



H&N photo by Dov Pearl

Louis Du Brey checks Dorr Hite's new hearing aids last week. Hite, a Merrill resident, received the hearing aids at no charge, thanks to the generosity of Du Brey and the Merrill Lions Club.

Suddenly, Hite can hear again

By MARK SCHWINDT
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Life will now be a little easier for a hard-of-hearing Merrill resident, thanks to the help of the Merrill Lions Club and the generosity of a Klamath Falls audiologist.

Dorr Hite, an apartment building manager in Merrill, was recently fitted with a pair of hearing aids he could not have afforded on his own.

This was intended not only to improve Hite's life, but also the lives of everyone who meets up with Hite during the course of the day.

Hite, 80, is hearing impaired, and everyone who has talked to him recently knows it.

Before receiving the hearing aids, Hite thought everyone talked too softly, and only he spoke loudly enough to be heard. As an apartment building manager in Merrill, Hite talks with many people, who often leave with his conversation still ringing in their ears.

"I was almost afraid to talk in the apartments," he said.

Hite submitted a request for funds for hearing aids to the Merrill Lions Club. Usually, the Lions Club pays up to \$150 for glasses and hearing aids, said Bob Trotman, chairman of the sight and hearing committee for the Lions.

Louis Du Brey, owner of Basin Audiology, came forward to pay for the hearing aids himself.

Du Brey gives away a dozen or so hearing aids each year. He provides them to people who are in financial need and whose improved hearing will benefit many others.

A sociable man, Hite comes into contact with many people each day. Now that Hite will speak in a softer tone of voice, there may be fewer earaches in Merrill.

In addition, though, Hite will be a walking reminder of the need for the people to get their hearing checked.

Du Brey said Hite's hearing loss is most likely related to his serving in an artillery unit during World War II and working as an 18-wheeler truck driver for eight years.

Hite's new hearing aid will adjust itself to detect high and low sounds. He will not need to adjust it. Hite's hearing aids and ear molds cost about \$1,050 for each ear.