

Mildred Clowry "greatest nurse ever"

A recent visit with Miss Mildred Clowry in the neat-as-a-pin Heppner apartment was so delightful and so educational. Her sparkling eyes and lively manner make it hard to believe that she was 83 years old in June of this

Newspapers in Morrow County

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first, The Bunchgrass Blade was being published during 1885, the year of Lexington's birth and its tremendous competition for the County Seat. The name of its operator is not recorded, and it is doubtful if copies of it exist—it died soon after Heppner was awarded the county seat.

Two years later The Weekly Budget was being put out by Mr. Snow and Mr. Whitson, and was probably printed on the same type used for the first paper. The Budget ran for three years, and then was sold to the Morrow County Record edited by John Coffey. Some historians say this paper was called The Heppner Record and it is also titled The Farmer's Alliance. It must have been sold both in Lexington and Heppner, and competed with the Gazette during Otis Patterson's ownership.

According to Yesteryears of Morrow, the last Lexington newspaper was the Wheatfield run by S.S. Thomas, but no dates are given for it. THE IONE POST

Ione's first and most famous paper The Post was quite well established by 1900. It was edited by Miss Virginia Deaton.

There could have been two papers coming out at once in Ione—dates for them are hard to find. Following Miss Deaton's editorship, Les Hallon, Mr. Ward, L.E. Acherman and Rev. W.W. Head are listed as editors. W.W. Head edited the Ione Independent.

THE OREGON IRRIGATOR Although it did not exist very long, Addison Bennett's Oregon Irrigator attracted considerable attention. He was hired as Irrigon's postmaster about the second year of that post office's existence. Frank Holbrook being listed as the original postmaster in 1903. Mr. Bennett soon started a weekly newspaper in one end of the little postoffice building. He called it the Oregon Irrigator, but changed it later to the Irrigon Irrigator. He had worked on newspapers in Kansas. He is given credit for originating the name Irrigon by taking the first four letters of irrigation and combining them with the last three letters of Oregon. Mr. Bennett's paper was "full of droll wit, some homespun philosophy, but not much advertising." He left Irrigon and worked as a roving correspondent for the Oregonian, and his little paper died in 1912.

Boardman had a paper for a few years in the 1920's but little has been recorded about it.

year.

Of Irish descent, this outstanding R.N. received her training at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tacoma Wa. and was first employed right there. The sisters there soon recommended that she accept a position at Valdez, Alaska with Dr. Dalton—she traveled 7 days by ship to reach Valdez where she was the only R.N. in the area during her service there.

AN ARMY NURSE

From Valdez she came to St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland where she was employed as a night supervisor. Then came World War I, and she became an army nurse on duty at Fort Lewis, Wa. When the war ended, civilian hospital desperately needed nurses to cope with the flu epidemic, and Miss Clowry was one of 22 who resigned to work with civilians. She came to Heppner

in the fall of 1919 to work at the Heppner Sanatorium which was located on Main St. where the Northwestern Motel is now. Doctors Winward, McMurdo, and Bean of Heppner, and Dr. Chick, then at Ione, were practicing there. There was a stove and woodbox in each room; the operating room was upstairs, and it was often necessary to run next door to get Blacksmith Tom Brennan to help carry patients up or down the stairs. The sanatorium closed about 1921. HEPNER HOSPITAL

Heppner had no real hospital then until 1927 when Dr. McMurdo bought a house on Quaid St., just above where Elaine George lives now, and enlarged and rebuilt it. In the years between 1921 and 1927 Mrs. Jim Gentry, now Mrs. Walter Rood (Mattie) had a home hospital in the downstairs room of her home, where the Eddie Gundersons live now. There were also several maternity homes operated by midwives and practical nurses.

Mattie Rood is still quick to praise Mildred Clowry as "About the greatest nurse ever, so efficient, such wonderful help."

With the opening of the Heppner Hospital on Quaid St., Nurse Clowry moved in and was given charge. Part of her twenty years there her Aunt, Mrs. Annie Clowry, a practical nurse, helped her there.

Miss Clowry remembers many years of long, busy days. She did the buying, kept the place immaculate, and one big day when Dr. McMurdo was away at a medical meeting, she delivered four babies. A very special little companion for 17 of her 20 years at the Heppner Hospital was her fox terrier, Dixie. Dixie often went hunting with Dr. McMurdo, who would tuck her in a pocket of his hunting coat.

After Miss Clowry left in 1948 several persons tried to run the hospital, but found too many problems. Mrs. McMurdo says that Miss Clowry was such a fine manager,

After many years of hoping and planning, Heppner's fine Pioneer Memorial Hospital was officially dedicated on June 11, 1950, by Judge Garnet Barratt who had donated the land on which it was erected. Many citizens had been most generous in contributing time, money and equipment; in fact, no tax funds were used for equipment as all of it was bought with personal subscription funds.

The hospital's commanding position on the East Heppner Hill, its present lovely landscaping, and its view of

the beautiful summer sunsets add to its practical and scientific service to the Morrow County area.

ADDITIONS

In 1955, 20 more beds, including 4 pediatric beds, were added; bringing the total cost of the hospital to approximately one half million dollars, financed jointly through contributions, tax levies and Federal Hill-Burton funds.

In 1958 various improvements were added; an automatic ice machine was donated; the laundry was installed; the County Health Nurse quar-

ters were remodeled into two wards (adding 5 more beds and a recreation room; front parking area was widened and improved. A helpful Hospital Auxiliary was inaugurated in 1958 with providing transportation one of its services.)

ADMINISTRATION

The hospital is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of 5 members appointed by the County Court who serve without pay and have control over management, maintenance and operation of the institution. This Board

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Mildred Clowry, R.N. at the cornerstone of St. Patrick's church in 1959 while she was working with Dr. McMurdo.



The Heppner Hospital on Quaid St. about 1929 when Miss Clowry lived there and managed it.

Like Heppner,
Progress is Important
to Us



THE HOSPITAL AS IT APPEARED SHORTLY AFTER THE NEW WING WAS BUILT ON IN 1954.

Pioneer Memorial
Hospital

Ilene Wyman, Administrator

676-9133
Heppner

was always a wise purchaser of supplies, was so superior to others who tried to carry out similar duties. The usual room charge of Heppner Hospital was \$3 a day. SHE LEAVES AND RETURNS

In 1948 Mildred Clowry went to Fort Collins, Co. to stay with and help her aunt, Mrs. Annie Clowry. In 1956 when Doctor's sister-in-law Lulu Hager, who had worked in Dr. McMurdo's office for about 25 years became ill, Miss Clowry came back to Heppner. She lived in the little house near Nora Rasmus' home on Center St. In 1968 Miss Clowry retired and moved to Pendleton where she lived for a short time at St. Anthony's hospital and found many ways to be helpful there. However, she missed Heppner and her church, St. Patrick's and her many friends here, so she returned and moved into the upstairs apartment at Mrs. Bailey's home on Water St.