

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912



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Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter
Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$3.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.00 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents.

Newspaper Is Important

The weekly newspaper is many things but underlying all these things is the fact that a newspaper is a business, and as such must make money or it cannot exist.

This economic side of newspapering is too often overlooked until it suddenly can be used as a weapon in an effort to control the press, to bias and abuse the news and editorial columns to fit an individual interest at the expense of the public's right to know.

Threats against the newspaper are growing, especially in areas where great controversies rage, and where vested interests find that the public's right to know is contrary to the well being of those interests. In other words, they want to hide the facts, distort the truth, and hoodwink the public.

Against all these pressures the weekly newspaper (there are more than 10,000 in the nation) puts up a strong fight. There are usually enough honest businessmen to continue to support the weekly paper, which has been described as the

"individuality of the community and people whose lives it relates."

It is seldom that a paper must bow to these economic boycotts of its advertising columns, but it does happen and when it does freedom of the press is wounded and so are the rights of each American.

But an even more formidable adversary than wilful boycotting can be apathy of the newspaper's hometown businesses, upon whom it relies for support. It is to the best interests of the businessmen that there is a newspaper in their community.

There can be grave danger to the welfare of a community whose merchants only half-heartedly support the local newspaper, who cry "buy at home" and fail to practice what they preach.

Recently a weekly publication on the coast went out of business and within a month the local publisher (who stayed behind to operate a print shop) was being asked by local merchants, by the chamber of commerce by the mayor and council to resume publication.

—Cheney, Free Press (Wash)

TO THE EDITOR . . .

To The Editor:

During the eleven and half years I served as a member of the Morrow County Court, nine years of this total as county judge, one of the major complaints I constantly raised against the taxpayers of the county was the lack of interest shown when the annual county budget was published and the total absence of taxpayers and citizens at the budget hearings. However, when the tax paying time arrived in November everyone was tax conscious, six months after it was too late.

Therefore, as a private citizen and taxpayer, I am going to put into practice that which I so long preached. Not as a direct criticism of the 1958-59 county budget, but to call to the attention of the county officials and the public some of the items in the published budget that should be clarified.

In the June 5th, edition of the Gazette we were informed that Judge Peterson had announced a slight decrease of \$3,339.00 in the county budget for 1958-59 and that the total amount needed to balance the budget would be \$133,539.00. An analysis of the published budget reveals that the total estimated expenditures for 1958-59 is \$400,894.00 as against \$397,555.00 for the year 1957-58 or an increase of \$3,339.00. The fact that this statement has not been corrected by either Judge Peterson or the editor is the purpose of this letter.

Further analysis indicates that the total tax levy for the year 1958-59 is \$133,539.00 as compared to the last fiscal year of \$117,905.00, or an increase of \$15,634.00 over the previous year. Based on an estimated assessed valuation of the county similar to that of last year this increase will add a little over a mill to every tax notice this year for county purposes. This increase is due primarily to a \$3,940.00 increase in the salaries of county officers and deputies for the year; a hospital improvement allowance of \$6,000.00 which must be offset this year by a small tax levy as all cash reserves were expended last year for improvements; an Oregon centennial appropriation of \$1000.00 under publicity and advertising; an additional budget of \$1,400.00 to the North Morrow County Fair, as this district fair does not participate in regular county fair receipts and a \$1,000.00 allowance to the Boardman boat landing.

The weed control appropriation of \$7,150.00 is a net \$2,902.28 over last years request due to no allowance given for any cash balance or anticipated receipts from state, railroad and private sources for services rendered by the weed control department. According to the budget laws these receipts should be shown as an offset to the actual expenditures. I have been informed that these balances and receipts should approximate \$3,400.00 which would decrease the amount to be raised by taxation by that amount.

These major increases coupled with some minor ones actually increase the budget by a larger amount than shown here, but some re-organization in the rodent fund and elimination of a coyote bounty in its entirety, which I believe should be given more of an airing before its demise; an anticipated increase in fair receipts and a few other cuts of a minor nature will keep the total levy to be raised by taxation within the six percent limitation but still leave a total of \$15,634.00 to be raised over last year's levy.

This year's increase in school tax levies and an increased county levy will for the first time in the tax history of the city of Heppner bring the total tax levy for all tax levying bodies that affect the taxpayers of Heppner to or near a 100 mill levy. In cold cash this is a tax of \$100.00 on every \$1,000.00 of assessed value on real and personal property within the boundaries of the city. Generally, over the county, it will also be the largest tax levy in the history of the county.

I am still a rather large taxpayer in Morrow County and it is not the purpose of this letter to decry or oppose the conscientious efforts of the various tax levying bodies within the county, but I do believe that we, as taxpayers and citizens should more fully exercise our right to know what our tax dollars are being used for and why. In so doing it might ease the pain at tax paying time in November and a better attitude toward those officials who are endeavoring to abide by our wishes and the full intent of the law. With this in mind I expect to attend the hearing on the Morrow County budget on June 30th. WILL YOU?

