

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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A Letter to Arouse and Unite

If eastern Oregonians needed a rallying point in their efforts to secure fair representation in the state legislature during this time that reapportionment is at issue, a shallow flag-waving letter from State Senator Vernon Cook of Gresham, circulated widely among eastern Oregon newspapers, should fill the purpose. It furnishes just what we need in this part of the state to emphasize the ignorance that some western Oregon legislators have of eastern Oregon.

The letter contains disdainful terminology that could only tend to infuriate us, such as, "That people, not sage brush and jack rabbits, are entitled to make the laws..."

This should have the same effect on "us jackrabbits and sage brushers" as the reference to "country cousins" by an opponent had on an Oregon State athletic team a few years ago. The Beavers, coldly aroused by this condescending phrase, soundly shellacked their opposition.

Here's Sen. Cook's letter: (We suggest you take off your hat and hold it over your heart as you read it):

To the Editor:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal;"—Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson).

"Taxation without representation is tyranny"—Benjamin Franklin.

Once again a minority will, through misrepresentation and distortion of the facts, attempt to impose its will upon the majority of the people. This seems to be the message that is coming over the Cascades from certain disgruntled legislators from Eastern Oregon. Now we are told that through the use of a \$100,000.00 slush fund the people of Oregon are to be propagandized to believe, not that all men and women are equal, but that some (if they come from jack rabbit country) are more equal than others.

At the risk of being attacked as a conservative, or perhaps as a reactionary, I say, let us go back to the fundamental principle upon which Oregon's founding fathers rested their great work, the Oregon Constitution. Let us recall and revere the memory of W. S. U'Ren, Sam Jackson and Oswald West, the fathers of the "Oregon Plan," with direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, recall, direct primaries, direct election of United States Senators, etc., and the principle upon which these great reforms were based.

What was that great principle? That people, not sage brush and jack rabbits, are entitled to make the laws; that all men are created equal, whether they live in large or small counties, in Eastern or Western Oregon, on the farm, or in the city; that taxation, without fair representation is tyranny, whether that taxpayer owns a wheat ranch, a million acre timber holding, a small home or a 1949 Chevy. No, let us not sell our sacred heritage as Americans and Oregonians for a mere mess of pottage—or even \$100,000.00. Let us support and defend our Constitution and its provisions for legislative representation according to population.

Vernon Cook
State Senator
Gresham, Oregon

Probably what appalls us most about this letter is the total lack of appreciation that the senator shows for the importance of the eastern part of the state. We do not know his background. Perhaps he has spent all his time in Multnomah county and just does not have a proper perspective on the state as a whole.

While he represents Multnomah county, he should remember that as a legislator he should also be concerned with the welfare of the entire state.

The editor of this paper was reared in Washington county, in the shadow of Portland. We believe we know of the problems and thinking of the state's population center. We were born in Columbia county, spent 15 years in Polk county, three years in Malheur county, one year in Douglas county and three years in Marion county before coming to Morrow county. We think this is a great state, but we can see it from the points of view of all these sections, and we know that eastern Oregon is not getting fair treatment on representation.

In his reference to the state constitution, Sen. Cook seems to forget that the Federal Constitution carefully safeguarded the rights of the minority.

Eastern Oregonians, admittedly far in the minority in population and not asking for disproportionate representation, contend that other factors besides population enter into the picture. The economic importance of this part of the state is of prime concern, not only to Eastern Oregonians, but to Multnomah county and to Mr. Cook himself, if he could but realize it. It is to his interest as well as to the entire state that we are adequately represented. He betrays his abject ignorance of eastern Oregon in his letter, and this means that he and his Multnomah colleagues are in no position to decide on matters of concern to Eastern Oregon. They should welcome representation that can keep them abreast of needs and problems of this large section of their state.

Sen. Cook has no more right to refer to eastern Oregon as "jackrabbit country" than we would have to refer to Multnomah county as "rat country" and we would challenge him to prove that there are fewer rats in Multnomah than there are jackrabbits in Morrow county. If he appreciated us over here, he would have used the term, "livestock country," or "wheat country," or "sugar beet country" for Malheur, or "aluminum country" for Wasco. This would have shown us that he has a little conception of what he is talking about.

Our first reaction is to "get mad" about this letter, but we know that isn't the way. It does tell us, though, that our battle to win fair representation isn't going to be easy. It is going to take every bit of that \$100,000.00, which Mr. Cook so ridiculously refers to as a "slush fund," to take the message to the rest of the state.

We like the thinking and attitude of an article in the Oregon Voter, also of Portland, of November 25 by Ralph T. Moore, an ex-legislator. He says in part, "The popular tendency, in this age of togetherness, is to reckon everything on a population basis. The assumption is that the majority should rule and the hapless minority knuckle under to its dictatorship... but the facts are quite to the contrary. The majority's batting average is rather bad at present and has been bagged down through the ages from Christ's crucifixion to Castro's firing squad. In fact, the majority has been wrong most of the time, socialistic theory to the contrary notwithstanding."

