

# Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
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ROBERT PENLAND  
Editor and Publisher  
GRETCHEN PENLAND  
Associate Publisher



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## On High School Newspapers

(The following article appeared in a recent issue of the Oregon School Press. It was written by Robert L. Casebeer, newspaper advisor of Riddle, Oregon high school and titled, "What's Wrong With Our Mimeographed Papers." We reprint it here with our comment following.)

King Solomon, the wisest ancient, once said, "There is nothing new under the sun." This article will prove his point. Journalistic practice is largely conformity to an ideal. The rules of journalistic conduct are nearly as immutable as the Ten Commandments. Any good textbook lists them piously.

Basically, this article is asking only one question: "Since standard journalistic practice is indexed right at the smudgy fingertips of advisers and editors of mimeographed newspapers, why do they not use it?" Probably half to three-quarters of the mimeographed newspapers in the state (This statement is admittedly slanted!) should never be foisted off on unsuspecting students as NEWSPAPERS. Why? Simply stated this is the reason: many of these "rags" are poorly edited collections of adolescent tripe concocted from an unwholesome mixture of gossip, pseudo-feature material, swiped copy and gimmicks. Real news is rare. Reporting in depth apparently is a mystery. The editorial pages are devoid of emotion and purpose. Feature stories feature the insignificant and insipid. Columns lack imagination, sparkle and urbanity. In fact, several mimeographed papers boast the finest "yellow" or "Oregon" journalism in the world. The pioneer editors specialized in insult and libel; apparently the mimeographed papers are trying to continue this sordid specialty.

Low quality of the mimeographed papers can be traced to four basic causes. The first is a lack of freedom. Too few high school newspapers in this state have earned the right to freedom by responsible conduct. Freedom is not given; freedom is earned. How many school papers can assail school regulations without fear of reprisal or censorship? More important: how many editors could make such an attack using logic, reason and fact—the three tools of the editorial writer? School papers should exist because we Americans believe in truth, not because the school administration wants a tool with which to propagandize its students.

If school papers are to be free, can they discuss the major vexations of teenagers—religion, individuality, politics and morality? Politics, sex and religion are taboo topics even in some of Oregon's classrooms. However, these are the concerns of a school newspaper's readers. A paper can not refuse to deal with such fundamental problems and still provide balanced news coverage and analysis. A newspaper without readers is a monstrosity—and is a waste of time, talent and toll.

What, then, provides the balance to a school newspaper? The only practical balance is a social conscience on the part of the editor, the staff, and the adviser. The next question logically follows: how does a newspaper adviser get a news staff that has a moral philosophy which is in basic accord with our society?

Right here, the second cause for poor papers—lack of intelligence—enters. The cliché, "You can't squeeze blood from a turnip," covers the situation. Intelligent and rational action will never stem from the unintelligent and irrational. The surest way to get a newspaper staff with a socially acceptable conscience is to make sure that only top-notch students take journalism.

Journalism classes should seldom contain students who lack a cumulative "B" average in all subjects. Why? Good students are informed. These are the students who can express themselves. These students have ability and ideas. They are the school leaders. They are the respected citizens of the school community—both by faculty and student body. To quote two slogans from November 7th's Saturday Review, "Readers are Leaders" and "Writers are Fighters." These are the students journalism needs. A school paper whose staff is composed of scholastic meathheads who never have had an imaginative idea in their lives certainly will not develop it in a one-semester journalism class. After all, journalism is no panacea; it is more like a Pandora's Box—whatever is inside a person will come out. Is it possible that the poor quality of Oregon's mimeographed papers is simply due to lack of intellect? The possibility exists!

The third reason for poor papers, a lack of trained editors, can be traced to school curriculum. In the small schools, who generally publish mimeographed newspapers, the lack of a trained editorial staff causes much poor quality. If a new editor must be trained every year because journalism is a one year or, even worse, a one semester course (or, even more horrible to consider, an extra-curricular project), quality will automatically dwindle. The adviser's plaint, "But I can't do anything about that," is merely an excuse. "An excuse," someone has said, "is the skin of a reason stuffed with a lie." Change is inevitable in this life. That change, however, need not be for the worse.

