

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

GAZETTE-TIMES
Morrow County's Home-Owned Weekly Newspaper

U.S.P.S. 240-420
Published every Wednesday 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. Office at 147 West Willow Street. Telephone (503) 676-9226.

Address communications to the Heppner Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, Oregon 97836. \$10 in Morrow, Umatilla, Wheeler & Gilliam counties; \$12 elsewhere.

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Letters to the Editor

ENUF field burning

To the editor:

Field burning of grass straw in the Willamette Valley is a year round concern, as it should be. It is of great concern to farmers, country residents and city dwellers alike. The director of EPA, Region X, in Seattle, made this puzzling statement: "... the current standards (of air pollution) average the air quality concentrations over periods of 24 hours and one year." This could be taken to mean that if there is enough smoke in one hour or one day to smother us all, then this, averaged over the whole year, should still make it possible for us to breathe. And that typifies the kind of bureaucratic non-thinking that we have so far endured, and we have had E.N.U.F.

Intelligent farmers have come to realize the millions and millions spent in bureaucratic research and development has produced lots of research, but only in certain areas. There has been precious little in the way of development. No bureaucratic agency is in a good position to develop markets - in this case, a market for ryegrass straw in any form. The private sector is doing in a flash, by contrast, what the clanking bureaucracy has only seemed to be doing for more than a decade.

I doubt anyone will quarrel with the fact that many youngsters at OSU have gained valuable training in research techniques. Such training is expensive, but very important. But for residents of Oregon to be told to pin their clean-air hopes on research and words - only - from EPA, DEQ or OEC and the like, is a sad farce. More especially when the research is in such narrow confines that even before it begins we know the likelihood of economic feasibility is lacking.

Private research and private industry are now engaged in producing the results we need; straw removal without burning or baling; development of markets for the straw, once removed. And thanks to 20th century Yankee ingenuity, there are very promising experiments in the wings. There are experiments to sanitize the fields with no smoke and with no after-effects. Stay tuned.

Folks outside the valley and in Eastern Oregon have also contended with the blinding summer haze for many years. DEQ has announced that Oregon, Idaho and Washington intend to jointly spend half a million dollars this year to find the source. Of course most anyone in the valley could answer that question in three words - open field burning. The smoke that rose from open field burning of ryegrass straw many miles away in the valley is now descending upon you. You drive with lights on in broad daylight along the Columbia; in the high country of central Oregon, and in the Klamath Falls area and beyond. DEQ thinks throwing money at a problem automatically produces solutions. What we need is the development that private industry is bringing about. Wise people are investing their money there.

Thousands of persons close to the source of this nuisance suffer miser-

Comparing state cultures

To the editor:

My name is Shelley Perkins and I'm a seventh grade student at Clyde Jr. High in Clyde, Ohio. We are studying comparative cultures between different states and countries and our hometown of Clyde.

I would really like to know what it's like to live in Oregon and was hoping that perhaps some of your readers would like to correspond

ably because of respiratory and pulmonary disorders; there are exorbitant medical bills and this is as true for the young as for the old. Merchants suffer grave losses of business because of the smoke. Farmers compassionate enough to realize this will tell you privately that they are as anxious to see an end to the problem as are all the rest of us. Field burning is extremely dangerous and it is expensive. Those who burn must stay close to home in case the order to burn can come any moment; the order to douse the flames, likewise. And this in the very height of our otherwise glorious summer.

The flap about Dioxin in field fire smoke is far from settled. O'Connell of DEQ said in the Albany "Democrat-Herald," Thursday, January 17, 1985 "... the extent of the problem of toxic compounds in smoke is not known ...". In the same article, a specialist in chemical toxicology and agricultural chemistry at OSU said: "I would not describe any chemical as being non-toxic ...". So, by encouraging seed growers to burn, despite these facts, and put toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, we seem to have created a department that is detrimental to environmental quality.

