

Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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School Buildings and County Roads

Since the early December meeting of the District R-1 school board, there has been considerable misunderstanding in circulation concerning the board's attitude towards the serial levy on county roads.

From a number of quarters has come criticism towards the board for proposing to take funds that would "jeopardize the road program." In the story about the board meeting that appeared in this paper, we thought it was made clear that the proposal did not come from the board but rather from Orville Cutsforth, who appeared as a private citizen and taxpayer.

Apparently, however, some have misconstrued the story. As was pointed out in the original article, the board took the position that it could not seek to encroach on funds designated for another purpose or for another branch of local government, and Director Ed Dick made this quite clear when he made the statement at the board meeting to Mr. Cutsforth. At that time Mr. Dick said, and the other members of the board concurred, that all tax money belongs to the people and any move to earmark it should properly come from the people.

We have noted, too, that some apparently believe that Mr. Cutsforth is a member of the school board and thereby felt he proposed this in the name of the board. He is not, but presented the idea forthrightly in what he thought might be a solution to the school problem without hurting the taxpayer.

Among those who erroneously thought the board had designs on the county road levy was County Judge Oscar Peterson, who wrote a letter to the editor on the matter, pointing out the uses of the road funds.

The truth is, the matter never came up at the meeting until it was proposed from the audience via Mr. Cutsforth.

In turning away from any expressed or implied intentions relative to the road funds, the board acted in proper manner. The school program has to stand on its own merits, and the road program likewise. Neither should work to impair the other.

However, it cannot be said that Cutsforth was not within his rights in making the suggestion. He is a taxpayer and he expressed an idea that he believes might solve a knotty problem. Purpose of this editorial is merely to keep the record straight and dispel rumors that have cropped up.

The school board as yet has not proposed to the public any method of financing the building program that it believes necessary in the county. Architect Stewart Tuft was present at the January meeting Monday night to show proposed sketches to complete the new Heppner high school plant, but a consideration of cost and financing was deferred until the sketches could be scrutinized and studied by the directors. Projects at Boardman and Irigon are similarly under scrutiny.

In a letter to the editor on this page, Mr. Cutsforth asks if any count has been taken of children who will be entering school from this end of the county. We cannot answer the question, because we don't know. However, we have been told that enrollment at Heppner high this year is 204 and that it will reach 250 within two years as the wave of heavy enrollment in the grade school surges through. Classes of 3th and 6th grade physical education, 7th and 8th grade homemaking and 7th and 8th grade shop will be dropped from the grade school curriculum in the coming school year because there is no room for them. Grade school pupils now meeting in the old high school building cannot go there next year because high school enrollment crowds them out.

Only a fool would say that the people of the county can build new schools without paying for them, but it may be possible to work out a plan by bonding and cutting out the school serial levy that would not increase taxes, although the bonded indebtedness would be spread out for some time.

To this time, and after attending each regular school board meeting for the past six months, it is apparent to us that the board is proceeding logically on the problem, which eventually will be placed in the hands of the people for decision. Whatever method of financing is proposed, the voters and taxpayers will be the final judges.

Other Editors' Opinion—

Doesn't Advertising Pay?

Yes, it's a funny world . . .
"Isn't it funny that so many businessmen will get up in the morning, refresh themselves with a dose of advertised fruit juice; clean their teeth with an advertised toothpaste and advertised brush; shave with an advertised razor; wash with an advertised soap; put on advertised underwear; shirt collar, and shoes; seat themselves at the table and eat an advertised breakfast food and bread; drink advertised tea, coffee or cocoa; put on advertised hat and gloves; light an advertised cigarette with an advertised match; go to the station in an advertised motor car; give letters to a typist who types on an advertised machine using advertised carbons; sign their letters with an advertised pen, containing advertised ink; and turn down a proposal to advertise on the grounds that ADVERTISING DOESN'T PAY!"—Market Research—International Shoe Company.

