

# Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## SCHOOL BOARDS, GO HOME

(Below we reprint an editorial on Federal aid to education which appeared in the March 14 issue of the Lake County Examiner, Lakeview. We believe it is one of the best discussions on the subject that we have seen and it coincides with our previously stated opinion on the same subject. As a footnote . . . where the editorial mentions St. Helens, you may substitute the name "Heppner." If you will remember the same thing happened here not so many years ago).

At a recent meeting of the Lakeview school board, we made a remark something like this:

"In about two years, word will come out of Washington; 'Go home, school boards; from now on, we'll take care of all education matters from here.'"

Probably the time table is wrong; it will take longer than two years. But this thing is coming . . . control and direction of schools and education by higher echelons of government.

Already, much of it has happened. In Oregon, much school control has been passed up to the state level, thanks mostly to the basic school fund which gives the state a terrific club in imposing its will on the local school boards. The people of Oregon have meekly permitted the state to take over. Recently at St. Helens, because the voters refused again to approve a bond issue for the schools, the state withheld the St. Helens payment from the state basic school fund. The voters of St. Helens have been told off in no uncertain terms.

But control of the schools is going to go even higher into the unapproachable reaches of government. The federal government soon will be hip deep in the financing of education, and of course that means federal control of schools. (Petty words have been mouthed about writing the laws so all school control will remain in the states, but no one . . . especially the federal government . . . puts up money without laying down rules on its use, and taking control.)

Last session, Eisenhower's proposal for federal aid to school construction (embodied in the Kelley Bill) was defeated, but it has been introduced again in this Congress, with provision for state match-money. It or something like it will be passed, to the everlasting shame of a free people who permit government to grow bigger and bigger, and to take away more and more of their own powers.

Senator Morse has introduced a bill for wider federal aid to school: Aid to salaries, maintenance, books and new facilities. He says the money under his bill would go to the states, "with guarantees that the states will have complete control over the funds." To which we say "Nuts."

The education committee of the President's Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations made an exhaustive study of the states' abilities to finance schools, and reported: "We have not been able to find a State which is economically

unable to support an adequate school system . . . Federal Aid is not necessary, either for current operating expenses for public schools, or for capital expenditures for new school facilities."

The commission's report has been totally ignored in the clamor for federal aid to schools.

In regard to the construction aid bill to come up in this Congress, the director of that commission's education research, Roger A. Freeman, said "What we are faced with is not a federal school construction program, but the first and fateful step in the nationalization of the public schools."

Speaking before the Civic Federation in Chicago on October 31, 1956, Freeman pointed out: The public schools last year expended slightly over \$10 billion. A federal aid program of \$250 to \$400 million might boost that total by 2 1/2 to 4%, less than half the present annual increases in school costs."

He continued: "It is apparent that the bills Congress considered would have made very little difference in overall school finance. What, then, accounts for the excitement over the failure of the school aid bill? It appears that the sponsors of the Kelley bill had far more in mind than a \$400 million federal aid program. That was to be only the down-payment. The real purpose was to get a foot-in-the-door, to get the principle of federal responsibility for the schools established, and then prove in subsequent years that the amounts were far too small."

"That gives the subject a different aspect," Freeman said. "It would be naive to assume that the federal government would spend several billion dollars a year for any purpose, and have nothing to say on how the money was to be spent. Sooner or later they would suggest . . . with the big stick of non-compliance behind it . . . that schools conform to their ideas of how they should be organized and administered. History teaches that political power inevitably follows the power of the purse."

That definitely has been the history of state aid to schools in Oregon. At the close of World War II, because there was a large surplus from income taxes, the state legislature arbitrarily paid \$8,000,000 to the school districts. That was the spark which fired the cannon, and the next step was to levy a tax of \$50 per census child for the state basic school fund. This has been hiked to \$80, and the current move is to raise it to \$120.

And with each step the power at state level over the school districts has been increased; with each step, the people at home have lost more control over their tax money (look what happens at St. Helens when the people vote their wishes regarding a bond issue), and the school boards have less and less to say about administering the schools.

But we ain't seen nothing, yet; wait until the federal givers of "free" money get into the school act with both feet. In just a few years, word will come from Washington: "School boards, go home . . ."

## SLANTS FROM THE SESSION

By Mrs. C. A. Tom

On Friday, March 15, in their first afternoon session of the year, members of the House passed HJR 11, providing for a referendum to determine whether the people of Oregon wish to abolish capital punishment except in the case of second murder committed by a person already under sentence for murder. The debate was long and solemn, and the measure passed with only seven dissenting votes.

