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Town Crier

By Pat Savage

Christmas is over and the New Year of 1977 fast approaches. Now is the time to be thinking of all those new resolutions you can make, and then break. Anyway whether you are a resolution maker or not, now is the time for some serious reflections of how we went through the year of 1976 and how we can do better with each passing month of 1977. Lots of food for thought.......

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Can you believe this warm and sunny weather? Feels more like March or April doesn't it? Someone told me their lilac bushes are all budded. Can't complain even though we scrape the frost off the car windows each morning, when it gets between 40 and 50 degrees in the afternoon. Sorry skiers!

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I've seen Nyssa quiet before, but Christmas Day seemed unusually so. All the merchants shut their doors and outside of seeing the Boy Scouts (really George Hirai and his son Lynn) putting the flags out Christmas morn, the whole town was under wraps. By the way, the flags looked pretty and lent the air of an old-fashioned American Christmas.

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If you're feeling generous remember the blood bank will be here the 29th. This generosity has no price tag attached. Just takes a little time and honest effort. Probably be the most inexpensive present you gave the whole holiday season.

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This holiday has meant a lot of family, lots of love, lots of sharing, lots of warm feelings and many more things to numerous to mention. Let's keep these things in mind as we face the New Year. Try to keep hostilities and dark thoughts out of our minds. Let's try to remember

our neighbors and friends and treat them as we would want to be treated. Be a little less selfish and much more humble, radiate love and peace.

Happy New Year To All!!

REMINDER - BLOOD DONORS NEEDED, Especially those with Type O Positive blood.

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will be in Nyssa, Wednesday, December 29 at the Eagles Hall. Hours for the drawing are 2-6 p.m.

All persons 18 and over, high school students, college students, parents, grandparents, everyone is urged to donate blood. Try to make this drawing meet the quota. Lets all give so others may live.

WEATHER

Date	Max.	Min.
Dec. 21	31	12
Dec. 22	36	13
Dec. 23	35	20
Dec. 24	37	15
Dec. 25	38	17
Dec. 26	46	23
Dec. 27	50	26
Dec. 28		17

Owyhee Reservoir Storage
12-27-76 467,090 Acre Feet
12-27-75 588,970 Acre Feet

Short History Told Of Local Hospital

By Patricia Werner

The cornerstone of Malheur Memorial Hospital was laid on November 14, 1948, a climax of many painstaking efforts which preceded it and destined to be the beginning of many toilsome hours of self-denying efforts until final completion.

Tentative plans had been to hold the cornerstone program on November 11, Armistice Day since much fund raising publicity had been made of a "living memorial" erected in honor of those who served in World War II. However, after the hospital was built MMH was dedicated not only to those who fought for the preservation of our country but also for those who were fighting for health care for our community as quoted in the Gate City Journal..."It is built in memory of everyone who contributed, from the lady with her pennies and nickels to the largest donor we have on our books."

The opening was held on September 24, with over 2,000 visitors being guided through the new life-saving complex. That Sunday was quite a day for the community. It was the crowning point of seven years of dreams, sweat and dedication which was now a reality. Many participated in the opening ceremony but Dr. J. J. Sarazin, expressed in a few short words the emotions of many. "We have here the evidence of your work, which is more eloquent than any words I could express. When one stops to think of a community of this size which can set their hearts together for the purpose of benefiting humanity, it is almost unbelievable what has been accomplished... We must remember that this is just the commencement and our support must be continued in the future as it has been in the past. I feel sure from your past performance, **there is no doubt about the future success of the hospital."**

And succeed, Malheur Memorial Hospital did! In 1952, just three years after opening for business MMH was appointed the Eastern Oregon Center for the polio epidemic which was becoming the disaster of the fifties. Again the generosity of the community took effect. The Nyssa Hospital Auxiliary went to work selling Gate City Journal subscriptions and other fund raising projects. Due to this and other contributions from FHa Vale Livestock Auction, FFA, Patch and Chat Club, New Plymouth American Legion, to list a few, needed supplies and equipment were purchased.