"Tourism", according to Russell Sadler, in the "Oregonian," Monday, January 21, 1985 "is more than just a means of survival." "The lesson (about the importance of tourism in Oregon's economy) has been lost on Oregonians who listen only to the loud voices that merely echo the sounds of their own immediate self-interest. It should not be lost on the Legislature as it gropes for ways to restructure Oregon economy." You and I know what tourists will do when they learn (as they will) about Oregon's "summer complaint" of smoky air. Bill Taylor, Oregon state travel director, said in an article in the "Democratic Herald," December 22, 1984, "... we need tourists." "If we don't get that extra tourism dollar, you're not going to have a job."

An organization has been formed to help bring an end to this unwelcome condition. Working quietly to link and expedite progress on objectives, it calls itself ENUF (End Noxious Unhealthy Fumes). For those who still believe Oregon residents are "sleeping dogs" that will roll over and play dead as the black smoke engulfs them - please remember the old saw "... the tail that wags the dog." A minuscule segment of the population (those who insist there is no way to remove the straw from the fields economically without burning it) - wave that tail briskly every summer. The rest of us represent the supposedly sleeping dog. But all the while this old dog has been lying with one eye deceptively closed - thinking, thinking, and seeing, very clearly, how things really are.

Wise grass seed farmers are now joining with this old dog in seeing the marvelous opportunity to market a product without making everyone will or angry. And, as Granny used to say: "There is none so blind as he who will not see." Stay tuned.

Yours, for air fit to breathe,
(s) Bill Johnson
enuf is ENUF

with me. Could you print my letter in your paper, so your readers might possibly help me get an "A" on my report? Maybe I can also obtain some pen pals my age. I wrote to a newspaper in Canada and I got a lot of letters and a few pen pals. I hope I get a lot from Oregon.

Thanks very much for your time!
Yours Truly,
(s) Shelley Perkins
439 Ames St.
Clyde, Ohio
43410

Obituaries

Thomas C. Huston

Thomas C. Huston, 61, died Friday morning, Feb. 8, 1985, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Heppner May 26, 1923, son of Thomas and Marietta (Phillips) Huston.

During World War II, he served with the Navy. After his return he operated a sheep and wheat ranch in the Eightmile and Burton Valley areas. He moved into Heppner in 1981.

Huston was a member of the Heppner BPOE 358.

Surviving are daughter Claudia Huston of Heppner; son Thomas C. Huston III, Heppner; sisters Jane Rawlins of Heppner, and Jeanne Dobbs of Kihai, Hawaii.

Funeral services were held Monday, Feb. 11 at the Heppner Elks Temple, with concluding service and interment at the Heppner Masonic Cemetery.

Those who wish may contribute to the Tom Huston Memorial Fund For the Needy, through the First Interstate Bank, Heppner branch.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

D.G. 'Jack' Loyd

Graveside funeral for D.G. "Jack" Loyd, was at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Olney Cemetery, Pendleton. Loyd, 76, died at his home in Heppner.

He was born Aug. 14, 1908, at Wallowa, the son of Lonnie and Albin (Finley) Loyd.

He was graduated from Eastern Oregon State College in LaGrande and began his teaching career at Ukiah in the early 1930s.

He later taught at Echo and John Day before entering the armed forces during World War II.

Following military service he returned teaching. He later moved to Heppner where he and his brother, Tom, purchased and operated the Nobles Saddle Shop. Loyd was manager of the Tum-A-Lum lumber yard in Heppner for several years and later returned to teaching, working in the lone school until his retirement in 1970.

Loyd was a member of Heppner BPOE 358 and the All Saints Episcopal Church in Heppner.

A son, Tim Loyd, Pendleton, survives.

Friends who wish may contribute to the Pioneer Memorial Hospital fund.

Sweeney Mortuary, Heppner, was in charge of arrangements.