One way to get a trained editor is to have the present editor train next year's news chief. Perhaps credit can not be given for two years of journalism. So what? Give with that post voting membership on the student council; give awards, trips to press meets, and scholarship recommendations. The sheer joy of structuring public opinion and attention, as well as the

creation of a well-balanced paper, are inducement enough in themselves. Credit in advanced journalism is simply wine sauce on a good steak. Good editors are not found; they are trained. Needed experience with stenil, staff and style seldom can be learned in one year; it would probably take a lifetime.

The fourth cause for poor newspapers is simply poor direction. Advice is said to be cheap; poor advice, though easy to give, is often poverty-stricken. A quick scan of the mimeographed papers proves that poor advice must be plentiful. Oregon mimeographed journalism needs advisers and editors who refuse to accept, much less print, poor writing. An adviser who is too kind to dish out earned marks of failure when a deadline is missed is traitor to his trust. Advisers who let lazy students foist off assigned duties onto their own over-burdened shoulders simply because those advisers can not or will not administer a quick verbal kick deserve their fate. However, such hesitant advisers hurt and hinder constructive high school journalism. In short, an adviser to journalism's neophytes needs the patience of a saint and the industry of an inquisitor. Oregon needs its advisers of mimeographed newspapers to become hard-boiled. No teacher does a service to his student or to his society when he accepts slipshod work.

These then are the four causes for the present plight of Oregon's mimeographed newspapers: a lack of freedom; a lack of first class intellect; a lack of trained editors; and a lack of patient but demanding advisers. Here are the causes for poor high school journalism. The cures have been suggested. The future course? Right back to that journalism textbook. Page? Page one!

Mr. Casebeer, who, surprisingly, is editor for a mimeographed "newspaper" offered a sizeable mouthful of comment for consideration. It will draw much further comment for certain, and we are going to be among the first to take the gentleman apart for some of his statements. His is a thought-provoking effort, without doubt, but he made some statements we think he can't back up—primarily because he confined the subject of his criticism to too small an area of high school journalism.

Let's take it piece by piece:  
First of all, he aimed his criticism strictly at mimeographed high school papers. That is a mistake. There are also "printed" high school papers than can qualify for the same criticism he gave the mimeographed group. There is no corner on sloppiness by the mimeo's.

Second—what the man means by "yellow" or "Oregon" journalism we just don't know. The profession as a whole has never called "Oregon" journalism yellow—in fact, just the opposite. Take a look at most any California paper (not high school) to prove that point.

He lists four reasons for poor mimeographed high school papers. No 1—Lack of freedom. Again the writer restricted his comments to too small a group. No 2—Lack of first class intellect. Mister, if you think all the brains are in the big schools you'd better take another look.

No 3—Lack of trained editors. Here he has a point, but he doesn't offer an answer. No one question that a staff (or journalism class) of say, 150 can better prepare a crew for next year than can a class of 15, but the small class doesn't have as large a field to cover either, and no community can govern its own size. If you're small, you have to live with it and do the best that can be done. We know that at Heppner high school, and no doubt many others, as much pre-training is done as is possible, but when a handful of interested youngsters have to do the whole job, no one can specialize as might be done in a larger school.

No 4—Lack of patient but demanding advisers. We know that in many cases a smaller school must put a teacher into a newspaper advising position for which he or she may not be strictly adapted, but with present pressures from taxpayers to cut every school budget corner, a lot of schools are doing the best they can. To speak for our own case, Heppner is among the fortunate in having a truly "dedicated" person to oversee the publication of its high school paper. True, it is not her sole job, but the taxpayers wouldn't hold still for a minute if an attempt was made to make it such. Neither is such a position justified in a school of our size.

Mr. Casebeer seems to think that a high school journalist should be a "professional" in his outlook and his ability. He seems to forget that a high school paper is just the beginning of a journalist's entry into the field of newspapering. A college graduate isn't necessarily a professional either—only time and experience will do the job. The job of a high school journalism teacher is to give a youngster his first look at writing and journalism—not to make him a finished product in a couple of years. Not even colleges can do that.

