

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES THIRTY YEARS AGO

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Don't Confuse Friday's School Budget Election

Tomorrow (May 14) county voters will be asked to approve the operating budget for county schools at a special election to be held in all school districts.

In most districts there is little or no reason for confusion regarding this election, but in the Heppner district, there are indications that some voters have confused this election with one to come at a later date, to authorize a bond issue for the construction of a new grade school in Heppner. The May 14 vote has no connection whatever with any building program.

Tomorrow's vote, to be held in the school building in each district, is for the purpose of approving the general operating budget, which has been approved by the rural school board. The vote is necessary on the amount above the six percent limitation and should be OK'd to give our schools the necessary funds with which to meet normal expenses during the coming year.

Residents of Heppner's school district No. 1 will, at some time in the future when all arrangements are completed, be asked to approve a special bond issue for the construction of a new elementary school, but it will be done, at a special election with no other question involved. The date of that election will be announced by the school board as soon as plans and cost figures are compiled.

If you are in doubt as to what you are voting on, read your ballot carefully for it gives a complete explanation of the measure.

County Officials

This year, for the first time in quite a few, Morrow county has several county offices for which there are more than one aspirant, those of judge, clerk and assessor and Republican voters have an exceptionally well qualified group from which to select their officials. We say Republican voters because only on that ballot is there any competition at the coming election. There is one Democrat seeking the office of county clerk, Bruce Lindsay, but he is unopposed on the Primary ballot. In the fall general elections he will oppose Harold Becket who has no competition as a Republican.

In the two races where there will be a battle, that of county judge and assessor, this paper will pledge its support to the two incumbents, Garnet Barratt and Mrs. Olive B. Hughes.

The race for the judgeship has been the only one in which there has been, at least so far, any campaigning, and that, to our knowledge, has been on a top plane. Both Barratt and Oscar E. Peterson are well qualified to hold the top county position, and we believe that either man would do an honest and conscientious job during the coming term, but because of Barratt's experience in the office and his record of conscientious effort to do what he has felt was best for the county, it is our belief that he should be returned to the office.

There has been no major point of difference in the campaign platform of the two men, which we believe, speaks well for the way Barratt has

conducted the office in the past. There have been minor differences of opinion between he and Peterson, yet nothing upon which any competitor for the office could base any major campaign, and it is to the credit of both men that they have kept their campaigning on a very high level.

We believe Barratt deserves to be returned to office.

Our selection of Mrs. Hughes for the assessor's post is based largely on her experience in the office. Though she has held the position for only a few months, being appointed by the court to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation and subsequent death of W. O. Dix, she has served for several years in the office as deputy and is well acquainted with procedures in what is undoubtedly one of the most important offices in county government. Also to her credit is her present experience in the current job of reappraising and reassessing all county property which is being done as a joint venture with the state tax commission. It is an exacting job and to disrupt the staff in that department at a time when the reappraisal job is only well started would, we believe, be unwise and costly to the county.

The other two county positions which must be filled, those of county treasurer and commissioner, have attracted no one but the incumbents, Mrs. Lucy Rodgers and Ralph L. Thompson.

Patterson vs Newby

The one state-wide political fight in Oregon, in which there has been any semblance of a battle is the race between Paul Patterson and Earl Newby for governor, and unless the Newby forces let their exuberance get out of hand, we doubt that this race will turn out to be too much of a political fight, though both sides have a large backing of ardent supporters. Governor Patterson is not the type to go around the state making blood and thunder stump speeches, yet he is probably one of the best public speakers to hold the top state office in many years.

Newby, during recent weeks has been throwing out comments on some very important issues in the state, namely the power problem, with the apparent hope that he will be able to catch Governor Patterson up on some of its numerous points. We don't believe his recent verbal explosions have gained him much Republican support, due largely to the fact, as we have stated previously in this column, that they sound more as though they were coming from a Democrat than a Republican. We can't feel that Newby's policies toward power development, if put into effect, could help solve the problems any quicker. We don't believe either that the little tiffs in which Newby found himself involved during his term as secretary of state have helped his popularity too much, though it must be said that he did institute some valuable changes in the procedures of office during his term.

Paul Patterson is, we believe from personal knowledge of him, one of the most sincere men we have known. He is not a publicity seeker in any sense, which, for a politician, has disadvantages, but we feel he has served Oregon well during his short tenure, and we believe the state would benefit from his reelection.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From files of the Gazette Times
May 15, 1924
C. W. McNamer and Percy Hughes shipped two cars of fat cattle from the Heppner yards to Portland yesterday morning.

The editor and several members of the family drove over to Pendleton Tuesday and spent the day.

Albert Adkins manager of the Tum-A-Lum Lumber Co., in this city, drove to Walla Walla on Friday to look after business matters.

Dr. McMurdo has recently made improvements on his residence property. Some of the big poplar trees that have stood as landmarks in that part of the city for years, have been removed and converted into stove wood.