"Only a small minority have been the architects of human progress in every generation since the beginning of history. And so something has to be done constantly to protect minorities from the persecution by majorities."

"It would then appear to this writer (without committing Oregon Voter which, its readers know, studies all plans before making a recommendation) the better part of wisdom to have our State Senate on area basis and our House on population basis. For this system has made our nation great and has demonstrated its worth beyond all doubt."

Sen. Cook stirred up a hornet's nest with his letter. Many papers in eastern Oregon have joined indignantly in rebuttal. In an ensuing issue we hope to print a summary of some of their comments. Meanwhile, Sen. Cook's letter should serve both as a warning of the shallow thinking found elsewhere (and consequently the tough fight we have on our hands) and also as a stimulus to knuckle down and unite solidly on this proposition.

We are still human beings east of the Cascades and not jackrabbits.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

USUALLY when someone asks a Boy Scout leader why he can afford to devote so much time to the organization, the Scoutmaster will reply, "Well, you see, I have a son, and I think it is important that he and others like him develop in a worthwhile program of activities." Or some such statement.

But Darrell Fowler, who was just chosen Cubmaster for Heppner, cannot make that statement. He has four daughters—no sons. His Cubettes are Cindy, 5, Cathy Jo, 3, Darla Lee, 1, Susan, four months.

Well, why did Darrell take on this job, which takes a good deal of time and effort, and a lot of it somewhat thankless.

His wife answered the question, "He has always wanted a son," said she, "but all his sons are daughters. So he just went out and adopted about 40 boys."

Good for Darrell.

WHEN THE three women appeared at city council meeting Monday night and asked the city dads to enforce the jaywalking ordinance, they had the boys really scratching their heads. They looked questioningly at one another. No one knew if there were such an ordinance. Recorder Ted Smith got out the thick book of ordinances, couldn't find one. Attorney Jos. Nys shook his head. The chief of police didn't know.

It couldn't be denied that the ladies put up some good arguments, but somehow, we don't think the town would be the same if a fellow couldn't jaywalk. Even the three petitioners admitted they did it.

We'd surely pity the officers who would be charged with the job of enforcing such an ordinance. It would be as futile as trying to scratch a match on a bar of soap or picking a flea off a dog with boxing gloves on your hands. Somehow it would seem a little odd to us here to have to go all the way to the corner to cross the street in order to get a bottle of milk from the grocery just across Willow from us.

JO PETTYJOHN was flattered, but the face of Schoolteacher Darrell Calhoun was red. The two hadn't met when Jo went to school one day to see how her son was making out. She approached the teacher, and without much preliminary ceremony, started to tell her in a business-like way what her duties would be and how she should help organize things.

Jo didn't know what was coming off, and so she broke in to explain that she had just come to see how her son was getting along.

Teacher Calhoun had been expecting a high school girl to do some student teaching and when Jo entered the room, assumed she was the one. He needn't be embarrassed about it, for Mrs. Pettyjohn felt highly complimented, as any woman would.

WE ADMIRE how much work women of this community do on their many bazaars, dinners, drives and projects and are non-plussed to figure where they find the time for it all.

Mrs. S. bought a frilly little clothes hanger at a recent bazaar, for instance, for \$1. We couldn't begin to describe this work of art. It was composed of some frilly foam rubberish material in gay colors and looked fine enough to hang the royal robes of the British Empire on.

The lady who made that must have spent hours on it, but it sold for only a dollar, which went to help the church which sponsored the bazaar.

Or take these Grange ladies who put on the dinners for the Columbia Basin Co-op, the Grain Growers and so on. A tremendous job to feed that many people, but they do it with efficiency and dispatch, and the meals are always first rate.

There are more stories of bazaars, dinners and doings coming all the time than we can get in the paper. Yet these same women raise families, work at jobs, and seem to find time for everything.

If we could learn how to manage our time that well, we probably wouldn't be staying up half the night putting out this paper.

WE MAKE quite a few errors in this newspaper business, but last week was the first time we were wrong when we were Wright. We were right when we said that Wright won the Christmas Opening prize at Tryco, but were wrong when we said it was Bill Wright. What was right was Adelle Wright, and how Adelle got to be Bill in the public print, we are a little confounded about, unless someone misunderstood when it was reported over the phone down the line somewhere.

Anyway, Adelle, who is always Wright, said that she had about a half-dozen phone calls from friends kidding her about it, and she asked us to make it right. We had it Wright, of course, as we explained, but it was the wrong Wright. So we make this

apology, and hope it is all right with Adelle Wright.

GEORGE A. BROWN of Denver (above) has been appointed traffic manager in charge of Union Pacific Railroad's Northwestern district with headquarters at Portland. He succeeds the late Carl W. Evers, who was in charge of that department for the past 18 years. In his new position, Brown will be in charge of all U.P. traffic matters in the Northwest, supervising the operation of traffic offices in Oregon, Washington, northern Idaho and British Columbia.



