

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

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MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Christmas In Vietnam

(The following piece was sent to Mrs. Robert Davidson by her son, Herbert, who is in Vietnam. The feature appeared in the Army Digest and was written by Major Jim Revels.)

When home-made decorations cover the machine-gun bunker and the sound of "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" fills the air; when the First Sergeant grins idiotically into a latrine mirror, pasting on a set of false white whiskers fashioned from surgical cotton and trying to get the drill sergeant hardness out of his "Ho-ho-ho's"—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the sick call line diminishes to nothing, but the line for confession stretches clear around the mess hall tent; when the Chaplain's field organ quits in the middle of Handel's Alleluia chorus, but the men in sandbagged pews say they never heard it done so beautifully—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the PX tent stays open extra hours, selling brandy-soaked fruitcakes instead of beer and girly magazines; when an uneasy truce leaves the streets of Nha Trang so deserted you can hear a dog bark blocks away; when quiet descends on the Tan Son Nhut airport and the last 707 "freedom bird" to the states has departed, leaving behind 150 new replacements—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the troops along the DMZ gaze out of their bunkers at the starry hills and recall the starlight on the hills of Jordan many moons ago; when the fighter pilots spend the day in the Da Nang Officers Mess instead of pulling G's over Hi Van pass—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the bulletin board is covered with holiday messages, with one boldly outlined and signed "By the Order of . . ."; when the first convoy leaves for the orphanage with enough toys and candy to stock a department store, and the kids stand in line for tank rides around the perimeter; when the bravest man in the unit sneaks back to his tent for the 19th time to listen to the tape recording from his wife of the kids doing "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer"; when there are more brightly wrapped packages than ammo boxes in the squad tent—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

When the sweet lament of "Silent Night" emanates from the well-camouflaged armored personnel carrier instead of the chatter of M-60 machineguns; when the beautiful nurse at the field surgical hospital smiles and tries to pretend that the trooper whose hand she is holding really will see another Christmas; when in spite of the Mess Sergeant's miracles, you steal away from the singing crowd, wondering what she is doing now, if the kids have seen their presents, and if it will all be over some day—it's Christmas in Vietnam.

Do It Ourselves Project

It has been suggested that the Arbuckle Ski area would be greatly benefited by the addition of a lodge. This sounds like a very good idea so that folks visiting the ski resort could have hot lunches and suppers and some could stay overnight. Heppner could easily take care of any overflow and there are fine motels, a comfortable hotel and good cafes here. If more accommodations were needed, facilities at Boardman can be used.

The Arbuckle Ski area has received considerable publicity in Sunset Magazine and the State Highway Commission advertising is now aimed at sending tourists to inland Oregon to relieve pressure on the coast. Arbuckle Mountain area is one of very few without lodge facilities. If it is to be a real success, a lodge seems to be a real necessity.

The simple solution might be for an angel to appear to finance a good development, probably with new lifts and added runs.

We understand there is snow about five out of six years. With this fact in mind, we are wondering how likely it might be that anyone would appear with financial willingness for such a development.

Perhaps the answer may lie in full local financial support of the present ski corporation. This is far from an easy answer as a project like this could easily run into a quarter million dollars, or perhaps much more than that. But it seems like any progress that is to be made up at the ski run will have to begin with us right here in Morrow County.

Common horse sense often tells us lots of things such as this are just almost impossible. However, we all know that if we truly want something and will put forth the proper amount of effort, it can be accomplished. Morrow County has shown many times that it doesn't need to take a back seat to anyone.

Two businessmen were discussing their respective advertising budget. "Do you feel, Harry, that your ads get results?" "Do they!" he answered with a moan. "Last week we were advertised for a night watchman and the next night we were robbed."

A woman shopping in a department store noticed that the clerk behind the complaint desk smiled at everyone who talked to her and kept her voice low and pleasant, even when irate customers spoke rudely to her. The shopper was amazed at the way the woman kept her cool.

Then she noticed the clerk's dark earrings. On one, in white lettering, was inscribed "In" and on the other "Out."



Greetings

To good friends old and new we extend best wishes for a wonderful holiday season filled with boundless joy.

DEL'S MARKET

LEXINGTON — 989-8133

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

The storage of nerve gas at Umatilla Depot is not, as you put it, a matter of "Golden Geese." It is a matter of fundamental morality, which should especially be foremost in our minds in this season of peace and good will among men.

Many residents of this county have been very much surprised at the lack of opposition to the storage of gas at the Depot. It matters little that the gas may be dangerous to this area; if it were a necessary and humane weapon, its danger would be tolerable. But it is, as our President has said, an abhorrent weapon, and as such it has no place in the arsenal of a moral people.

The economic value of the Depot to this county is indeed considerable, and should be respected; it is not, however, the only factor that should enter into our thinking about the nerve gas. Surely you would agree that there are times when a higher value than money must be decisive in our thinking. This is such a time.

I encourage all citizens of our area to do some thinking about this gas, and to join the rising voice of opinion in opposition to its storage here or anywhere else.

