

# Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## THERE COULD BE A "JOKER" IN THE DECK. . . .

Morrow county's efforts appeared, on the surface, to have gone for nothing last weekend at the Oregon State highway commission hearing on the location of the entry into Oregon of the proposed Ellensburg-Oregon highway. This area wanted the Washington and the Federal proposal of a Columbia river crossing at Boardman, while the strong Umatilla county delegation put up quite a fight for a rerouting of the road so it looks like Umatilla county has the upper hand. There is a chance, however, that they may have drawn a "joker" in their hand.

According to information given this paper by persons who attended the hearing, the "public" hearing was somewhat of a misnomer. . . members of the commission apparently had their minds already made up well ahead of the time the hearing opened and our delegation got little consideration other than being given time to "talk."

About a month ago, the state highway department engineer made the statement that the Umatilla bridge could not qualify, because of its narrow width, as a part of any federal highway plan, nor could a privately-owned toll bridge be taken over by the government for such use. Last weekend he gave exactly the opposite testimony, saying that the bridge could easily be made into two adequate lanes for interstate traffic and that there was no intention of the proposed highway being anything more than two lanes. A month before, all discussion concerned a four-lane route, which practically all roads on the federal highway system are planned for. Maybe during that short period he received some new information on the federal highway plan that we haven't heard about, but he didn't say so—he simply made the arbitrary statement that the bridge would serve the purpose.

The route given a tentative OK by the Oregon commission would require at least 10 more miles of the road to be built in Washington and 10 to 15 miles more in Oregon than needed under the plan approved by the Washington highway com-

mission and the federal government. In addition, the new route would run through heavily populated areas of Umatilla, Hermiston and Stanfield, contrary to the by-pass idea incorporated in all federal road planning. The Boardman route would follow the shortest feasible direct route between Ellensburg and Highway 30 in Oregon.

As to the "joker" that might show up in the Umatilla county plan—it could leave the whole area holding the bag, if the Washington highway commission should get tired of all the interference (and, it should be remembered that the great majority of the route lies within that state.) The Tri-Cities want very much to see the proposed road come on down the lower Yakima valley into Kennewick, Pasco and Richland, then to Wallula and on into Oregon by way of Holdman and northern Umatilla county, again bypassing the Umatilla bridge with possibly even more disastrous results. If such a road were built, a great majority of the grain crops of that entire big section of Umatilla county could very well be drained into the Wallula Washington port area on the Columbia because of the ease of transportation that direction. We doubt that Umatilla county would approve such a route there either, for not only their bridge but their port district at Umatilla and their economy would suffer a staggering blow.

The "joker" is still in the deck and there is no question but that the wishes of the heavily populated Tri-Cities area will bear weight with the Washington highway commission when it finds that interests in Oregon are toying with the tag end of its highway in such a manner that it could cost that state a sizeable amount of money without doing it any good. The Tri-Cities routing, if a change is to be made, would keep the Washington residents much happier.

Morrow county is far from through in its fight to get the road located in the Boardman area and it's just possible that before the argument is settled, Umatilla county could be helping us get it.

## TO THE EDITOR . . .

TO THE EDITOR:

I read a very interesting advertisement, The Oregonian March 5, 1958 purported to be prepared and published by NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A SANE NUCLEAR POLICY. It appeared to be supported by a number of ministers and politicians. I cannot say that Senator Neuberger had anything to do with it, but his wife's name was attached to it and we may presume that the Senator was not too definitely opposed to it.

The advertisement was entitled "WE ARE FACING A DANGER UNLIKE ANY DANGER THAT HAS EVER EXISTED." What about Noah's Flood? That must have been something that those good folks were thinking about. The ad says that the people are uneasy because of missiles, spit-niks and nuclear testing. We certainly are, and we would all like to stop it — President Eisenhower most of all. But who would say that we should stop while our common enemy continues right on. To me that seems the height of assinnity. We know that the whole earth is in the tight grip of militarism and certainly all of us would like to be relieved of that, but our enemy insists on communizing the earth and I suspect that all of us would object to that — even the sponsors of that ad. They should have published their ad in the Russian papers. We don't need that propaganda in America.

