

EDITORIAL



No Financing Plan, No Sewer System

No official action has been taken by the city council relative to financing payment of a bond issue for the construction of a sewer system and until some definite plan is accepted and put into motion there will be nothing done towards construction of disposal facilities.

The council is unanimously agreed on the necessity of a sewer system, but there is a lack of agreement on the best method of financing the project. It is possible that if a vote were taken on the proposal to place an assessment of from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per water meter the motion might pass the council. Such a method would not meet with popular favor, but it must be born in mind that Heppner is expected to install a sewer system and so far as has come to our attention there is no painless way of paying for anything. The proposal would place the burden of payment on those directly benefited by the sewer system.

Between this factor and the necessity of constructing a sewer system lies the answer the council must choose, and soon. Those who have studied the local phase of the financing problem are convinced that any attempt to float a bond issue for the purpose will not meet with success in the bond market, even if that method were given a substantial approval by the taxpayers. The fact that water bonds in the sum of \$65,000 are outstanding, to which \$200,000 for sewer construction would be added would not look inviting to a bond buyer when he knows that the valuation of the city is approximately \$1,050,000. With this knowledge of the case, the council is faced with the job of devising a plan that will retire a certain amount of the bond issue. The water meter charge has worked successfully in other places, Pendleton, for instance, and it would be a big lift in securing a working fund here if put into practice at once. Pendleton, so it is said, started in during the early part of the war collecting additional funds from water users to build up a fund for sewer extensions. It is a much larger place and has many more meters to collect from, but with some 400 meters in Heppner a sizeable fund could be collected between now and expiration date of general obligation bonds; if bonds it must be, some 20 years hence.

This problem should not be the council's headache alone. The citizens should give it serious thought and offer whatever help possible in solving the problem. The mayor and councilmen as individuals will be obligated the same as the rest of us, and while all of them have expressed a willingness to meet their share of whatever obligation may result from construction of the sewer system, they hesitate to place a burden on the community that will be difficult for some to meet.

It would be a good idea to hold a town hall meeting and get the opinions of a representative group of citizens on this vital matter.

Source of Invaluable Wealth

Few of us in this land of hills and valleys ever stop to evaluate the great wealth stored in the Blue mountains which cross the southern end of the county in their course from Central Oregon to Southeastern Washington. It is doubtful if any of us could properly evaluate the wealth of the region but it is not impossible for us to contemplate some of the features which make it an area of rich resources, many of them still untouched.

One of the great potentials in our mountains is the recreational phase. Here is a field that will stand any amount of development, not only from the standpoint of local usage but for the encouragement of tourists and vacationists as well. Encouragement of the use of the mountains in this manner would serve to secure a better road system, both into and throughout the timbered areas. In turn, the better highways throughout and over the mountains would serve to attract more tourists this way. It is a rule that would work both ways.

Local people should be encouraged to use the mountains more extensively. Playgrounds and camps are being established by the forest service in several spots and this program will be expanded as fast as funds and workmen are available. The forest service is anxious to have the citizenry use the forests. Only by better acquaintance with the mountains, with the problems confronting the service in protection and conservation, will the people learn the value of the forests and the necessity of protecting them.

The mountains contain unlimited possibilities and it is time we began doing something to express our appreciation of them.

30 Years Ago

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES April 22, 1920 Born in this city April 20 to Mr. and Mrs. A. Hennig, a daughter. Ruby Cason, the six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Cason of Lane Rock, died at the local hospital April 10. R. W. Snyder reports another white mule arrived on his Black-

What the Other Fellows Say

It is always interesting to learn what the other fellow's slant is on national affairs. It is our privilege to use a few credited quotes from papers published at distant points, mainly from the central and southern states:

The Mantua, Ohio, Record: "The voters of America are faced with a choice of individual opportunity or 'welfare' security. Given the whole truth, there is no doubt that their choice will be the right one."

Paris, Tennessee, Parisian: "Needless bureaus should be eliminated, and the overlapping divisions of our government should be merged."