Sincerely
Garnet Barratt

To The Editor:

I have read the item "Plans Told For State Centennial" and thought that you would like to have some records which I have covering Post Offices which were established in Umatilla and Morrow Counties, my records cover the first Post Office-Umatilla, which was established at the Umatilla Indian Agency in September 16, 1851 and was closed January 6, 1852, that was where the Oregon Trail and the Northern Route, via Lolo Pass

From The County Agent's Office

By N. C. Andersen

One of the recommendations of the farm crops committee of the Agricultural Planning conference held during the past fall and winter was that more hogs needed to be produced in the Pacific Northwest to provide our pork needs and to utilize feed grains. The sub-committee on utilization of feed grains to livestock feeding made a detailed study of the possibilities of livestock feeding and presented quite an informative report at the conference. Increasing hog production showed many advantages. Whether or not this recommendation has had the effect on creating interest in the county is not known, however much interest has been shown since that time. A number of substantial large hog operations are being developed this summer. First to show interest were Dick Wilkinson and George Rugg who are in the process now of developing what will be one of the larger operations when breeding stock has been built up. Gene Cutsforth and Lyle Cox have a production and fattening unit which is also of substantial size. Kenneth Smouse, Ione and Kenneth Peck, Lexington, who have been in the hog business on a limited scale for a number of years are expanding now. Kenneth Peck is in the process of having black top poured for a unit which will accommodate sixty brood sows, fattening out a thousand or more fat hogs a year. As soon as harvest is over, Kenneth Smouse will erect a pig parlor to take care of his expanding herd. In lower Sandholow, Van Buskirk has a feeding operation which will expand as feeders are available. A number of other ranchers have shown interest in pig production and there are no doubt some that we have not yet caught up to.

Last week while attending a

and Spokane connected at where the city of Echo is located.

Dalles Post Office was established November 5th, 1851, was changed to Wascopum, then to The Dalles in 1862.

Cecil Post Office was established October 3, 1867, was closed August 17, 1870.

Willow Forks Post Office was established June 3, 1872 that was at the forks of Willow Creek, now known as Jordan. A C Petteys, The name was changed to Petteysville December 24, 1878.

My list covers some 20 Post Offices which have been in Morrow county, if you wish the record I will be pleased to write them up for you.

Yours truly
Bert Mason

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times
June 23, 1928

Rev and Mrs Henry Rasmus of Los Angeles were guests at the home of Mr and Mrs Orval Rasmus from Monday evening to Wednesday morning.

Miss Elaine Sigsbee returned with her parents from Portland on Friday, spending Saturday and Sunday here.

Newly elected officers were sworn in and began their duties at a regular meeting of the school board Friday evening, held in the auditorium building. These were Dr A D McMurdo, director and Mrs Claude Cox, clerk. S E Notson, being the oldest member of the board, will be chairman for this year. Chas Thomson is the third director.

1928 Chevrolet coach \$585 at Ferguson's Chevrolet Co.

Frank Mason of Rhea Creek was attending to business matters in this city on Saturday.

This paper is informed by County Roadmaster McCaleb that the roads leading to the timber belt at Arbuckle mountain are now in excellent shape.

concern was indicated in just one item, hamburger. Average daily production of hamburger is 190,000 pounds which if you stop to figure out will make a lot of hamburgers.

Last Saturday the Oregon Polled Hereford Association directors met in Heppner to plan for the annual Oregon Polled Hereford sale. It has been scheduled for November 11 with consignments of 50 bulls and 40 heifers expected. A new feature of this year's show and sale will include range bulls in pens. They will be shown loose and sell loose. There has been some demand for unhampered range bulls which this will satisfy. Those who have indicated they will consign to the sale which will be held at the Round-Up grounds in Pendleton are Rita and Jack Sumner, B J Doherty and Kirk and Robinson, Heppner and Leo Barnett Boardman.

While Morrow county is not an important one for poultry production many of our farm people keep a laying flock. Since most of these are confined to houses which get quite hot in weather such as we have been having our farm people may be interested in a recipe for a salt white wash used to keep chickens cool. This easy to mix white wash made of salt, alum, and molasses mixed with water and 50 pounds of lime can be used on laying house roofs to reduce inside temperature several degrees. To make the white wash, mix six pounds of salt, three ounces of powdered alum, one pint of black strap molasses and ten gallons of hot water. Then pour into the lime and stir thoroughly till well mixed. The mixture will not spray but must be brushed on.

From a recent Meat Animal and Wool Review comes the report that the Canadian Department of Agriculture says that the recent boom in livestock and meat prices in Canada is a direct result of a meat shortage in the United States. Despite a 30 percent rise in output in cattle during the first three months this year, prices of live cattle and beef in Canada have increased sharply from last year's levels. One-fifth of Canada's recorded output of livestock and meat during the first quarter of 1958 was exported to the United States compared with about 4 percent a year earlier.

