

To the Pioneers



HAROLD A. COHN

The Heppner Gazette-Times is very pleased to dedicate this Centennial edition to all the pioneers who built Hep-

per and Morrow County and to their descendants and to Harold A. Cohn, the only member of founder Henry Heppner's family now living in Heppner.

After the 1903 flood in which the Phil Cohn home was destroyed, Henry Heppner purchased a house on Baltimore St. from George Washington Thompson into which the Phil Cohn family moved. It is now occupied by the LaVerne Van Marter Jr. family, and Harold Cohn, the Phil Cohn's son, lives in the newer home just beyond it— and claims that with 69 years residence, he is undoubtedly the dean of Baltimore St. Other children of the Phil Cohns are a son Henry, living in Nevada, and a daughter Elinor (Mrs. E.A.

Shank) of West Linn, Or. Young Harold had gone to Boise to visit his grandmother in June 1903 and missed the big flood.

SOME COHN HISTORY

Harold was born in San Francisco but has been a resident here since he was two weeks old. His paternal grandmother, Elizabeth Heppner Cohn of Boise, was Henry's sister. Her sons, Jerry and Phil, came to join their Uncles Henry Heppner and Henry Blackman soon after the railroad reached Heppner, when the Heppner-Blackman store and other properties were so busy. Harold says Henry Heppner drove in the golden spike when the R.R. was completed to Heppner. Harold remembers his dad closing out his uncle's estate after Henry's death in 1905. Later, Phil Cohn was the Morrow County Ford

Motor Co. dealer for many years.

HAROLD ENLISTED

Harold Cohn went through the grade and high school in Heppner, finishing in the 12-member class of 1912, the last class from the old wooden building up where the hospital stands now. He recalls community affairs in the Robert's Opera House, the hall above where Murrays' Drug Store is now. The 1912 high school class play was put on there. Harold attended the Univ. of Oregon and the Univ. of California but did not graduate. Along with five

other county lads, he enlisted in Portland in the Navy during World War I—but never was sent to sea. The others who enlisted at that time were Carl Rhea, Burl Gurdane, Sam Turner, Miles Potter, and Sid Hallock.

RODEOS STARTED

L.V. Gentry got the annual rodeos started in 1922 and enlisted Harold Cohn to act as announcer. Harold used a megaphone (no mike or amplifiers then.) The ranching Gentrys were horse fanciers, and they lived just east of town where the Garnet Barratts bouth in 1929.

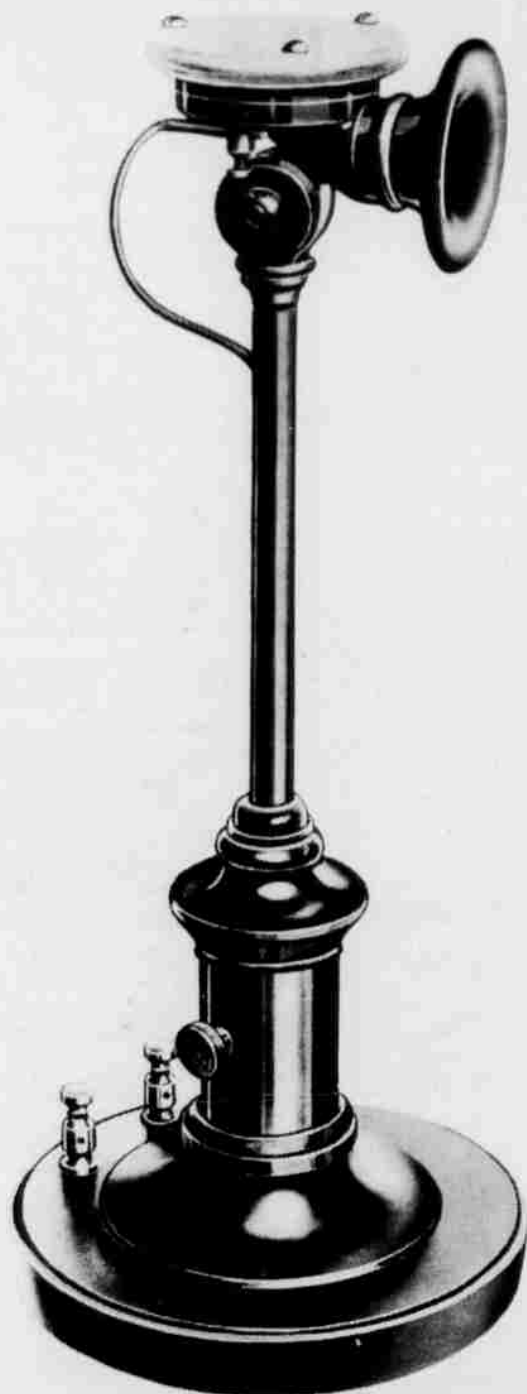
Mr. Cohn married Helen Ames of Ellensburg, Wa. in 1922, and their children are Phil and Sally. In 1965 widower Cohn married a Yakima widow, Mrs. Clara Flory, who had been with the 1st Nat. Bank of Commerce there for 45 years, and who died in 1970. Phil and his father (Harold says one of them is president) own and Phil manages the Superior Packing Co. at Ellensburg which is the largest sheep killing operation in the northwest. Around 1,000 sheep are killed daily and every part of the animals is utilized somehow, even the eyes. Sally Cohn, who is visiting her father this summer, has been teaching along the east coast, most recently in the Brooklyn area of New York City.

MEMORIES

As Harold Cohn chatted in the shade of a large apricot tree in the back yard of his home, he recalled many items of interest. "That tree was planted here in 1915 and has produced many tons of apricots." We remarked about the recovery of the old millstone by O.W. Cutsforth, and Harold said "I wonder how many others remember when the Heppner Flouring Mill had an order to put up flour for China, and the sacks arrived with Chinese printing on them."

He states that his time in the community spans the period from hitching posts to parking meters. Remarking about hitching posts led to the recounting of an early-day summertime ritual, the daily trips of the horse-drawn sprinkling wagon which wet down the fine dust that rose from Heppner's dirt streets.

A well-known member of the Oregon Wool Growers and the National Wool Growers organizations since the 1930's, Harold Cohn is a very quiet, modest gentleman. He claims he has not contributed a great deal to the community— "I've just lived here, for quite a while".



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CENTENNIAL IDEA

The idea of having a Centennial celebration for Heppner came in a letter to the Gazette-Times in 1971 from James D. 'Domie' Monahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Monahan. Domie is an attorney in Washington, D.C.

In his letter he suggested that it was about time for Heppner to have its Centennial. This alerted the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce and other organizations here who have ramrodded the event which is being noted all year long by various affairs.

To all visitors on this occasion everyone in Morrow County says a big Welcome.