

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES THIRTY YEARS AGO

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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ROBERT PENLAND
Editor and Publisher
GRETCHEN PENLAND
Associate Publisher



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Our Tax Problem

With the legislature well into its job of trying to solve some of the knottiest problems of finance that the state has faced in a good many years, the problem of what and how to tax faces the legislators and us squarely in the middle of the road. It was dodged two years ago but there is no chance of ducking it this time. Either state expenses must be cut by \$65 million (the expected deficit) or some more money must be raised.

The chances of cutting the state budget by any such amount is about as remote as anything could be, which leaves but one alternative—more tax income.

The Cottage Grove Sentinel last week carried an editorial under the heading, "Rough Time Ahead For Business," a portion of which we quote here:

"The state could levy a property tax of six mills, the statutory limitation, which would raise about \$30,000,000 of the \$65,000,000 deficit. The deficit estimated roughly at \$65,000,000, which the legislature faces, means quite a struggle and possibly a long session.

Governor Patterson recommended the repeal of the federal tax offset to the present income law, which in effect would raise the state tax rate. The governor also favors a tax on business, individual and partnership, much like the corporate taxes on corporations. This tax if passed would of course raise the prices the businessman or merchant might charge.

"Another recommendation is to raise the income tax revenue by levying a surtax on the calculated tax or simply raise the tax rate. In either event it would mean higher taxes for the average taxpayer. Other sources of revenue for the state would be to increase the mark up on liquor sales and the state's share of pari-mutuel betting.

"Repeal of the so-called 'skyscraper' clause and repeal of exemptions to utilities in the corporate sales tax. Another revenue source recommended is the use of some millage on real property in the state. Still another is the tax on insurance premiums.

"If any or all of the so-called new sources of revenue are adopted or approved by the legislature, it would mean an increase in the cost of doing business within the state and the increased cost will have to be absorbed by the public.

"The legislature could raise \$30,000,000 through a six mill levy on real property. Abolishing the

federal exemption would raise another approximate \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000. Abolishing the utility exemptions would raise from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 and the skyscraper exemption, if killed would raise another estimated \$200,000 to \$500,000.

"Oregon already has the lowest exemptions and the highest income tax rate of any of the states having an income tax, according to the Oregon Voter. If any or all of the proposed new sources of revenue are passed, it will handicap new industries just that much.

"There are a good many states, in addition to offering a lot of natural advantages, also offer a low tax rate. We doubt if the growth of new industries will keep pace with our population under a tax rate which will discourage venture capital.

The Sentinel editor also said that it looked as though the hopes for the passage of a sales tax law were pretty slim, which may be quite true, but we hope that the legislature will nevertheless, give it some strong and deep consideration for to us it appears a far better means of raising additional money than any of those suggested.

The above article points out that such tax increases as suggested will tend to discourage additional industry in the state. We too, believe this to be true, but we think a sales tax will not because the final purchaser will make the tax payment on any product he buys and though the tax is a part of the total price, he will know how much of it is tax. Too, products manufactured in Oregon and sold elsewhere, where there may be no sales tax, would not be normally subject to the Oregon sales tax which would give an Oregon manufacturer an equal tax break in competition with other manufacturers elsewhere.

Because of the "easy-payment plans" in use by both federal and state tax bodies, and the numerous taxes that are "hidden" in the price of any product, people are not as aware of the taxes they pay as they would be if they were presented with a lump-sum tax statement once a year, say, or if they were advised on every purchase that so much of the total is tax. It would be a blunt reminder, day in and day out, that if we want the state to do things for us, we must pay the bill. Maybe in time, if we disliked the constant reminder enough, we might decide we could get along with a little less from the government level.

However, as we live and think today, the state of Oregon is going to have to raise more money to run its business and we believe a sales tax is the fairest and most logical method to raise it. We hope the legislature won't pass it over too lightly.

pretty general agreement that they would like bushel allotments rather than acreage allotments on wheat if allotments continue.

Much interest has been shown of late in hog production here. This is especially true since the announcement of price supports of barley for 1955. Those who might be interested in getting their start, are reminded of the purebred gilt sales that will be held in the very near future. One is scheduled to be held at the Salem fair grounds on February 5th, one at the Klamath Falls fair grounds on February 12. All breeds will be offered and guaranteed with pig. Sale time for both is 1:00 p. m.