The ad mentioned our "natural rights" i.e. the right to live, to grow, to breathe unpolluted air, etc. We have only such rights as the American flag gives us and our enemies are unable to restrain us on. I know many of my good friends will say that we possess "God given rights." But we enjoy them only so far as our government supports

them.

The ad includes the line, "There is much that America has said to the world. But the world is still waiting for us to say and do the things that will in deed and in truth represent our greatest strength." What do they mean by that? That we should send our bombers and show the Russians a thing or two? I doubt it. They add another strong statement, "That we pledge ourselves to the cause of peace with justice on earth, and that there is no sacrifice that we are not prepared to make, nothing we will not do to create such a just peace for all people." Well, that is just about the pledge the Americans took about 1776, and as I recall, they had a high old time after that. Is that what these sponsors would have us do? I doubt if we can talk ourselves out of our present predicament, nor does our government think so. While we all despise this excessive taxation, government restraints, and huge war preparations, none of us would like to lay down and let our enemy take over. That might bring peace, but would we like it?

The ad further urges me to do two things: Send money to their organization and write President Eisenhower and tell him what to do. Now, I am not well prepared for that. Surely, each one of our 170 million people know exactly what our president should do. It seems to be unfortunate that the president doesn't know. I recall that during the Civil War, a group of ministers called on President Lincoln and told him that they had a revelation from God, telling them that now was the time to issue the emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln answered, what a pity that God did not make his revelation to the right party.

Sincerely,  
J O Turner, Heppner, Oregon

Phone Your News Items to 6-9228

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the  
Gazette Times  
March 8, 1928

With the rearrangement of Heppner's nine-hole golf course, the building of new greens and tees and fixing up of the greens the game here has been given a new impetus. Already several applications have been received for membership in the Heppner Country Club.

Frank Shively and A D McMurdo, making the team for the first time this season in the Oregonian State Telegraphic Trap-shooting tournament, both turned in perfect scores on their first 25 birds at the local traps Sunday.

Anson Wright and son Walter were in the city on Saturday from the Wright ranch near Hardman.

Heppner high school students received their report cards Wednesday last. Those on the honor roll are: Four As, Fletcher Swendig; 3 A's and B, Evelyn Swendig; two A's and two B's, Katherine Bisbee, Virginia Dix, and Gordon Bucknum; one A and three B's, Jeanette Turner.



Today's Forgotten Man Quit Advertising Yesterday



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

### Sis "Puts on the Dog"

My paper's got two subscribers — Sis Harper and her brother Rip — out on lonely Sunset Mountain. A road goes by Sis' farm and both copies are mailed to her because Rip lives back in the woods.

Sis always ties her brother's copy of the Clarion — plus any mail — to an old hound who trots over to Rip's place. "Rip feeds the dog half of his dinner," Sis explains. "I give him the other half when he gets back. Speeds him along."

Thanks to Sis — I bet the Clarion's got the only dog-powered

delivery system in the U.S.A. From where I sit, Sis may live in the "backwoods" but she's got a wide-awake mind. Contrast that with some people who refuse to own up there's more than one opinion on any subject — like whether beer or buttermilk makes the best beverage. That mountain air sure keeps those "doggone communication channels" open!

Joe Marsh

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## WASHINGTON AND "SMALL BUSINESS"

By C. WILSON HARDER

Sooner or later, Congress is going to have to face the issues created by the widespread use of trading stamps.

It's a fleckish problem, too. When trading stamps first sprang into prominence in the postwar period, many an independent merchant found they helped stimulate his business, especially in competition with the chains.

But as more and more trading stamp promoters set up shop, more and more merchants have felt forced to take on stamps for self-protection, either absorbing costs out of profits, or adding to prices.

Thus, there has developed a system whereby the advantage anyone had from the use of trading stamps is largely negated by everybody offering stamps.

Due to lack of clarification of many legal aspects of matter, Federal Trade Commission more or less backed out of hassle.