Sincerely,
Rev. F. W. Luedde, Jr.

Dear Editor:

This fall we were through Heppner deer hunting. We stopped for gas and some groceries. I asked in several places about the annual old-time fiddlers contest. As far as we could find out there isn't going to be one this year.

If this is true, I think your good town is losing one of the finest and enjoyable types of entertainment there is.

We have been to your fiddling contest for two years and could hardly find a place to sit, one year my husband had to stand.

I just can't believe that the reason is that the contest lost money.

One thing that I appreciated most — was a fiddler would come out and play as a contestant and then come back and play a guitar or something else for another fiddler that he was playing against.

I would call that just the best sportsmanship there could possibly be.

I talked to one of the fiddlers last year, his name was Rusty (something). He told me that first place was \$75.00, so if these fiddlers win they sure don't get rich.

I would like to see a fiddler contest in every town in Eastern Oregon.

A Fiddling Fan
V. A. Bower
Athena, Oregon

To the Editor:

I would appreciate any information as to the whereabouts of a close friend of mine, her name is Betty S. Hausler, she is a former resident of Ione.

If you have any knowledge of her present location, please write to me:

Mrs. Paul D. Swick
1230 Division St., No. 4
Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Thank you for your consideration, and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Amanda Smith Swick

P. S. Wish you all the luck in the world with the Heppner paper. I enjoy it immensely; keeps me up on events.



RENE'S BEAUTY SHOP

Dec. 20, 1968

To the Editor:

Are the people of our county concerned about the increase in use of drugs among youth, the legalization of abortion, the ban of nuclear weapons, the war in Vietnam and numerous other moral issues of today's society? I should hope they are, but why, if they are going to support the shipment and storage of lethal chemicals? Soon there won't be a society if such ridiculous ideas are endorsed.

Is chemical storage so important to us economically that we cannot see beyond the dollar sign? What on earth can be gained that could be greater than the tragic loss to be suffered in the event of an accident with these lethal substances. Are we ready for the devastation it would result in? Another question in my mind is, are we ready to be morally responsible if our nation should use these chemicals against our enemies? There is no cause great enough to warrant such an act and therefore no cause to maintain storage of this type of weapon.

I am most aware of the possibility that a Naval aircraft could be involved in the type of accident that would create something so horrible it is impossible for the human mind to comprehend. Being located in the flight corridor for the Navy aircraft fly directly toward Umatilla Army Depot, but make an almost perpendicular climb at the end of the target area. Can you accept the result of an aircraft crashing into U.A.D.? This is feasible. Those persons not blown to bits, burned to death, would most certainly die or be maimed by deadly gas. The gas would be carried on the wind in a quiet creeping death, not in our state alone, but to neighboring states.

I do not believe we should subject our population to even the most remote possibility of such dangers. Certainly the people in our area who are working for a better world with peace and understanding for their children to live in, cannot remain silent in a matter as urgent as this. It is apparent that most of us are very interested in our children's education, health, recreation for their physical and mental well being, but why not their future? Why worry your son is eligible for draft in time of war? Why concern ourselves about marijuana, LSD, speed and other moral problems mentioned above while a chemical agent such as nerve gas can eradicate them completely?

I urge all persons supporting this to reconsider and evaluate their reasons for doing so. Those persons not in favor of supporting it, where are your voices?

Janet Lindstrom
Box 166
Ione, Oregon

Becks Buy Lott Home

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beck purchased this fall their home at 740 W. River from Randy Lott. They will be there this winter. Their ranch is in Gilliam County. Mrs. Beck is employed at the Hospital.

They will be going to Wasco the weekend after Christmas to be at the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Chet Coates. They will be joined there by their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Strong of Portland and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jackson, Mark, Ray and Deanna.

Jones Meets Jones In Portland

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Jones went to Portland last weekend to see their son Kenneth, whose ship the USS Galveston, just put in at San Diego, and Kenneth flew into Portland. He will visit his sister, Charlene and they will come up to Lexington the day before Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ferguson expected their daughter and family up from Portland on Wednesday. They are Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rounsefell, Bobby, Kathy, David and Jeff. Christmas day they are meeting Virginia Meck in Hermiston who is coming from Portland for the holidays. She plans to stay for Nonda Clark's wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Whitaker plan to spend part of Christmas vacation visiting with relatives at Las Vegas.

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At Ralph Crums

Lt. Jack Crum, who flies helicopters out of Savannah, Ga., called his folks, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crum, Monday evening to tell them he was expecting to get home during the holidays.

The Crums are expecting their daughter Kathy home on Wednesday of this week. She is a sophomore at Christian High School in Nampa. Already home for the holidays is Monty Crum, a first year student at Treasure Valley at Ontario.

At Art Warrens

Expected Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Art Warren, Debbie, Darlene, David, Mike and Marilyn of Ione will be Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Warren of Ione, Mrs. Barbara Devine, Barbie, Coleman and Patty of Heppner and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Warren, Dennis and Kimberly.

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