

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Questions for the New Year to Answer

The tottering old grey-haired man with the scythe is looked upon with disdain when a budding new year is about to appear. Regardless of its accomplishments, the year gone by seems drab and dull as compared with the glamorous newcomer that offers glowing promise for days ahead.

However good the Old Year treated us, it never was as good as the New Year expects to be. Americans, it seems, are generally an optimistic lot and still hope to find the pot of gold that lies at the foot of the rainbow, always just ahead.

Thus, it is only natural that Roger Babson, analyst of national reputation who claims 83% accuracy on his predictions over the years, confidently opines in his prognostications elsewhere in this paper that 1962 will be better, generally, than 1961.

But let's don't think so scornfully of Old 1961. Despite the poor local grain crop, some severe storms and a few other misfortunes, the passing year wasn't so bad.

Indeed, Morrow county showed pretty fair progress. True, the populace was kept on pins and needles on the development of the Boardman industrial park, not knowing whether—like it or not—we were about to become involved in the space age. All the predictions of fast culmination of the transactions involved and immediate development by Boeing bogged down in complications and details. But as the old year rolls out, it seems certain that conclusion of land deals and ultimate leasing of the site to Boeing are not far distant. It also seems certain that a new era is coming to the county, although it has lost some of its "boom" characteristics that were widely rumored at the start.

Two new schools were built in the county in 1961, and building permits in Heppner for the year totalled more than \$200,000. In industries other than agriculture, steady income was added to the economy by logging and lumbering, together with smaller industries.

On individual levels, Morrow county citizens and ex-residents made fine showings in many fields, getting honors that ranged from respected local awards to attaining national fame. Livestock growers, including teen-agers, took high honors with their stock.

Despite these achievements, and more, Old 1961 turns over to the infant year of 1962 a good many questions to answer:

Will the end of the coming year see actual development by Boeing on the Boardman site?

Will the Corps of Engineers' study of the Willow Creek dam project show it to be feasible for multipurpose use?

Will the grain grower have better crops and fare better than in 1961?

Will a "painless" method be worked out to finance completion of the high school building in Heppner, and will county voters approve the construction?

Will the highway commission approve improvement of highways in the county?

Will the complications involved in relocations in the Boardman area be solved?

Will Morrow county businesses show gains and prosper?

Will a reapportionment plan be developed for the legislature to give Eastern Oregon fair representation?

These are just a few of the questions that the innocent young Babe of 1962 has to face. It is to be hoped that the answers prove to be as good and satisfactory as our natural optimism would have them be.

Other Editors' Opinion—

Consolidation Furore Untimely

(From The Stayton Mail)
(Editorial) Whoop-de-dee proposing consolidation of counties, that has flourished somewhat lately, is untimely and inevitably will arouse suspicions and fears that will deter good government, not promote it.

The legislature and the people have given the counties rights to reorganize their governments under the so-called Home Rule law. Many counties are engaged in exploring what can be done under this law and several are expected to have charters ready for presentation to the voters next spring or fall.

This law will permit the counties having small population counts to reappraise their governmental organizations and to come up with improvements if deemed advisable.

Counter to an off-expressed opinion, we think that these sparsely settled counties are not wasteful, inefficient units, poorly serving their relatively large areas. Our own close-up observation in Gilliam county was that it was administered efficiently under the laws as they exist. Definitely, it was close to the people and strong evidence that the latter have been well satisfied lies in the fact that County Judge Jas. D. Burns has been retained in his office for 34 years.

Doubtless, some consolidation of offices in these smaller counties could be effected with benefit to the taxpayers but that's what the home-rule law is designed to permit. Let's give them a chance to proceed toward improvement rather than threaten them with extinction. If they're satisfied with their county governments why should outsiders attempt to interfere?

In our own area The Capital Journal rather whimsically proposed consolidation of Polk and Marion counties. This, we think, could have been better left unsaid. Our Inter-governmental Cooperation movement has been making great strides in these two counties and a proposal—even though said with tongue in cheek—could arouse unfortunate feelings of distrust.

The Capital Journal editorialist discussed the late Sen. Neuberger's proposal that the Willamette valley be condensed into a single county. Too large a unit, said the editorial. It prophesied a hot tussle, should this proposal ever get to a vote, between Eugene and Salem, for the seat of government. About that they could be sure . . . and Albany would wind up getting it.

Instead of trying to rob present counties of their very existence, let's, instead, promote harmony and aid them in improving their lots, as they now have a right to do under Home Rule.

Where Will You Be?

At age 65 . . . 5 out of 7 people are dependent, in part or in whole upon friends, relatives, or charity. Today the American people are hearing a lot about retirement, savings, and financial independence in their senior years. Financial advisers expound on the merits of savings accounts, government securities, and ownership in American business. Which is best for you? Here at Zilka-Smithers, Inc. we have our own research and programming departments to help you make a planned program to fit your needs.

