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The Heppner

Morrow County's Home-Owned Newspaper

G-T azette Times

VOL 105 NO. 52 Wednesday, December 30, 1987 Heppner 25¢ 10 Pages

Ruby Steers tells of her life in the Philippines



Ruby Steers, a former Heppner resident, is currently a resident of Samar, in the Philippines. Samar is the third largest island in the Philippines, consisting of 55,000 square kilometers.

She has been in the Philippines for 16 months, serving on a mission for her church. She was called home because of her mother's illness, but has plans to return after the first of January.

Ruby and another woman, a teacher, share a house in Samar. They have electricity and water but "it comes and goes", and they do their own laundry "by hand" says Ruby. They have beds but the natives sleep on mats on the floor. A young girl lives with them and does the cooking, cleaning and interpreting for them. Their nearest phone is Calbayog, 7 kilometers away.

The natives eat mostly rice and fish, but Ruby says their diet consists of bread they buy every day from a

boy that comes by, and meat and vegetables. The bread is made in a bakery. The people do not have ovens so they cannot bake, and bread is a luxury few can afford. Vegetables are very abundant and they get mung beans, cabbage, green beans, carrots, potatoes and numerous kinds of squash. At 6 a.m. on Sunday mornings is the only time to buy meat. You can purchase pork or carabow. Since there is no refrigeration, you can only buy what you can eat. Their other purchases are made at open markets. Ruby says these markets smell very bad, and she doesn't go there often.

Ruby's job is teaching the children. The people in the Philippines pretty much ignore the education of their children. Ruby is trying to change that by convincing the people that they need to start teaching the children so they can become useful adults. There is a very large drug problem in the Philippines. The conditions are such that they can grow marijuana in a couple of days and a lot of people use it. She is convinced that if you educate the children as to the harm the drugs can do, you will have a healthier culture.

The people in the Philippines are very small, they are, however, a very kind, loving and polite group of people. They are very clean, always bathing (which they do with their clothes on, outside) and always washing their hair. "They have beautiful hair," according to Ruby. They have free hospitals in the Philippines. The care is free, however, the patients have to take their own bedding supplies and must pay for medications, such as an I.V., would cost about 100 pesos or four days wages. Most of the people cannot afford to go to the hospitals.

The average age is 40 years. Many, many people die there, especially children. Any illness such as the flu will kill hundreds of people. She thinks it must partially be their diet consisting mainly of rice and fish, that causes this.

The temperature ranges from 70-93 degrees year around. This combined with monsoon rains make a good rice harvest of which they have three per year. They still plow their fields with carabow. Farming has not changed the way of life for hundreds of years.

The closest large city is Manila. The thing that Ruby most noticed when visiting there is the huge number of security guards present. They are at the banks, department stores, just everywhere. The security people make up the largest number of employed people there. There are very many unemployed people and the job market is almost non-existent.

Ruby is presently building a church made of blocks with Napa (Thatched) roofs. It will consist of a place to worship and pastors quarters. She hopes to be able to stay long enough to complete her church. This time of year is very special. The Philippine Christians there are up very early every morning singing at 4:30 a.m. They start celebrating Christmas the last of October by singing Christmas carols and shooting fireworks, and then on January 10, it just "stops". Ruby says this is a very joyous time and it is easy to get caught up in the season.

4-H'ers benefit from Grieb's experience

Not all 4-H'ers can travel to Washington D.C., but all Morrow members had an opportunity to learn about the National 4-H office and the capital through the eyes of Julie Grieb.

Grieb, a former Morrow 4-H member who is staff assistant in the National 4-H Center, Washington, D.C. shared part of her Christmas vacation with 4-H as she presented a special program Sunday at Dodge City, Boardman. She encouraged 4-H'ers to learn what opportunities are available state wide, regionally, and nationally through their membership.

Grieb, and OSU graduate has worked in Washington for 4 years. Currently her assignments are directing regional and national leader and member conferences.

