

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 6-9228

The Heppner Gazette, established March 30, 1883. The Heppner Times established November 18, 1897. Consolidated February 15, 1912.

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Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$4.00 Year; Elsewhere \$4.50 Year. Single Copy 10 Cents. Published Every Thursday and Entered at the Post Office at Heppner, Oregon, as Second Class Matter.

Taking Government Farther from the People

Recent proposal by the Legislative Interim Committee on Local Government to consolidate some Oregon counties so that there would be only 15 instead of the present 36 makes us wonder if government "of the people, by the people and for the people" isn't eventually going to "perish from this earth" by our own doing.

Trend in government seems to be evermore towards centralization, and this is apparent all the way from more powers vested in and assumed by the Federal Government to unification of school districts. Perhaps in many instances the result is good, but all the while the individual's voice in government gets weaker and weaker.

It is in the local units of government that the individual citizen is closest to democracy. When a local man is running for office, he knows him and can cast a ballot intelligently. When he has a complaint for what he believes to be an injustice, he can go to the office holder he knows and register his remonstrance. If he wants to participate in government, he can toss his hat into the ring for local office.

Consolidation and centralization reduces these opportunities for the average citizen. The larger the governmental unit, the less chance the ordinary individual has of knowing an office holder. On some primary and general election ballots, there are dozens of names, particularly those for lesser offices. The average voter has not heard of many of them and probably knows very few. As he tries to exercise his franchise at the polls, he must pick the names that sound the best, or find a clue in the candidate's slogan that appears good to him.

With the counties as they are, a voter has a chance to at least know those on the local level. But under the current proposal, Morrow would be consolidated with Umatilla. Perhaps it would be better to suggest that Morrow would be engulfed by Umatilla, for surely with its population nearly 10 times Morrow's the officials would most often come from the Umatilla part of the consolidated county, and it would almost be a foregone conclusion that the county seat would be in Pendleton.

Proponents of this plan say that it would be more efficient, more economical—that it would cut taxes. They say that modern transportation has cut distances from the horse and buggy days. All of this may be true to a degree.

But it would still take several hours to make a business visit to a county seat 65 miles away, and if you needed to consult with a county official, chances are that you would have to telephone for an appointment, and await your turn to see a busy officeholder who may or may not have any interest in your problem.

This situation is probably now the state of affairs in Multnomah county, but we count it a privilege to live in a county where you can know your officials and visit with them.

Efficiency isn't everything in government. Democracy isn't in it with a totalitarian type of government for efficiency, but we are still convinced that our system is best. We fervently hope that some of our self-styled political architects don't wreck it.

Consolidation of counties perhaps could save some tax money, but the people at the grassroots level would have less idea of where their money is going and less control over how it is spent. However, the mere making of a governmental unit larger does not necessarily guarantee that it will be less costly.

We've heard it said that some county offices are outmoded, that they no longer serve much useful purpose. Maybe there is some partial truth to this. If need be, there can be changes within the present county governments to correct such situations without making huge and cumbersome counties.

May this plan for county consolidation die on the drawing board so that local government is no farther divorced from the citizen.

Dr. Lieuallen Good Man for the Job

Choice of Dr. Roy Lieuallen as chancellor of the state's higher education system is another success story for Morrow county. Dr. Lieuallen was reared in Morrow county after his birth at Weston. He attended the little one room Fairview school in the county and was valedictorian of his class when he graduated from lone High school.

Some indication of "Lou's" promise was apparent in his undergraduate college days at Pacific University, where he received his bachelor degree in 1940. He was a friendly and popular student and was a leader academically and in extracurricular activities.

After a short time as coach and teacher at Pilot Rock, Lieuallen entered service with the coming of World War II and was a commissioned officer in the navy.

After the war, he entered the University of Oregon where he obtained his master's degree. His start in higher education came in 1946 when he was named registrar at Oregon College of Education, Monmouth. Later he obtained his doctorate at Stanford University while on a leave of absence.

Following Dr. Roben Maaske's death in 1955, Dr. Lieuallen was named administrator of Oregon College, awaiting choice of a new president. He became that choice in April, 1955, and has held the position since that time.