Pete Slevin, sheepman of this county, made sale of his band this week, delivery after shearing.

James A. Fee, Jr., attorney of Pendleton, was attending circuit court in this city this week.

Indirectly dependant on irrigation for a living.

Agriculture and lumber are the basic industries in Oregon—prosperous farmers—mean more jobs, better business, good times—if people stand idly by while irrigation is crippled in the Deschutes basin—this fish and game commission will move on to the next victim—The Rogue, The Klamath, The Hood River—who will be next? every irrigation stream will be captured in turn and agriculture throughout Oregon greatly damaged.

Governor Patterson is "going along" with this "sneak attack" by his fish and game commission. This matter has been called to his attention by representatives of the 9 irrigation districts involved in Central Oregon—and our governor remains silent.

Earl Newby (his opponent on the Republican Ticket) was an irrigation farmer all of his life—until becoming Secretary of State and he still owns a 250 acre irrigated farm in Southern Oregon. Newby understands this serious problem—Newby's public stand that "There probably is enough water in our streams for both irrigation and fish—but if there is not enough for both—irrigation must come first" sums up this problem fairly and puts first things first.

The farmer the workman and the small business man will stand or fall together in Oregon—The question is a simple one—WHICH COMES FIRST— People or Fish.

Vote for whoever you please on



NOW IS THE TIME

If you consider your personal or property tax assessments out of line and expect to do something about it you should get busy pronto.

Meetings of tax equalization boards in every county in Oregon will start May 10. The purpose of the equalization boards is to protect property owners from over assessment or unequal assessments.

In making an appeal an attorney is not necessary but a petition for relief must be made in writing and be notarized and filed not later than May 15.

"Assessors are only human", says State Tax Commissioner Sempel B. Stewart, "and can make errors in assessing the value of a piece of property".

Besides the board of equalization there are four other procedures which taxpayers may take to reduce an assessment on either real or personal property. They are:

1. Protest to the assessor prior to the second Monday in May for correction and reduction of the tentative assessment.
2. Appeal to the State Tax Commission for relief in assessment within 20 days after notice of action of the board of equalization.
3. Appeal to the circuit court for relief in assessment.
4. Final appeal to the state Supreme Court.

I. A. C. VACANCY FILLED

The business manager of the Roofers Union of Portland, William A. Callahan, was appointed Friday by Gov. Paul L. Patterson as a member of the State Industrial Accident Commission. He succeeds Paul E. Gurske who resigned to accept a post with the U. S. Bureau of Labor.

The three members of the I. A. C. are also members of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission.

MORE DRUNKEN DRIVERS

There was a marked increase in the number of arrests for drunken driving during the month of March, according to the records of the State Police Department.

The 78 arrests in February increased to 101 in March. There

May 21st—BUT VOTE Sincerely, E. D. Harris, District Attorney Jefferson County, Oregon.

were less than 2 percent acquittals. The total of fines rose from \$9,678 to \$14,037 in March and sentences rose from 936 days to 1183 days.

TRUCKS AND R. R. RATES

The courts are and the legislature probably will be involved in negotiations between the 24 railroads in Oregon and the 56,030 trucks being operated here under the laws regulating transportation and executed by the state Public Utilities Commissioner.

Organized truckers attempted to pass a bill in the 1953 legislature that would give the Public Utilities Commissioner the authority to establish minimum rates for railroad freight shipments.

When the bill was defeated the truckers appealed to the courts assuming that the commissioner already had the power. The courts held with previous rulings by Helzelt that he did not have that authority.

The truckers now are preparing a bill similar to the 1935 bill to present to the 1955 legislature.

DAIRY RULES HEARING

Heardings regarding new regulations of dairy products plants and some changes in the present fluid milk production will be held in the Capitol May 12 at 9:30 a.m.

A re-definition of various state laws as rewritten and enacted by the 1953 legislature and confor-

mations with the federal fluid milk act will be on the agenda of the hearing.

A major change to be presented would permit use of the vacuumator as a method of pasteurizing grade A milk. Another contemplated change in grade A regulations will allow a direct opening between milk house and milk parlor, thus eliminating the double door requirement.

HEADS NEW MILK GROUP

Lester Adams was named Saturday full-time manager of the Oregon Milk Producers Association.

He is the former editor of the Portland Telegram, San Francisco Bulletin and several other newspapers. He has been dubbed "Mr. Legislature" as he has probably covered more legislative sessions as a political writer than any other political writer in the West.

The O. M. P. A. was organized in 1953 to promote production, processing and selling of dairy products.

after graduation

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TO THE EDITOR... following information, carefully before they cast their vote, in the Primary May 21st.

TO THE EDITOR— I believe that Republican farmers, workmen and small business men, should ponder the

—this is an increase of 190 second feet.

If irrigation is robbed of this water (which it has used for years) it means ruin to hundreds of farmers, workmen and business people in the Deschutes basin—all of whom are directly or

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