Cheese Cookery Topic At Extension Meeting

The Rhea Creek extension unit met January 3 in the grange hall for the first meeting of the new year. Cheese cookery was the topic presented by project leaders, Miss Marilyn Bergstrom and Mrs. Ray Wright. Many interested ways of using new and familiar kinds of cheese were given. During a delightful luncheon those present sampled many of the day's cheese recipes. The business meeting following lunch, was conducted by Mrs. Robert Bergstrom. Plans for the card party and food sale to be held March 17 at 7:30 p. m. were presented by chairman of the finance committee, Mrs. Owen Leathers Jr. All members will be working with her in making this event a real success. Those in attendance for the January meeting were Mrs. Robert Bergstrom, Mrs. Albert Wright, Mrs. Orren Wright, Mrs. Mildred Wright, Mrs. Evelyn Farnes, Mrs. Emma E. White, Mrs. Eva Wright, Mrs. Thelma Smethurst, Mrs. Barton Clark, Mrs. William Bergstrom, Miss Marilyn Bergstrom, Mrs. John Graves, Mrs. John Campbell and Mrs. NeZie Jean Taber.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

HELEN COX must be an optimistic sort of person. "I saw the first robin today," she declared with a tinge of excitement in her voice over the phone Wednesday morning. "Did you see it?"

"Nob, I didn't," I replied between coughs and snuffles. "I couldn't see over the top ob my hankercheeb."

"Oh?" came the sympathetic rejoinder. "Something wrong?"

"Nob," I answered, "Just got a cold id my nods."

Isn't it the darndest thing. Just as you happily settle down to be miserable for the winter, something comes along to upset the appreciat by telling you spring is on the way.

But Helen is undaunted. She is telling the world about it in her ad on spring flowers (See page 6, this section).

REP. FRANK WEATHERFORD has a simple solution for small communities who are trying to offer ambulance service in the face of stiff new state regulations that require additional attendants, equipment and licenses.

At a recent public hearing, he reported to the Chamber of Commerce Monday, he told the gathering, "If we have to comply, we will simply have to shoot the patients and bring them in as corpses."

Regulations aren't so stiff, apparently, on stiff—to put it in the vernacular of the "whodunits."

The representative said that he thought the rules would be eased for smaller communities, but a story in the East Oregonian Wednesday evening said that the State Board of Health had overridden "strong objections from the timber industry and adopted state regulations for ambulance service in Oregon."

It rather appears that the State Board of Health is saying that if a sick or hurt patient can't be brought in by an attendant wearing a white coat, he can't be brought in at all. For one provision does require the wearing of white by ambulance personnel.

WELL, you see a lot of folks doing the "Twist" on TV these days, but we've invented a new version, "The Twist on the Top Board of a Feedlot Fence." Some of those fancy steppers ought to try it.

Booklets Now Out About Fallout

County civil defense director C. J. D. Bauman today announced that the post offices are being shipped quantities of the new Department of Defense booklet, "Fallout Protection. What to Know and Do About Nuclear Attack." Copies will be available soon at the public service windows of all post offices in Morrow county. No direct mailing will be made as originally announced by the Department of Defense.

First-class post offices will receive 1500 copies; second-class offices 250 copies; third-class offices 100 copies and each fourth-class office 50 copies. The county civil defense office will also be shipped a quantity by the State Civil Defense Agency. On April 1, 1962, any surplus in post offices will be sent to civil defense offices for subsequent handling.

The Department of Defense announced the distribution of the booklet on December 30. It is a 48-page pocket-sized pamphlet designed to give the American people the facts they need to know about the dangers of thermonuclear attack and what they can do to protect themselves. It also describes the proposed national civil defense program.

A second Department of Defense booklet on family shelter designs and construction procedures is expected by the State Civil Defense Agency during the latter part of January. No plans for distribution have been announced by the Department of Defense as yet.

We didn't really plan it that way—it came about like many important inventions, quite by accident.

Out at Harold Wrights at Ruggs, we were trying to get a good photo of him as a candidate for Livestockman of the year and ozy. We snapped the Western pose of Harold with some of his Hereford herd, but the cattle were as skittish as a politician at a press conference.

Harold was installed on top of the fence at the right angle, but every time he would slide close enough to the cows, they'd move away. We were also on the top, holding the camera and equipment and with no hands left to use in balancing, and tried to maneuver down towards him.

Finally the Herefords were backed into a corner and could go no farther. Harold was in the right spot and we stopped with feet planted on the board second from the top and shins braced against the top board. Down below was a good big mudhole, nice and ozy. We snapped the picture O.K. and then started to lose balance. At this point the new "Twist" was invented.

