

Heppner Gazette Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Education and the Cost of Living

(The following guest editorial was written by the members of the subcommittee on public education of the Heppner school building committee.)

Even though we have experienced a period of inflation, it is significant that the cost of most commodities and services in this country have risen faster than the cost of education. It is also true that the cost of education has been a follower and not a leader in the spiral of inflation which has swept the country.

Most of us have come to accept the rising costs of things which we buy directly, but are not so cheerful about the services which we purchase indirectly through taxes. The average individual accepts the loss of \$800 a year in depreciation on his car but strongly resents working 2 hours and 26 minutes each day to pay his federal taxes. Such an attitude is understandable. The cost of federal administration, national defense and subsidies to industry and agriculture represent expenses for items and services which the individual did not long for in the first place. While most of us more clearly recognize the need for schools, we do not feel the same compulsion to buy education that we do for such items as alcohol, tobacco, beauty care and other personal services. We object less to the 206% increase in the price of haircuts, 171% increase in shoe repair, 151% increase in food costs, 125% increase in automobiles which have taken place in the last 20 year period, than to the rising cost of education.

Most of us, upon careful thought, can see that our standards of living is higher. We have as commonly accepted facilities—a automatic washers, television, automatic transmissions, better clothing, better homes and better food.

A shrinking world with complex and serious political and economic problems has caused large increases in governmental expenditures for defense and economic growth.

Normally, we would expect such huge expenditures to result in a drop in our standard of living, however this has not been the result.

Economists of the National Planning Institute and Resources for the Future, Inc., calculate that from 1960 to 1970, the average family income will increase from \$6600 to \$9000 annually. In this same period, the total U S economy (all goods and services) will increase from 470 billion to 800 billion. Meanwhile local government expenditures in the USA will be about as follows: 1950—14.4 billion; 1960—42.2 billion; 1965—48 billion; 1970—55 billion.

The federal budget is expected to show the following rate of change: 1961—82 billion; 1970—110 billion.

Taken together these economic forecasts indicate no local or federal tax reductions, but what is more significant, no decrease in the standard of living.

We do not expect that the pattern in Morrow county will be significantly different from that of the rest of the state or the nation.

There are folks who believe that the population of our town and county will remain the same or decline. They believe that for every increase in population, there is a corresponding decrease—someone leaving the community. Facts available show this has not been true in the past

and trends do not indicate that it will be true in the coming years.

Our school population has shown a steady growth of 7% per year for the past four years. The number of preschool children in our community is evidence that this trend is toward an even greater increase. Statistics from the Federal Bureau of the Census and the United States Public Health Service show that throughout our country the numbers of school children will increase rapidly after 1960 when the large number of 'war babies' of 1940-1950 marry. This increase will be greater in the rural areas than in urban communities and census trends indicate that growth will be greatest in the far west. High state officials have recently revealed plans that are optimistic for an expanding population and economy for Morrow county and its established townships. These plans are quite consistent with facts and trends.

Industrially, the West is booming. The Columbia River Basin combines power with cheap transportation and space available for expansion. Added to this is one of the world's greatest potential markets.

Important to all taxpayers is how can the expenditures for public welfare, charity, correctional institutions and prisons be reduced—and how many lives can be enriched through education. Can present teacher expenses of \$186 per pupil be too great in a nation that spends \$52 per person (over 14 years of age) on tobacco and \$87 per person (over 21 years of age) on alcoholic beverages? The overwhelming desire to indiscriminately reduce taxes could have disastrous results on the education of our children and grandchildren.

In a second rate school, our children may be passing their grades but failing their preparation for life. More than ever, our children's success depends upon quality education. Quality education depends on many factors, but these three are most important:

1. Quality teachers—most of whatever quality we have in education, depends upon quality teachers. First rate man power in teaching positions is the key to quality education.

2. Quality buildings—the quality teacher for maximum effectiveness must have a quality classroom—one which is not obsolete, inadequate or overcrowded.

3. Adequate financial support—we can get quality only by paying the price. Teachers salaries and school construction are at the heart of instructional programs of our schools. They comprise 70% of all school costs.

From the standpoint of expenses, we may ask, "How big a school can we afford?" From the standpoint of educating our children, we should ask "How small a school can we afford?" Education is the most hopeful of our community's enterprises.

As A Voting Citizen These Are Our Choices!

Residents of Morrow county are faced with existing educational problems as well as some serious future problems. The nature of our vote in this year's school election will determine whether we begin the solution of the problem this year or postpone an inevitable and more expensive solution to some later date.

