

HENRY HEPPNER (continued)

became a partner in the Heppner store. Mr. Heppner and Mr. Blackman each contributed \$50 toward starting the Gazette in 1883. In 1888 after the railroad reached Heppner, Mr. Heppner built a large warehouse here. His nephews Phil and Jerry Cohn joined Heppner and Blackman as clerks. Mr. Heppner became owner of a large part of the business section of the

town, leasing buildings to others.

Mr. Heppner was an unpretentious man, dressed simply, and lived simply. He slept in his store some of the time, lived with his sister Mrs. Blackman some of the time, and lived and boarded at the Palace Hotel in later years. Some report his manner was gruff, but he was surely a respected business

man. Mr. Cohn told Harold Becket about his grand-uncles' frequent assistance to school children in need. "In one case when a large family came from the east, without money, he paid the tuition for those children to go to school."

Mr. Heppner's success brought other members of his family to Heppner, the Henry Blackman family, and the Elizabeth Heppner Cohns, Phil and Jerry. Mr. Henry Blackman and Mr. Phil Cohn

were the executors of his estate. Thus the husband and sons of two of his sisters were associated with him.

A FINAL TESTAMENT

Mr. Heppner died in 1905 (one newspaper account says it was Feb. 16, the birthday of the founding of Morrow County). The Heppner Gazette included this tribute in the obituary published then:

"In the passing of Henry Heppner there goes a prominent and familiar landmark in the history of the city and county. He was a familiar figure on the streets and was one of the best known men in the county. In public affairs of both city and county for more than a quarter of a century he has affiliated and has been closely identified with most of the questions that have gone into history, especially in affairs of the town that bears his name.

"Henry Heppner's life has been a long and useful one. A hard and tireless worker, his life has been crowned with success and thrift. He was a man of keen business judgment and has left a large fortune. Like the other Oregon pioneers in helping to build the solid foundation of this country he experienced many hardships and trials in shouldering the many burdens that fell upon those sturdy old pioneers. While a little eccentric in his ways, his heart was always in the right place, and his hand

was ready to go out to the needy."

Henry Heppner was a member of the Masonic order in Heppner. Many citizens went to Portland to hear Dr. Stephen S. Wise deliver a tribute to him and to attend final rites. He was buried in the Beth Israel Cemetery there. In the summer of 1967 Mr. and Mrs. Kaskel E. Heppner of New York City visited here with Harold Cohn and enjoyed looking through the museum and seeing the area.

Mr. Harold A. Cohn, who has been outstanding in the sheep and wool industry, is the only member of this founder's family still living within Heppner.

NOTE: Mr. Cohn has gone over this 1972 re-writing of the life of Mr. Heppner and has given this writer his assurance that it is "factual."



Heppner's old school house which was located on Gale Street. Rachel Harnett still lives in part of the building which was moved to Center Street.

Another fine new history of Umatilla and Morrow Counties is now available - WAY BACK WHEN, written by Mildred Searcey.

Available at First National here and at Rietmann's in Lone.

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