Dr. Lieuallen is a fine educator and capable administrator. He has a personal magnetism which has helped widen a vast circle of admiring friends. During his presidency at OCE he has done an outstanding job.

His wife, the former Barbara Wales of Klamath Falls, is a charming lady. The couple's attachment for one another began at Pacific, and their marriage followed graduation. She has been a great help to her youthful-looking husband, whose rapid rise in higher education almost qualifies him as a "boy wonder" in a field that once was reserved for those of grey hair and venerated wisdom.

Dr. Lieuallen has crowded a great deal of experience into his 45 years. In taking this high position in education, he has a tough job cut out for him. But he has the qualities and the ability to not only handle the duties involved but to make a real contribution to the state and its people through higher education.

Sympathetic Thoughts for the Ullmans

The many friends of Rep. and Mrs. Al Ullman in Morrow county were distressed to hear the news of their auto accident and injuries in Virginia Friday. However, in the ensuing days they were encouraged to hear of their improvement.

Probably the accident seemed closer and more poignant to us here because Rep. Ullman had just visited in Heppner and renewed acquaintances with friends.

A late report said that the congressman's spirit is assisting in his recovery. From his personality as we observed it in his appearance here, we would judge him to be a man of strong heart. The feeling currently is that the loss of his leg will not deter his work in political life.

Quick thinking of Mrs. Ullman, who applied an improvised tourniquet to the injured leg, according to the reports we hear, probably saved the life of her husband. She is said to have used a fountain pen in twisting the tourniquet to apply pressure which slowed bleeding until help arrived.

We join with everyone in the county in wishing both Rep. and Mrs. Ullman speedy recoveries.

How Did You Like Lucky Buck?

Last of Lucky Buck Days, promotion that was started in Heppner by the Chamber of Commerce in the spring and continued on a bi-weekly basis, will be Saturday, December 23. At present there are no plans to continue it after that date.

Many merchants have expressed feelings that the program has been successful, and their support has ranged from mild to enthusiastic. It has been quite apparent that more people came to town on Lucky Buck Saturdays, and the merchants have hoped that the public enjoyed bargains offered, the free parking and the prizes given.

If you are among those who have enjoyed the program, the time to speak up is now. We'd suggest you drop a note to this paper or to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. A telephone call will hardly do because it offers nothing tangible for evaluation.

A public response will help study the program and will help serve as a guide to merchants in developing an attractive business community.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

DEAD BATTERIES, "Slickery" streets and even frigid glass shattering in auto windows are making it hard for warm-tempered motorists to keep cool on these chilly days.

Our backshop tipster, Joe Hartle, advises that a little spray of Purex or Clorox on auto tires will give needed traction in backing away from curbs on the icy pavement.

Some enterprising youth could do well in tips by going around and giving cars boosts in backing out. Just takes a little push to aid a helpless motorist.

MANY disgruntled drivers have growled because they couldn't get their cars started. When batteries are down, they will hardly turn over the reluctant motors. Elmer Schmidt couldn't get his little foreign job to start, then tried to start his camper with similar lack of luck. Bob Cantonwine was another two-time loser Sunday. Neither car would go.

Joining the "exploding window" league are Jackie Struthers, Jack Ployhar and Ed Gonty. In each case, contraction of cold glass in their car windows caused it to shatter in a thousand pieces, just as expansion did to ours in last summer's heat.

THERE WAS some hustling around at Bill Farra's house in the middle of the night Saturday. The switch on their electric blanket went haywire just as the near-zero weather hit.

PIRL HOWELL says that the fuel oil business shows no terrific increase as yet, but really steps up when the mercury falls well below zero. Like other oil dealers, they try to watch tanks to see that the customer is kept in fuel. (They don't like to be called out at 2:30 a. m. to rescue a half-frozen family).

Sometimes families will hook several oil stoves together, without knowledge of the dealer, and drain tanks quicker, thus throwing the dealers off their time schedule. They can be more helpful, says Pirl, by advising oil men when there will be heavier drains on tanks that disrupt their usual demand.