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Battle Against TB Continuing

Oregon's relentless battle against TB continues, the Oregon State Board of Health announced today. This is more than a cold war because people are still dying of TB and many others are getting sick with the disease each month.

"In 1960, 492 cases of tuberculosis were reported in Oregon. This represents a 12 per cent reduction over 1959 when 560 cases were reported. 373 cases have been reported during the first 10 months of 1961 and, based on this, we might expect 448 cases to be reported in 1961, a 9 per cent reduction over 1960," Ambrose Churchill, M. D., TB control officer for the Board of Health, pointed out.

The Oregon State Board of Health urges all physicians and other health workers to step-up tuberculosis control programs in an effort to accelerate tuberculosis control in Oregon.

"Assuming our estimate for the remainder of this year is accurate, Oregon's reduction of 20 per cent in reported tuberculosis during the past two years coincides with the 10 per cent annual drop for the United

Truck Drops 20 Feet Driver Is Uninjured

A lucky truck driver rode his vehicle over a 20 foot embankment, through brush and across huge rocks, and emerged unscathed at 6 a. m. November 29 at Bassey Canyon 8 miles south of Heppner.

W. W. Fuller, Heppner, who is driver for Grasser Bros. loggers told officers he got too close to the edge and got caught in loose gravel when he swerved out to avoid hitting a car on the county road.

A front tire was found flat on the truck but it was not known if it happened before the truck and trailer left the highway or was damaged in crossing rocks. Fuller was driving his vehicle into the mountains for a load of logs.

The truck was badly damaged in the front end and the trailer was thought to be damaged also.

Couple Attends Fair Convention Last Week

Mr. and Mrs. Al Fetsch, representing the Morrow County Fair committee, spent from Wednesday through Friday of last week attending the Oregon Fair association convention in Salem.

They report receiving much helpful information, through participation in discussion groups and forums with members of other county fair committees over the state. Nearly every county in the state was represented. Mr. Fetsch is serving as chairman of the Morrow County Fair Board, and devotes much time each year to its management and improved operation.

The couple stayed at the Marion Motor Hotel during their stay in Salem.

Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Padberg on Thanksgiving day were Mr. and Mrs. Oris Padberg of Lexington, Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Tucker and family of Ione, and Mrs. Padberg's daughter, Mary Evelyn Tucker, a student at Oregon College of Education, Monmouth.

SOMETHING IN COMMON?

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From our EARLY FILES

5 YEARS AGO
Dec. 6, 1956

Heppner this week again held its tradition of being located in the "Banana Belt" while the rest of the state was blanketed with one to several inches of snow.

Christmas decorations were put up Sunday on Heppner's main street. Santa is scheduled to visit next Saturday afternoon with a bagful of treats.

Morrow County Agent N. C. Anderson this week completed the figures showing the county farm incomes were up 25% in 1956.

15 YEARS AGO
Dec. 5, 1946

A Booster club to sponsor athletic events got underway with the first activity being a banquet honoring the 1946 high school football team.

Kenneth Vaughn and Robert Blackwell announced this week that they will open a new cleaning and pressing shop in the Farra building.

O. M. Yeager and a crew of workmen started work Monday to rebuild the former Netter house next to the Hodge Chevrolet building.

The first county-wide home extension training meeting on recreation was held in Heppner, Nov. 26.

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 3, 1931

Fire at 10:30 o'clock this morning broke out in the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis in the southwest corner of the Case apartment building, destroying their personal effects.

A battle of the winds was staged at Heppner Wednesday, with the chinook winds coming from the south and the northwestern blowing from the North with the cold wind winning out, leaving cold, sleet, and snow.

Mrs. William R. Poulson, president of the Business and Professional Women's club, outlined its program at a recent Lions club meeting.

Prices at the MacMarr Stores, Inc: Oranges, 3 doz. 25c; dates, 2 lbs. 23c; bacon, per pound, 19c; peanuts, 2 lbs., 25c; shortening, 4 lbs., 39c.

Among college students home from Oregon State college for Thanksgiving holidays were Roderick Thomson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Thomson; and Stephen Thomson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Thompson.

Guy Huston, reports a lot of winter out at Eight Mile, with 6 or 7 inches of snow.

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Sunday, December 10

Willows Grange Hall

TURKEY DINNER 1 P. M. to 5 P. M.

Adults, High School Students — \$1.25
Grade School Students — 50c
Pre-School Children — Free

CARNIVAL FUN ---

Booths, Games, Country Store

Lots 'n Lots of Door Prizes

CHECK OFF YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST

- NEEDLEWORK
- APRONS
- CAKES
- HOLIDAY FOOD
- DECORATIONS
- GIFTS
- CANDY
- PLANTS

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