and flood have all taken their toll in Morrow County, but to those who had the good fortune to have been born and reared in that area, there will always be a Heppner, a Lexington, an lone, and a Hardman.

Respectfully,  
Sam G. McMillan  
Instructor in History and Political Science  
Mt. Hood Community College

P.S. Since you are new to the area, and as a matter of introduction, let me say that my family homesteaded in the Lexington area in 1886. I was born and reared in Lexington and still regard Morrow County as my home.

Thanksgiving guests at the Worden homes were Mr. and Mrs. Doss Knighten, Mrs. John Gerhardt, Portland, Jeri, Greg, and Sue, from Pendleton.

### Doll Dressed For Drawing

Women of St. Patrick's Altar Society have made ten different outfits for a 17" Toddler Doll. Outfits go from a knitted sweater to an Indian costume with more outfits being made. The doll sings 10 different songs by a pull of her ring. She is displayed in Heppner TV office window during December until the drawing on Dec. 20. A donation may win her. She will be up town on the street on Saturdays, Dec. 6 and 13.

Doll wardrobe committees are Joann Robison, Marion Brosnan, Gwen Healy, Rita Wolf, Micky Mollahan and Judie Laughlin.

### McMurdo Families Gather in Portland

Dr. and Mrs. Archie McMurdo spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Portland with their three sons and families. The elder McMurdo hosted a family dinner at the International Club in the Hilton Hotel on Thanksgiving day.

On Saturday, Nov. 29 the oldest granddaughter, Margaret, (Peggy) was married to Dr. Walter H. Gould at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Beaverton. Dr. Gould is a Captain in the Army medical corps. The reception was held at the Anchorage.

The McMurdos returned to Heppner on Sunday.

### Holly Rebekah Lodge Plans Bazaar

Holly Rebekah Lodge has set Dec. 6 for their annual Christmas Bazaar and Food Sale. It will be held at the McMurtry Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. and will continue until the Christmas Goodies are all sold. Mrs. Archie Munkers is general chairman.

There will be lots of pillow cases, aprons and other fancy work, Christmas decorations and holiday foods. Proceeds are used to maintain the IOOF Hall in Lexington.

### CHUCK WAGON

THANK YOU, FOLKS! All of us here at this little newspaper would like to say a Big thank you to everyone for the many kindnesses we have received here in Morrow County. The kind words of encouragement are very welcome. We surely appreciate your bearing with us during this greenhorn period while we get acquainted; it's just not possible to run a paper until we do get acquainted. Thank you.

### HEPPNER KNIT WITS

The Knit Wits met at the home of Mrs. Dale Boners for knitting. The club continued on their projects. Names were drawn for Christmas exchange. The party is planned for December 13. Refreshments were served by Melody Marlatt.  
Dee Hedman, reporter

### Condon Elks Lodge No. 1869 Schedule Annual Celebration

Condon Lodge No. 1869 will celebrate their 17th anniversary by holding its annual Dec. 13. Pre-registration will begin at 10 a.m. at the Fred V. Greiner Agency. Officers of Heppner Lodge No. 358 will conduct the initiation ceremonies for new members when lodge convenes at 4:00 p.m. Special entertainment by the Condon High School choir has been scheduled.

While the Elks are attending lodge, their ladies will be entertained at a champagne tea at St. John's Parish Hall. A demonstration on creating floral centerpieces will be given by Mrs. Bob Thayer and the choir of Wheeler County High will provide musical numbers.

At 7:00 p.m. a dinner will be served at Memorial Hall followed by a dance at the Elks Temple. The Gilliam County Jaycees will serve a breakfast at 1:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall.

During the events of the Annual, the local lodge will be honored by a visitation of the Grand Exalted Ruler, Frank Hise of Corvallis, who was elected in July at the national convention of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

It is expected that other members of the Grand and State Lodge will also be present.

### Padbergs Have Reunion

Here for Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg, Sr., were his son Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg, Jr. and family of Portland, Mrs. Esther Settles of Vancouver, Wn., and Mrs. June Meek of Portland.

On Thanksgiving the Archie Padberg, Sr. and their guests went to Hermiston for a family reunion held at the Catholic Church. There were 30 present with others coming and going during the afternoon.

### School Lunch Menus

Presented Through Courtesy of Heppner Branch

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON**

Heppner Elementary and High Schools

Monday, December 8 — Pizza, green beans, salad, pie ala mode, milk.

Tuesday, December 9 — Meat hash with potatoes and gravy, peas, molded vegetable salad, rolls, pudding with topping, milk.

Wednesday, December 10 — Chili, corn bread, lettuce wedge, applesauce, gingerbread, milk.

Thursday, December 11 — Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, beets, fruit Jell-O, rolls, milk.

Friday, December 12 — Toasted cheese sandwiches, vegetable soup, Waldorf salad, cake, milk.

