

# HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

The Heppner Gazette established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times, established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912



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Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter  
Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$3.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.00 Year. Single Copy 10 cents.

## The School Bonds . . . What Will We Get for Them, What Will It Cost Us?

Probably the greatest single phenomena which contributes to the workability and effectiveness of our democracy is the sound and broad viewpoint taken by many voters when they are called upon to vote themselves into debt to provide some sort of public service or improvement.

It is no doubt is pretty much of a mystery to the leaders of the totalitarian states why an American voter will go to the polls and vote his own money, as a voluntary act, to provide highways, schools, public buildings, sewers and the many other public services that are used largely by others.

It is this unselfish attitude on the part of so many that has helped our country to grow and to become the greatest in the world . . . and, at the same time, give us a standard of living unequalled by any other peoples anywhere.

On July 6 the people of school district No. 1 will be called upon to continue this great American phenomena. They are being asked to approve the spending of \$325,000 for the construction of a new grade school building that their children, and their neighbor's children, may receive a better education.

That a new building is needed, is questioned by practically no one; where it is to be placed caused considerable discussion in the past, but that question was settled several months ago when the Tum-A-Lum location was approved by the people. The question now is money.

Heppner's school board has struggled with the problem for nearly a year, finally coming up with the \$325,000 figure as the amount necessary to do a good starting job of bringing our badly neglected school system up to date. They could well use more, but they felt they would rather ask approval of that amount and show the public by their actions and resulting new building, that they were giving the taxpayers full value for their dollars.

This point, to us, is much more important than the total amount of the bond issue. We have sat in on numerous board meetings and listened to the lengthy planning discussions on how to get the most school for the money, and we feel the board's final decision reflects some clear thinking and planning.

What will we get for our money?  
The first plans prepared by architects called for 12 classrooms, a multipurpose room and necessary office space and a library. This was to cost

about \$375,000 not including site etc. The plans as tentatively approved now (subject to minor revisions and changes) will provide 10 classrooms, necessary offices and a library which can, if necessary, be utilized as an 11th classroom. The multipurpose room was dropped from the plans, but it can be added at some time in the future when funds are available. The cost of the building today, under the revised plans is estimated at \$250,000. That is a difference of \$125,000, most of which has come simply from insistence by the board on better utilization of space. No one can say that the school board doesn't have the taxpayer's interest at heart, and at the same time, their demand that proper classroom space be provided by the district shows that they have our children's interests in mind too.

Let's take a look at what this requested \$325,000 bond issue will cost each of us in additional taxes, for that is where it hits closest to home.

The board does not yet know just how long the bond issue will run, because it is attempting to ascertain the best and most practical period for interest reasons. But a reasonable and probable period will be about 15 years. A probable interest cost on such a bond issue will be something in the vicinity of two and one-half percent which will add approximately \$61,000 to the total cost bringing it to \$386,000. (2½ percent of \$325,000 for 15 years is \$121,875, but redemption of the bonds will be started immediately, cutting the interest cost approximately in half.)

Dividing \$386,000 by 15 years means that slightly more than \$25,000 must be raised each year by taxation to meet the bill. The assessed valuation of school district No. 1 is very close to \$5,000,000 which means that one mill tax levy will bring in \$5,000 per year. In other words—a 5 mill levy will build school district No. 1 a new school.

Our figures quoted above are generalities, we must admit, but they can, and probably will, come very close to the actual figures when all information is in the hands of the board. To allow leeway then for estimates, on a 15 year plan, SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 CAN HAVE A NEW SCHOOL FOR NOT MORE THAN A 6 MILL TAX LEVY.

Each taxpayer in the district can dig out his last year's tax statement and figure for himself, in dollars and cents, how much additional a new school will cost him. If his assessed valuation is \$1,000, it will cost \$6, if \$10,000 it will cost \$60. We feel that that is certainly a small enough price to pay to provide our children with the facilities for a better education.

The bond issue should be approved.

this hospital desired that I resign my present position at Pioneer Memorial Hospital and accept the offered position in less than 60 days. In all fairness to the Hospital Board of Pioneer Memorial Hospital I could not not would not accept the newly offered position without giving a 90 day notice of termination of my present position.

The unfortunate part of the circumstance turned out to be that the executive board of the hospital that offered be the new position postponed giving me their answer until after July 5.

My "hat remained in the School Board election ring" only because I had expected an answer before election day and that answer could have been "NO" based on the 90 day requirement.