Planning meeting date changed

The lone Planning Commission meeting has been postponed from the regularly scheduled meeting

Sheriff's Report

The Morrow County Sheriff's Office at the Morrow Co. Courthouse in Heppner reports handling or dispatching the following business during the past week:

On February 4, the Heppner Police Dept. responded to a two-vehicle, no-injury accident on Main Street.

On February 6, a Heppner ambulance responded to Les Schwab Tire Center and transported a male with an injury to Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

On February 8, the Morrow County Sheriff's Office responded to a one-vehicle, no-injury accident on Hwy. 730 involving Richard A. Hruska, Roseburg.

On February 9, the Heppner Police Department arrested Ralph T. Marlatt, 49, Heppner on a charge of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants. He was released on his own recognizance.

Also on February 9, the Heppner Police Dept. responded to a two-vehicle, no-injury accident.

Justice Court Report

Morrow County Justice Court at the Morrow County Courthouse in Heppner reports handling the following cases during the past week:

James Clifford Freeman, Cayuse - No Operator's License, \$57 fine and reimburse cost of jury trial.

Stephen Leroy Groce, Hermiston - Exceeding the Maximum Speed (65 mph in a 55 mph zone), \$13 fine.

Stephen Scott Dougherty, Heppner - Violation of the Basic Rule (41 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$30 fine.

John Wesley Ferrel, Lexington - Violation of the Basic Rule (40 mph in a 25 mph zone), \$30 fine.

David Michael Gage, Heppner - Disorderly Conduct, \$287 fine, all but \$107 suspended and 10 days in jail suspended to one year probation with no further violations of the law.

Hospital Notes

Rose Marie Buschke, Heppner, was admitted to Pioneer Memorial Hospital February 6 and discharged from the hospital February 7.

Judy Hampton, Heppner was admitted to the hospital February 4 and was still receiving care at press time Monday.

Sifting
through the
Times

10 Years Ago
February 13, 1975
City police arrested three men on charges of passing bogus checks to several Heppner merchants on Friday and Saturday.

Senator Mike Thorne of Umatilla County was the scheduled principal speaker at the Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting.

25 Years Ago
February 11, 1960
Heppner suffered its greatest fire loss in several years Sunday night when flames threatened to destroy the Heppner Hotel. Damage estimated at \$12,000 was caused before the fire was controlled.

Governor Mark Hatfield and Morrow County officials reviewed at a meeting Monday preliminary plans for a 100,000 acre space age industrial park on the Columbia River in Morrow County.

"Hardman residents made a concerted effort at the county school board meeting Monday night to win approval for the reopening of their closed grade school, but the board

stood on the previous decision to keep the school closed and transport the students to Heppner.

50 Years Ago
February 14, 1935
Chas. W. Barlow was named to fill the two unexpired years of Gay M. Anderson who resigned as Morrow County Clerk. Barlow then appointed Mary Chaffee, Boardman, as deputy.

The city council authorized the purchase of a power grader which could be operated by one man to be used in keeping the streets in shape. "Purchase of the machine was endorsed by the council with the belief that more adequate maintenance can be done with it at less cost than with the horse-drawn equipment formerly used."

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Correction

A story in last week's Gazette-Times with the headline "Fire Extinguished" contained incorrect information. The house where the fire occurred was owned by Adelle La Trace (whose name was misspelled). She says that the house is rented by Larry Brodtkorb, not by the person named in the story. The Gazette-Times regrets the error.

Mayor sets Sat. office hours

Heppner Mayor, Cara Costa will hold office hours this Saturday morning from 9 a.m. til noon at City Hall.

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THANK YOU
All of us at Morrow County Grain Growers would like to thank everyone who attended our Customer Appreciation Day last Saturday for making it a huge success.

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Friends and relatives are invited to an Open House in honor of Lloyd Howton's 80th Birthday.
Saturday, Feb. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.
191 E. Gladys Avenue
First United Methodist Church
Hermiston, OR.
No gifts please

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