Favorable prices for meat animals may tempt some breeders to save inferior sire prospects. Constant culling is necessary for breed improvement, and while prices are good is the time to market the cull animals. Now and then we see in breeding herds bulls, boars, and rams that should have been steers, barrows and wethers. Liberal use of the knife makes it one of the great

tools of breed improvement.

Under the ground water act of 1955, persons using wells for irrigation purposes prior to August 3, 1955 in western Oregon and May 20, 1927 in eastern Oregon, have a vested right and are given the opportunity to claim this right by registering their wells with the state engineer prior to August 8, 1958.

Lewis Stanley, state engineer, estimates that considerably less than one-half of the eligible wells have been registered to date.

Failure to register prior to August 3, 1958 is interpreted as abandonment of any such priority claim and may eventually cost some present irrigators that right to use water for irrigation purposes. There already have been reports of wells going dry and water tables being lowered in isolated cases. As the ground water supply becomes more completely developed, this situation will most likely spread to other areas and there may not be enough water to go around.

Contact the state engineer, Salem, Oregon, for forms and instructions on how to register your well. His office is on the third floor of the building just east of the Capitol building.

ROCK HOUND'S CORNER

By JOHN NEWMAN
In spite of the heat, bugs and pup, that was overjoyed at having so many around and who kept George or Paul correcting him most of the time, till we moved in the house where there was silent TV for the pebble pups, we had a good session.

While the meeting was in session some of the older hounds were guilty of letting their attention be divided, which may account for you not getting a full or accurate report on what happened.

George, being our representative to the N W convention and rock show, was given the support of the club in voting as he saw fit, on the various measures to be brought up at the meeting. We are to have a booth at the fair this year. Its size is still a question to be decided by the display committee, Peterson, Wilson and Edger. Betty Wagner was handed the job of printing signs that would inform visitors what was on display, by whom, if they should be in doubt, purpose and information on how to become a member and the cost.

Display cases are to be readied and members will man the booth at the fair. Doing it always creates interest so it is not likely there will have to be any drafting of labor. Betty is leading with her chin. Even though you are behind pushing from the rear of a loaded cart, you get back most everything you heap on. Her lap is always full but she manages somehow and it is the willingness to lead the way, from behind the cart that will make the exhibit possible and the cooperation of the club to make it a success. Peterson is always a very capable chairman of that committee. He has brains, imagination and foresight along with his display training.

From where I sit it looks very promising. It is early enough and the enthusiasm, while not bubbling over, has started to ferment with doing which will cause it to work. Who knows we may have a club yet.

Continued on page 7

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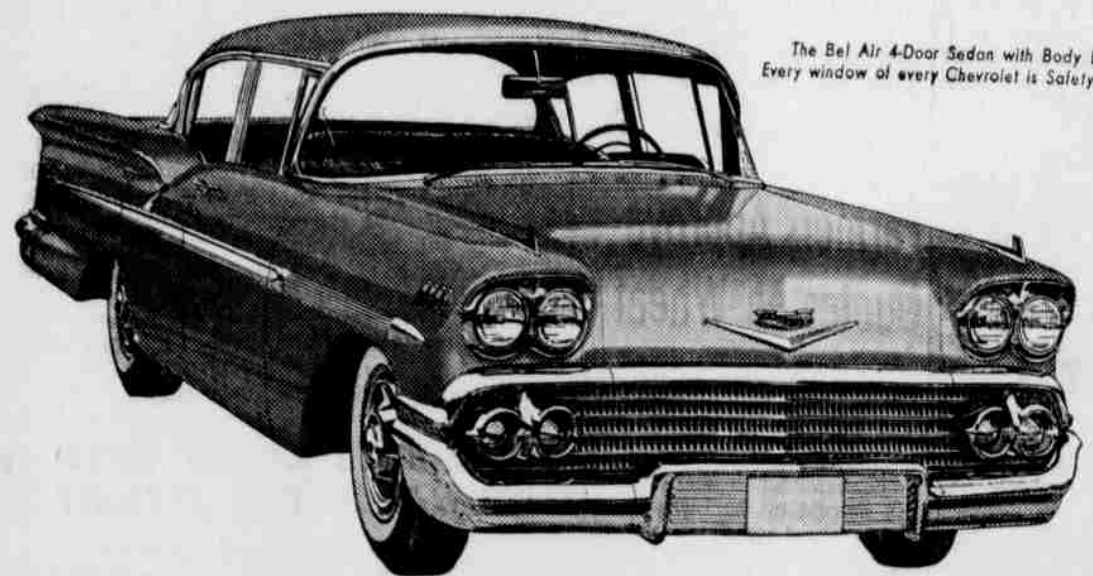
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Thurs., Fri., Sat., June 26, 27, 28

Decision at Sundown
Randolph Scott, John Carroll, Karen Steele.

PLUS
Going Steady
Molly Bee, Alan Reed Jr., Irene Hervey.

Sun., Mon., June 29, 30
Witness For Prosecution

Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, Charles Laughton. Sunday at 4, 6:10, 8:20.

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