

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836  
Phone 676-9228  
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSN. AND OREGON NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSN.

CHARLIE & DOROTHY HEARD,  
Editors & Publishers

ARNOLD RAYMOND, Plan. Foreman  
ALICE VANCE, News Circulation

REGGIE PASCAL, Linotype Operator  
DALE COOPER, Pressman

Subscription Rates: \$5.00 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Mailed Single Copies 15 Cents in Advance.; Minimum Billing 50 cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.  
Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9 a.m. until noon Saturday.

## Happenings in Irrigation Here

We strongly urge everyone to read the two-page annual report of the Heppner Soil and Water Conservation District that is in this issue of your Heppner Gazette-Times.

Some new things are happening. Of great interest is that a county-wide irrigation development committee has finally been formed. Ken Turner's article also points out the three leading possibilities for supplementing irrigation pumping and delivery costs. The Blue Mtn. RCD has been designated and funded and the area should get top priority for resource development. The USDA and the Nixon administration are officially committed to help rural areas grow and reverse the trend of increasing city congestion.

A number of other articles are equally interesting. And speaking of interest — we should all attend the big annual meeting at 7:30 p.m., next Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Lexington Grange Hall.

## Hope for the Post Office Dept.

Chatting with a friend of ours from another county who has been working for the Post Office for more than 30 years, we learned of a few ideas that seem to make sense on post office reorganization.

He said first there was a need for re-organization and that it should be taken out of politics. There is a bill before congress that if it goes through would be a solution to some of the problems. This would call for the formation of a commission such as the FCC and others. He said he felt a commission was better than a corporation.

Primarily the Post Office is a service and should not be required to show a profit, as it would have to, if it became a corporation. He said to form the corporation would require borrowing 80 billion dollars. Then he said letters would go to 15c and magazines and newspapers would be prohibitive in order to show a profit and pay back the loan plus interest.

He went on to say that there would be seven members on the proposed commission with staggered terms of office so that eventually, as on the Supreme Court, various presidents would have an opportunity to make appointments to the commission.

Postmasters would no longer be appointed but would come up from the ranks. He said the beginning salary for postmen is so low that young men aren't going into the service.

He said the chance of promotion is limited. He used as an illustration that a mail carrier wanting to become a clerk in the same post office can't do so without losing his seniority.

He favors electronic equipment to speed up the sorting of mail.

Something else out of the past is the restriction of post office employees talking and giving news before groups. All they can do is talk to their friends and write their congressmen.

## TOP STALLIONS AT ABS



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JOE YOCOM

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Lexington, Oregon



## Why? Teachers Salary Increase

By RON DANIELS, Supt. of Morrow County Schools

At a special meeting held on Jan. 20, the Teachers Professional Economics Committee and the Morrow County School Board reached an agreement on the 1970-71 teachers salary schedule. The Heppner Gazette-Times carried the story which indicated that beginning salaries would be \$6,700, an increase of \$600 over this year.

I'm sure the initial reaction to the increase was varied with some people feeling the raise was too small, others feeling it was about right, and many others feeling that the salary increase was far too large.

The purpose of this article is to provide some information that Board members had to consider in determining what the salary increase should be.

Last year our salary schedule was increased from \$6,000 to \$6,100. This was the smallest raise granted in any first class school district in the State of Oregon. It also left Morrow County as the lowest paying first class school district in the state.

The average starting salary in all Oregon school districts for 1969-70 was \$6,431; with our starting salary of \$6,100 we

were \$331 below the state average.

The top step on our salary schedule was \$9,760, compared to the state average of \$11,181.

Our last year's teacher committee agreed to accept this low salary settlement because they recognized that the economy of the county was down.

While the economic picture of the county has not greatly improved, both the teachers and the school board realized that we must improve our salary position if we hope to retain our present teachers and find suitable replacements for those teachers leaving the district.

Teacher turnover in Morrow County was 20.2% last year compared to a state average of 17.9%. Obviously a high teacher turnover in a district results in a poorer educational program. Salaries may not be a factor in some teacher resignations, but studies indicate that it is a major factor in most instances.

