

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES THIRTY YEARS AGO

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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The following article was brought in to us this week by a local farmer. It appeared as a letter to the editor of the weekly Western Livestock Reporter, printed in Montana.

It presents another approach to the farm problem and we make no comment on it. Each reader may draw his own conclusions. It was headed

Who's Important?

I don't know what all the fuss is about. The "plight" of the farmer/rancher isn't THAT important. When you examine all the charts and graphs and statistics, you can readily see there IS no farm problem. The problem is with the farmers. And anyway, a solution is near at hand, quick and easy. It looks very simple to me—and if it looks simple to me, it must be.

Pull out the props and let 'er all fall down. Now, isn't that easy? Inside a month there would be no farm problem for farmers to kick about or politicians to kick around. The coming election would be nice and quiet and there would be fewer farmers. And don't think that isn't the end in view: fewer farmers but bigger farms, fewer ranchers but larger ranches. If you'd kick out the little guy and boost up the middle fella, the man on top would be in a position to negotiate.

Why is it that farmers and ranchers consider themselves so special? Nothing else much gets that kind of treatment. Any other big business runs on the simple principle of high production—big demand, low production—high prices. But rural folks feel they are entitled to their independence and a profit, too. And it just isn't sensible. It isn't the way things are set up in our great, big, beautiful country—and nt's evading the issue to think so.

Rural production has no lawful mark-up on its goods. A rancher doesn't by law have to pay the owner (himself) any wages. He doesn't work on a minimum wage basis. He produces what people don't need so much of and expects to make a profit. He's crazy.

The trouble with the rural population is that they are modern in every respect, even to the inside privy, but their thinking is about twenty years ago or older. They think they're important, when the truth is they comprise only 13% of the population. They think the nation's economy is based on a prosperous agriculture. They think the financial pages are off the beam. They think that nothing could replace them in the scheme of living. They don't know from nothing but they don't even know it. They not only refuse to face reality but they don't even recognize it.

Anything a farmer/rancher can produce on the land, science can produce better and cheaper. Just take a look at wool versus orlon. And remember, orlon looks like wool, feels like wool, but

orlon doesn't need ironing. Maybe test tube sirloin sounds improbable and unappetizing, but don't kid yourself, it would serve the same purpose. And it wouldn't have to be chewed.

Rural residents would do better to consider themselves big business and go on a weekly profit-and-loss statement basis. They should get modern and expand until what they had to sell would make a difference to somebody if it went off the market. A lot of little farmers and ranchers can't do it even without their artificial respiration. But a few big fellas could get real tough and if that didn't work so good, they could start producing a substitute. You remember who it was put the work in on synthetic rubber, don't you.

There is no such thing as the family size farm/ranch any more, and it's been long gone. It would take a big family to supply the unpaid labor needed to work a farm big enough to support the too-big family. And they'd still need shoes for their feet. But not even the farm advisors, bless their little hearts, will admit the family farm is gone. And farm papers go right on telling how to produce three hundred bushel corn and forty bushel dry land wheat each and every year after year. They tell you how to get ninety per cent calf crop and save all the twin lambs. But they fail to tell the truth: "Get big or get out." What makes farming and ranching any different in that respect than any other big producer of necessary goods?

Steel companies merge. Car manufacturers join with other car manufacturers. Country churches close up and go into town Sundays. Even schools are consolidated. Farming is just behind the times and we might as well face it. A smart farmer is the one who sold out to a subsidiary of an oil company and went to work for the company.

You really can't blame the urbanites. They have a legitimate beef about subsidies. It makes less sense than killing baby pigs, because back there were hungry people but now you have to beg overfed folks to eat more. Rural people have the very worst publicity—but what would YOU say if GMC was subsidized?

What good does it do to blame Benson?? What good is there in saying that it should have been cut off ten years ago? Why cuss the get-rich-quick boys? Why snort at the city farmers? It's much too late to be gentle, so pull out the props and let 'er rip. What if a lot of small fellas fall by the wayside? They aren't really important, you know and nobody would miss them.

Get modern, boy, get modern. You wouldn't want to go back to buggies, would you?
Grace Kenfield,
Kenfield Korral,
Reed Point, Mont.

Mrs. Emma Emery Dies at Monument

By Martha Matteson
Mrs. Emma Alice Emery of Monument died at her home at noon January 30 following a

short illness due to a stroke. She has been an invalid in a wheel chair for more than 35 years due to arthritis.

She was born April 13, 1877, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Merrill and she spent her life in the Hardman and Monument areas.