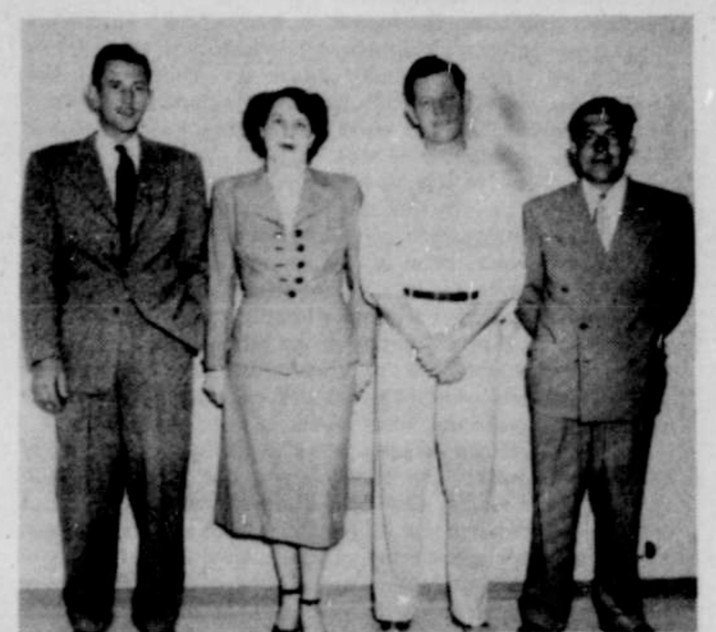
To quote a national news release "Mercy knew no boundry lines and at the request of health authorities, the Board of Directors of this community hospital assumed the risk and burden of becoming the **only** polio treatment center for victims from Malheur, Payette, Canyon, Umatilla, Baker, Harney Grand and Union counties. From June 30 to July 21, 1952, 81 severe polio cases were admitted. Of this number, only ten were from Nyssa. This great humanitarian sacrificial service on the part of the only hospital in eight counties that treated severe polio cases, attracted national attention. This hospital demonstrated then and ever since, that there are no boundary lines, city county or state, in it's service to humanity."

OPENING DAY at Malheur Memorial Hospital September 24, 1950.

In January 1969, a rest home was added to the hospital. The Nursing Home was attractively designed with a living room, easy chairs, reading lamps and other essentials to give it the "homey" effect. Since it's origin it has been filled to capacity with a waiting list of applicants desiring admittance. In July 1976, the Nursing Home was extended to include eight more beds. As in 1954, those making their home at the hospital reflect the comfortable natural atmosphere in their happy countenances. No discrimination is made as to race, color, sex, or creed.

Due to the financial situation in MMH in 1959, the eleven-man Board of Directors proposed the formation of a hospital taxing district. It was approved by the association members and on March 14, 1959, voters approved the Hospital District with more than 2 to 1 vote. Effective July 1, 1959, MMH became a taxing unit which it remains until today. In those seventeen years the hospital has only asked for one increase outside of the limitation and that was in 1965.

The future of MMH will be determined on January 11, 1977. Quoting from the Gate City Journal 1959, "The support of the Hospital must be a continuous task and in order to be successful will always require the backing of the local citizens." Malheur Memorial Hospital continuing in service --meeting a continuing need.



LEADING MEMBERS of the Malheur Memorial Hospital Founders Service Organization. Left to right, Fred Bracken, Kay Brendle, Bob Thompson, Wilton Jackson. (Photo taken in 1950)

Babson's Business and Financial Forecast for the Year 1977

Babson's Business and Financial Forecast for 1977

By Babson's Reports Inc., Wellesley Hills, Massachussetts, December 30, 1976. Although surrounded a year ago by fears that the then young business recovery might peter out, the staff of Babson's Reports went ahead and issued a reassuring forecast calling for further economic progress in 1976. At the same time, however, we warned that there would not be a return to outright boom conditions because of the absence of such vital ingredients as massive business capital outlays, positive inventory accumulation, and aggressive consumer demand. In retrospect, 1976 did chalk up additional progress, even though economic conditions were indeed a mixed bag. As predicted, consumer spending lacked vigor during much of the past year, capital spending for new plant and equipment was hesitant, and business inventory policies were cautious.

