

The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES VIEWPOINT

Kinzua Corp. commitment reaffirmed

Heppner played host last Wednesday to a group of 130-plus lumbermen from throughout the Pacific Northwest who were here for an industry tour of Kinzua Corporation's new computerized sawmill.

It was something to see wood products industry leaders from major lumber producing areas in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon gathering in Heppner to view the world's first computerized pine sawmill.

Held in awe by the tiny photo-electric cells and beams of light that send saws and chippers moving in to action depending on the log's size, the president of one large corporation summed up the new mill and what it means best, when he commented, "I had no idea the state of the art (pine sawmill production) was this advanced."

Most important to us, however, is the fact that Kinzua Corporation's investment of \$4.5 million in a new sawmill, stacker-sorter and dry kilns, shows a continued commitment of the company's ownership to a solid future of wood products manufacturing in Morrow County.

A continued commitment—started in 1953 when a group of Pacific Northwest lumbermen bought the operation. In the two decades that followed the owners—Ed and Harry Stuchell, Max and David E. Wyman, Sr., and Harry O'Donnell—built Kinzua Corporation to what it is today...a leader in the industry.

The second and third generations of those families make weekly trips to Heppner from their homes in the Puget Sound area carrying on a commitment made to this community and the company's employees years ago. The ownership of Kinzua Corporation deserves a round of kudos for their innovative leadership and dedication to preserving the lumber industry in Morrow County.



Chalking up his first day of work as Heppner's new parking control officer, Winn Crist marks tires in order to enforce recently imposed two-hour parking regulations in downtown Heppner. Several forgetful shoppers found yellow tickets on their windshields during Crist's opening day on the job. His chalking stick is a converted golf club. Fore!

Sifting through the TIMES



Heppner was taking precautions to avoid a "Spanish" influenza epidemic that was sweeping across Oregon and much of the nation during this week 60 years ago.

The city council ordered all schools, churches, movie theaters and pool halls to close in an effort to prevent the disease from spreading.

A few suspected cases of the flu—then a disease with a high mortality rate—had been discovered in the lone area, with several persons in Heppner showing symptoms of the disease.

Fifty years ago this week, the local school board presented a request to Heppner City Council that the city require all public dances to close at midnight, in order to curtail the activities of local "joy-riders."

Mayor Noble told the school board that such a law "would not have the desired effect of putting Heppner's young folks securely under their bed covers at an early hour." The city, mayor Noble continued, "was not as much at fault as the home for the averted late hours of the city's younger set."

Thirty years ago this week, John Rivers, a Umatilla hunter, was held in Morrow County jail in Heppner after shooting fellow Umatilla resident John McNabb in the leg at a deer camp at Government Springs.

Rivers was charged with pointing a firearm at another. He had reportedly fired his rifle in the air at the deer camp, and when his companions complained, fired the weapon nearer the ground, injuring McNabb in the process.

Wilber Steagall of Heppner was listed in critical condition during this week in 1948, after receiving internal injuries when his horse fell on him.

The Heppner Mustangs stampeded the Blue Devils of Condon during this week 30 years ago, and Ione outclassed Athena by a 20-6 margin.

Ten years ago this week, Heppner Mayor W.C. Rosewall announced that he would not seek re-election, stating that he believed he had served "long enough."

Also during this week in 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wilkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Krebs and Mr. and Mrs. Markham Baker returned to Morrow County from a tour of the Soviet Union.

The six Morrow County residents visited, among other places, a 25,000 acre collective farm. Krebs remarked that the soil and climate were excellent, and noted that if the farms went into free enterprise, the Soviets could possibly out-produce America.

On their return trip, Mr. and Mrs. Krebs stopped in New York to visit former Arlington resident Doc Severinson, NBC bandleader on the "Tonight" show. The Krebses were given a tour of Greenwich Village and the Bowery, commenting, "It was wild...you never saw such filth."

Five years ago this week, the lone home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Crum burned to the ground. The Crums heard what sounded like an explosion in the basement of the home shortly before the blaze broke out.

They had time to pick up only a handful of possessions before fleeing to safety. In 1959, the couple lost another home to fire. The old house stood a short distance from the home that was lost in 1973.

...have something
to say?
The Gazette-Times welcomes
letters from readers on any subject
of general interest...letters should
be not more than 250 words

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LETTERS

Reader 'disgusted' with Measure 5 ad campaign

Editor:

I am really disgusted with a billboard I see around Oregon which reads, "Don't let amateurs replace dentists." My brother has served the dentists of this state faithfully for 16 years as a dental technician, and now these high and mighty dentists slap him and many other qualified dental technicians in the face by calling them "amateurs" and "dental mechanics." How is that for gratitude?