THIS IS a good time to think of those who must travel in the cold and snowy weather to serve the public—like the paper boy, the sanitary service, the oil man, and others who make their rounds. It is a hard job getting around, and we should perform any thoughtful acts that will be helpful.

A PERSON with will power is one who can get calendars with comic pictures, like Case Furniture and Wilson's Men's Wear are distributing, and hang them up without jumping the gun and looking ahead to the pictures for each month.

THE INDUSTRIAL News Review of Portland has a word of sound advice on Christmas giving. "For the person who has everything," it sagely says, "there is just one appropriate gift: penicillin."

SURE A lot of people with sniffles, sore throats and temperatures right now who feel as if they have everything.

OVER AT Humphreys Drug they are accusing Harold Laird of getting injured every pre-Christmas time to avoid doing his share of work in the store during the Christmas rush. This week he is hobbling around with a broken bone in his foot.

He went into the basement the other night to get an armload of wood for the fireplace. Harold didn't bother to turn on the light because he knew the way very well. However, he didn't reckon with the fact that son Tom had left his football on the steps. Thus, Harold became the first man in history to be tackled by a football.

Last year, just about a week before Christmas, lanky Mr. Laird slipped on the icy street, did some fancy impromptu dancing steps and piled up with four broken ribs.

JIM BARRATT, Heppner man who is Oregon State University athletic business manager, writes that basketball fans will have a real treat at the Far West Classic in Memorial Coliseum, Portland, December 27-30. Michigan, Michigan State, California, and five northern division schools will participate. OSU and Michigan play in the opener December 27, and this looms as a dandy Seven-foot Mel Counts has scored 28, 29, and 20 points respectively in his first three varsity games, and looms as one

of OSU's all-time greats. The classic would give a nice holiday outing for sports fans.

THERE'LL BE another dandy basketball game Friday night when Heppner plays at lone (if too many players don't have the flu). Lone which was supposed to have a slow start because of the overlapping of football, is undefeated at this time. The Mustangs have lost four in a row, but have looked good in defeat. We think they show a lot of promise. The competition they have faced is top caliber. There should be a capacity crowd on hand Friday night.

A LETTER to Darrel Reisch, lone High principal, is a nice variation from an old story. Often boys on athletic trips have been accused of causing trouble and doing damage in hotels. Not so with the Cardinals. Here is what the letter said, "It is with real pleasure that I write you regard-

ing the conduct of the members of the school football team while they were here at the Baker Hotel (For Hereford game). I told the coaches that we were very happy to have them here and hoped that they would come back. The team members conducted themselves as gentlemen in every respect. We wanted you to know about it. Kindest personal regards, Ray W. Clark."

R. F. Campbell Dies; Services Here Saturday

Funeral services for Robert F. Campbell, 55, Heppner, were held Saturday at 2:30 at the First Christian church with the Rev. Charles Knox officiating.

Mr. Campbell died December 6 at a hospital in Richland, Wn. He was born January 26, 1906, at St. Maries, Idaho, and had lived in Heppner for 24 years. He was employed by Kinzua Corporation as a logger.

He was a member of the First Christian church.

Survivors are his widow, Ellen, Heppner; one daughter Sandra, at home; three sons Terry Morgan, at home; Robert Dennis, Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls, Texas, and James Robert, Lebanon; three sisters, Kathleen Aronson, Pullman, Wn., Elsie Fordyce, Lore City, Ohio, and Arlene Underhill, Denver, Colo.

Interment was in Heppner Masonic cemetery. Creswick Mortuary was in charge of arrangements.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Anderson and sons, Kit and Ricky, drove to Pasco Saturday to see the Columbia Basin Junior college play, "Dear Phoebe." Their daughter, Carole Anne, had the part of Rochelle.

Mrs. Frank Homlin visited in Portland and Gresham last week, staying with her husband's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Theo Van Doninck, in Gresham. The ladies, together with other women friends, have a birthday club and get together occasionally to observe their birthdays.

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