Recently the Pacific Northwest Grain Dealers Association in studying the grain storage situation for this coming year, have announced that the storage situation in the Pacific Northwest for the 1955 harvest is apt to be very serious. Figures show that this area will have to find storage for about seventy million bushels of additional carry-over grain in 1955. If the 1955 crop of wheat, oats, and barley is equal to the 1954 crop. In this connection, they find that the winter wheat crop has better prospects

From Files of the Gazette Times January 22, 1925

The Sophomore class at Hepner high have elected their officers for the semester. President, Victor Groshens; vice president, Louise Thomson; secretary, Shirley Prophet; treasurer, Stanley Minor; sergeant at arms, Harold Erwin.

Among those from Morrow county attending the meeting of the Oregon Wool Growers at Pendleton last week were Ed Rugg, Andy Rood, L. V. Gentry, James Carty, John Kelly, John Kilkenny, Joe Kenny, W. P. Mahoney, R. A. Thompson, R. I. Thompson, W. H. Cleveland, Dave Hynd, Garnett Barratt, Ed Neill, Pete Slavin, Joe Hayes, Frank Wilkinson and Dave Wilson.

Leonard and Emil Carlson, wheat growers of the Gooseberry country, were doing business in Hepner on Saturday.

"I feel that I am justified in making the prediction that the Lena-Vinson gap in the O. W. Highway to Morrow county, and the building of the Hardman-Spray cut off, will each be completed within the next three years" is the statement made to a representative of this paper by Judge R. L. Bnge the first of the week.

than a year ago. In further surveying the situation, they found that under construction or definitely planned storage at the present time, including both country and terminal amounts to sixteen million seven hundred thousand bushels. The eight buildings at the Pasco Army Depot, could hold eight to ten million bushels. The seventy five empty ships at Tongue Point near Astoria could store about seventeen million bushels. Thus if we could get the additional ships at Tongue Point and the buildings at Pasco, we will have between forty and forty-five million bushels of new storage space that was not available last year. This would still leave a shortage of twenty-five to thirty million bushels.

Visiting the Jasper Myers farm on Buttercreek, Tuesday the agent found that Mr. Myer is well pleased with his grass legume ensilage that was put up in a trench silo last summer. The silo holds approximately 1000 tons and ensilage is being fed daily to the beef herd. With a few minor improvements on the silo, Jasper intends to fill it again in



Groundwork for a predicted "swift and hot" legislative session was laid during the first five working days which ended Friday, January 14th.

Oltimers here at the Capitol are saying that they can tell by their ulcers that this session will be a big show, to exceed the all time record session of 1953 in length, number of bill and fireworks.

Big issue and pressure group battle lines were supposed to be veiled by a chummy Gaston-Alphonse act the opening days of the session. Meanwhile the fix was being nailed down and log-rolling patterned for party fortifications. On roll call during the period party lines were split regularly on all but unanimous issues—like the bill providing \$500,000 for the first down payment on the cost of the session—including salaries of members.

A taxation school set up for members will hold up tax legislation for three or more weeks but is expected to bring time-saving results on the length of the session.

RED INK
The \$63,000,000, which the state budget shows is needed to run the state for the next two years, must be produced largely by new tax revenues or by trimming budget estimates.

After all the hard work of the budgeters the budget is only an estimate of what probably will be needed. Department heads and institution superintendents have never been known to underestimate their guesses on requirements. If they need it is not difficult to spend it.

A blanket cut of ten per cent across the board would do the trick of balancing the budget.

IN THE THINKING STAGE
One of the most interesting, and often amusing or informative, features of reporting a legislative session occurs when a member puts his embryo ideas out for discussion with his

1955. A unique way to pack the silage was that of using his tractor mobile which weighs 11 tons. With the four wheel drive, there was no problem of getting through the silo with the large wheels, it was just the thing for packing. An excellent job was done and this is reflected in the good quality ensilage that is now being taken out of the silo.

friends.
It is astonishing how much knowledge on remote affairs will come from unexpected sources and how much will pertain to the legal side of a subject.

One is inclined to conclude that a good many persons had the idea of running for the legislature many years before making the jump.

Some of these embryo ideas that got into the "thinking it over" stage this week were:

An act to relieve farmers and other landowners of responsibility of eradicating ragweed from their property. As ragweed is a health problem, and the present law is not enforced, Sen. W. Lowell Steen would put the ragweed fight costs up to the general public.

Sen. Francis W. Ziegler would license auctions of new merchandise that has not had personal property tax paid on them.

Sen. Ziegler and Sen. Phil Brady would exempt parking lots owned by churches that are used solely for convenience of members.

Sen. Carl H. Francis wants constitutional amendments made by a two-thirds vote of each house of the legislatures of all states.