Mr. Casebeer admittedly prepared his paper for a certain group, but he could well have considered that all do not fall into the same pattern. Heppner's High's Hehlsch is a mimeographed paper, and it has received awards for numerous excellent articles and overall quality. It is not the biggest nor the best high school paper in Oregon, but by the same token it is a long way from the bottom of the pile. To condemn it as one of a group is a serious mistake that won't be taken lightly around the journalism room. And, it shouldn't be.

ago to get recommendations for a seeding mixture for an irrigated pasture. He will seed rita fescue orchard grass and alfalfa as well as a number of ranchers who have visited the office recently on this same matter. While Dick was in the office, we took the opportunity to visit with him about the highly successful

## County Agent's News

By N C ANDERSON

We were happy to have several calls after last week's news column calling an error in the column to our attention. These calls indicated that there are some that read the news and are well informed to catch errors. The error which should be corrected is that certain insecticides should not be used on cattle within 30 days of slaughter rather than 3 days. The 30 days gives ample time for the residual spray to disappear.

Dick Krebs, Cecil rancher, called at the office a few days

## THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the  
Gazette-Times  
February 27, 1930

The Book Worms, women's local book study club, met Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Alva Jones.

A small party of friends met at the Bert Mason home Wednesday evening of last week for a game of bridge. Those present were, Mr and Mrs Roy Lluellien, Mr and Mrs M E Cotter, Mr and Mrs Carl Brown and Mr and Mrs Mason.

Clair Cox of Heppner, a freshman at Oregon State College, has been appointed as a committee member for the rook dance to be held April 11.

Saturday, March 15 was definitely set as "Charter Night", by the Heppner Lions club at its regular luncheon Monday noon.

Mr and Mrs Albert Bowker have returned to Heppner after spending the winter visiting in the east and in California.

trench silo which holds a big percentage of the first cutting of alfalfa at the Krebs ranch. This is the third year that the insilage has been fed and each year they become more enthused with its possibility. Eighteen hundred tons were put up this year and all the Krebs like the ease of preserving the first crop which generally gets rained upon or otherwise loses quality if put into hay. While they have not been able to utilize the entire 1800 tons, several are buying ensilage from them including John Campbell and Van Schoelack Brothers who are feeding the ensilage to sheep. Krebs' feed three pounds of alfalfa ensilage per head per day and are happy with the shape of their ewes and their milking ability. Dick thinks that this year's ensilage is the best yet and attributes it to a good packing job to do away with air pockets which promote spoilage. The silo being 23 feet deep packs a little firmer than shallower silos and an indication of the good job is shown when it is found to weigh 60 pounds per cubic foot compared to ordinary silage which packs in about 50 pounds normally.

We also visited with Dick about alfalfa varieties knowing that he has compared a number of them. Seedings of Banger, Lantion and Oristan have been made over the past few years. Dick prefers the Oristan because of its general growth habits and fine quality, leafy hay. While there has been no great acreage

seeded to Oristan in the county, there are many fields which seem to be doing quite satisfactorily. One of the good qualities of Oristan is the length of life of stands.

The Columbia Empire Polled Hereford Association announces its annual show and sale to be held again this year at the fairgrounds, at Walla Walla, Washington. The dates are March 1 and 2. The show will be March 1st with the sale at 10:30 A M on March 2. There will be 112 head in the sale with 67 range bulls in pens. There will be herd bulls and replacement heifers. Those who will exhibit and sell polled Herefords from Morrow county are Jack Sumner and Kirk and Robinson, Heppner; Barnett Hereford Ranch, Boardman. For those who might wish further particulars we have a catalog of the show and sale at this office which gives a listing of all animals for sale with extended pedigree. Kirk and Robinson, Heppner—19 top bulls and 3 cows consigned; Jack Sumner has two bulls while Barnett Hereford ranch have 9 bulls and one cow.

The horticultural department at Oregon State College has recently announced that they have available some hardy nut trees for testing. They are edible type chestnuts and butternuts. They are available this spring without charge for testing for adaptation to this area. If anyone is interested we would be glad to provide one tree or more of each depending upon the demand on a first come-first serve basis.