From The County Agent's Office

By N C ANDERSON

Jerry Brosnan and Ebb Hughes, Buttercreek livestock operators enjoyed very much the livestock field day at the Squaw Butte experiment station on Monday. The day was filled with reports and question and answer periods on the practical application of livestock production. For instance, they were told that cancer eye in cattle was hereditary and in selecting replacement heifers to pay particular attention to the cancer eye in that family; that antibiotic supplements in the winter ration for weaner calves increased both weight gains and feed efficiency particularly following weaning; that in order to reach a heavy weight on long yearling feeders, ranchers must capitalize on both the winter feeding period and the summer grazing season. More specifically, the ranchers should strive to promote an optimum rate of winter gain of weaner calves that will not have a depressing effect on their gain on grass the following summer; that it pays to provide shelter for wintering calves. They got to see cattle that have been operated on for experimental observation of the rumen. A lot of interest was shown in the possibilities of cross breeding a part of the Hereford herd at the station with a Charalais bull. Besides the interesting field day the trip through the range country between here and Burns and observation of livestock operations created a lot of discussion. Those livestock men who did not get to go might like to pick up a copy of the brief results of research at the station which we have here in the office.

Ernest Kirsch, county extension agent at Condon, advises this office of a farm equipment

field day which will be held on the Paul Jaeger farm one mile east of Condon on the Heppner highway on Saturday afternoon, April 2. It will begin at 1:30 p.m. There will be all types of modern implements for making and working trashy fallow, manufactured by the major equipment companies. There will be stubble mulch plows, rod weeders, skew treaders and drills. Ernie says the site has a lot of stubble and should give the equipment a real workout. Everyone is invited.

The 1960 Parma, Idaho, wool pool sold last week on a high bid of 49 cents a pound. The 1959 pool turned at 38.65 cents early last spring. This pool included about 16,000 fleeces from 250 farm flocks in Malheur county and western Idaho. Fleeces were mostly medium 3/8 to 1/2 blood wools. The high bidder was the same midwest spinning mill that has secured the pool in other recent years. Two of the other three bidders were within a half cent a pound of the top bid. A few other sales in the Malheur county area have been made recently in a range of 44 to 46 cents a pound.

County Wheat Growers Association president, Walter Jacobs and several of his committee chairmen will attend the spring executive committee meeting which will be held in Pendleton next Thursday, April 7. Bob Jepsen and Norman Nelson, county chairman and vice chairman of the county public relations committee are expected to attend and participate in a discussion.

The public relations committee is a new one this year. There will be four agricultural agen-

ties, present their ideas for a public relations program for the league at this meeting. The domestic wheat utilization committee, too, has some public relations ideas which will be discussed at this time. The Oregon Wheat Growers League, like many other farm organizations and individual farm people, are realizing the need for an active public relations program if they are to retain their place in industry.

Morrow county ranchers will be hearing more of this as our active committee goes to work. Elsewhere in this paper you will find a report on the annual spring meeting scheduled for Monday evening, April 25. It promises to be an interesting one as you will see from the story.

Recently in visiting with representatives of the U S Fish and Wildlife Service they told of a burrow builder for the control of pocket gophers. Yesterday we got a copy of a report on the machine and how it has been used experimentally. The bulletin starts out with this explanation: "Improvements of methods of controlling pocket gophers has long been needed by farmers, ranchers and others engaged in agriculture. A new approach, one using a machine called a 'burrow builder' has been developed. This equipment, attached to a tractor, constructs artificial gopher runways at controlled depths below the surface of the ground and mechanically places bait in the runways. Tests in Colorado have shown the high potential of this approach and equipment have in controlling the plains pocket gopher and the mountain pocket gopher. The method and machine may also have application in the control of other rodents."

The burrow builder is made up from a Ford tool carrier bar with a 24 inch sub-soiler shank,

THIRTY YEARS AGO

From the files of the Gazette-Times
April 3, 1930

With 73 members, signing 258,000 bushels, the Morrow County Grain Growers has signed and sent in articles of incorporation to the state corporation commission.

Mr and Mrs Leonard Schwarz motored to Wapato, Wash. on Saturday to take Mrs E K Merritt home.

LaVerne Van Marter, Roy Ohleschlagel, David Wilson and Hollis Bull went to Heppner Junction Tuesday on a bass fishing trip along the Columbia river.

Miss Cleo Duncan and Miss Jennie Swindig, seventh grade pupils of the Heppner school, will represent the school in the county spelling contest Saturday.

A surprise party was given Mr and Mrs Chas Battersby Saturday evening at their home in Lone, in honor of Mrs Battersby's birthday.

"Apple Blossom Time", a three act comedy staged by the Christian Endeavor society Wednesday had as members of the cast Clarence Hayes, Terrel Bengel, John Parker, Homer Hayes, Paul Jones, Lucille Hall, Mary McDuffee, Ella Fell, Jeanette Turner, Evelyn Swindig, Lola Hlatt and Alva McDuffee.