Our school board did not want to get in a position of serving as a teacher training agency, where teachers would start here, develop some experience, and then move on to a higher paying district. These then were the major factors to be considered in determining the salary increases that would have to be granted.

The next question to be answered is, how does our new salary schedule compare statewide. Only 22 districts have reported settlements, so it is too early to draw any definite conclusions. However, the 22 settlements reported have an average starting salary of \$6,866, and an average maximum salary of \$11,572. Both figures are above the beginning salary of \$6,700 and the maximum salary of \$10,320 provided for in Morrow Counties new salary schedule.

One other point that should be cleared up is the contention that all teachers receive a yearly salary increase whether or not the salary schedule is changed. The fact is that once a teacher reaches the top step on their column of the salary schedule, no raises are provided unless the salary schedule is changed.

We have forty teachers in the district this year that would not have received any salary increase if the salary schedule had not been increased. With the cost of living up 6.1% over 1968, the purchasing power for those teachers would have been less. It was the feeling of the board members that the salary increase was 3 must if we are going to hold our good teachers and attract good young teachers into the school district.

The twenty-second birthday of twins Leon and Leland Magill will be celebrated at a birthday dinner at the home of their parents on Feb. 1. Other guests expected are Mrs. Leon Magill, the former Vickie Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Creston Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Huson and family, Dick Hynd and Joe Halvorsen.

## CHUCK WAGON

Perhaps it isn't quite cricket to talk about our ailments. And it may seem a little hard to believe, but I finally figured out what was wrong. Feller told me I was glassy eyed out at the fairgrounds last Sunday. Some cast iron butterflies in my tummy. Well, sir, as you already know it had been pretty damp for such an arid country. So, by golly, the trouble must have been seasickness.

There have been more folks stopping at Morrow County Abstract and Title Co. to see Harry O'Donnell's handsome counter. Probably most folks in this county have already seen it. Harry and family labored hard, long and carefully, rubbing and polishing and have the best looking counter I ever saw. If I weren't such a big coward I'd probably swipe it.

We were impressed Sunday by our visit to the museum here. You folks here already know it is fabulous. If you have company, they shouldn't miss the museum. It is open Saturdays and Sunday. Hours Sunday are from 2 to 5 and on Saturday 10 to 12 and 1 to 5. They will open by special appointment for out of state tourists.

Dorothy and yours truly are real impressed with the friendly and very fine young people in Morrow County. This happened once again at the Fairgrounds when nine lovely girls were competing for places on the Morrow County Fair and Rodeo royal court. It is apparent that graciousness runs in families and is one of the hallmarks of you good folks of Morrow County. Now we learned that students at Heppner High are starting a project to raise money to build a school in an underprivileged country!

Giles French, the sage of Moro, came in Monday and said he was expecting to finish his history of Morrow County some time this year.

Knowing of his ability we are sure this will be a fine book. We've almost finished a History of Umatilla and Morrow Counties which was loaned by Barton Clark. "Yesteryears of Morrow", published in 1959 by Morrow County Extension units, is another very fine book. We recently finished a charming book, "Shamrocks and Shepherds: The Irish of Morrow County" by John F. Kilkenny. It is available at Murrays, although they may at times be temporarily sold out.

One lady said she had been thinking of writing a history of the Scandinavian settlers of Morrow County. This seems like a real good idea, too.

We kind of get a few kicks just looking around and admiring things in stores. You might think there was nothing unusual around here. But one traveling salesman said there was something different at Randall Peterson's: a silverplated parakeet casket! (Actually, it's a very dazzling butter dish.)

"I didn't come here to be told

## Ione Honor Roll Posted for Semester

The following students have been placed on the A and B honor rolls for the first semester at Ione High School by Principal Harold Beggs. A Honor Roll designates a student who has earned a GPA of 3.5 or better. Students with a GPA of 3.3-3.49 are placed on B Honor Roll.

A Honor Roll — Seniors: Joy Beggs, Kristin Nelson, Linda Pettyjohn.

Juniors — Jane Krebs, Jeri Snow.

Sophomore — Mary McElligott.

Seventh—Joel Peterson, Sherri Wilson.