The latest body to take a seemingly confused position on this issue was the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma. This state has what is called an Unfair Sales Act which requires a minimum markup of 5% above the cost to the retailer including not only the invoice cost, but also subsidiary items such as freight, taxes, and other items.

Safeway decided to meet stamp giving competition by cutting prices below legal minimum on grounds giving away stamps is form of price cutting.

The big chain lost the case in a lower court, and recently lost an appeal to the Supreme Court.



C. W. Harder

of the State. At the same time, the court passed on another stamp matter, and upheld a lower court decision prohibiting any merchant from giving away double stamps on certain days.

But the decision of the court seemingly was a most peculiar one stating, "We conclude the weight of the law distinctly shows that the practice of giving away stamps in the usual customary manner does not sustain a charge of price cutting." The opinion further stated that stamps amount to a cash discount rather than a price reduction.

Bearing in mind that the same court also prohibited anybody from giving away a double amount of stamps on certain amounts, the decision appears most ambiguous. To the average layman, the difference between a "cash discount" and a "price reduction" is like Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

Thus, it would appear that there is needed from Congress a law defining just what the use of trading stamps amounts to in actual practice.

For example, the question is still up in the air as to whether or not trading stamps are a form of currency, which would thus make them illegal.

Probably one of the biggest interests in this issue is held by the American farmer. Obviously, cost of stamps given on many food products either eventually is made up for in form of lower prices to farmers, or in higher prices to consumers, thus cutting down farm product consumption.

There is even some thought, therefore, being given, to make it illegal to give away stamps on any product containing farm products that are being price supported by federal funds collected from taxpayers. This could have a far reaching affect.

## From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Anderson

Plans are being made to hold a fruit tree and ornamental and grafting demonstration which will be held within the next two weeks. Those who might be interested in having the demonstration at their place are urged to contact this office at once so that notification can be made of the place. We would like to hold demonstrations in the Lone, Lexington, and Heppner areas. C O Rawlings, horticultural specialist, Oregon State college will assist with the demonstrations.

Two new bulletins which

should be of interest to all of our homemakers have been recently announced by Oregon State college. They are Pacific Northwest bulletins No 18 dishwashers, and No 19 vacuum cleaners. The information in these bulletins deal with both the selection and use problems connected with these electrical appliances. They are available at this office.

During the past couple of weeks a lot of concern has been shown by farmers who report a great number of leaf hoppers,

aphids and other unidentified insects showing up in wheat fields and other places. The occurrence of these insects at this early time of year is most concerning. While we do not wish to be an alarmist, we would suggest that farmers give some attention to insect build-ups in case that they should be found in damaging numbers. The lush growth and abundance of moisture contribute to insect numbers we are sure. While they are not doing any damage at this time, at least visibly, it is well to watch them.

It was interesting to note that in the recent Beef Commission referendum that Morrow and Umatilla counties were the only Eastern Oregon counties with a majority of "yes" votes over "no". Morrow county cattlemen voted 42 for 25 against the Beef Commission proposal. Largest percentages of no votes came from Gilliam and Willowa counties who voted 10 yes, 120 no in the case of Gilliam county operators with 16 yes and 216 no from Willowa county.

The USDA last week announced that price supports for 1958 crop oats, barley and rye will be at 70% of February parity prices. Price support eligibility requirements and operating provisions will be the same as they were

last year. In dollars and cents, supports for No 3 or better oats will be 61 cents a bushel or the same as last year. Barley, grading No 4 or better (except mixed) will be supported at 93 cents a bushel, or 2 cents less than last year. The rate on rye, No 2 or better, or No 3 on test weight only, will be \$1.10 a bushel-down 8 cents from last year.

This office has just received a fresh supply of poisoned oats for squirrel control. There have been many calls for poison bait this spring and those who have asked for it can now pick up what they need. There has been a considerable demand and we will try to keep a fresh supply on hand at all times. Zinc phosphide poison grain for mouse control is also available.

