

# Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
PHONE 676-9228

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

WESLEY A. SHERMAN  
Editor and Publisher

HELEN E. SHERMAN  
Associate Publisher



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.

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.; Saturdays, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

## Road Tax Base Proposal is Reasonable

On May 18, when voters of Morrow county cast ballots on candidates in the primary election and on two state measures, they will also express their preference on the county measure to establish a road tax base of \$115,000.

If the county is going to maintain much of a road program, some such measure is a virtual necessity. For the past 14 years, the county road program has been dependent upon the serial road levy which was approved by substantial majorities in three separate elections—1948, 1953 and 1958, each for 5-year periods.

However, complaint of Union Pacific, a large taxpayer in Morrow county, pointed out that the 10-mill levy in 1961-62 brought in more money than was legal. County officials had overlooked the fact that the change in assessment ratio resulted in a higher valuation for the county, and the 10-mill levy consequently brought some \$17,000 more than the amount allowed by statute—the limit being 6 per cent above the total proceeds of the previous year's levy.

When this came to light it was also discovered that a recent state statute prohibits a serial levy on a fixed millage basis but requires that a certain sum be established. In such a case, the millage necessary to raise that sum is levied.

Thus, the county cannot legally levy the tax for roads for another year without another vote of the people.

The county court has chosen to ask for the road tax base, and its proposal is reasonable. The amount it seeks, \$115,000, is \$50,000 less than the 10-mill levy brought or the year 1961-62. Result will be a decrease in levy for the taxpayers, dropping from 10 mills to about seven mills for the coming year.

If the tax base is established, the county will not have to vote periodically to provide operating funds for roads, but will have the \$115,000 for a base. Under the law, it may levy up to that amount the first year. In the second year, it may levy that sum plus 6% if it is needed, and the 6% limitation will apply thereafter unless it is altered by a new state law.

A vote would be necessary only when it was felt that a sum was needed beyond the base plus the increments of the 6 per cent limitation, and a vote would have to be taken in any such instance.

Maintenance, improvement and construction of roads is not a passing problem. These are things that must be faced this year, next year and the next. Everyone—farmer and businessman alike—needs roads for his economic good. The county needs a good road system for an orderly development. Everyone enjoys them in pleasurable pursuits.

The sum of \$115,000 asked as a base is \$20,000 less than the lowest amount raised by the annual serial levy during the past five years. These amounts, year by year, in round figures were as follows: 1957-58—\$140,000; 1958-59, \$135,000; 1959-60, \$138,000; 1960-61, \$139,000; and 1961-62, \$165,000 (of which some \$17,000 was above the legal limit).

Thus, it seems only reasonable that a fair base be established—as it is in most other counties—as a foundation for a good road program without the necessity of tossing the matter up for vote every few years. Should there be proposals for greater road development, calling for expenditures well beyond the base, then it is only fitting and proper that the public vote on the matter, and it could not be otherwise.

# Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THIS WAS one of the very few days that a reader might have told any one of the Gazette-Times staff that he was "full of prunes" and not cause some years' standing. Ernie Jacobson, came from Dallas and brought a 20 pound box of luscious dried prunes for us, and most of the G-T gang had some to munch on.

Prunes are not abundant, to say the least, in Morrow county, and it is kind of good to get some of the genuine Polk county fruit occasionally. Had we been on our toes, we would have proffered Ernie a real good cut of Eastern Oregon steak in return but were too busy to think of it.

This visit was quite an experience for our friend. He was in Heppner once before—in 1899! He made the trip, four years prior to the flood, via covered wagon as he traveled with his family from Spokane en route to Coos County. They spent the night in Heppner. The Dallas man says that Heppner has always been one of the most fascinating spots in the state to him.

HOLY CATS! We have often heard this term, but we are not sure if a cat that belongs to a ministerial family fits in this category or not. In any event, the cat of Father and Mrs. C. Bruce Spencer must have some kind of divine guidance.