We pirouette! and pitched, hips sagging to the right and to the left. Our arms went in wild gesticulation, and the mudhole was ever beckoning.

There came a moment when he knew all was lost. The urge was to give up, toss the camera clear and nose-dive into the mud and manure in as dignified a manner as possible. But we gave it one more college try, did a few more gyrations of the Twist, gouged the shin bones harder into the top board and finally recovered enough to snap out of it.

Thus, we cheated the mud. Harold was quite unimpressed by the Fence Rail Twist. "Say, you just about went in the mud," he said nonchalantly, or words to that effect. Don't suppose he would be at all thrilled by a visit to the Peppermint Lounge. And we're surely with him on that. It's too hard on the shins.

IF YOU don't like chill, you can eat chicken and noodles at the pie and chili feed of the PTA Tuesday night in the high school cafeteria before the big ball game between Ione and Heppner. Some like chill, but some prefer chicken and noodles. However, everybody likes pie. Those who are watching their figures are welcome to bring their Metrecol along. Rolls and salad are furnished, too. Even if you do get fat, it's for a worthy cause.

TO THE EDITOR . . .

To The Editor:

I wonder if I didn't start a series of letter writing when at a recent school board meeting I made the suggestion that if we must make further capital investment in schools, and since we have fairly good roads, we should discontinue most of the road building program and put that money into school buildings. Maybe a compromise of the two programs is what we need.

I felt that the taxpayer could not and would not vote for a building program which would increase real taxes. Bill Weatherford and now Ralph Crum would be thinking along the same lines.

Let me say again that if I have but one dollar to do a two dollar job, no board or administrative group should attempt to tell me what I shall buy. Only the people can when they vote the funds. Then let this group or board use these dedicated funds to the best of their ability for the purpose for which they were voted.

Coming back to schools, who has gone to the county records or the hospital records and gotten a one and two year old child census. How many one and two year olds are there between Lexington and Ione? How many between Lexington and Sandhollow up Blackhorse canyon? How many up Claris canyon on Social Ridge to the Hardman road, or between Lexington and the sawmill? How many North, South, East and West of Ione or on upper Eightmile?

I can't believe that a population of 4800 people are raising anymore children than they did in the '30's or '40's. We have the schools swallowing 16 years of children in 8 years because there was practically none born between 1940 and 1948.

Remember we are raising and educating children in Morrow county principally for the industry elsewhere. I WONDER!

O. W. Cutsforth

Ione Cottonettes Plan For Field Trip

Leader, Mrs. Rea and five members of the Ione Cottonettes 4-H sewing club met at Mrs. Rea's home January 6 at 2 p. m. Plans were made to take a trip to Pendleton January 27 to visit stores and learn about selecting material for our project. We figured out the size pattern we would need for our garment.

The constitution was read and adopted.

The next meeting will be February 3, at Karen Nelson's home. Bernice Matthews, reporter

Archery Club Will Organize Jan. 17

Because of a poor turnout at the first called meeting of the Blue Mountain Archery club, a second reorganization meeting has been called for Wednesday, January 17. The group is anxious to get organized before spring weather arrives. The meeting will begin at 8:00 p. m. in the old library rooms in the city hall.

Mrs. Swanson Better

Mrs. Mary Swanson of Ione, is showing good improvement at St. Anthony's hospital, Pendleton, after fracturing her hip late last year. She was transferred there from Pioneer Memorial hospital for specialist's treatment, and her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Gar Swanson of Ione, said Tuesday that she is now able to be up in a walker and may be permitted to return to the Gar Swanson home later this week.

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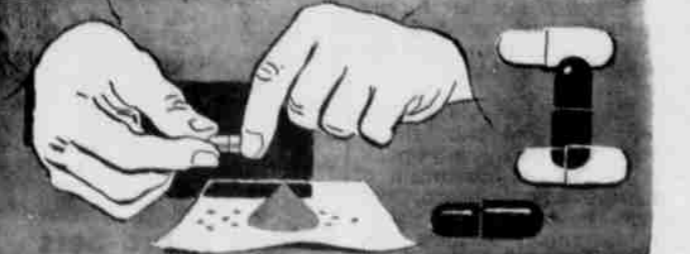
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