If this resolution passed the Senate the voters would once again have to take a stand on capital punishment. It was abolished in 1914 and reinstated in 1920. Should the measure pass in the 1958 General Election, Oregon will become the seventh state to abandon the death penalty.

Monday the Senate passed HJM 1, introduced by Representative Tom and Senator Wilhelm, memorializing Congress to appropriate funds for the immediate construction of the John Day Dam. An amendment aimed at

the preference clause, asking that Oregon be given "her fair share" of the power generated by the dam, was killed by a tie vote.

A Senate memorial adopted the same day requested Congress to provide funds for deepening the Columbia channel from Vancouver to The Dalles.

Among several bills which have kicked up a fuss in the House this past week was HB 187, which would give weighmasters the authority to require trucks parked within five miles of the weighing station to come and be weighed if the weighmaster has "reason to believe" the truck is overweight. This bill has been referred to the committee on Highways three times, which must be something of a record.

Our mail is steadily increasing in volume as people become more personally concerned with bills before the legislature. One of the first problems about which we receive numerous letters and

cards this time was the request for a new dormitory and display building at the state fair grounds for 4-H and FFA youngsters. It is still being considered by the Ways and Means Committee, and we hope funds will be available.

Also early in the session we started receiving many letters regarding the proposal to close banks on Saturday. This measure was tabled a few days ago in the Senate Financial Affairs Committee.

Our friends at home who have been pleading with us to save Green Stamps may now relax because the same Senate Committee has also tabled the trading stamp bill. Senator Sweetland states that he is going to rescue his bill, which he introduced in company with Representative Wilderman, but he will probably run into a solid wall of opposition.

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## From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

During the past few weeks 4-H club members have been busy in filling out applications to be considered as delegates to the 1957 4-H summer school which will be held at Oregon State college on June 11 to 21. Morrow county's quota is 32. This week selection committees for both the South and North Morrow communities have been busy in choosing members who will represent our county. 4-H members were chosen who are at least 13 years of age by January 1 of this year, who have completed at least two years of 4-H club work and have successfully completed all projects enrolled in during the past club year. Scholarships of \$25 per club member will be provided again by farm and civic organizations and business people interested in the 4-H club program. Club members will provide the expense of transportation with a Greyhound chartered bus to carry the Morrow county delegation to Corvallis. Announce-

ment of delegates selected by the committee composed of Mrs. Louis Carlson and Wilbur Van Blokland for the South Morrow area and all of the club leaders in the North Morrow area will be made as soon as approved by the County 4-H club councils.

The Morrow county extension office has been invited to appear periodically over the "Salute To Farmers" Program which makes its appearance weekly on Monday nights over KEPK-TV Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties in Washington with Morrow and Umatilla counties in Oregon will make up the programs in the future. This office has tentatively scheduled to hold its first TV program on May 20.

From a recent Grain and Hay Market Review we find that there is little Pacific Northwest wheat left under loan. Farmers continued to redeem loan wheat at a fairly constant rate in recent months. As of February 15 there were only 3.4 million bushels of wheat under loan compared to 62.4 million bushels a year ago. U. S. farmers withdrew over a fifth of the 316 million bushels of wheat placed under loan through February 15.

Oregon farmers took in more money from the sale of their farm products last year. A preliminary estimate shows cash receipts added up to nearly \$416 million—about 4% above 1955. The increase was due entirely to heavier markets as prices were down a shade. These estimates are based on receipts from sales, before production expenses are taken out. Oregon realized net income, after production expenses were deducted, averaged \$2,795 per farm last year. That was an increase of 7% over 1955. Higher cash receipts from wheat, potatoes, green peas and pears and hay more than offset a continued rise in production expenses.

In some parts of Oregon livestock rustlers are dealt with quite harshly. Recently two men drew two prison terms, a youth's parole from McLaren School for Boys was revoked, and sentence of another youth is in the balance as a result of larceny of sheep in Linn county. The two men were each sentenced to two years in the state prison March 4 when they appeared before circuit judge, Victor Oliver in Al-

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From Files of the Gazette Times  
March 31, 1927

A delightful reception of an informal nature, was given Mrs. Sarah Parker, mother of Frank S. Parker, at the parlors of the Methodist church on Wednesday afternoon. A large number of ladies from the Methodist and Christian churches came to tender congratulations to Mrs. Parker on her 83rd birthday.

