

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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The Ballot Measures

Almost lost in the maze of vocal fireworks that has surrounded most individual candidates for various national, state and local offices is the fact that there are seven measures on the November 6 ballot which deserve every voter's attention. Five of them were referred to the people by the legislature, one was referred by petition and the seventh is an initiative measure. Lets look at them.

No. 1—State Tax Laws, Immediate Effect Authorized. This measure would give the legislature power to attach the emergency clause to tax measures to permit them to go into effect immediately after passage and signing by the governor. It also provides that the filing of an initiative petition to submit the measure to the voters shall not suspend the operation of the measure until the people have voted upon it.

Some think that passage of this measure would rob the people of their gains under the referendum, but we don't believe that to be true. We send our legislators to Salem to work out, among other things, a reasonable and unified tax program but we prevent them from doing it because of the present law which makes it possible to refer any tax measure merely by obtaining a small number of signatures. The result has been that the legislators have been forced to pass tax measures which they think will get by without referral regardless of whether they tie in with the state's general tax pattern or not. Passage of this measure would give them a chance to develop a reasonable, understandable and just tax program.

We recommend a "Yes" vote.

No. 2—Authorizing State Acceptance of Certain Gifts. This measure will merely allow the state to accept gifts or bequests of corporation stock.

This measure will not allow state agencies to buy stock, just accept it if it is offered. We can see no objection. We recommend a "Yes" vote.

No. 3—Salaries of Certain State Officers. This measure would repeal original provisions of the constitution adopted in 1859 which fix salaries of the governor at \$1500, treasurer at \$800 and Supreme court judges at \$2000.

The section of the constitution is obsolete and the salaries set are definitely unrealistic. In fact, this provision has been ignored for years. The legislature should be allowed to set these salaries in accordance with changing need and conditions. Certainly a "Yes" vote.

No. 4—Qualifications for County Coroner and Surveyor. At the present time anyone can run for these offices as long as he is a qualified voter—there are no other requirements, yet both offices call for specialized skills. It is only reasonable that a person seeking these offices should have some qualifications for them, in fact it is just good business.

A "Yes" vote here is recommended.

No. 5—Salaries of State Legislators. This measure would boost the salaries of our representatives and senators from \$600 to \$1200 a year. The additional cost to the taxpayer if this measure passes would be \$54,400 per year.

Anyone with any understanding of economics must appreciate that a legislator cannot even

begin to break even financially under the present pay scale, and, as a result, the state is losing the services of many men and women who, because they are not financially independent, cannot afford to run for either the senate or house. Actually we believe the suggested \$1200 is too low, but that is the amount asked by the legislators themselves, and we feel they are definitely entitled to it. This measure only increases the salaries, it does not give the legislators themselves the right to increase them again in the future. That can only be done by a vote of the people.

This deserves a big "Yes" vote.

No. 6—Cigarette Tax. This measure was referred to the people by petition and would levy a tax of three cents per package of 20 cigarettes.

We feel this is a discriminatory measure which would affect only a certain group of people. Many states now have such a tax, and this one is estimated to bring in \$5,500,000 annually to the state treasury. Whether you feel a cigarette is a necessity or a luxury will determine your decision as to whether this tax is fair or unfair. We personally would pay our share if this measure passes, for we consume our share of the cigarettes smoked in Oregon, and if such a tax is deemed necessary by the legislature, we won't kick about paying it, but we would prefer to see measure No. 1 passed by the voters. Then if the legislature thinks a cigarette tax should be included as part of an overall state tax program, we could see no objection to it. The original bill was passed when it appeared the state was in dire need for additional funds, but as it has turned out that need is not quite so pressing at the present time.

We recommend a "No" vote, at least until such a time as a cigarette tax is included as part of a general tax program.

No. 7—Prohibiting Certain Fishing in Coastal Streams. This measure would prohibit commercial salmon or steelhead fishing in any coastal stream south of the Columbia (except for certain commercial chum salmon fishing in the Tillamook Bay area).

The proponents of this initiative measure contend the bill would conserve the sport fishing in these streams while opponents claim the regulations of the bill would be imposed because of the self-interest of a limited few.

We doubt that commercial fishing in any of the streams concerned makes any of the affected fishermen much of a living, but because of the present regulations over such fishing, we also doubt that the commercial fishing robs sportsmen of much of either. To the best of our knowledge, the amount of commercial fishing in any of the small coastal streams is quite minor, yet it does provide a few persons with at least a part of their livelihood.

We, here in Eastern Oregon, are a long ways from this problem and we hesitate to make a recommendation. The most we will say is that probably our personal vote will be "No."

We recommend that all voters read their Voters Pamphlet carefully for a complete explanation of the above seven measures and the full arguments both pro and con on each. Our explanations have been brief, but we think they have covered the main points.

TO THE EDITOR . . .

(Editor's note—This newspaper has received numerous clippings of editorials and stories concerning Senator Wayne Morse which readers have asked that we print in the Gazette Times. We wish we could accommodate them all, but space restrictions prevent the use of most of them. We will try, however, to use at least parts of them if possible.)