Thus, the possibility, and it is only a possibility, still exists that I might move within the next three or four months. Realizing this and based on the premise that I might have been elected to the school board, the only alternative was to withdraw as a candidate now, even though I might remain in Heppner indefinitely.

To those of you whom I might have disappointed by this action I wish to say that I regret having had to withdraw and add, I'm sorry. I do hope that those who would have supported me will now give their whole-hearted support to Mr. Ed Collison and to the school board in the development of improved school facilities so that an improved educational program may be planned.

I extend my thanks to you who had and would have supported me and I offer all good wishes to the old and new directors of the school board of School District No. 1.

Sincerely,  
John B. Ernsdorff

## County Agent News

By N. C. Anderson

An interesting program has been arranged for the Pilot farm and experiment station field days to be held at the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station on June 28th and 29th.

On June 28th at 1:30 p. m. a tour will be held at the Crow Pilot Farm. This is located one mile south and one half mile west of Weston. On this tour with superintendent Merrill Oveson in charge, those present will see fertilizer trials on peas, seeding wheat on rough fall tillage as compared to smooth seed bed preparation, grass nursery, fertilization of wheat following peas, fall and spring seeded reecrop, winter and spring wheat nurseries, tillage practices on peas and crop residue practices. On June 29th, starting at 9:30 a. m., the group will visit the Lester King Pilot farm, will then go to the Jim and Fred Hill Pilot

farm. On this tour, you will see grass nurseries, wheat nurseries, crop residue trials, fertilizer trials tillage practices, rates and dates of seeding wheat.

For this field day you are invited to bring your lunch and the group will eat on the lawn at the Pendleton Branch Experiment Station. These are excellent field days to learn about the latest farm production developments in our area.

Another date you might like to keep open is July 7. On that date, the Sherman Branch Experiment Station field day will be held at Moro. We will give you further particulars as they are received concerning the field day. We think that farmers will be especially interested in attending this field day this year since there are several new crops being grown at the experiment station that might hold promise to diverted wheat acres.

Last week we commented on the work that Marlon Weatherford and Jens Terjeson were doing in Washington D. C. in regards to the new farm program and legislation which would be favorable for Morrow County Farmers. To date they have made 19 reports from Washington D. C. Some reports show a lot of optimism for legislation which would be favorable for our farmers while others indicate they are running into proverbial red tape that is found in Washington. Evidently they have not convinced the secretary of agriculture that a further reduction in wheat acres for 1955 would be disastrous for our farmers, as in today's paper we note the secretary has made his official announcement of a 12.8 percent additional wheat acreage cut. We note however, that he is asking, in accordance with the law, since the law specifically states that when wheat reaches in excess of 20% of normal supply that acreage allotments and marketing quotas shall be declared. We have a 79.9% increase in wheat over a normal carry-over on hand in the United States now.

Regardless of the outcome, we know that Mr. Weatherford and Mr. Terjeson are working hard and have made many influential people in Washington realize the Pacific Northwest wheat growers plight. A couple of paragraphs from report 18 from these men is worth repeating.  
Insert number one "John Locke told us that he felt the top men in the Department of Agriculture

were beginning to have a more optimistic view of the future and somewhat different conception of the worth of our surplus agricultural commodities. He felt there was more of a spirit of optimism than pessimism now. He said our efforts have been bearing quite a lot of fruit, both in the Department and on the Hill".

Second insert: "We may have forgotten to mention that in a recent news story in the New York Times, John Deer Plow Company stated that their sales for 1954 were down 34%. Visiting with the International Harvester people we find their sales are down exactly the same, 34%. We have been using this information in our discussions pointing out to people that this is an example of the ramifications in an agricultural program that exercises controls and which does not permit long range planning by the individual farmer."

Newt O'Harra Lexington rancher and president of the Morrow County Farm Bureau was in the office a few days ago. Newt had just returned from Reno, Nevada, where he attended the Farm Bureau school and training session. During the session, with all the western states represented, a review was made of states accomplishments. Newt was very proud of Oregon's record in many ways. It was reported that Oregon was right at the top of the list in Brucellosis testing and that Morrow County was mentioned as one of the counties with less than one

percent of Brucellosis reactors. Mention was also made of Oregon's program on controlling V E, the new swine disease. Legislation enacted last year provided that all garbage being fed to the swine must be cooked. Oregon appeared to be ahead in this respect in enforcing the garbage cooking law. While Mr. O'Harra was proud of Oregon from many aspects, he felt that there were some things we were lacking in and especially here in Morrow County. One thing that he made special mention of was recreation facilities which we are quite far down on the list.