"4-H showed me the way to a satisfying career," she said.

She stressed staying involved and taking advantage of the many opportunities available through the 4-H program.

G-T to be closed

The Gazette will be closed at noon Thursday Dec. 31 and Friday Jan. 1. The staff wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

Correction

Mark Fishburn was incorrectly identified as Bryan Padberg in last week's basketball photo. Sorry Mark.

County and Road Department reach agreement

Morrow County residents will be pleased to know that there has been an agreement reached between Morrow County and the County Road Department employees, members of Local 2479 AFL-CIO. County road employees have been working without a contract since July of 1987 while negotiations have been underway.

Morrow County Judge, Louis Carlson said that the new contract will be effective through June 30, 1990. Signing of the actual contract will take place next week if the final document can be completed and reviewed by both parties during the holiday period.

At issue between the parties were salaries and benefit packages.

Negotiators working through a mediator arrived at a contract that provided for a 5.7% wage increase for each of the first two years and a formula based cost-of-living index increase for the third and final year of the contract plus a 25¢ per hour wage increase.

Employee medical and insurance benefits were agreed to be capped at the 1987 dollar levels. This cap will allow employees to choose which level of medical insurance fits their needs most appropriately. Any additional coverage that they choose beyond the cap level will be paid by the employee.

Carlson said that he felt that the new contract puts Morrow County Road Employees on an equal par with

surrounding counties of equal size and economic condition. He also said that the County is now concentrating its efforts on standardizing road construction and maintenance operations. In addition, certain pieces of equipment that are costing an excessive amount of dollars are to be budgeted for replacement.

The County Road Advisory Committee will be meeting Monday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Public Works Dept. in Lexington to discuss with the employees the contract, the Willow Creek Project and the draft plan segments of the six year road plan. Other interested parties are welcome to attend, Carlson said.

Tidewater Barge Lines refuses to submit bid for garbage disposal

Tidewater Barge Lines did not submit a bid for disposal of Portland's Garbage last week, because, according to company officials, "we put our name on the line on this project, and we're not about to give that up."

Tidewater is proposing to build an 800 acre landfill near Finley Buttes in northern Morrow County. The landfill would accept residential and commercial garbage from communities along the river, and Tidewater is very interested in signing a long-term contract with Portland's metro district to handle the waste when the St. John's landfill closes.

However, Metro (the service district which governs waste disposal in the Portland area) last week asked for bids on three separate parts of the waste disposal system, a condition Tidewater was unwilling to accept.

"We told Morrow County that Tidewater would be the only one they would have to deal with," said Skip Hart from Tidewater's headquarters in Vancouver, "and that's the way we want it." He said bidding on the project separately would put Morrow County and the Port of Morrow in the position of having to deal with Metro directly. "That's not the way we set ours up. We set it up as a total package," said Hart. Tidewater originally proposed it would handle the entire operation from collection stations, to transportation to operation of the landfill.

Metro asked for separate bids on each phase of the operation. "I think they were a little surprised we didn't submit a bid," said Hart.

The only company submitting a bid was Oregon Waste Systems, a newly formed subsidiary of Waste Management of North America, Inc. Waste Systems plans on building a similar disposal site in Gilliam County.

Waste Systems submitted a bid December 21 of \$19.50 per ton, which covers only for the landfill, and not for collection stations or transportation, Hart pointed out.

"There's nothing glamorous about their figures," said Hart, and he indicated talks are still going on between Tidewater and Metro. "It's not over," he said.

According to a news release from Waste Systems, Metro has 180 days to accept or reject its bid.

The waste disposal sites in both Gilliam and Morrow Counties could accept up to 20,000 tons of waste per day, and have a life of 20 years.

Both sites presently have operating permit applications before the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, which must approve the sites before either company can go into construction.

Farmer's tax guide now available

The 1987 Farmer's Tax Guide is now available at the Morrow County Extension Office. For a free copy, stop by at the Pettyjohn Building, or call 676-9642.

