

The Official Newspaper of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

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Jerome F. Sheldon, Publisher
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Sifting through the TIMES

1929

Fifty years ago \$75,000 was appropriated for the Heppner to Spray road thanks to the work of the Lions Club of Heppner. The members presented the needs of the community to the Highway Commission in Portland. The total cost had been estimated at \$300,000 for the entire road and the money appropriated would complete about one-quarter of the proposed project.

Schools were closed in the area because of a power shut-off. The schools could not use the heating system with-

out electricity.

About 70 persons gathered at the Elks Temple to hear the American Legion State Commander Sidney George give an inspiring speech about the patriotic veterans of World War I.

The lone men's town basketball team beat the high school squad 39-13. The town's women's team also beat the girls high school team 12-10.

The American Legion was decorating the town with small trees along Main Street and one large tree at the intersection of Main and Willow. The boys at Heppner

High School were helping to bring the small trees into town and put them in the sockets along the streets that are used for flags on patriotic occasions.

The Church of Christ was putting on a Christmas show entitled, "Follow the Star."

Boxing fans were getting set for the local bout between Ray Wise of Heppner and Harold Ahalt of Ione fighting at the 135 pound class and the match between Red Shipley of Ione and Russ Wright of Lexington in the 145 pound bout. Billy Logan of Ione and Gerald Swagart of Heppner were

scheduled to fight in the preliminary bout at 130 pounds and at 150 pounds. Quell Ray of Ione was going against Billy Smith of The Dalles.

A snow storm in Heppner caused a tremendous amount of damage to electricity and phone lines causing disruption to the businesses and homes in the community. Crews were working long hours to fix the problem. It snowed six inches.

1934

Twenty-five years ago Jack Bedford was named the new Chamber of Commerce president. Bedford was the First National Bank manager.

Livestock prices continued to climb as Albert Osmin of Heppner topped the market at the Hermiston livestock auction selling 10 hogs weighing 2,200 pounds for \$19.95 cwt. Top quality veal rose \$1.95 in one week from \$21.25 to \$23.10 cwt.

The Heppner Civic Center building was going to be torn down because the voters gave their support to remove all the old buildings on the north Main Street property and make it into a public park. The vote was close with 63 for and 55 against. The voters agreed on a one mill special levy tax to renovate the site.

Lexington re-elected its entire slate of public officials to another term in office at the first regularly scheduled election in five years.

More than 500 children came to Heppner to visit with Santa Claus.

1971

The Morrow County School Board adopted a school work experience program to set up in the schools. They had previous programs but this one had specific goals and a qualified instructor.

Seven Union Pacific Railroad freight cars and a caboose derailed north of Heppner.

The Irrigation City Council expressed concern about crime in the area and was hoping to have increased police protection. The council decided to look for ways to increase funding so additional deputies could be hired.

A Umatilla woman, Judy Noble, was crowned Miss Northwest Rodeo.

The Heppner Hotel had new owners, Jack and Betty Albert, and they were planning to restore the building. They bought the hotel for \$75,000.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, GRANDMA JONES!

from: Janet Kay, Pete, Linette and Randy

There Is a Bright Side

People in Heppner seem to be in shock over the news of the Kinzua Corporation's closure of its plywood mill and the company's merger with the Georgia-Pacific Corp. About half of Kinzua's labor force is to be laid off at the close of this week.

With about 150 people facing the loss of their jobs, the effects seemed rather immediate in the Heppner business community. Some retail merchants probably anticipated a drop in pre-Christmas sales. Some houses were put on the market and families may have made plans to leave the community and seek employment elsewhere.

To put it mildly, the news from Kinzua put a pall on the community during the time of year that should be the most joyous.

However the lives of 150 mill workers and their families may be affected, Heppner itself will continue—it has been here for over 100 years, the trading center for an agricultural, lumbering and mining area whose fortunes have ebbed and flowed with regional or national economic dips and turns. Heppner will survive, however hard it is for those immediately concerned.

Let's look at the bright side! Georgia-Pacific isn't buying the mill to lose money. They must have seen a great potential here or they would not have made the purchase. Nobody buys a loser!