Perhaps the word "amateur" was chosen because the technician is not paid nearly as much as a dentist. For example, my brother and other dental technicians are paid \$125 for a full upper and lower set of dentures. The dentist is turn charges the patient \$500, \$600, and \$700 and up for these same dentures. I guess that's the professional mark up!

Now let's see who is really the amateur when it comes to making dentures. When a dentist graduates from The University of Oregon Dental School after four years, he has had to complete only nine dentures. This could have been done on as few as five or six patients! When he takes his state dental board examination, he does not have any practical test on dentures at all!

Measure No. 5, which the dentists are so opposed to, requires that a dentist must have a maximum of six years experience, plus six months schooling until 1982 (two years schooling after 1982) plus pass a rigid test by the State Board of Health on all phases of denture construction. During that

six years experience as a dental technician they will literally make thousands of dentures. Now I ask, who is really the "amateur"? Perhaps the real reason the dentists are so opposed to measure No. 5 is because 95 per cent of the dentists in Oregon could not comply with these standards.

"Replace Dentists?" They most certainly will be replaced, in making dentures anyway. Oh yes, you will still have the freedom to choose between a dentist and a dentist at right. But who is going to want to continue to be ripped off by the "professionals" who get their dentures made by the "amateurs" in the first place?

Sincerely,
Jeanne Cates

Youthful 'fun' blasted

Editor:

I would like to ask the parents of the surrounding communities if they know what their kids do for fun on a Friday or Saturday night.

I can tell you what someone did for kicks, and it was not very pleasing to me or my parents. About two weeks ago, someone decided to take one of our old junk field cars for a test spin through one of our fields. (It's located on Strawberry Road on Juniper Canyon, just so the culprits will know the location.)

Now this car is nothing but a piece of junk and can hardly pull itself. But these people, whoever they may be, somehow got it to run well enough to make all kinds of pretty designs through our summer fallow. For some reason, they didn't stop there, but somehow they just had to do it right in our sandblows. I would like to say to you fine people, if you do it again, please squirrel around in some other spot.

Unfortunately, they weren't done yet. For when they left, they put the car in gear and off over the hill it went. But it was unable to make it up the other side of the canyon, so it didn't go too far. About the one good thing to come out of this was they didn't find our tractor and turn it free.

It's fine people like this that make farmers afraid to leave anything in the field anymore. That is why you see more signs being posted and gates being locked, and after this, you can bet our land will be too.

In closing, I would like to say I hope it wasn't somebody that was old enough and had enough sense not to do that. And remember, think twice before you try a stunt like that again. For you may not be so lucky next time.

Chris Rauch
Lexington

School paint scheme rapped

Editor:

Upon reading in the papers about construction bids on the new district school buildings I felt compelled to write this letter directed at the school board and the district administration.

In the future wouldn't it be practical as well as improve the appearance of all our county school buildings if they were all painted the same color? Paint could be bought in bulk amounts at a savings I'm sure and they would be much easier to identify.

Right now we have the following:
Administration Building at Lexington—Pea soup green with brown trim.
Heppner Jr. High—brick with pink half windows and blue trim.
Heppner Grade School—brick with yellow walls and blue trim.

Heppner High School—stone with blue trim and a tan and brown shop.
Ione Grade School—easter egg blue with white trim.
Ione High School—brick with blue trim next to a tan and brown shop.
Irrigon Grade School—a combination of gray, white, pink and blue.

Riverside High School—looks good-all brick.
Couldn't you decide on a nice non-exciting color like tan and brown and stick to it? This along with some simple yard maintenance which is sadly lacking at most of our schools would make many of us taxpayers happier.

Pat Wright
Lexington

'Flawed' Measure 6 is Ok

Editor:

In special session, the legislature was given the results of a significant, major poll. 79 per cent of the 1,917 Oregonians polled indicated they want government spending cut and 74 per cent do not trust the legislature to voluntarily cut spending if Measure 6 fails. Measure 11 proves this poll was absolutely correct.

Rather than cutting spending, Measure 11 would lock into the constitution a permanent tax shift, guaranteeing greater, not less, spending.

Today, when current levels of government spending and taxing are a disaster, better a "flawed" Measure 6 than a "fraud" Measure 11.

Ned Potter
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Subscription rate: \$8.00 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler & Gilliam County; \$10.00 elsewhere. The Heppner GAZETTE-TIMES Morrow County's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper. The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow. Published every Thursday and entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon. G.M. Reed, Publisher; Dolores Reed, Co-publisher; Terry M. Hager, Managing Editor; Rick Steelhammer, News Editor; Eileen Saling, Office Manager; Justine Weatherford, Local Columnist; Gayle Rush, Composition; Kyra Query, Composition; Cindi Doherty, Advertising/Office; Ron Jordan, Printer.