Berlin, Md. Eastern Shore Times: "The pity of it is that under our present system of big government and big spending the average citizen seems to utterly fail to realize that he is picking up the check."

Macksville, Kan., Enterprise: "It was 'taxation without representation' that brought on King George's trouble way back in 1776. And ever since that time, Americans have considered it not only their privilege, but their duty to complain about taxes."

Lewistown, Pa., Sentinel: "We haven't much sympathy with the fellow who is ready to be generous with our money."

Ablene, Kan., Daily Reflector-Chronicle: "At no time since the redemption of 'E' bonds was started has the person who received \$100 been able to buy as much with his money as he could have bought ten years before with the \$75 that he paid for the bond. Maybe the country can stand this fantastic financing—if it cannot it will be just too bad."

Humboldt, Iowa, Republican: "We may just as well quit kidding ourselves. As long as we demand the services from government that we are now demanding, we will have to pay the taxes. There is no such thing as shifting the payment of taxes to the other fellow."

What Valley Authorities Would Not Do

Much has been heard concerning what the proposed river valley authorities would do for this nation. At the moment, the Columbia Valley Administration is being given the full force of Presidential backing, and it is obviously designed to provide a precedent for similar administrations and authorities from Maine to California and Canada to the Gulf.

These bodies — which amount to super-governments within the government—would control all our national resources. They would dominate agriculture as well as industry. Through a monopoly of the power supply they could direct any region in any way they desired. They would do more to destroy state's rights and to undermine local initiative and independence than any proposal that has yet been seriously presented. They would be free of all state regulation and taxation; they could not be effectively controlled even by Congress. They would be subsidized by the taxpayers at an enormous cost. In each case, a three-man board would possess life and death economic power over vast areas.

There is another side to this issue which is equally important, namely, what the valley authorities would not do. The Chamber of Commerce of the United States has summed up these negative factors, taking the CVA bill as its guide.

The authorities would not submit to audit by the Comptroller General.

They would not be subject to prescribed systems of accounting.

They would not be under the jurisdiction of any state or Federal commission.

They would not pay taxes except on private property they took over.

They would not have to abide by the Civil Service laws.

In short, these authorities would enjoy a degree of economic independence that is unknown to other government agencies or in private enterprise. They could rig their reports about any way they wanted, inasmuch as they would not have to follow standard, accepted accounting practices. They could run their labor relations as they saw fit. They would not have to accept restraints of any important kind.

It should be clear from this that the authorities are a threat to the basic rights of the people, and to the taxpayers. They are predicated solidly on the Marxian concept of an all-powerful state, dictating from above to the slaves below. That is why practically every state and national official from the Pacific Northwest has gone on record against. CVA—along with more than 90 per cent of the newspapers of the region. The valley authority idea is a knife in the back of free government, and yet there is a federal drive to force it down the people's throats.—Industrial News Review.

horse ranch the other day, the second one this year. White mules have always been considered a rarity in this country. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Ashbaugh returned Tuesday evening from a two weeks' trip to eastern Washington. Mr. Ashbaugh recently sold his blacksmith shop here. Contractor Ed Bucknum has his hands full with putting in so many concrete walks. Mr. and Mrs. Burl Coxen of Butter Creek were in Heppner Saturday. Fire of possible incendiary origin did slight damage to the Hardman drug store last Sunday. Willows lodge IOOF will observe the 101st anniversary of the order on Wednesday, April 26 at 8 o'clock, p.m. Charles Thomson was elected president of the Heppner Commercial club to succeed W. P. Mahoney when the club held



NON-REGISTRANTS INCREASING

There are 326,916 truant adults in Oregon, persons who are eligible to vote but who have failed to register.

This reckoning was made from registration figures of seven scattered counties as of April 17. As alarming as the figures are as a threat to good government more ominous is the pattern. For the past decade the percentage of non-registrants has steadily increased.

Many plans to get more people to register have been tried. None however, has been moderately successful.

An accolade awaits the civic-minded group which will sponsor a plan to give a suitable button to everyone who has or will register.