The Siamese feline was lost last week, and it seemed hopelessly so. But Mrs. Spencer (June) didn't give up hope and took the logical course—she inserted a want ad in the G-T. Next day, a call came from Hardman, which, it must be admitted, is some distance from Heppner as the cat prowls. The Jim Hams family reported a cat answering the description had appeared at their place. It was the Spencer cat, all right, and so once more the Siamese has assumed its angelic place on the Spencer hearth.

The only explanation as to how the cat got to Hardman is that it hopped through an open car window, unnoticed, and took the free ride there.

BRANDS are important in Morrow county. Every livestock grower has his own. But there are others who have brands, too. Among them are the golfers of the Willow Creek country club. They brand their golf balls with red paint. When one is lost and another player finds it, he dutifully picks it up and drops it in a box. Over a period of time quite a few of the little white balls are collected.

A whole box of found balls has been placed in the window of Turner, Van Marter and Bryant, and any member of the club may drop in and identify his brand. It's quite an honor system.

Coming in the alleyway off Gale street the other day, we noticed a ball lying in the gravel bearing the brand "WB". We checked at T. Van M and B, we find that is for Willard Blake. The only comment we have to make is, that fellow

## Spelling Contest Held For County Grade Students

Students in grades five through eight in four Morrow county grade schools were entered in a spelling contest at the A. C. Houghton Elementary school, Irrigon last Wednesday.

Two representatives were chosen from each room in the four grades at each school, with a total of 42 pupils finishing as gold, blue or red award winners.

Gold ribbon winners, indicating a perfect 100 score, were Cheryl Edwards, Heppner, fifth grade; Theresa Thorpe, Boardman; Frances Abrams, Heppner, and Kathy Kenne, lone, sixth graders; and Malcolm Hoskins, Heppner, Denise Matthews and Patrick McElligott, lone, seventh graders.

Blue ribbon winners for those getting between 80 and 89 correct, totaled 11 in the fifth grade, eight in the sixth, seven in the seventh and six in the eighth grade.

Fifth graders getting blue ribbons were Bobby Skoubo and Mary Boothman, Boardman; Verla Herschell, Dan Leathers, Sara Miller, Steve Munkers, Betty Henderson, all of Heppner; Teresa Tucker and Linda Nichols, of lone; Terri Senn and Anna Sue Lesley, A. C. Houghton school. In the sixth grade were Linda Tatone, Boardman; Amanda Smith, Norita Marquardt, Helen Anderson, Marsha Lovgren, Jennifer Blake, all of Heppner; Maurine McElligott, lone; and Darlene Gollyvorn and Betty Eppenbach, A. C. Houghton.

From the seventh grades were Marsha Ann Sowell, Kay Daggett, Martha Peck, Barbara Bloodsworth, Maralee Murray, all of Heppner; Patricia Jean Davis and Linda Carol Senn, both of A. C. Houghton.

Blue ribbon winners were tops in the eighth grade. Included were Maureen Doherty, Margaret Green, Karen French, Gail Batty, all of Heppner, Susan Lindstrom, Cheryl Smouse, lone; and Chuck Jackson and Toni Olin of A. C. Houghton.

really hits a mean drive to blast one all the two miles from No. 1 at the course to our back alley.

THE EDITORS were guests at the Rockhound meeting at the George Millers near Cecil the other night and had a very enjoyable time. They didn't feed us rock candy, either, even though we had made a facetious crack some weeks ago about them throwing rocks at Burns basketball players.

The Millers have some wonderful collections of arrowheads, guns, colored glass, minerals and other very unusual items. When you walk into their home, it is as interesting as going into a museum.

Mrs. Miller (Ruby) told of their trip to Texas and Mexico recently (see Betty Wagner's Rockhound column this issue), and we have to admire their fortitude. They struck off alone ahead of the guided tour, through some rugged and arid country in the land south of the border and couldn't speak a word of Spanish. Later they connected with the main party and had some adventuresome experiences, including the time their bus drive vamoosed and left the party, tired and dirty after a day's rock hunting, in a hot and desolate Mexican town.

Thus, when you see the Miller collection, you will realize that a good part of it wasn't easy to come by.

