

Hepner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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The State Property Tax

Tuesday the state senate passed with only three dissenting votes a bill to take the state out of the property tax field except as a basis for bonding. Such a move has been urged for many years by practically all farm organizations as well as numerous other groups. The Hepner-Morrow county chamber of commerce only Monday added its voice in favor of the measure when it approved unanimously the sending of telegrams to our representative and senator urging passage of the bill.

It is interesting to note that one of the three senators who voted "no" on the bill is our own senator from this district, Ben Musa of The Dalles. In a speech on the floor the senate Mr. Musa acknowledged that the people he represents strongly favored the bill when he said in effect, "Every letter I have received from my constituents has been in favor of the bill—but, nevertheless I am going to vote against it." And he did.

In taking such a stand we fail to see through Senator Musa's reasoning or how his vote can be of any help in relieving the tax load on property owners.

In that connection... some figures came to light this week on a comparison of income tax and property tax payments made by residents of Morrow county. They are compiled from state tax commission reports and show that Morrow county residents pay .0029 percent of the income tax paid into the state and .0070 percent of the property tax that is paid in Oregon. In other words we are paying almost two and one-half times more property tax in this county (percentage-wise) than we are income tax. It is little wonder that farmer organizations have taken such a strong stand against the state staying in the property tax field. These figures probably have not been available to such groups until now, but they certainly bear out the validity of their complaints against further property taxation.

It can easily be seen from the above comparison that residents of Morrow county would be far better off to pay a higher rate of income tax to support state needs than to have that money come from increased property taxes.

ODD ENDS—

SHAKE WELL BEFORE READING

If the person who twisted the ancient saying around to read, "Paint covers a multitude of sins... and mistakes", could only see us this week he would know how true his words could become. We know—we just finished getting the GT print shop redecorated.

We have long had on the top of our list of "musts" the project of painting our back shop, but now that it's done, we're not so sure it was worth it. Not that it didn't need it at least as badly as any building in town, but trying to dig out of the remaining mess of plaster dust, paint splatters etc., is almost more than we bargained for. Everything in the shop that wasn't nailed down or that weighed less than a couple of tons was moved in the clean-up process with the result that it will take our crew a month to find things we used to be able to pick up with our eyes closed. Actually our readers are going to be lucky to get a paper this week—if they do! (We're writing this two days ahead of press-day.)

Everything, including the presses and most other equipment, is now a soft green—a mixture of paint and plaster dust so deep that we strongly recommend you shake your copy of this week's paper quite well before you bring it in the house.

Newspaper plants, in general, have held an undisputed record for years as being the dingiest buildings in town, and ours up until this week was no exception. We used to wonder why this was so, but not any more. Undoubtedly, back in the dim dark ages (about as dark as our shop was) some enterprising publisher got a wild hair and decided to paint his shop, then after he dug out of the subsequent mess warned all other publishers that it wasn't worth it. As a result, most weekly papers are still working in the same smoke-dimmed quarters that they moved into when the paper was established. Many publishers must have concluded—and we're about ready to agree—it's easier to move into a new building than re-do the old one.

Anyway, we took the hard way out and painted ours. That real pretty green paint was the first to be applied in at least 20 years and the dirt it covered was a sight to behold. When we finally get dug out of the mess, we're going to spend a whole day just standing and admiring the nice clean look—and we're giving fair warning right now, that the first printer who puts a dirty fingerprint on a door will wish he hadn't.

SLANTS FROM THE SESSION

By Mrs. C. A. Tom

Farmers will be interested in a resolution introduced by Representative Guy Jonas of Marion county asking for an interim committee to study all boards and commissions. Rumblings around the State House today indicate that possibly the ground-work is being laid to place commodity commissions under the marketing section of the Department of Agriculture.

This is a disturbing possibility to some of the farmers in the legislature. Representative Arthur Ireland, dairyman from Washington county, fears that much valuable promotional work being done by the Dairy Association will be abandoned if the Dairy Commission becomes part of a state agency.

Representative Leon Davis, also of Washington county, says that the state cannot expect to get the free services of experts in the various commodities that the commissions are now utilizing.

When asked for an opinion, Elmer McClure, master of the Oregon State Grange, stated, "Agricultural commodity boards in Oregon serve a very useful function. They do much essential work in the fields of research and marketing. They are democratically set up and controlled by the growers of specific commodities. This whole program is basically a commodity by commodity self-help program and one that has proved to be very successful."

"These commissions now assume much of the financial burden for the research work done by the colleges and the extension service for specific crops, such as wheat. The commissions now pay for much of this work which formerly was paid for from the general fund of the state through appropriations for the agricultural college."

Before I leave the subject of commissions I should mention that members of the Wheat Commission were in Salem with Ways and Means were Don McKinnis of Summerville, Ralph McEwen, Athena, Paulen Kaseberg, Wasco, and Bob Taylor, Pendleton.

Eastern Oregon sportsmen should be fascinated to learn that Senator Husband of Lane county has introduced a bill asking that bullfrogs be designated as game fish. Maybe we should ask the

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Files of the Gazette Times
March 3, 1927

A delightful evening was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thompson last Thursday evening at a party given in honor of the host's birthday. Mrs. Dick Wells and B. R. Stone received high in bridge.

