



THE OLD SPERRY FLOURING MILL FLOURISHED MANY YEARS NEAR WHAT IS NOW THE CENTER OF HEPPNER. NOTE 'NEW' COURTHOUSE BUILDING LOOMING IN THE

background. A stone used in this mill was recovered this summer.

Newspapers in Morrow County

Soon after Heppner's 10th birthday, J.J. Stine published the first issue of the Heppner Gazette, in March 1883. The funds that made the paper possible were contributed by interested citizens of the 370 person town. Henry Heppner and his brother-in-law Henry Blackman gave \$50 a piece; S.P. Florence, J.L. Morrow, T.W. Ayres, Frank Maddock, Tom Morgan, J.B. Sperry, G.W. Swaggart, J.B. Natter, W.J. Leezer, W.B. Cunningham, A.M. Gunn, Charles Hinton, W.E. Theodore and Ed R. Bishop contributed about \$25.00 each.

Mr. Stine was a paper starter and evidently never stayed long with the papers he started. He sold out as soon as he could, and in Heppner he made a deal with an amazing character, John W. Redington in 1883. This shrewd, poetic, pioneer newsman had

an exciting, roving life before he settled in Heppner in his 31st year. At the age of 12 he was a printers' devil on the Cambridge University Press; at 21 he worked as a printer in New York, rose to sergeant in the state militia, and was refused by the regular army because he was too small. So he enlisted as a musician and was sent to Fort Vancouver, Wa.

in 1874, and thus entered into the building of the west in various ways. He left the army and went to work for the Salem Statesman; went into a job printing partnership made horseback trips through eastern Oregon, to Boise and Salt Lake; and became a volunteer Indian scout. Later, he wrote about his exciting experiences scouting and about great Indians he knew. He was in Morrow County during the 1878 uprising with General O.O. Howard. In 1883

he rode in again and registered at Minor's City Hotel with less than a dollar, whatever he was wearing, and a fair saddle horse as material assets, but with ambition, a creative mind, and a great spirit. Though he had little formal schooling, he was an avid reader and kept himself informed.

HELL ON HOG THIEVES AND HYPOCRITES

Homer Hallock son of O. H. Hallock was the first editor of a rival paper, the Times, which came out in February, 1884. Editor Redington made a quick and vicious attack and put it out of business shortly. He charged Mr. Hallock and Augustus Mallory, both notaries public, with charging homesteaders too much to locate land, and also inferred that Mallory had stolen a hog. His paper offered to locate settlers' land free, and he painted this slogan on barns over the county, "Heppner Gazette Hell on Hog Thieves and Hypocrites." He loved the county seat fight in 1885 with Lexington, and after Heppner was awarded the prize, he made a fall sale of the Gazette to Rev. Henry Rasmus and took off for Washington State where he married and worked on several papers.

Rev. Rasmus rather soon sold the paper to a conscientious newspaper man, Otis Patterson, who came from Waitsburg, Wa., and he continued it nicely. He ran into competition from Lexington publishers and from E.M. Shute who came from Antelope to reactivate the Times. Otis Patterson left Heppner in 1898, selling the paper to Corleis Merritt.

REDINGTON RETURNS

When Jackson L. Morrow died in 1889, J.W. Redington came from Portland to attend the funeral and to write a poetic tribute to his respected friend, "Uncle Jack." Before he left he bought the Gazette from Mr. Merritt. He moved his wife and three

daughters into a comfortable house across from the news office and proceeded to become a colorful, fighting publisher.

Owen Wister who later published "The Virginian" came to stay in the Palace Hotel and spent much time listening to Editor Redington tell of his Indian scout experiences, and later when Owen Wister set his stories in Wyoming he may have been influenced by the lore and atmosphere he soaked up in Heppner.

J.W. Redington determined to demolish the second Times as he had the first. A battle of words took place, and in Feb. 1901, the Gazette published a story that cast some aspersions on Editor Shutt and an attractive young woman who was working in the Times office. The Editors met on the street and the larger Mr. Shutt, who was plenty upset, flattened J.W. R. After his recovery, he retreated from Heppner, selling in May 1901 to Fred Warnock and Ed Michell. (J.W. Redington died in a veteran's home in Sawtelle, California, in 1935).

CONSOLIDATION ENDS RIVALRY

Mr. Warnock took over his partner's interest in the Gazette for awhile and in 1910 he sold it to Mr. Vawter Crawford who had originally worked there with Editor Pat-

erson, and then had served as county clerk from 1889 until 1906. In 1912 Vawter Crawford also bought the Times from A.J. Hicks who had purchased it from Mr. Shutt, thus ending the rivalry between the two papers. Several Crawfords then ran the paper for over forty years. "The Crawfords weren't mad at anyone and were excellent printers, good writers and strong enough to not be swayed by temporary waves of public sentiment. They worked for Morrow County and Heppner, observed it carefully and reported it respectfully.

Vawter and then his sons, Arthur, Spencer and Jasper, and then Vawter's younger brother, Otheo G. published the paper. Both Vawter and Spencer, who was manager at the time, died in the 1930's and youngest son Jasper, followed by his uncle Otheo succeeded them. Otheo Crawford sold to Bob Penland who in time sold to Wesley Sherman who died suddenly in 1969. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Heard became publishers in Nov. 1969. The Gazette-Times has been the county's only newspaper since the 1920's. (Based on Homesteads and Heritages Pgs. 52-55)

Although their history packs into fewer years, Lexington's three or four newspapers must have been interesting publications. The

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Heppner for seventeen years



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Choice Meats and Fresh Produce

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MARKET

Clint and Marie McQuarrie

Best Wishes to Heppner
on its 100th Birthday



Jack and Ruth Van Winkle

Van Winkle's Motel

Sears Authorized
Catalog Sales Merchant

Heppner