AL LAMB, who took off on his Trade Mission to Central Africa Wednesday, said that the Commerce Department had cautioned the party not to drink any water in Africa, and that really poses a problem. The group will have some bottled water with them, but if some other arrangements aren't made, a stranger would be able to spot Al Lamb upon his return by picking out the fellow with his tongue hanging out. He'll really appreciate good old pure Heppner water when he gets back.

WE CAN'T HONESTLY report to Manager Dale Slusher of Pacific Northwest Bell that the change to 7 digit dialing went off without a hitch here but everything seems to be straightened out as the kinks are taken care of. Wrong numbers were quite frequent, and sometimes the phone would start ringing at the other end before a guy could run through the seven digits. But one thing nice about getting a wrong number in a small town. You more than likely can recognize the voice at the other end anyway, and gen-

erally you have something to talk about to them, too.

FRANK BATES of Boise won the cutting contest of the Wranglers for the second year in a row over the week-end, and he seemed pretty happy about it when we took his picture at the conclusion.

"It costs me more than I win to come," he said. "But I get a lot of fun out of it. These are real nice folks here. In fact, they're the finest people on earth. —But don't tell 'em I said so," he added hastily.

JOE HARTLE came back to his printer's job at the Gazette-Times this week after a long siege in the hospital, major back surgery and recuperating from it. Ray Smith, who obligingly gave us a hand for the past couple of months, saved the day for us while Joe was away. It's nice to have Joe back on the team, and we hope he can now sever his membership in the Bad Back club. At the same time we want to express appreciation to Ray for pitching in so willingly while Joe was gone.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Stearns, Puyallup, Wn., visited Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hughes over the Easter week-end. Mr. Stearns is the father of Mrs. Hughes. He showed slides of the Puyallup Valley daffodil parade held recently.

## LEXINGTON LOG



The plane of the Kinzua Lumber Company gave the people of Lexington a bit of excitement last Tuesday when it came in for a landing, getting down between gusts of wind and dust during the storm. After a short visit in Heppner, the plane departed safely again, still between gusts of wind and dust.

Allen Huston, a pilot from The Dalles, is spending some time at the Lexington airport, where he is helping with the spraying.

**STAR THEATER**  
Phone 6-9278  
If no answer call 6-9452

## Services At Hardman For Marie Stephens

Graveside services for Marie E. Stephens, 76, were held today (Thursday) at 2 p. m. at the Hardman cemetery. Rev. Homer Wolfington officiated and Creswick Mortuary was in charge of committal arrangements.

Mrs. Stephens died April 25 in Porterville, Calif., where she had made her home since the death of her husband here in 1955.

Survivors include five daughters, one step-daughter, one son, two stepsons, 12 grandchildren and one sister.

Gazette-Times is authorized dealer for Moore Business Forms in this area. Call 6-9228 for your needs.

**COMMUNITY BILLBOARD**

## Coming Events

Heppner High School  
SENIOR PROM  
Friday night, 9 p. m. Multi-purpose room.

O.E.S. SOCIAL CLUB  
CARD PARTY  
Masonic hall, Saturday, 1:45 p. m.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER LUNCHEON  
Lexington Rebekah hall, Saturday, 1:00 p. m.  
Adults \$1 Students 75c

MOTHER'S DAY BAZAAR  
Following the luncheon 2:30 p. m.

This space will be used each week to announce coming events of a public service nature at no charge.

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

**C. A. RUGGLES Insurance Agency**

Heppner  
P. O. Box 611 PH. 6-9625

## TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

Enclosed is money order for subscription to the Gazette-Times.

Thank you for the copy you sent me. I was surprised and delighted when I opened it and saw my old friend Claude Cox's picture and account of his business. I knew the Cox and Hampton families in Virginia. They were two of the most respected and finest families in the Galax section. Claude was such a fine young man at school. I felt he would make good any place. I did know Clara but knew her fine family in Grayson county. I went to Heppner from Galax, Va., March 8, 1897. Claude went in 1905 after working on ranches four years. I went back to Virginia, married Mae Dobyns, returned to Heppner after working on ranch, later leased Ed Day's sheep and ranch on Butter Creek. When I left there, I sold my sheep to Wigelsworth.