Quentin E. Sidesinger

From our Portland office, calls every month in the Heppner area, Phone Heppner 6-9912.

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Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THERE HAVE been a lot of fine comments from readers who have tried recipes printed by Jo in her column, coming as far as Dallas, where Mrs. Tom Tallon of the Itemizer-Observer staff noted the pie crust recipe of Mrs. John Lane. She tried it and found it scrumptious, according to a recent letter.

We would like to make it clear, however, that the recipe used by some high school girls in making Christmas candy didn't come from the Gazette-Times. As it was reported to us, the girls presented some of the delicious-looking chocolate-covered candy to Don McClure and other teachers on the last day before vacation. The glowing look of anticipation on his face turned sour and dour when he found the inside to be 100% pure soap.

Apparently the girls figure that over the holidays he shall have forgotten and forgiven and they won't get flunks from him after all.

THE PRE-CHRISTMAS Friday must have been Black Friday for Don. That evening we saw him working away trying to fix a flat tire on his car just below Mrs. Harry Duvall's place. The tranquil Christmas scene in her yard was quite a contrast to the struggles he was going through. While he groaned and grunted with the tire, the quiet strains of "Silent Night" wafted through the air about him.

MAYBE it's because we enjoy unusual benefits in a small town, or maybe we just have an unusually efficient post office crew. Anyway, a package that was addressed only to "Larry and Stanley, Heppner," with no last name, no street address, was promptly delivered to Larry and Stanley Richmond, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Richmond.

This took a little detective work by Postmaster Jim Driscoll, but the boys got their gift. The

TO THE EDITOR . . .

To The Editor:

The article written by Judge Peterson was very well written and presented some thought provoking points. The most obvious to me is that he does not want to lose his road building funds, even for a short time to such a worthy cause as a new school. This could be motivated by several reasons ranging from political expedience through actual necessity and since he says "we can point with pride to a County road system that practically overshadows the road system in any county in Oregon," "actual need is evidently not one of his reasons. Thanks go to Garnet Barratt who inaugurated the project nearly 15 years ago when there was a real, if not a downright desperate, need.

Now it seems that counties to the south of us want to build connecting roads with them, to them. Our first thoughts should be: Why, for whom, for what purposes, and what practical economic value will these roads be to Morrow county? What does Morrow county and its towns have to offer as trade incentives for such roads? Are they merely shortcuts to Portland and of no significant economic benefit to our county? Looking ahead 10, 15, or 20 years what will Morrow county offer as trading collateral then? What are the plans for industrial and urban development? No wishful thinking now—just concrete evidence. Recent articles in the Oregonian and The Saturday Evening Post on commercial development added to the prognosis of experts in the field of agriculture concerning the changes in the immediate future do not encourage large expenditures of money for either roads or schools in this particular area.

The way tax dollars are spent, for what, and how much for each item is a decision that only the population can make. After that it is the job of public officials to carry out these directions in the most expedient manner possible. Along with this, be it right or wrong, if X county wants to pay X dollars for an official to fulfill a position, that official knew this before he or she applied for the position. The point I make is that it comes from the people to the official, not vice versa.

I live on an East-West Highway in the southern part of the county and I do not see enough traffic to justify another road roughly paralleling it further south. I also think this situation is true of the North-South road to the John Day Highway. I am not saying they would not be nice, but I doubt that they could be justified in dollars of economy to Morrow county. If solid evidence to the contrary can not be produced, please let the other county, or the State build them.

In Morrow county we do have good roads and we do have good schools. There is no doubt that we want and would like them better, but we also want them on a sound basis of their best abilities to serve the needs of the people; and we want them within our ability to pay for them. We, you, and your neighbor, and I—are the ones to make the decisions so let everyone start thinking.

W. W. Weatherford

broken down He needed some office of Turner, Van Marter and belts that were impossible to get locally. He had an accumulation of holiday clothing to get out from his establishment. The company from whom he got the belts had changed hands, and he couldn't think of the new firm name. Bill was ransacking everything in the office to find the new address, but last we knew, it was no go, and he didn't know how he was going to get the belts here from Seattle, where the firm is located, anyway.

Just a few weeks ago we had the same general problem on this paper with a part needed for the Linotype machine that had to come all the way from New York.

Did Bill find the address? Did the company have the belts in stock? Did they arrive in time? Tune in on our pants legs later this week and find out. If they are baggy and unpressed, Bill Collins is still "One in a hill."

LAVERNE VAN MARTER and the editor conceived an idea that would really put a zing in the news in this paper and expedite its publication. As most local people know, the insurance of

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