Looking ahead to 1980, Morrow County may anticipate such spurts in the local economy as the probable start of construction of the Willow Creek dam and the firing up of Portland General Electric's generating plant near Boardman.



Early-day view of the Morrow County Courthouse.

Historical courthouse, predating 1903 flood, built of Oregon-quarried rock

(John F. Kilkenny, one-time Pendleton attorney and now a member of U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, has written the "cover story" for the December issue of the Oregon State Bar Bulletin, which features a picture of the Morrow County Courthouse.)

(The Bar Bulletin has been presenting various historic Oregon courthouses in its annual holiday issues. Kilkenny, whose office is in Portland, suggested that the courthouse in Heppner be featured this year.)

By John F. Kilkenny

The Morrow County Courthouse was authorized by a resolution introduced and passed at a regular session of the County Court on Jan. 11, 1902. Present at the meeting were A.G. Bartholomew, county judge; E.C. Ashbaugh, commissioner; J.L. Howard, commissioners; R.T. Hynd, secretary; and George Conger,

chairman of the Construction Committee. Nine days later the site was selected and on Feb. 20, 1902, Portland architect and contractor Edgar M. Jazernis was awarded a contract for the project. In May Frank DuPrat contracted to do the masonry work. The outer walls of the building are of native blue rock, trimmed in Flain sandstone, apparently quarried near Elgin in Union County. The tower clock and \$2,500 toward the cost of construction were presented to the county by the citizens of Heppner.

Laurence and Louis Monasterelli, well-known stone masons in eastern Oregon, cut and trimmed the stone for the entire building. The brothers, who were born in Lotta, Fanano, Modena, Italy, were masons for the Christian and Catholic churches in Pendleton, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Baker, and a number of other public and private buildings in

eastern Oregon, together with hundreds of headstones in cemeteries throughout Morrow and Umatilla counties.

The courthouse, constructed on the site of a previous wooden structure, was completed in March 1903. It has been in continuous use ever since that time and is one of the few remaining courthouses in Oregon constructed at the turn of the century. The circuit judge at the time of completion was W.R. Ellis.

In 1903, only three months after the completion of the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner, a flash flood devastated the town, killing one-fourth of the population. The tower clock, which had been donated by the citizens, chimed out 24 times—and stopped short.

Folklore? Maybe. But the people of Heppner, which boasts one of the most gracious courthouses in Oregon, retell the story proudly.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Hospitality for Hostages

Here's a Christmas idea that's spreading and is worthwhile.

Send a Christmas card to a hostage.

The idea started with a telephone call to a radio talk show and has since been picked up by President Carter with his encouragement.

If you were being held hostage over the Christmas holidays by hostile Iranians, what would be more encouraging than 50-million Christmas cards from home?

The cost of postage will be 31 cents if the Christmas card doesn't weigh over 1/2 ounce. It will cost 31 cents per 1/2 ounce up to two ounces. The average letter, spokesmen say, will weigh in at an ounce and the average Christmas card should get through at a half ounce. So, if you are going to mail one, make sure you get the proper postage on it or the post office may end up holding your Christmas card hostage.

All you have to do is mail your card to:

HOSTAGES
United States Embassy
260 Takhte Jamshid Ave.
Tehran, Iran

We wouldn't advise sending presents or gifts. You have to consider that any religious leader creepy enough to execute political opponents and hold innocent Americans hostage wouldn't be above petty theft.

On the other hand, several million Christmas cards to the hostages should cheer them up a bit if they think someone cares.

It also wouldn't hurt any for us to let the Iranians know that several million Americans are taking this whole thing personally.

The Americans being held hostage by the Iranians won't have much of a Christmas and all they've got to look forward to is trial by the Iranian revolutionary government.

About all we can send them is a Christmas card and a prayer.

—Central Oregonian, Prineville

Backing for Carter

President Carter must feel pretty good about the backing he's getting during the present crisis in Iran. That sense of national drift he identified earlier this year is all but gone. It's the kind of rally and spirit we've not seen in recent times.