After leaving Heppner, I lived at Ontario, Ore., a few years, then Twin Falls, Idaho; Virginia, Tennessee; and been in Florida 13 years. My wife is a teacher. She plans to retire next year. I have been employed by the Town of Largo, retired last year. So much has happened since I lived at Heppner it would take a book to tell. We are planning to go to Phoenix, Ariz., by plane June 19, from there by bus through Grand Canyon, Salt Lake, stop at Twin Falls, Salt Lake, Ontario, Heppner, then to Seattle.

We were in Heppner one day four years ago. Paul Hilder and I were good friends. We stopped to see Paul, Jr. They, along with Emile Groshen were so wonderful to us. I did not know about Claude. It was sad for me as I thought of all of my old friends who were gone.

I lost so many friends in 1903 flood. I had just started to the mountains with sheep, got to Jones Prairie when they notified me. This is good for your scrap basket. Thank you for the paper. I am looking forward to seeing Claude.

Sincerely,  
John P. Housman  
612 4th Ave. S. W.  
Largo, Florida

Dear Sirs:  
Am sending you \$5.00 to add on my subscription for the Gazette-Times. I've taken it for 40 years, and it isn't home without it. I'm too far out from the P. O. to walk and get a money order, so hope this will keep it coming now, and thanks for your

## Services In Portland For John Skuzeski

Funeral rites for John Skuzeski, 71, were held Monday in Portland with burial following in Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Mr. Skuzeski was born in Poland May 10, 1890, and came to this country in 1905. He has lived in or around Portland most of his life, except for the years between 1923 and 1945 when the family lived in Heppner and the children attended schools here. During the 1930's he operated a tailoring shop here and installed the first dry cleaning establishment, operating it until 1945. He returned to Portland and had made his home there since that time.

Surviving him are his wife Jeannette, who resides at 9400 S. E. Sunnyside Road, Portland 46; three sons, John of Portland; Walter of Yamhill, Ted of Hermiston and nine grandchildren.

Memorial Mass was read Monday at Christ the King Church near Milwaukie.

## District Co-op Leader To Install Officers

Mrs. Ada Sacrisson, Pilot Rock, district representative of the Co-op Homemaker's groups of the Walla Walla district, will be a guest at the regular meeting of the Lexington Co-op Biddies Monday, May 7, 1:30 p. m. at the Lexington City Hall.

Mrs. Sacrisson will be in charge of installing new officers. Mrs. Millard Nolan will serve as president of the group for the coming year, and will be installed at this time.

## Dr. Huber Attends Dental Convention

Dr. H. S. Huber will leave Sunday for the seventh annual Oregon State Dental Convention in Portland, to be held in the Masonic Temple. He will return to Heppner Tuesday night.

Because of his absence, his office here will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Mrs. Lena Kelly returned to Heppner Saturday after being confined in the Pendleton Memorial hospital following major surgery. Immediately after her release she stayed at the home of her son, Robert E. Kelly in Umatilla, and will be convalescing at the home of her daughters in Heppner for three or four weeks before returning to her own home.

trouble.  
Very truly yours,  
Mrs. Mae Warren  
641 S. 14th Street  
Redmond, Oregon

## GIFTS THAT SAY ---

with all your LOVE on MOTHER'S DAY



IT'S HER DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 13

L' Aiglon  
Nelly Don  
Jean Lane  
Men' Del

DRESSES

Fownes Gloves

Faerie  
Henson  
Kickernick

LINGERIE

Lee Jeans  
Jantzen Swimsuits  
Ship 'N Shore Blouses  
White Stag Sportswear  
Pendleton Skirts and Jackets

Lettisse Purses

Berkshire  
And Mojud

HOSE

LaRoca Jewelry



You Can't Go Wrong  
By Giving  
Her A GIFT  
CERTIFICATE  
From  
ELMA'S



233 N. MAIN

# ELMA'S APPAREL

PH. 676-9426