Survivors are her husband Henry Albert Emery; two sons, Elzy Emery of Monument, Hugh

Emery, Des Moines, Washington; two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Johnson, Redmond; Mrs. Ivery Jewell, Monument; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She also leaves three brothers, M. C. Merrill, Eugene; Alonzo Merrill, Hermiston; Harve of The Dalles, and one sister, Mrs. Jane DeVore, Roseburg.

Funeral services were held at Monument, Oregon, February 7, 1956. Burial was in the Monument cemetery. Continued on page 7

From Files of the Gazette Times February 11, 1926

A better Heppner and a more livable community is the aim of the Heppner Luncheon club, organization of which was perfected Monday noon at a luncheon meeting of representative Heppner business men at the Elkhorn restaurant

The members of the Christian Endeavor play cast were made up largely of high school students. They were: Crockett Sprouls, Merl Merritt, Velma Fell, Ellis Thomson, Jim Thomson and Ethel Moore. Minor parts were taken by Lucile McDuffee, Bob Turner, Onez Parker and Stephen Thompson.

J. W. Osborn, Cecil pioneer, was doing business in this city yesterday.

Maurice Frye this week moved his stock of radios and electrical supplies from the Slocum building into his new quarters in the McMurdo building where he is now nicely located.

caused a lot of discussion.

The County Agent had the opportunity last week while attending the annual meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers to visit with a young wheat grower from East Africa. The young man who farms fifteen hundred acres of wheat in East Africa is in Oregon as a Farm Bureau sponsored International Youth Program delegate. He will spend ten months at the Floyd Root farm in Sherman County. Wheat farming in this area of East Africa is not too different from Oregon.

The agent will be out of the county on February 15 and 15 attending a district county agent's conference in Pendleton. The conference will deal with current questions in livestock management. Discussed during the two days will be such things as fitting the livestock enterprise to the farm business, what's new in nutrition, developments in livestock feeding in the area and recent developments in forage production. Several livestock and farm management specialists from the college will be on the program.

Recently the Morrow County Livestock Growers Association met to outline their programs and projects for the year. At this time committees were appointed to carry out the accomplishments the Association intends to strive for in 1956. Chair-

men were appointed and asked to select their own committee members.

Those appointed were: range and pasture improvement, Don Robinson, Heppner, chairman; insect weeds and rodent control, Herbert Hynds, Cecil, chairman; Cattleman of the Year, Frank Anderson, Heppner, chairman; disease control, Dr. James Norene, Heppner, chairman; theft prevention, W. W. Weatherford, Heppner, chairman; livestock marketing, Ralph Beamer, Heppner, chairman; meat promotion, Dick Wilkinson, Heppner, chairman; brand law, W. E. Hughes, Heppner, chairman; game laws, Raymond French, Heppner, chairman.

A new committee to handle matters of importance pertaining to the livestock industry that might not be funneled through one of these committees was that of the interim committee which will be headed by O. W. Cutsforth, Lexington. The association asked that an adult livestock class be set up for those interested livestock men for the winter of 1956-57. Specific classes for which there was interest was that of newer livestock diseases, form bookkeeping and feed rations. A committee of men will be selected soon to study and suggest a curriculum in these classes so that arrangements can be completed for instructors and others details. Livestock men who are do us a favor by letting us know of this interest so that classes could be arranged to cover subjects of most interest.

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County Agent's News

By N. C. Anderson
A rather large delegation of Morrow County wheat farmers took part in the annual meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers held last week in Portland. Those that I visited

with during the meeting felt that it was very worthwhile and were happy that they had the opportunity to attend this important national meeting which was held for the first time outside of the great plains states.

This annual meeting, which was the sixth, had the largest

registration of wheat farmers ever. Over six hundred registered during the three days. In addition to a top slate of speakers of national importance, the committees worked hard and came up with a number of recommendations effecting wheat farmers throughout the nation.

One of the things that most impressed me during the meeting was that important subjects of public relations which the wheat farmer must carry out. Everyone indicated that a positive action public relations program was necessary if the farmer was to survive. That committee came up with some fine recommendations for developing a public relations program. Commendation was given the Oregon Wheat Commission for an advertising program begun late last year as a means of telling the people of Oregon about wheat.

Perhaps the most interesting and largely discussed item of the three-day meeting was that of the soil bank plan. Morrow county farmers got across some good recommendations in the federal programs committee which

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Thursday-Friday-Saturday, February 9-10-11

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Sunday-Monday, February 12-13

REBEL WITHOUT CAUSE

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Sunday at 4, 6:15 and 8:30

Tuesday-Wednesday, February 14-15

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