Last week we commented on the Milton-Freewater beef trial field day which will be held at the community building in that town on Monday, February 29. The meeting will get underway at 10:30 with the morning program consisting of reports on the effect of antibiotics and tranquilizers in feedlots; results of rations on small weaner steers—alfalfa pellets versus long alfalfa hay versus peavine silage with high level grain; pelleted grain versus rolled grain, pelleted alfalfa hay versus long alfalfa hay and two levels of wheat versus barley. A report on materials used for parasite control will also be a part of the morning's program.

During the noon luncheon Dr. Walt Kennick, meats researcher, OSC will speak. The afternoon will consist of a round up report on the beef trial research including levels of grain for profitable beef feeding, values of various roughages for wintering and fattening weaner steers, hormone implantation results for wintering and fattening weaner

steers, value of various protein sources and variation in performance of cattle on similar rations. The afternoon will also feature a panel discussion and question and answer period. Speakers of the day will be Dr. W G Brown, Dr. David England, Dr. J C Miller from Oregon State College and Norton Taylor, county extension agent. Those who might be interested in the program are invited to ride with me. I will be leaving shortly after 8 A M.

Wheat ranchers in Morrow county will be very much interested in the results of the grain management study carried on during the 1958-59 crop year by eight ranchers in various communities in the county in cooperation with this office and the farm extension management department at Oregon State College. Reviewing the results Monday evening, the farmers carrying out the study thoroughly reviewed the summarized reports. As soon as the study is put into an easy readable form, mimeographed copies will be available for Morrow county ranchers.

This is the last of the list of vegetable varieties that we have been publishing in this news column over the past few weeks. Spinach: Fall planted: Early hybrid 7 (Savoy), Dixie Market (Savoy), Hybrid 4 and Hybrid 8 if available. Spring planted: American (Savoy), Bloomsdale long standing (Savoy), Vitrolay (smooth leaf), Callifay (smooth leaf). Over wintered: Old Dom-

inion (Savoy).  
Squash: Zucchini, Caserta, early Prolific straightneck, early summer Crookneck lackini, Cocoon (Continued on Page 5)

## Notice of Candidacy

I hereby announce my candidacy to succeed myself for the office of Sheriff of Morrow County subject to the will of the Republican voters of Morrow County at the Primary election, May 20, 1960.

C. J. D. Bauman  
(Pd. Adv.)

## STAR THEATER

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Feb. 25, 26, 27

### Lawless Eighties

Action film with Buster Crabbe. PLUS

### Return Of The Fly

Vincent Price, Brett Halsey, John Sutton.

Sun., Mon., Tues., Feb. 28, 29  
Walt Disney's

### Third Man On The Mountain

With Michael Rennie, James MacArthur, Janet Munro. Sunday at 4, 6 and 8.

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Each front wheel, suspended independently of the other, is free to step individually over bumps. And shockproof torsion springs up front soak up the jars and jolts before they reach the body. With three rugged new tailored-to-the-truck rear suspensions to further reduce road shocks, Chevy gives you the smoothest truck ride you've ever felt.

### NO SHIMMY, NO WHEEL FIGHT

Drive a '60 Chevy. Just once. Right away you'll notice the absence of I-beam shimmy and wheel fight common on ordinary trucks.

### CABS FOR BIG GUYS

Big guys get a bigger break in a Chevy cab. There's plenty of space inside to stretch out and relax; more room for hats and hips, more room for wide shoulders and long legs. There's horizon-wide visibility through a windshield with 26% more glass area; a new see-at-a-glance instrument panel. Cabs are safer, too, up to 67% more rigid.

### 6'S SWORN TO SAVE

Chevy's 6-cylinder engines are set to squeeze extra miles out of every drop of fuel. They're long famous for low fuel consumption, high performance.

### SHORT STROKE V8'S

Power-packed for peak performance, Chevy's husky V8's make child's play out of the toughest hauls. They have a mind tuned to economy, too, that keeps costs down, profits up.



### SLICK NEW SUBURBAN CARRYALLS

These handsome new handy haulers "double in brass"—can transport eight passengers or up to 950 lbs. of payload. Rear and center seats are easy to remove and replace when necessary. For work or for pleasure, these double-duty beauties are best for both!



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