1977 Outlook Promising

As 1976 bows out and 1977 makes its debut, studies conducted by the Research Department of Babson's Reports indicate that the upbeat in economic activity can be sustained during the coming twelvemonth. The post-recession revival which began in the spring of 1975 is still far short of maturity. In fact, it should have enough vitality to extend its life span beyond the average length of cyclical recovery-expansion phases seen in the past. There have yet to develop the major economic imbalances which have signaled such reversals before.

Strength In The First Half

In the 1976 Forecast, we looked for economic strength to be concentrated early in the year, and indeed the most impressive year-to-year gain was registered in the first quarter. As of now, it appears likely that in 1977 the high point will occur in the second quarter, owing principally to the probable extra thrust from strike-hedge inventory accumulation in the face of Big Steel labor talks.

Year-to-year gains are expected in the second half of 1977 over the like 1976 period, but the shape of business progress will be influenced by the steel industry's labor negotiations. Protracted work stoppages could depress production readings for a month or two, but even then business activity for the second half should be able to hold above the prior year. Amittedly, however, the advances over a year ago will likely be more moderate in the second half than for the first two quarters of the approaching annum.

Light Overcast Ahead

While overall prospects for 1977 are favorable, the economy will not be free of trouble spots. One of the most important will be the dampened but still unquenched fire of inflation, which in recent years has wrought havoc with public confidence. Part of the inflation potential is the economy's vulnerability to rising energy costs from a hike in OPEC oil prices and the possibility of even higher prices for domestic natural gas. There will also be pressure on industrial wholesale prices in the wake of climbing wages and other operating costs. In addition, the labor front will be active again. Besides the steel industry, the railroads and some construction groups face contract negotiations. On the international scene, there will be military and monetary points that must be carefully watched.

Gross National Product

U.S. gross national product (GNP)--the value of goods and services produced--in current dollars should be able to score an increase rate of expansion scored by GNP in 1976 over 1975. Because of the pattern of year-ago growth during 1976--sizable margin in the first quarter, but disappointingly modest gains in the ensuing three quarterly periods--the GNP in 1977 may well score its widest improvement during the second quarter.

In terms of constant dollars (ex inflation), the nation's real GNP will move ahead at a milder pace. The rate of inflation is expected to account for about half the GNP in current dollars, which means that the real GNP may increase by only about 6% over the deflated GNP of 1976. Although such an increment may seem moderate, it would actually represent a respectable annual rise in terms of the economy's historical rebate of growth.

Strength from the Private Sector

A vital feature of the outlook for 1977 business is the likelihood that the bulk of the anticipated upthrust will stem from the private sector of the economy. Consumer expenditures for personal consumption should be inthe forefront of the rise in the GNP. Over much of 1976, consumers have been reluctant to buy, but the staff of Babson's Reports looks for some loosening of purse strings in the year ahead. There should be good support from residential construction too, expecially since multi-family units have showed signs of a rebound in the latter days of 1976, whereas most of the comeback in home building had previously been borne by single-family units. Spending on services, long in a well defined uptrend, should continue to move higher. There will be increased government spending but this will not bolster demand for goods substantially as much of the rise in outlays must be allocated for wages, climbing prices for supplies, and debt service.