Backed by programs of Americanism and well-handled publicity the plan could make voting as genuinely and generally popular as in the days of James Monroe.

OREGON NEWSMEN HONORED

Two Oregon men, Ralph Barnes and Asahel Bush, were among 44 magazine writers, newsmen and photographers who lost their lives in World War II. Their names appear on a plaque dedicated at Forest Lawn Memorial park, Glendale, Calif., Sunday.

Admiral Halsey gave the dedicatory address and unveiled the 16 foot tablet.

Barnes was a son of E. T. Barnes of Salem and the late Mrs. Barnes. Bush was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Asahel Bush and grandson of A. N. Bush of Salem.

WOULD SIMPLIFY LAWS

"There is too much variance of financial responsibility laws among the states as they relate to motor vehicle operation," said Secretary of State Earl T. Newbry upon his return Saturday from San Antonio, Texas and Phoenix, Arizona, where he attended the 11-state regional meetings of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

Newbry is president of the national association.

Forty states now have financial responsibility laws and other states will approve similar laws within a year, Newbry predicts. Uniformity of state laws, reciprocity with relation to truck operations and safety measures are being worked out by the association, Newbry added.

UNEMPLOYMENT SHRINKS

After a late winter slump in jobs when unemployment compensation payments broke all records, the total of insured unemployment dropped to 8 per cent of all insured workers at mid-April. The drop was from a peak of 20.1 per cent.

The highest percentage of unemployment payments were in the Grants Pass and Toledo areas.

With the number of claims dropping steadily, the state's rate is expected to reach a normal of 3 to 5 per cent by early summer.

WEEK OF QUOTES

Heard at the capitol: "We worry about our supply of timber and thinning soil—well and good. But their abundance avails us nothing if we neglect to provide for the balanced guidance, development and conservation of our human resources." — Governor Douglas McKay.

"War begins in the minds of men, and peace too may be gained by appealing to the intellect of the peoples of the earth." — Dr. Clifton Patton, from the office of the United Nations, N. Y., at Soroptimists Northwestern conference.

"The Russian communist assault is too superficial, it is aimed at the heart of free nations. And our children must live in the turmoil." — Dr. Martha Branscombe, director Elizabeth McCormick Foundation, Chicago, at child welfare conference.

"Fly fishing has a tenseness and excitement that goes with its regular annual election Thursday evening.

F. A. McMenamin, attorney for the John Day irrigation district, announced a letter saying the legal experts had passed favorably in the proceedings in the organization of the John Day District.

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no other fishing for trout that I know. The sport's the thing, with victory going to the more skilled. I would rather hook a one-pound rainbow with a dry fly on a 3 1/2 ounce rod than a four-pounder with bait and hardware. There are, after all, greater satisfactions even for the fisher than a full creel."—United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, writing to an Oregon friend.

"Statistics make us too callous to express feelings. We must have forthrightness and serious intent."—Dr. Herbert Chamberlain, Sacramento psychiatrist at child welfare conference.

Mrs. Ben Swaggart of Swaggart Buttes ranch and her daughter, Mrs. C. S. Wheeler of Pendleton were shopping in Heppner the last of the week. Mrs. Robert Dobbs and infant

son, Robert Louis, returned home from Portland Thursday. Mr. Dobbs motored to the city after them. They have moved into their apartment in the rear of the building which formerly housed the Heppner Cleaners.

Mrs. M. R. Wightman and Mrs. E. B. Rice motored to Burns Saturday where they attended a three day convocation of the Eastern Oregon Diocese of the

Episcopal Church.

Miss Dona Barnett and Mrs. Trina Parker of Lexington were looking after business matters at the courthouse the latter part of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hood of Elgin were weekend house-guests of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Doolittle.



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Student Body Benefit Carnival and Dance Music by "Fiddlin" Joe Wise and his Western Swing Quartet Lexington IOOF Hall Saturday, April 22 The Fun Begins at 6:00 P. M. \$1.00 PER PERSON

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