Several boys in the grade school will soon receive their basketball letters for the past season. Letters will be awarded to James McNamee, James Farley, Oral Wright and Alex Ulrich.

Leonard Schwarz, Austin Smith and the Misses Esta Miller, Mary Patterson and Mary Crawford made up an auto party spending Sunday at The Dalles.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bergstrom drove in on Monday afternoon from their home at Roseburg and are spending a short while in Hepner.

Carl McDaniel of Hardman is at present working for Emmet Cochran at Monument.

game commission to dig us some swamps in order that we may derive benefit from the new statute.

Another measure which can be classified as something less than major legislation is Senate Bill 143 which proposes that the title of the Oregon State Police be changed to State Highway Patrol. The statute would have no bearing on the powers of the police. It would, of course, require that all insignia on police cars and uniforms, etc., as well as all letterheads, documents and other printed material used by the state police would have to be changed to conform to the new title. Can any rational explanation possibly be given for such an expenditure, however small, at a time when people are screaming about taxes?

Allen spoke before the Lions club of Silverton on the evening of February 20. The audience was friendly but obviously touchy on the subject of taxes. One man even proposed that this might be a good time to repeal withholding taxes (Representative Bennett is having such a bill drawn up now), his theory being that having to pay all taxes in cold, hard cash would awaken taxpayers to the folly of asking for increased government spending.

Members of the Senate and their secretaries are nervous these days over having been exposed to the mumps. Senator Lowry's small son developed the jaw-toll-tale bulges around the jaw after spending an afternoon visit-

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Don Robinson of Kirk and Robinson, Hereford breeders, of Hepner found two weeks ago that his stock could compete with the best polled herefords in the Pacific Northwest. His consignment made to the Red Bluff, California Bull sale sold among tops. His top bull consigned stood high in class. It sold for second high in the polled sale, going into a purebred herd in California. The Red Bluff sale is one of the biggest in the country with several hundred head of bulls sold during the three day sale. Don is consigning six head to the Columbia Empire polled Hereford show and sale which will be held at Moses Lake, Wash. on March 6 and 7.

Bernard Doherty, Hepner has also consigned three head to this show and sale.

Next week will be a busy week for Morrow county 4-H club leaders as they observe National 4-H Club Week March 2 through 9. A multitude of activities are planned including window displays of many of the clubs throughout the county, public appearances of older 4-H members or entire clubs at various farm and civic organizations. Showing of the film "This is 4-H Club Work", display of member and leader signs in front of farm and town homes where club members are enrolled and local leaders live and the display of 4-H member identification tags by club members during the week.

Also scheduled during the week are appearances of Marilyn Bradshaw, IFYE of Albany, Oregon who spent several months in Scotland. She will emphasize the IFYE Program in relation to 4-H club work.

During National 4-H Club Week public attention will be directed to the values of 4-H training. As a practical youth program, 4-H club work has succeeded on worthy principles. The 4-H theme during this year's week will be "Improving Family and Community Living". During 1956 adult volunteer 4-H leaders and 4-H friends helped Oregon attain

ing the Senate chamber and being carried around by various hospitable Senators. Mr. Lowry has not had the mumps—yet.

We on the House side are watching for signs of chickenpox. Representative Mosser spent last week at home having chickenpox with his children. The political life seems to hold more pitfalls than we realize.

the greatest 4-H enrollment in history for this extension service program. There were 4,289 adult leaders. The 4-H club enrollment was 27,591 boys and girls.

This program had its beginning more than 40 years ago. In 1914 the work with boys and girls officially became 4-H club work. For several years before the work was known as boys and girls club work. From small beginnings when a few county school superintendents and business men saw the great value of working in the home or in the community with these young people, the 4-H program has grown until every county has a thriving 4-H educational program. Today the total of members, parents, leaders, and friends of 4-H is more than 100,000 persons. Every county has extension agents working on 4-H Club work. The fact that this educational program has grown so much is due to a large degree to the keen interest of the volunteer leader. This program serves without financial pay—but the rewards of a more skillful and personable boy or girl must be highly satisfying to the 4-H leader. The wise council of parents is fundamental to the progress of children in the family. Regardless where the boy and girl may live today, there is a 4-H project that fits the local situation. In viewing the Oregon 4-H club program another group of persons is found active where ever 4-H is

found. This group is known as the Friends of 4-H—business men and women, organizations of all kinds, local and state officials. Great encouragement has been provided the boys and girls by these persons. Through the efforts of all these persons and groups the evidence is liberal in indicating that 1957 will be a year when many of the former accomplishments will be surpassed. This will be in keeping with the 4-H motto of "Making the Best Better"—improving today on our best of yesterday. So important is this club week that President Eisenhower in officialy declaring the week said "During National 4-H Club Week it is always a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of the 4-H movement. With more than 2 million members, guided by dedicated community leaders, your work and spirit are a source of national strength. This year, in developing your theme of "Improving Family and Community Living" I am glad to learn your vision includes the whole family of nations and our total part in the life of the world community. Your International Farm Youth Exchange program is an effective demonstration of the sincerity of this vision. As you help promote understanding and friendship with youth of other lands, you cultivate a strong stand of peace and freedom. Congratulations and Best Wishes."

Morrow county wheat growers were well represented at the
Continued on Page 5

DOES IT?

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