Charley Hynd of Ukiah was calling in Heppner the first of the week.

Miss Gladys Bengt, student at Whitman college, Walla Walla, spent the past week visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eph Eskelson, in Heppner.

Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Akers came up from their Portland home Wednesday and are visiting with their relatives.

Miss Vera Mahoney of Seattle is visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Mahoney.

A deal was consummated this week whereby M. L. Case, of Case Furniture company, purchased the controlling interest in the Fair store building on lower Main street, from A. G. Edmanson of Seattle.

bany. This court action brought to an end a series of eight nightly visitations to the flock where altogether 81 sheep and lambs were stolen.

Joyce Peck, member of the Fur and Feathers, poultry and rabbit club of Lexington is in the rabbit business. Joyce started out with one doe last November and at this time owns 24 rabbits. The state 4-H club office at Corvallis tells us that with one doe more pounds of meat can be raised in a year in the rabbit business than a beef cow would produce. If this is the case the twelve members of this club led by Mrs. Bernard Doherty and Mrs. Eugene Wardwell will produce a lot of meat for the Lexington community this year.

Recently we reported hormone tests on yearling steers fed on the Marion Weatherford farm in Gilliam county. Details were received this week. It was found that the feeding test got under way on November 8 and was concluded on March 5th for a feed period of 117 days. There were 29 steers in each of three pens which averaged 816 pounds at the beginning of the feed period. One pen was implanted with Synovex and one pen with Stilbestrol. At the end of the 117 day feed period the calves implanted with the Synovex had averaged 2.71 pounds per day; those implanted with Stilbestrol 2.66 pounds per day while the check gained 2.35 pounds per day. The Synovex implanted steers had made a 42 pound gain over the control lot while the Stilbestrol a 37 pound average gain over the control pen. This experiment carried on by Marion Weatherford in cooperation with the county agent, Ernest Kirsch and Dr. Dave England of the Oregon State College experiment station are pretty much in line with our report of results at the Milton feed trial which I had visited last week.

Washington State College recently reported that beef cattle herds that were pregnancy tested in the fall and winter showed an unusual large number of barren cows. Each one of these culled out meant a saving in winter feed loss from 30 to 40 dollars. One herd had 26% barren cows. Others reported from 10 to 20% of cows not setted. It is too late now for ranchers to adopt this practice for this year but by all means it is a recommended practice for the fall of 1957. A few herds were pregnancy tested in Morrow county last fall with a number of barren cows found. A local veterinarian can do this inspection job almost as rapidly as cows can be put through a squeeze chute. With the cost-

## Boardman Notes

The grade and junior high school band went to La Grande Saturday to play in the Eastern Oregon Music Competition. With them was their director, Marion Morlan. Parents attending were Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Ely, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thorpe and daughter Teresa, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Partlow and sons, Mrs. John Partlow, and Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Rogers and son Duane, Mr. and Mrs. Ely also visited at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Lilly, and Mr. and Mrs. Miller visited their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Carpenter.

Mrs. William Garner attended a meeting of the Demolay Mothers' Circle in Hermiston Monday evening.

## Nancy Ferrell Has Sixth Birthday

Mrs. Robert Ferrell entertained Thursday afternoon of last week at a party honoring the sixth birthday of her daughter Nancy.

Guests were Linda Orwick, Jane Downen, Kathy and Karen Blake, Debby Bennett, Charlene Knox and Marcia Jones.

Games were played and a prize won by Karen Blake for pinning the tail on the donkey. Linda Orwick won the prize balloon.

Refreshments of cake, ice cream and punch were served and each guest received a party favor.

price squeeze getting tighter this is one of the ways that cost of operation can be cut down.

## CARD OF THANKS

Although this message cannot convey the real depth of our feeling and gratitude to all you wonderful people who sent floral offerings, letters and cards to Reba during her illness, we want to tell you there is no way we can ever fully thank you. Your reward must come from the knowledge that they made her very happy. We also thank you for your sympathy, funds given in Reba's memory, and many other things all of you have done to show your lifelong friendship. All of it makes us very humble and grateful. Nowhere but in our area here could there ever be so much concern, so many cheering messages and real neighborliness shown. We sincerely thank you.

Bob and Robert Grabill  
The Tilman Hogue Family  
The A. E. and A. A. Stefani Families

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