Inflation Will Remain Worrisome

In 1976 some progress was made in the task of braking the inflation rate. Much credit must be accorded the food sector, which benefited from another bumper outturn of agricultural products. In the second half of 1976, however, prices of industrial commodities took a turn upward. Though the fever of inflation has been dramatically lowered from the heights of 1973 and 1974, it has not been completely beaten into submission. The tempo of inflation during 1977 is expected to average around 6%, showing little change from that of 1976. While there is still considerable under-utilized productive capacity to militate against a sharp resurgence of inflation, a downward tendency in food prices will not be notable in the year ahead. Furthermore, increases in wages and operating expenses will be reflected in price mark-ups, tempered only by the limiting factor of competition. Hence, in public psychology, inflation will undoubtedly continue to be a dark threat. Such concern could become greatly aggravated if government spending and expansion of the money supply should be emphasized in an effort to solve the serious unemployment problem.

Industrial Production

During much of 1976, industrial output trended upward. But some hesitancy was seen in the late summer and early fall due in part to the auto strike and the deceleration in the economy. The pause in the recovery of industrial activity, however, should be supplanted by renewed vitality during the first six months of 1977. The outcome of labor talks in the steel industry and the magnitude of strike-hedge inventory accumulation will, of course, determine the profile of the production curve in the second half of the year. A long strike would hurt industrial output, but the absorption of steel inventories during the stoppage would result in a rebound after the strike. On the other hand, if a walkout were brief or entirely averted industrial production should be well maintained, although upward momentum would probably be checked until stockpiles were digested

For much of 1976, year-to-year monthly comparisons of industrial production showed substantial margins of gain over 1975 simply because the early portion of 1975 saw industrial output in a sharp slump. While the remaining months enjoyed a rebound, production rates were still well below the 1973-1974 peak range. Year-ago comparisons in 1977 will reveal more limited gains, but the net result for the full year should be an increase of about 4% over 1976. This will not match the expected climb in the real GNP because the production index does not include services--and make-work programs to reduce the jobless ranks will doubtless emphasize service-type employment. Still, industrial production will move into new high ground, at least during the first half of the new year. Among the stronger lines should be autos and trucks, motor vehicle parts (both original and replacement items), aluminum, fabricated metal products, lumber and forest products, computer and peripheral equipment, home furnishings and minerals extraction (assuming no protracted coal mine strike).

Change In Inventory Policies?

During parts of 1973 and 1974, businessmen unwisely stockpiled inventories in anticipation of higher prices and possible shortages, and at a time of already brisk demand. This demand sustained business at a peak level some six months or so, but when the inevitable correction arrived, virtual panic liquidation precipitated the painful recession of late 1974 and early 1975. Since then, inventory policies have been wary. Until recently there has been little incentive to do much in the way of forward buying. After all, consumer demand has been indecisive and spotty, prices have ruled on the weak side, and there has been more than enough productive capacity for most items. But some inventory accumulation is likely, much of this in steel and ferrous-based products as a hedge against a possible steel strike. Stronger consumer demand and the upturn in industrial commodity prices will also encourage forward buying, though we doubt that inventory accumulation will be carried to excess.

More Support From Capital Spending

Economic observers who have been skeptical of the lasting power of the current business recovery point to the lack of vibrancy in business investment for new plant and equipment. This is not an abnormal development, however, during the early-to-middle phase of an economic cyclical expansion. At such a time, the fact of ample underutilized productive capacity forces management to focus on the activation of existing facilities. Not until the surplus productive capacity deminishes will budget allocations for new capital equipment become markedly more liberal.

While there are still differences of opinion as to how much surplus productive capacity actually exists in the economy, the rate of industrial output has certainly reached a level where management thing turns increasingly to the matter of hiking capacity and making overall operations more efficient. The fact is that 1976 has experienced some pickup in orders for capital equipment, though on a spotty basis. During 1977 we expect business capital outlays to advance approximately 10% over the 1976 average. Much of this will be the result of purchases of new equipment rather than large-scale construction of new plants or additions. Environmental protection requirements will continue to capture a significant share of business capital expenditures. So, there is little likelihood that 1977 will see a capital spending boom of the type that nurtured the periods of economic upsurge

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