



HENRY HEPPNER

Heppner's 100th Year . . .

CHOOSING A NAME

Henry Heppner did not marry and had no children upon whom to leave his name, and it was a happy thought of his neighbors to place his name upon the city. At a meeting held to christen the town, he voted against the motion to name it thus, but the rest carried it over his objections and Heppner it stands. (Pg. 370, History of the Pacific Northwest.)

This edition of the Heppner Gazette-Times is the newspaper's major contribution to the spirit of the Heppner Centennial. It deals mainly with history and development of Heppner which is inevitably concerned with the history and development and growth in all the towns and areas in Morrow County. When Heppner first started there was no Morrow County, it was a part of Umatilla County which had been carved from Wasco County, a huge area which stretched clear over to Wyoming!

Memories this edition will bring mixed emotions as Heppner has been the site of a major American tragedy, the Heppner Flood of June 14, 1903. We are confident our readers will find in this issue a narrative of the commerce, industries, the major agricultural activities and institutions of a great region.

We cannot, at this late date, vouch for the authenticity of all our historical data but we've made it as authentic as we possibly could. No location nor family was intentionally slighted. So much information was brought in much will be run in future issues of the Gazette-Times for several years.

To build on the frontier a century ago surely required a giant-size helping of dedication, vision, hard work and just plain guts. To the memories of these pioneers who forged a county from the raw, we say Hurray! and a big salute from all of us with this issue of Morrow County's own newspaper.

We are most grateful to the dozens of folks who sent up photos and historical data to make this edition possible. We thank our good advertisers who supported the issue and made it possible to publish what we believe to be one of the largest papers in the history of the Gazette-Times.

Our thanks to our subscribers and our thanks, too, to our staff who put in many long hard hours to make the issue a reality.

—Dorothy & Charlie Heard,
Editors & Publishers

Schiach's History of Umatilla and Morrow Counties (pg. 292) gives the selection of the name thus, "During the winter of 1872-3, the sturdy knights of the frontier began to concern themselves that the embryo town should be granted the dignity of a name, and a conference was held for the purpose of choosing a suitable designation. We have the authority of some of the participants in the discussion preceding the christening that the minds of the cattlemen were very fertile in suggesting possible appellations, each having a name of his own to propose. It is said that Stansbury was in favor of the name Willow Creek, while someone else suggested Willows as being shorter. Notwithstanding the general healthfulness of the place, Messrs. Heppner & Morrow had found it necessary to import for medicinal purposes a quantity of I.X. L., and many were found who wished to name the town after their favorite panacea for all the ills which usually afflict a pioneer people. This name met more popular favor than any previously suggested, but found fewer friends than Perry Oller's New Chicago. The name which finally prevailed and which has been the official designation ever since was suggested by Mr. Stansbury himself.

VIGOROUS EARLY GROWTH

Blacksmith O.H. Hallock started his business very so-

on and competitors Bishop Chase and George Stewart came to build their shop out of whipsawed lumber.

In the summer of 1873 The Spencer store from Ruggs moved to Heppner. That fall Dr. Allan J. Shobe of Ne-

vada arrived. He was persuaded to open a drug store and to take over the IXL that Heppner and Morrow had handled.

The settlement of the county progressed steadily. As early as 1873 the need for a school was felt. The court of Umatilla County organized a district, but it was evident that the push for a school had to be made locally. "Accordingly, Mr. Heppner mounted a Cayuse and proceeded around the neighborhood to solicit subscriptions, the firm to which he belonged having first started the list with a donation of \$100 worth of materials. The scattering inhabitants supported the movement with liberality, but when all had been done that it was thought could be done in furtherance of the project it was found that considerable money still remained to be raised. Nelson Jones the town's first milkman, came to the rescue with the amount required. Henry Johnson did the carpenter work, and soon a very creditable structure stood." (History of U. & M. Counties, Pg. 292)

This account continues, "A bell was furnished by Henry Heppner, to whose enterprise the town was mainly indebted for its first school. Mr. Heppner had no children to educate and no personal interest in the matter, but being a public-spirited man he was willing to work for anything tending toward the promotion of the commonweal—Mr. Heppner displayed a like public spirit whenever an opportunity presented itself, and the town which bears his name found in him a man ever willing to take the lead in its upbuilding." (The school was

built on Gale St. where the Clinic Bldg. stands now and was moved years later to West Center where it was remodeled into a residence in which Mrs. Rachel Harnett now lives.

In 1873 the first saloon, built of lumber hauled from Umatilla Landing, was opened by Dishaway and Sanford.

In 1875 Henry Heppner entered into a partnership with Frank Maddock establishing a merchandising business with the stock of goods left by Taylor Spencer at his death. The first hotel in town was established by E. Van Shull, Frank Goble and Perry Oller, who also instituted a livery business. Mrs. E.J. Smith also built a hotel at an early date and kept it for a time, then sold the building to Henry Blackman.

"During the few years which followed the growth of the town was quite rapid, its business development becoming so complex and multiform that it is practically useless to attempt to trace it further in detail," Mr. Schiach wrote.

By Justine Weatherford

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