

# Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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## History Comes Again

The Gazette-Times usually refuses to publish much in the poetry line, except for our annual contribution from Spencer Akers. But, this week we received a poetic answer to Mr Akers' efforts and we couldn't turn it down. The letter that accompanied it was also in rhyme and it asks that we keep the writer's name a secret for a while. We have often refused to print unsigned letters, but this is different, for we will give the writer's name next week, if you haven't already guessed it by then.

Inasmuch as this is Oregon's Centennial and we are running lots of historical stories, we are pleased to add this contribution. But, please, don't load us down with too much poetry, or we'll be forced to say "no" to all of it!

To The Editor:

This is a secret, you'll not tell will you?  
I thought it would be fun to see how many readers could guess, who wrote this awful mess. And too, I would like to have Mr Akers' reaction, and hope he is not driven to distraction. Of course, if anyone really wants to know, you may tell them in a week or so.

Very Truly,  
???

ANOTHER PIONEER  
(With apologies to S Akers)

You may talk about poets,  
And sing of other verse-makers,  
But my vote will go to Spencer Akers.

I have enjoyed his verses for quite awhile  
And always wished to copy his style.

I wish he would tell me how he finds a rhyme  
Each and every time.

Mr A do you have to work hard and dig deep,  
Or do they come easy, sort of in your sleep?

Here an idea came right out of the blue  
Perhaps if I tried, I could do it too.

"I don't know how to try", said I,  
Just move the words around, till you get a better sound.

Before I forget it, I want to say  
I came to Heppner in 1885, am now four score, minus five.

The old man with his scythe and hook,  
Has not yet called to close the book.

So I'm still here taking my place as a pioneer,  
Myra, Sadie, Lou B & Ralph T.  
All went to school with me,  
Many school memories have we.

I'll never forget how Will D could sing,  
He really made the rafters ring.

I liked that line about Millie,  
The sweet little girl of nine,  
She lingers in my memory,  
With the class of ninety-nine.

My summons to the Pearly Gate,  
Seems to be a little late.

So God willing, I'll be waiting here,  
To read your verse again next year.

Will B & Will D, Oscar and George, to name a few,  
Struck out too for pastures new.

I too, saw that awful flood go down  
And Kelly & Matlock take off to warn a neighboring town.

Their names will not forgotten be,  
They are written down in history.

## TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Mr Penland,

As the legislative intern from the University of Portland, I have enjoyed a marvelous opportunity to view the operations of the state legislature at close range.

For an entire week I have been the "shadow" of Senator Anthony Yturri of Ontario. He kindly interrupted his demanding schedule to give personal instruction in legislative activities. I have attended his committee meetings, was introduced to his fellow senators, and have had free access to all desired information.

Senator Yturri is a brilliant, versatile, and persuasive legislator who is highly respected by his colleagues in both political parties. He is leader of the minority party in the Senate, chairman of roads and highways, and a member of the important taxation, state and federal affairs, judiciary, and legislative counsel committees.

If I may venture into the realm of speculation, I believe that the political contests of the future will have Tony Yturri contending with Bob Duncan, the dynamic young speaker of the

House, for the highest offices of Oregon.

It is quite fascinating to observe the complete evolution of a bill from its deposit in the "hopper" to its final enactment into law. After being announced on three different days in both Houses, a bill is referred to a committee for special study. It is in the committees where the real work of law-making is accomplished.

During my internship, my conception of the state legislature changed immensely. These are the features which especially impressed me:

(1) Except for a few who can become enraptured with their own loquaciousness, the legislature is composed of well-qualified, experienced, hard-working men who are sincerely interested in good government. They are working as much as 80 hours a week with sessions and meetings in the evenings.

(2) There is a surprising amount of cooperation between the two political parties. Republicans and Democrats intermingle on a friendly, "first-name" basis. Most disagreements are settled by discussion in the committees, so the majority of bills are passed or rejected by a unanimous vote.

(3) Each measure is exposed to careful scrutiny as the members of the committee explore all aspects and possible repercussions of the bill. If the effect of the bill is in doubt, the pertinent groups are immediately contacted for testimony. After such close examination, most unworthy bills are killed before reaching the floor, while those with merit are given a "do pass" recommendation.

(4) Any citizen, regardless of the merits of his case, has the privilege of appearing before a legislative committee in a public hearing. (Previously I had assumed that it was necessary to "go through channels" and to struggle with official "red tape.") I have watched hearings continue into the evening hours as private citizens explained their problems to a board of senators and representatives. Although legislative schedules are disrupted, each witness is treated with fairness and courtesy, and is allowed to present his plea in full. I was greatly impressed and reassured by such consideration for an individual's rights.

The legislature is dealing with many complicated issues. Over 500 bills have been introduced, and requested appropriations already exceed the budget by \$60 million. A lot of work remains to be done, and tempers will probably flare more frequently as the session rolls on.

My faith in self-government has been vastly reinforced during the past week. Legislators who previously were merely names in the capitol news are now recognized as conscientious men who regard service to the public as a personal duty.

I was pleased to learn that Morrow county's representatives, Frank Weatherford and Senator Ben Musa, are highly respected by their associates. Both men prefer to vote independently, rather than follow the strict party line.

The people of Oregon can be proud of their legislature. But they should be ashamed of the disgraceful salary paid to their senators and representatives. A legislator receives only 1/3 as much as his secretary, and his office space consists of a small crowded desk on the floor of the chamber.

Few men can afford to serve more than one term in the capitol. (One senator admitted that the last session cost him \$4,000.00—and he has a family to support also). Only .03% of the state budget is paid to our elected representatives. Why should capable men be required to suffer a financial loss for the chance to serve their neighbors?