Sen. Pat Lonnergan would shorten the time between filing dates and elections. Sen. Lonnergan is joined by Rep. Alfred H. Corbett in presenting an act to take the park commission from the Highway Commission and establish it as a separate department. Sen. Lonnergan and Sen. S. Eugene Allen would make county elections nonpartisan (except district attorneys).

OLD SALOON COMING BACK?

Some legislators who perused the annual report of the State Liquor Control Commission distributed this week are apprehensive of the return of the saloon.

The report says, "There was a sharp decline in Restaurant licenses allowing service from customers' bottles in favor of Dispenser licenses, indicating a general acceptance of the new method of consumption.

The report stated there was a record distribution of \$15,000,000 of liquor profits to localities and the state general fund, and that 2,017,860 gallons of spirituous liquors were sold during the 1953-54 fiscal year.

BROWN ON BOTH SIDES
Among the lobbyists are the two Brown boys—not brothers.

George Smith Brown is working for the dry interests and will have legislation to offer against employees of the Oregon State Liquor Control Commission accepting gifts of value.

George E. Brown is on the wet side and may offer legislation regarding sales of beer to minors.

Dr. Titus Frazee, executive director of the Oregon Temperance League will press the adoption of a law to make compulsory a chemical test for intoxication. New York has had such a law for two years and several other states are considering adoption of a similar law.

JOBLESS PAY RECORD IN 1954
An average of more than \$2 million a month was paid to jobless workers in Oregon during 1954 to establish an all-time record, the State Unemployment Compensation Commission reported Monday.

Continued on page 7

From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

A Pretty "Snappy" Menu

Cuff Taylor had a near riot in his hen yard last week. Seems the hens were scratching around the cold ground when they found a piece of rubber band frozen in the ice.

"One hen pecked at it," says Cuff, "and it snapped right back. She backed off clucking while another hen tried it, and another. And the 'worm' kept right on snapping back. They all got their feathers ruffled. You never heard such a ruckus!"

"I finally had to break up the ice with an ax before those hens would get back to business and start laying eggs again."

From where I sit, some people raise a pretty big fuss over nothing, too. Take the fellow who would deny me a temperate glass of beer with my game of checkers. Maybe he'd rather have coffee! Well, that's all right. He has a right to his own preference. But so do I. And there's no point in his "snapping" at me just because his choice isn't the same as mine.

Joe Marsh

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From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

The conservation, land use and economics sub-committee of the agricultural planning committee that meets Friday afternoon, promises to be an interesting and lively session. Coming up for discussion is the recommendations of the interim committee appointed by the governor to study water resources in Oregon last year. This committee has made a thorough study of water resources and have made recommendations which no doubt will be acted upon by the legislature this year. Some of them, our farmers are very much in agreement with, while others they are not. Many of the recommendations have to do with water rights, both stream and ground water. With the problem that confronts everyone in Morrow county as well as the state of Oregon in over adjudication of water rights on streams, there is bound to be some effects on water users. A survey of water users in Morrow county made last fall, revealed that there are many farmers that are using water without a water right which would be restricted.

Many other matters will come up for discussion that are just as controversial. As we said the meeting promises to be an interesting one.

As this column is being written, we are right in the midst of the wheat policy meetings which are being held in the wheat communities, throughout the county. Attendance has been fairly good and farmers have participated wholeheartedly in the discussion on what they would like to see embodied in a farm program. So far everyone has agreed that the flexible support program in effect for the 1955 crop will not solve the surplus production of wheat and by 1959 could result in returns that were below the cost of production. A great majority of the farmers attending the discussion meetings, have not understood the flexible price support program and the great decrease in income from this plan, coupled with the modernized parity which is being used now. In general, most are in favor of a domestic parity plan for wheat with a

Styling that's stealing the thunder from the high-priced cars!

The styling spotlight blazes down on a low-cost car this year—for the Motoramic Chevrolet is stealing the show from the high-priced cars with its subtle sweep of line, the brilliant sophistication of its European-type grille, the bold rake of its deep-curved windshield.

And there's even more excitement in the way it drives—the velvety comfort of Glide-Ride front suspension and outrigger rear springs, the handling ease of Ball-Race steering, the flashing performance of the new 162-h.p. "Turbo-Fire V8" engine or the two new "Blue-Flame" 6's. All this—plus the extra-cost options of Powerglide or Overdrive and a full range of power assists. Try a 1955 Chevrolet—now—and you'll know why it is stealing the thunder from the high-priced cars.

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Admission Price: Adults 70c. Students 50c. Children 20c. including federal Excise Tax. Sunday shows start at 2 p. m. Shows every other evening starting at 7:30. Boxoffice open until 9 p. m.

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First show will be over at 9:30

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