Mr. Carter's swift and decisive move to freeze Iranian assets in this country has been greeted with wide approval. Even some of his most vocal critics, such as Republican Ronald Reagan, have applauded this action without reservation.

This is the kind of non-partisan backing our President needs in dealing with the Iranian crisis.

But the nation has been providing some clear signals to the White House that would be difficult to misunderstand.

The public expressed almost instant disapproval of Iranian student demonstrations. What followed was a presidential order for all Iranian guests in this country to report to the immigration service within thirty days or face deportation.

The day KATU released its survey of Oregonians who approved cutting this country loose from Iranian oil supplies was the day the White House announced it would no longer buy oil from Iran.

Another signal is going up. This time longshoremen of the ILWU are voting up and down the Pacific Coast. At issue is whether they will follow the lead of Portland longshoremen and refuse to load cargo onto Iranian vessels or ships bound for Iran no matter what their registry. A spokesman here in Portland thinks Local 8 will unanimously support the Iranian boycott, despite the loss in pay.

As long as Americans are held hostage, we should consider a total embargo of all commerce with Iran.

—TV editorial, KATU, Channel 2

"Conscience is the inner voice that warns us somebody may be looking."

Mencken

Editor's Notebook

The Gazette-Times owners formerly lived in an Alaskan city similar in size to Heppner where they published a newspaper. Palmer, Alaska, in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, was even then recovering from the closure of the coal mines a few miles away, even though that event had occurred several years before.

The mines at Sutton and Chickaloon had supplied fuel for heating and power generation in Anchorage. Before the Alaska Railroad converted its locomotives to diesel power, it too had used coal from the mines to run its trains.

An enterprising city manager brought Palmer out of its economic doldrums by establishing a city-owned industrial park and luring light industry to establish plants there. The biggest was a mobile home factory that moved to Alaska from Boise, Idaho.

With the construction of the Trans-Alaska pipeline, there was an economic boom that was felt even in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The trailer factory built modular units that were to be shipped to pipeline construction camps. The original management went bankrupt, more from poor management than lack of a market. A successor management took over the factory. The industrial park also drew an oxygen plant, a culvert factory, a lumber yard and miscellaneous warehouses. They helped provide an additional tax base for Palmer, as well as employment.

The only reason to mention these developments in far-away Alaska is that if Heppner experienced an economic

setback with the closure of the Kinzua plywood mill, there are steps that could be taken to make up the loss. We hope someone has the spirit to do so.

Congressman Al Ullman, who represents eastern Oregon in the U.S. House of Representatives, gets a plug of sorts in the latest New Yorker magazine.

The mention is in one of those space fillers that feature typographical errors in newspapers. It's from a story that appeared in the Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger, and identifies Ullman as chairman of the "Ways and Means Committee." Of course, he's chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, but New Yorker's quip is: "Make that 'Waves and Means Committee.'"

Ullman may be making waves on the Columbia over his proposed value added tax, which was the subject of the story.

The Oregon State Health Division writes about a nit-picking problem in a recent bulletin. This can be taken literally, for the subject of the bulletin is the head louse. Apparently this fall there has been a greater infestation of head lice among elementary school pupils than ever before.

Head lice emerge from eggs that are called nits. These are laid by the female louse close to the scalp. Lice are spread from person to person through shared combs, hats, coats, bedding and so forth. The life cycle of the louse is about 30 days, but during that lifetime they can cause people to be true nit-pickers.

Business Directory

Auto Parts

Heppner Auto Parts
NAPA 234 N.Main Heppner 676-9123

Floor Covering

M & R FLOOR COVERING
The Rapco Floor Coverings Carpet, Linoleum, Ceramic Tile, Kitchen Cabinets, Rapco Insulation 422 Linden Way Heppner 676-9418

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Monuments

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JAYNES BUSINESS MACHINES INC.
Service calls every Wednesday in Heppner, Ione and Lexington 332 S. Main St., Pendleton Telephone 276-6441 811 N. First, Hermiston Telephone 567-2731

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Morrow County Abstract & Title Company
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