

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES On Guard

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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ROBERT PENLAND
Editor and Publisher
GRETCHEN PENLAND
Associate Publisher



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This Business of Rain

Can anyone make it rain? There are a good many ranchers and a lot of other interested persons who would like to know the answer—for sure.

Two weeks ago members of the Tri-county weather research group and the Oregon Wheat commission heard an Oregon State meteorologist state that it would take further experimentation over a longer period of time to be able to prove that the rain makers were the cause of the additional rain that fell on Morrow, Gilliam and Sherman counties, and also on some of our other neighboring counties.

That there was additional rain is something that can be proven for the report from the Gooseberry weather station showed nearly 50 per cent more rain fell this year than did last — and in a year when most of the rest of the state was suffering from as severe a drought as it has experienced in some time. But, was it the result of the rainmaking operations or just circumstances? The figure of 14.73 inches for the year ending September 1, compared with 10.36 inches for the previous 12 months makes a rather convincing argument for the rainmakers.

There are many who will say only the Lord can control our weather, and who is there who can prove otherwise—yet. One year in an experiment of as great importance as this one may prove to be, is too short a time to say with complete assurance that it is a success or that it is no good.

Local ranchers are not the only people who are trying to find out whether or not man can make it rain — and are spending their money for the test. Many cities and areas including New York City, San Diego, Santa Barbara and others are giving the experiments a trial. New York, by the way, tried and gave up. But, on the other side of the ledger, Umatilla county wheat men have given the test a go-ahead for the coming year.

One disturbing factor, the wheat growers have no doubt considered, is there is no assurance that the rain they are paying for will fall on just their property, some of the clouds may drift over another county before they get rid of all their rain. But then, maybe some other county's clouds will drift this way and our farmers will get a few drops of their rain in return.

It's not a matter to be taken lightly, though, for rainfall here as in most other localities, means the difference between a successful year or a bad one . . . and besides, the experiments cost money and regardless of the recent good crops Eastern Oregon wheat growers have had, few of them are looking for a place to throw their money without at least a fighting chance to get some return.

Who is right? The rainmakers have a good many statistics on their side just as those who don't favor the activities certainly have many years of history behind them to prove their points, too. For our part, we too, doubt that one year's experiments can prove one way or the other the value of rainmaking attempts.



The Eisenhower Enigmas

Which potential candidate for the presidential nomination — Taft or Truman, has General Dwight D. Eisenhower been favoring by prolonging the announcement of the political party he is registered with?

Few doubt that the president will be a candidate to succeed himself. If the General's name gets on the May primary ballot against Harry S. Truman it would put Oregon in the political spotlight of the nation. The situation would be similar to that of the Dewey vs Stassen fight in 1948.

State Senator Tom Mahoney has filed petitions to put Eisenhower's name on the democratic primary ballot. State Representative Mark Hatfield has charge of the petitions to put Eisenhower's name on the republican primary ballot.

The state supreme court may be called on to decide if Eisenhower's name can be placed on the republican or the democratic primary ballot.

The General could have done a better and quicker job. Standardize State Buying

William E. Stevenson, state administrator of procurement and supplies left for Colorado Springs, Colo., this week to attend a meeting of procurement officers from over the nation.

The purpose of the meeting will be to further attempt to standardize procurement proceedings for all states, to establish group buying and augment special services connected with manufacturing.

Cut State Travel Costs
Out-of-state trips by employees will be cut at a saving to the state of \$130,000. When Harry Dorman, director of the department of finance read a report on travel expenses by department heads the board of control was unanimous in backing up a crack down of extensive travel when not provided for in the budget.

The last trip to be authorized by the board was to allow Dr. Irving Hill, superintendent of Fairview Home, expenses that he might be the principal speaker at an association meeting in Colorado. The approval was made by a two-to-one vote of the board.

Physicians in Hospitals
All hospitals in Oregon are subject to standard license requirements of the state board of health. Although the hospital district act allows all physicians

equal privileges in using hospital facilities, it does not preclude directors of a district from adopting reasonable rules and maintaining a standard of proficiency in the interest of public safety, according to an opinion given by Attorney General George Neuner last week.

Phone Rate Hearing Set
An increase in the inter-state rates applied for by the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company amounting to \$5,188,000 a year will be reviewed at a hearing in the Public Service building, Salem, September 24.

Both company officials and Public Utilities Commissioner Flagg argue that this increase would net the company only \$2,529,000 and \$2,759,000 would be paid as income taxes.

State News Powwow
There are few occasions when state officials withhold news from the press. There are times when a premature announcement is detrimental to the state. A disclosure of intentions to purchase a piece of property for the state almost invariably sends the asking price skyrocketing.

These explanations and others were offered by Governor Douglas McKay at a conference of state officials and members of the newsmen's section of the Oregon Newspaper Publisher's association at the Capitol last Saturday.



In a full day of panel discussions topics varied from secret meetings of state boards to the value of news releases by department publications.

State Fair Tops
Paid attendance at the 86th Oregon State Fair that closed Saturday night totaled 172,829, a gain of 5,706 over the 1950 mark. This does not include an approximated season gate toll of 34,700 exhibitors, 4-H club youths, workers and kiddies that were not required to pay an admission fee.

noted the shining windows, and gleaming floors—a result of long hours, and lots of "elbow grease". Certainly the parents might point out to their children the care that goes into the upkeep of a school, the appearance of which is often the basis of judging civic pride by strangers.

Incidentally the reaction of these youngsters is enlightening to our sharing what surplus apples we have had with them. From a blunt "No", to "Oh Boy Free Apples", to a courteous response "Have you all you need?" was the answers received to "Would you like an apple?" Invariably have they respected our request not to trespass (The trees are old and the limbs too brittle for climbing) and almost always do they remember "Thank you."

We thought you might like to read of something pleasant along with the political graft, the cheating and acts of violence that you get daily.

Kay Bisbee

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Because of our location, we were able to observe an example of pride in a job, refreshingly rare in these days, and we would like to call attention to the fine job Mrs. Devines, Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. Scott did to the school this summer. I suspect that other Heppner citizens would join us in this "Orchid-in-print" if they

Vernon L. Bohles, former coach and Science teacher at Heppner High School, has been admitted in the Veteran's Hospital in Portland.



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