The tax guide is intended to help farmers and ranchers prepare their 1987 tax returns. It is published each year by the Internal Revenue Service, to help farmers and ranchers understand tax law changes as they pertain to agri-business.

Portions of the 1987 Tax Guide that may be special interest to guide users this year are sections on investment tax credit, depreciation, expen-

ding, financial leases, cash accounting, prepayment of expenses and debt restructuring.

In addition, the guide contains lists of important tax dates, and tips for good record keeping. Sample tax forms are included, along with a list of other IRS tax publications that may be of use to farmers and ranchers.

The updated version of the tax guide is based, in part, on advice provided to the IRS by the Extension Service of the USDA, and the various state Extension Service of the U.S.'s land grant universities.

Angell to write Sports



Craig Angell

Craig Angell will be writing J.V. sports for the Gazette. Craig is a member of Outdoor Club. He has also been a class representative for his class. Craig likes all sports, and has been a member of the football team for three years, and baseball for two years. "I just like to write about sports," he says, when asked why he wanted to do this.

Craig has two brothers and one sister that all live in Heppner. He is the son of Bobbie Angell and Larry Angell, both of Heppner.

He also enjoys bird hunting, and deer and elk hunting. Welcome to the Gazette, Craig.

Last performance for Take IV



(Back) Jim Ackley, Kevin Gutierrez, (front) Rick Myer, Scott Arnson

Take IV band will be making their final performance together as a group, this New Year's Eve at the Elks Lodge. However, the group is not disbanding. Jim Ackley and Rick Myer will be moving on and expanding their interests. Other members of the band include Kevin Gutierrez, Heppner and Scott Arnson, LaGrande.

Steve Sather of Heppner is being worked into Jim's spot in the band and Tim Hines, LaGrande, will be playing some with the band after this week.

The band offers a wide variety of music from Country to Top 40 Rock

and Funk. Take IV as a band has worked with country stars such as The Hager Twins, Susan Rae, Patsy Sledd, Kenny Price, Johnny Patton and the Coffey Twins, a 50's and 60's band from the Hermiston area. Take IV and the Coffey Twins have proudly combined efforts and raised thousands of dollars for Meadowood Speech Camp through fundraising benefits.

Be sure to stop by and give your best wishes to these men and enjoy an evening of good music.

The band will be playing from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m.

Weather Report

December 22 - 28

	High	Low	Prec.	Snow
Tues.	39	18	.02	1/8" new
Wed.	32	15	.0	
Thurs.	39	12	.0	
Fri.	24	12	.0	
Sat.	22	17	.0	
Sun.	23	15	.0	
Mon.	22	15	.0	

Market Report

Compliments of the Morrow County Grain Growers

Tuesday, Dec. 29

	Soft White	
Dec.		\$3.09
Jan.		\$3.11/\$3.13
Feb.		\$3.14/\$3.15
Barley		
Dec.		\$8.7T
Jan.		\$8.8T
Feb.		\$8.9T
PIK		103 1/2 %
Hard Red Winter		\$3.18

Nelson to run for House of Representatives



Michael Nelson

Businessman Michael R. Nelson announced that he will seek election to the Oregon House of Representatives from District 59.

Nelson, age 40, is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the Oregon

Tourism Council and was recruited to serve as a member of Governor Goldschmidt's Transition Team. An active real estate broker, Nelson said he will work to strengthen the resource-based economy of timber, agriculture and mining while actively promoting a growing industry—tourism.

"With an urban-oriented legislature in Oregon, my job will be to promote the land and what it yields—whether it is crops, timber, minerals or scenic vistas," said Nelson. "These are the resources that can create family-wage jobs," he added, "and we need stable jobs for the people of District 59."

He and his wife, Jane have two college age children, John at Willamette University and Jennifer at Lutheran Bible College in Tacoma. He is a member and Councilman of the First Lutheran Church in Baker.

4 Year CD

8.25%

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