This week Morrow county 4-H club members are joining with others all over the country in observing 4-H National Club Week. The theme of the week is a salute to 4-H parents. In Morrow county club leaders and members are pointing out what we are doing in the development of boys and girls through window displays, appearances before various service organizations and publicity. An event of the week is the first annual know Your State Government conference which is being held at Sal-

(Continued on Page 5)



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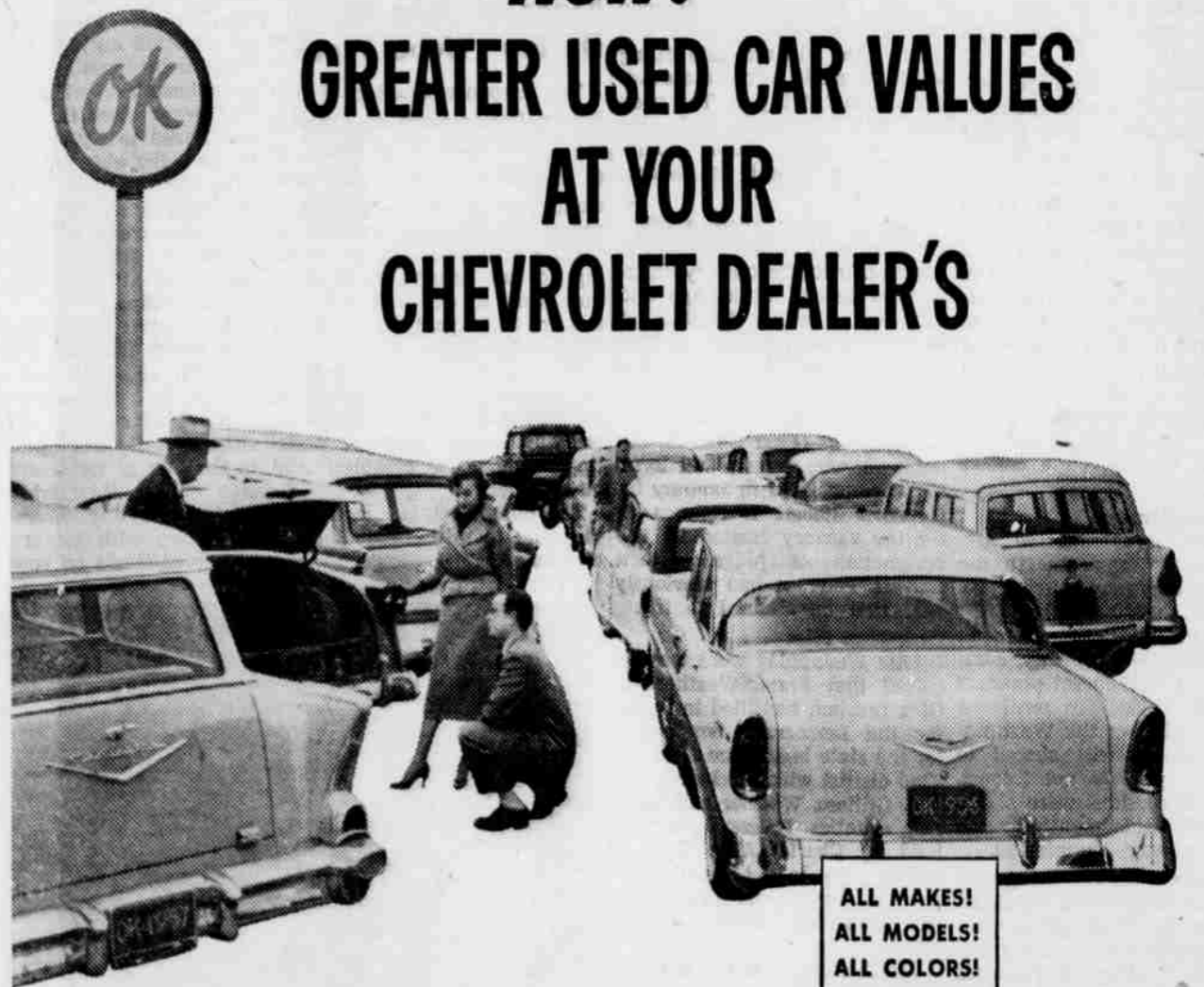
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