B Honor Roll—Seniors: Anita Crawford, Lynn Justus, Kris Peterson, Gene Zinter.

Juniors — Carley Bergstrom, Kathy Holtz, Marianne Pettyjohn, Tanya Tucker.

Sophomore — Shauna Bergstrom, Cheri Carlson, Wendy Christopherson, Jackie Howton, Toni Justus, Clint Krebs, Ann McElligott, Julie Zinter.

Freshmen — Christina Lindstrom, Kathleen McElligott, David Warren.

Eighth—Joan McElligott, Doris McCabe, Kathy Gilbert, Donna Flack, Jan Ekstrom, Mary Pat McElligott.

Seventh — Greg Christopherson, Charles McElligott.

I'm burning the candle at both ends," said the patient to the doctor, "I came for more wax."

M. V. Nolan was in the other day, commented on the big rain. Said he wished instead of planting wheat he'd tried rice.

(Bill Weatherford could probably write a poem about this.)

## Guests at C. C. Carmichaels

Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Giese of Hailey, Idaho, were house guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Carmichael for a few days. Mr. Giese, nephew of Mrs. Carmichael, had been through the University of Oregon Medical clinic.

While here they visited Mr. and Mrs. Owen Leathers and Mrs. Vern Leathers.

Ralph Taylor visited at the Stan Magill home one day this week. Mr. Taylor is an old friend of the Magills and lives in Roseburg.

**COMMUNITY BILLBOARD**

**IONE GARDEN CLUB**  
Feb. 11, 10:00. Potluck dinner at noon  
Pruning demonstration by Tom Zinn of Condon at 1:30  
Public invited

**MARCH OF DIMES**  
Bowling Tournament  
Jan. 31, Fiesta Bowl, 6:30  
MOTHER'S MARCH, Jan. 29  
Leave your porch light on.

**HEPPNER HIGH BASKETBALL**  
Jan. 30, Wahtonka at Heppner

**PTA MEETING**  
Heppner Elementary PTA meeting  
Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Grade School Multipurpose room, 8:00 p.m.

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING**  
Thursday, Feb. 3  
Lexington Grange Hall, 7:30 p.m.  
Amos L. Oleson, guest speaker  
SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

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For Further Information Write or Call  
**HOMER ABELL, Sales Manager, Rt. 2, Box 95B**  
La Grande, Ore. Tel. 963-5934

## Now Birth Defects

With near prevention of polio, the National Foundation March of Dimes decided to focus on the long-neglected but extremely serious child-health problem: congenital disease or birth defects.

This is defined as any malformation or defect of body chemistry present at birth, except injuries occurring in the process of birth itself.

March of Dimes support research looking for ways to improve diagnosis and devise better treatment methods and research into the underlying causes of birth defects.

Support 111 Birth Defects Centers.  
Support Salk Institute for Bioloican Studies.  
Education health professionals.

Inform the public of advances in medicine. For instance, information about new vaccines against rubella (German measles and Rh incompatibility disease.) Each has the potential of preventing thousands of birth defects in the immediate future.

Promote community service programs for health education, prenatal care and genetic counseling.

The Mothers March is tonight. Any amount you give is most welcome.

## School Lunch Menus

Presented Through Courtesy of Heppner Branch



Heppner Elementary and High Schools

Monday, Feb. 2—Potatoes and gravy, spinach, green salad, rolls, apple crisp, milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 3—Pizza, green beans, carrot and celery sticks, fruit Jell-C, topping, milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 — Beans and frankfurters, cinnamon rolls, cole slaw, fruit and cookies, milk.

Thursday, Feb. 5 — Macaroni and cheese, beets, muffins, vegetable sticks, pudding, milk.

Friday, Feb. 6—Creamed tuna and toast, peas, lettuce wedge, upside-down cake, milk.

There goes another solved problem



Unusual shipments are not unusual on Union Pacific. Whether it be gigantic laminated beams, steel girders, construction equipment or any one of the many other types of oversized loads, it is all in a day's performance for our people. We are experts in this field. Have an unusual load or a problem? Your nearest Union Pacific traffic agent will be glad to find the solution for you. Call today.



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