To The Editor:
Since you have opened up the "Why I Am—" column and had an answer from my friend Mr. Logan, I wish to add why I Am Not a Democrat!
My father was an Oregon Democrat for 50 years and for the first years following when I became

a voter I voted for people whom I knew or knew something about. When it became necessary to register in order to obtain a ballot I had some very good friends who became candidates for office as Republicans and therefore registered Republican.

The Morrow county Republicans believed in keeping politics in Morrow county bipartisan and would leave the assessor's position open and therefore the Demos would nominate Jake Wells for the job and Jake held the position all the while that he lived.

When I moved to Clackamas county I transferred my registration and as I did not know a single man who was up for office I voted blind, but after following the legislative records of some whom I had voted for, I marked such parties and expect to keep my registration as Republican for the rest of my voting days just in order to vote against such politicians and any of their friends who may appear on my future ballots.

Bert Mason
15226 S. E. Meadow Lark
Portland

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From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

A prediction made by Morrow county livestock growers, who were the first to ask for a Brucellosis test area, that eventually every county in Eastern Oregon would go along with this program, was true. After a few years

of indecision several of the counties who were opposed to such a program have now an active program or are in the process of establishing one. Recently Wheeler county circulated petitions and held a hearing which was favorable to such a program. Grant county have presented their petitions to the county court and a hearing will be held within the next week. Baker, Union and Malheur counties are well under way with a test program while Umatilla & Sherman are in the clean-up stages. The counties who have hesitated with the program are not getting the help that Morrow county had in cleaning up this disease.

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Files of the Gazette Times
October 21, 1926

Contract for surfacing the last remaining uncompleted stretch of highway between Pendleton and Heppner will be let at the October 25 meeting of the state highway commission at Portland.

Dr. A. D. McMurdo is expected to return today from his hunting trip of more than a week in the mountains. Dr. M. A. Leach of Pendleton and F. B. Nickerson, abstractor of this city, were with Dr. McMurdo last week. W. W. Smead, postmaster, went up to join him a few days ago.

Miss Leora Devin, who is a teacher in the Stanfield schools, was a weekend visitor at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Devin in Heppner.

Stanley Robinson and Carl McDaniel of Lone Rock were visitors in Hardman Friday.

Bernard Bleakman, Owen Leathers, Jan and James Miller and Piri Howell returned recently from a hunting trip.

Billy Swanson of Ione has been in Heppner for several days during the week on jury duty.

W. V. Crawford arrived from Portland Monday morning and has accepted a position with Patterson & Son, druggists, in this city.

Clarence Carmichael received a broken rib in the football game at Lexington Sunday and was attended by Dr. Johnston.

Miss Reita Neill, who has been spending a couple of weeks at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson, departed Tuesday for her home in Yakima, Washington.

Delbert Emert and Herbert Ekstrom Ione Hereford breeders returned this past week from W H R Production sale at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Each purchased outstanding Herefords at this sale to add to their herds. Mr. Emert purchased a herd sire of Verne Diamond breeding which is one of the outstanding English imported Herefords used by the Wyoming hereford ranch. He also purchased four bred heifers. Herb Ekstrom purchased two bred heifers which should be a good addition to his herd. While visiting with Herb last Sunday afternoon and looking at his cattle a great lot of improvement can be seen in this herd over the past couple of years. Five bulls which are consigned to the Midco Hereford sale to be held at Moro on October 31 are outstanding. Top hereford consignments will also be made to this sale by Frank Anderson and Bernard Doherty.

With marketing of livestock foremost in the minds of everyone these days results of weaner calves before a feeder sale should be of interest. A careful check was made in Baker county last year on the best method of handling weaner calves prior to a cooperative feeder sale. Part of the calves were weaned approximately two weeks before the sale and put on dry feed. These calves came to the sale and did not suffer from excessive shrinkage. They took to the strange feed and water quicker than the straight from the cow. This might be the solution to the opposition

to feeder calf sales through shrinkage. It would be necessary for our livestock men to make comparison on this as conditions will vary with situations. It does appear that the organized feeder sale is finding a big place in efficient marketing of feeder calves. Some of our livestock growers will have their first opportunity in consigning to the feeder sale to be held at the Winks Auction Yard on November 15.

Mrs. Mabel Chaffee and Mrs. Ethel Zeimants attended the Antique Show at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Pendleton last Tuesday.

COMING to the stage of the Star Theater Oct. 27, SATURDAY ONLY, in addition to the regular program, THE RHYTHM KINGS with 30 minutes of Western tunes. No increase in admission. 32c

4-H Club News

IONE LIVESTOCK CLUB

The Ione 4-H Livestock club had a meeting at Roland Ekstrom's house Oct. 14.

There are two new members, Mancell Townsend and William Akers.

We elected officers. They are Kenny Nelson, president; Roland Ekstrom, vice president; Kenny Smouse, secretary and Mancell Townsend and William Akers, news reporters.

Mr. Kenneth Smouse is our leader and Mr. Fred Nelson, assistant leader.

There were five visitors and four members at the meeting.

Kenny Smouse told about his trip down at summer school in Corvallis.

William Akers, reporter

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