## MARVIN SOWARD GIVES TWO MORE CONCERTS

Marvin Soward and Gertrude Hancock, who recently presented a concert here, gave a concert at Halfway last Saturday and followed it with another at the La Grande Christian church Sunday night.

While in that area they took time out to visit with the Lewis Lairds, relatives of Mr. Soward, who took them to see the upper part of Hells Canyon. Mrs. Marvin Soward, whose native state is Indiana, also made the trip and expressed much appreciation of the beauty of the country.

## EXAMINER COMING

A drivers license examiner will be on duty in Heppner Tuesday, July 6 at the court house between 9:30 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. the secretary of state's office announced.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

## No Sale!

Right in front of Granny White's beautiful old house on Maple Avenue there's a brand-new sign: "Antiques. Inquire Within."

Now—don't get excited. Granny explained it all the other night—after we settled down in her parlor, me with my temperate beer, Granny with her tea.

I asked her if she was really going in the antique business. "Oh, no," says Granny, "I wouldn't sell anything. I put that sign up so folks would come in and talk—and look around. If they insist on a price, I tell them some outra-

geous figure! I guess I just like people," she said.

From where I sit Granny can be excused for her little ruse. She may be in her eighties, but her mind is young—and open. She's the kind of person who's made this town so wonderful. Granny not only likes people—but she respects them and their preferences and opinions. Come to think of it, "liking" and "respecting" mean much the same thing, don't they?

Joe Marsh

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## TO THE EDITOR . . .

To The Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity and these means to explain my

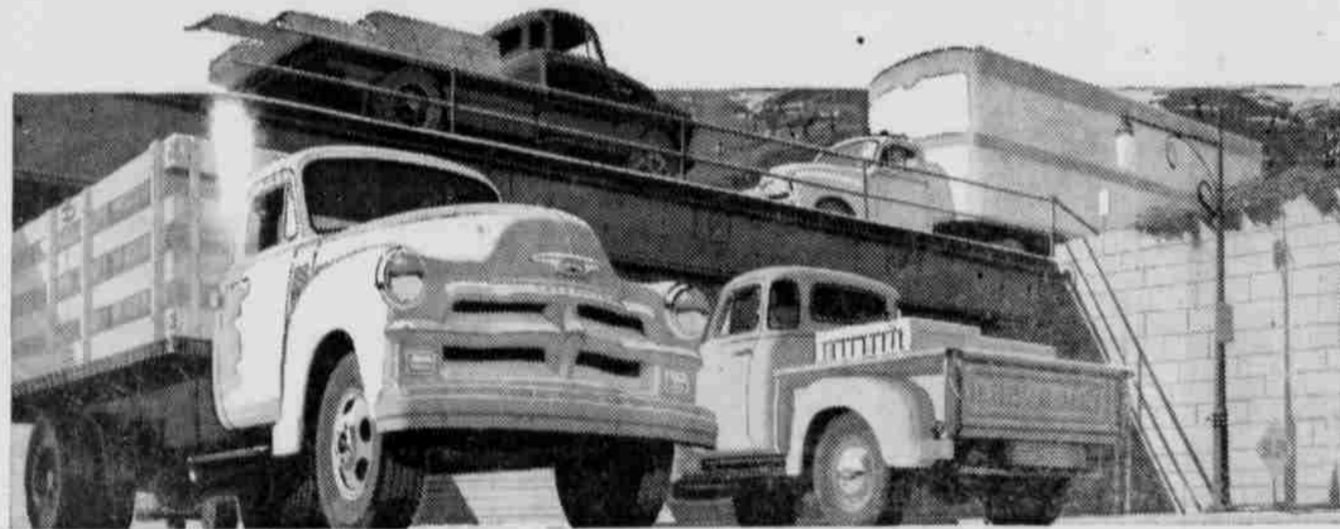
position and reasons for having to withdraw at "the 19th hour" as a candidate for the three year term of School Director.

When the announcement of my candidacy was made it was done so in good faith and by reason of the obligations I felt as a parent

of children in school, a member of the PTA and as a citizen of this community.

After the original announcement of my candidacy had been made I was offered a position as administrator of a 130 bed hospital. The executive board of

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