I wish that my friends in Eastern Oregon could have participated with me in this interesting experience. They would surely have gained, as I did, a new respect for our state government.

Yours truly,  
Larry Lindsay



WHEN THIS HAPPENS, PHONE US and We'll Print Some For You In A Hurry!!

## From The County Agent's Office

By NELS ANDERSON

This week all farmers were mailed a survey questionnaire to obtain information of equipment on farms which might be used in a rural fire control program. Plans for such a program were made recently when representatives of various communities throughout the county met. As the survey cards come back to the office a committee composed of Oran Wright, Jim Valentine, Al Bunch, Charles Ruggles, Kenneth Turner, Kenneth Batty have volunteered to group them according to communities. Since this group does not have representatives of the Ione and Lexington area, volunteers from those communities will be called for to assist the group. A group composed of Ralph Crum, Ione; Alec Lindsay, Lexington; Frank Anderson, Andy Van Schojack, and Bob Penland of Heppner will visit with the Morrow county court on March 4th to ask that they attempt to secure surplus fire fighting equipment which would be made available to the rural communities. This group would appreciate having as many survey cards as possible back by the 4th in order that they might indicate the interest

of farm people for a rural fire control program when they go before the court. If you did not receive a survey card through the mail, contact this office for one.

Paul Rauhen, recent graduate of South Dakota State College, now county agent at large with the Oregon State College extension service is receiving training in this county while assisting with the extension program. During the five weeks that Paul will spend here he will have opportunities to work with all phases of the extension program. During the week that he has spent here he has assisted with a 4-H meeting, picked out beef calves for 4-H projects, worked with planning and planting windbreaks, made several farm visits to assist with the wheat management study under way here this year, worked on beef performance testing program as well as acquainting himself with office procedure. A number of projects are lined up for the month of March which will give Paul good experience as well as giving our office a boost in catching up with some of the backlog of projects which have piled up.

Pelleted hay for cattle showed more than double the gain of baled or chopped hay, according to work done at the Dixon Springs, Illinois experiment station. The animals ate more of the pelleted hay, but cut the amount of hay per pound of gain nearly in half and reduced the cost per pound of gain by 3.6 cents. The above was with a Timothy-Alfalfa mixture. Experiments with straight alfalfa or straight Lespedeza also showed a great advantage with the pelleted product. The experiment found the mechanical advantages of handling a free flowing hay such as pellets much more satisfactory than with chopped or baled hay.

Recently 1959 crop support rates were announced. Under the new crop support program a minimum national average support price of \$1.12 a bushel was announced. This is a little above the 1958 rate of \$1.06 to non-compliers, but well below last year's support of \$1.36 to complying farmers. The new program eliminates corn acreage allotments and the commercial corn-producing area. Corn produced anywhere in the United States this year that meets quality and storage requirements will be eligible for support at the same national average level.

National average dollars and cents supports for other grains were also announced. All are be-

low last year's support rates. Rye supports are placed at 90c a bushel—20c below the 1958 rate. Oats, number 3 grade, is placed at 50c a bushel—down 11c; number 2 grade or better barley, (except mixed) 77c—down 16c a bushel. Grain sorghums number 2 or better, except mixed, \$1.52 a hundred—down 31c; soybeans, \$1.85 a bushel—down 24c; and number 1 flaxseed, \$2.38 a bushel—down 40c.

Everytime a group of people get together there is some discussion on public relations of the farmer-businessman. Most farmers agree that they are doing very little public relation work. Most of the misunderstandings occur in large cities where these people do not understand agriculture. For those farmers who might need "ammunition" the following might be of interest:

What does industry get out of federal farm spending? An analysis of the USDA budget shows direct and indirect benefits.

Direct benefits include: \$1 billion paid out by the USDA this year for services performed on surplus commodities, such as storage payments, interest and handling. Millions spent on research for improvement of crops, crop uses, marketing, handling packaging of food. Experiments on new chemicals, new processes, etc. Payments (1/4 billion) to farmers stimulate sales of lime, fertilizer, and so on.

Indirect benefits include: Maintenance of farm buying power—USDA spending equals 53% of net farm income in 1958; support spending alone equals 20% of net; direct payments to farmers total \$1.2 billion. Also: Big supplies of raw materials at prices which counter the rising national price pattern. Stimulating of farm demand for goods and services through loans not available through regular commercial channels.

Industries related to agriculture, thus, have a direct stake in what Congress does on farm programs and spending in the years ahead. Contrary to public statements, the USDA budget is not strictly a "farm" budget—but an agri-business budget. Furthermore, USDA officials have estimated in an unpublished study, that little more than half present USDA spending can be charged directly to farmers.

National 4-H club week will be observed February 28 through March 7. During this week over 200 Morrow county 4-H boys and girls and approximately 60 volunteer local leaders will point out the value of 4-H club work in many ways. Planned are window exhibits in all of our towns, news stories in local papers, radio spots, theatre advertising, public appearances before several organizations as well as individ-

ual contacts. The newly organized Empire Builders 4-H club will publish their first monthly newsletter which will go into the homes of all 4-H members. This program which nationally enrolls over 2 million boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 21 is the largest rural youth group in America. These boys and girls will appreciate your attention to their efforts of pointing out the value of 4-H club work during this week. Give them your encouragement, they are our future citizens.

Who says there are no more opportunities left. Here is one that could be just what you are looking for. A New York cat toy manufacturer has enlisted the aid of Oregon State Department of Agriculture in ferreting out a supply of cat nip which grows wild in many states. A large source of supply, or a lot of small sources are needed by the firm. "It would be a very profitable project for anyone wishing to grow, harvest and dry", according to the New Yorker.

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