Nitrogen Fertilizers Boost Farm Incomes; No One Superior

Use of nitrogen fertilizer adds about \$30,000,000 to Oregon farmers' pocketbooks each year, reports Dr H B Cheney, head of the Oregon State College soils department.

Nitrogen fertilizer continues to be a "best buy" even though farmers practically never get 100 percent recovery of added nitrogen in the crop to which it is applied, he notes. Research at OSC and in other states indicates that 70 percent recovery of the nitrogen applied is real good.

What happens to the rest of the nitrogen? Dr T L Jackson, OSC soils specialist, explained that some nitrogen may be lost by leaching; some may escape into the air under certain conditions; and some will be incorporated into soil organic matter.

OSC soil scientists have found little basis for claiming superiority of one kind of nitrogen fertilizer over another. In 65 field experiments in Oregon, no one nitrogen fertilizer was consistently better than another when the fertilizer was applied properly. Fertilizers compared include: ammonium nitrate, urea, ammonium sulfate, calcium nitrate, anhydrous ammonia, and aqua ammonia.

Regardless of the type of nitrogen fertilizer used, Oregon farmers can expect less than 5 percent loss of nitrogen to the air when the fertilizer is applied properly to the soil, Jackson said. He listed three situations

a dempster corn can with a large whole center drop plate with press wheels. We hope that we can have this machine to our county for a demonstration in the not too far distant future.

Don't forget the water meeting sponsored by the Heppner Soil Conservation District to be held Tuesday evening, April 5. Marvin Shearer, irrigation specialist, Oregon State College will explain state water laws and water rights. The film "Water for Farm and City" will be shown. The meeting will be held at the fair pavilion annex beginning at 8 P.M. Everyone is invited.

STAR THEATER

Thurs., Fri., Sat., March 31, April 1, 2.

30 Foot Bride Of Candy Rock

Lou Costello and Lenny Kent. PLUS

Bandit Of Shobe

Victor Mature, Anne Aubrey.

Sun., Mon., Tues., April 3, 4, 5.

Wreck Of The Mary Deare

Gary Cooper, Charlton Heston, Michael Rodgrave. Sunday at 4, 6, 8.

when farmers should expect less to the air:

When nitrate nitrogen is applied to soils wet enough to have a poor supply of oxygen; when ammonium forms of nitrogen and urea are left on the surface of soils with a pH above 7.0; and when high rates of urea are left on the surface of acid, sandy-textured, moist soils at high temperatures (vegetative cover will reduce this urea loss).

Losses from urea should not be expected when irrigation or rain immediately follow application.

Cheney suggests farmers consult their county extension agent for detailed information about these factors affecting loss.

Researchers found some experiments where one source of nitrogen gave better results than other sources. But in every case there were other experiments where this source of nitrogen wasn't superior, Cheney pointed out.

On the basis of the study, OSC researchers came to this conclusion—the nitrogen fertilizer that costs the least for each pound of actual nitrogen applied to the soil is usually the best. Costs of transportation, handling, and application should be included in figuring cost.

Of course, there are items other than cost to keep in mind. The value of other plant nutrients—such as sulfur—in some nitrogen fertilizers should be recognized, but only if that plant nutrient is needed in the soil on which the fertilizer is to be applied.

New Findings On Allergies Told by OSC

Significant new research findings about allergen compounds in grass pollen and house dust have been reported by a team of Oregon State College research scientists.

The OSC workers have proved the existence of a previously unknown pollen compound that although inactive itself is very similar—and likely related—to the allergen compound that

causes trouble. The inter-relationship of the two compounds will be investigated during coming months and could provide new insight into the complex allergy problem.

The scientists also believe they may have isolated in pure form, for the first time, the allergen compounds from grass pollen and house dust. Greater understanding of the nature and chemical makeup of the allergens and more precise knowledge of their reactions with body tissue should aid scientists in finding more effective treatments and preventives, Dr Arthur Lietze, project leader, explained.

Approximately 1 person out of 10 is affected by allergies in this country, it is estimated. In Western Oregon, house dust and grass pollen account for most of the inhalant asthma and hay fever. Almost unbelievably small amounts of the allergy compounds will bring reactions in some persons.

Helping support the OSC studies are research grants from the U S Public Health Service, the

Mathews Fund for Asthma Research at the University of Oregon Medical School, and the Allergy Foundation. Grants totaling \$42,600 have been received since research was started in 1957.

Dr Charles E Reed, Corvallis physician and a staff member of the University of Oregon Medical School and the OSC Science Research Institute, initiated the project. He is in charge of all tests involving human volunteers, a vital part of the research.

Working with Lietze is Arthur Malley, San Francisco graduate research assistant who is making the pollen allergen isolations.

DOG OF FLANDERS coming to the Star Theater Easter Sunday.

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