### Holly Rebekah Lodge

## Bazaar -- Food Sale

Dec. 6 10:30 a.m. until sold out

McMurtry Building, Heppner

### Angell Baby Dies At Doernbecker

Timothy Angell died Dec. 1 at Doernbecher Hospital in Portland. He was born Nov. 15, 1969 at Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner. Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Angell, brother, Jimmy, sister, Bobbette and maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hutchens all of Heppner and paternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. James Angell of Portland. Rev. Cutting will conduct graveside services at 11:00 a.m. Dec. 4 at Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

### To Seattle

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ferguson and their grandson, Gene Zinter, were gone for Thanksgiving. The Fergusons went to Seattle to visit their son and family, the Dick Fergusons, Rosemary, Kevin, Brian and Patrick. Gene stopped off at Boring to visit his mother, Mrs. James Rounsefell and Mr. Rounsefell. The Fergusons visited their daughter and son-in-law as they went through coming and going to Seattle when they dropped Gene off and picking him up.

Mrs. Jessie Faye Morris went to Corvallis to the home of her niece and family, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hall for Thanksgiving weekend. She was joined there by her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stewart of Myrtle Point. Also at the Hall home were Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cannon and family of Milwaukie and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Vargas of Eugene. Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Cannon and Mrs. Vargas are all daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### SENIOR CITIZENS

Thursday afternoons, 2:00 p.m. Games and Crafts Heppner Neighborhood Center

### EPISCOPAL BAZAAR

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m. Episcopal Parish Hall Luncheon served 11:00 a.m. till 2:30 p.m.

### HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL

Grant Union here — Friday, Dec. 5  
Enterprise here — Saturday, Dec. 6  
JV games start at 6:00, Varsity games at 8:00

### CHRISTMAS DRAWING

Drawing for bicycles and radios, 4:00 p.m., Dec. 6

### IONE DRAMA CLASS

Presents "Twelve Angry Jurors" Dec. 10-11, 7:30 p.m. Ione High School Cafeteria

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### CLASSIFIED DEADLINE

5 p.m. Tuesday  
To avoid billing, cash is requested for small ads when brought to the office. Minimum billing charge \$1.00.



STEVE PECK attends a Toastmasters banquet with Charles Notson in Taiwan.

## G-T Item Sends Steve Peck To See Former Heppnerite

Dear Editor:

(Ed. note: Charles Notson with the Christian & Alliance in Taiwan Republic of China is a former Heppner boy. Charles, Robert, new editor of the Oregonian and two sisters, Mary Sackett of Salem and Margaret Mosier of New York, all grew up in Heppner. Their father was S. E. Notson, former district attorney).

When I wrote to Dr. McMurdo (July 15, 1968), about his being featured in the China Post here in Taiwan, I had no idea what a pleasant surprise would come as a result. A few weeks later a young man in the uniform of the U. S. Navy appeared at our bookstore and announced, "I'm from Lexington, Oregon." It was Stephen Peck. The G-T of August 1 had overtaken him on board the U.S.S. PIEDMONT, when it was in port here at Kaohsiung. He asked the chaplain on the ship if he knew me and how to get in contact.

You can imagine what a talk fest we had. It was amazing how well he was able to give me information about old friends in Heppner. His description of developments in the area would have done credit to a promotional man for the Morrow County Jaycees.

This year the PIEDMONT again visited Kaohsiung and we had Stephen to our apartment. On those occasions Ruth, my wife, a Georgia girl, would laugh as we would bid him and his buddy goodnight and say, "These Eastern Oregonians, no one else gets to say a thing when they get going."

When Stephen was still in port, the local Club of Toastmasters International held a meeting and had me scheduled as one of the speakers. It was ladies night and as an unus-

ual feature each speech was to be evaluated by the speaker's wife, someone near of kin, or a friend. Ruth had a Bible class that night and, therefore, suggested that I ask Stephen to be the evaluator for my speech. He accepted and did a fine job. My subject was, "When the Bible Was Read in Space."

It was refreshing to see an American lad so alert to the opportunities which world travel in the Navy presents. Stephen was occupied all the time he was ashore with getting to know about the country, the people, the products, the customs, etc. If more of our young men had his wholesome outlook and interest, there wouldn't be the urgent need for a Christian Servicemen's Center, such as I mentioned in my letter to Dr. McMurdo. The Club photographer caught each of us in action at the mike and together at the table. I'm enclosing three b&w snaps.

Cordially yours,  
Charles E. Notson

P.S. If anyone else from Morrow County visits Kaohsiung in the armed services or as tourists, we should greatly appreciate their contacting us. Since the first of September our bookstore is situated in the Land Bank Building in the heart of Kaohsiung. The side entrance opens to the elevators and we're on the 4th floor. Phone No. 551253. Residence phone no. 232441.

It's true we're busy, but we don't want to miss anyone from the home country. Aside from the bookstore, the Mission Office, and our own Chapel, we have numerous calls. For example Ruth is just now leaving to go and speak to the ladies in Wesley Chapel at the United Methodist Church this evening.

### Gazette-Times

## WANT ADS

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