

# 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.

## Six Percent Limitation Amendment

One of the two state measures on the May 18 primary election ballot is a proposed amendment to the constitution on the 6% tax limitation. It has three provisions and its peculiar in that if it fails of passage in the primary, two of its provisions will be dropped, and the single remaining provision will be submitted to voters again in November. Thus, it is referred to as the May-November proposal.

Changes to the law proposed by the measure briefly are as follows:

1. Amendment to permit a taxing district to use as its tax base the highest levy of the three preceding years and its peculiar in that if it fails of passage in the primary, two of its provisions will be dropped, and the single remaining provision will be submitted to voters again in November. Thus, it is referred to as the May-November proposal.

2. This change applies to new taxing districts and would permit the new district to set a tax levy for the first year without an election, the power being vested in the governing board of the taxing body, subject to the requirements of the Local Budget Law. Proponents declare that the change would expedite operation of a new taxing body which has been legally created, and declare that necessity of waiting for an election for funds to finance its operations causes needless delay. Opponents feel, however, that the public should retain the right to vote on the taxes to be levied. They say that a district may vote on a levy at the same time the formation of the district is voted upon.

3. This change would permit a tax base election at a "regular periodic" election, rather than having to wait for a primary or general election. It is now required that such a vote be at a general or primary election because voter turnout is higher at these elections than at a special election, and the balloting is thus more representative. There is some confusion as to the meaning of "regular periodic" election.

Should the measure be defeated at the primary, the last two provisions will be dropped, and the first one—to base the limitation on the highest levy of the three preceding years in which a tax was levied—will be submitted again in the fall.

There seems to be pretty uniform opinion favoring the first provision from all sources, but opinion on the latter two is divided, and it would appear that the May measure will be rather soundly defeated.

The Oregon Voter points out that the proposal, incorporating all three provisions, passed both the House and Senate without a dissenting vote, and that the State Tax Commission suggested two of the changes and approved the third.

Under the local budget law there is some protection against a "run-away" fixing of the first tax base by a new district's governing board whose members are also taxpayers, it points out. The power for the governing body to set the first year's levy in the case of a new tax district was in effect prior to 1952, when it was amended by vote of the people, and there was no abuse of the provision.

Oregon Education Association backs the measure, but the Association of Oregon Industries, City Club of Portland, Multnomah County Taxpayers association and others are against it because of its second and third provisions.

We will vote No on the measure because we feel that the people should have the right to vote on a levy for a new tax district and because we think it right that as many people as possible should express themselves at the polls when a tax base is up for change, although at the same time, voters have no one else to blame but themselves for their lethargy in turning out at a special election.

We do favor the first provision of the measure and will support it in November.

## Reasonable Pay for State Legislators

In their niggardly attitude on compensation to their state legislators, Oregon voters "have held a nickel so close to their eyes that they have failed to see a dollar in the distance."

At the present time, a person who seeks a position in the state senate or house of representatives can look forward to a salary of only \$600 per year, at the same time standing the expense and rigors of running for the office. Legislative pay in Oregon ranks 46th from the top among the states of the nation.

California pays its legislators 10 times as much—\$6,000 per year. Washington pays twice as much—\$1,200. Alaska pays \$3,000 per year.

By limiting their pay to a pittance, we virtually restrict entry in the legislative field to those who are financially able to make the economic sacrifice. Among our potential candidates for the legislature are many well qualified who could render fine and valuable service but who are too limited in means to seek an office.

We expect our legislators to travel to all parts of their districts, keep us posted on what is going on, answer our inquiries, devote hundreds of hours in addition to the time spent at a legislative session, but we don't want to pay them a reasonable salary for it.

We give them the responsibility of handling millions of dollars of state funds, but we don't open the field to all who may have top qualifications for this responsibility because we don't pay a reasonable figure to attract all men of high caliber.

When the original state constitution was framed in 1859 it provided a maximum of \$3 per day for legislators while in attendance at a legislative session. It provided an annual salary for governor of \$1,500.

Now the governor receives \$20,000 per year, more than 13 times what the office paid in 1859, but the legislators' pay at \$600 per year is no more than double the \$3 per day of 1859.

It would be good economy to change this condition, and it is fair and right to do so.

On the primary election ballot is a measure that would amend the constitution by providing that legislators' salaries shall be established and paid in the same manner as the salaries of other elected state officials. This would take the matter of legislators' salaries out of the constitution and allow them to be fixed by state statute, as are those of other elected state officials.

In essence, this means that legislators' pay would be raised because it could be done through the legislature and not require a vote of the people in the form of a constitutional amendment. Voters have repeatedly rejected an increase in pay for legislators.

This does not deprive the citizen of any rights nor give the legislators unlimited power to fix their own salaries because of the fact that any such action is subject to initiative petition and the referendum, if the voters are not in accord with the action.

We recommend a Yes vote on this measure.

Mrs. Charlie Beckett is visiting Mrs. Alvie Mahan and son her daughter and family. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Johnson in Dufur this week. Mr. Beckett took her to Dufur Saturday and he returned home.

## Lowly Pine Stumps to Find Good Use

Progress on utilization of waste wood products in the past few years has been amazing. Slabs that once went into a burner are now made into hog fuel or chips for various kinds of paper products. Shavings often go into an attractive press-board. Throughout the Northwest, the timber industry every year more nearly achieves 100% utilization of logs brought to saw-mills.

Not so long ago we saw a film, shown by a representative of a timber company, in which a tree that had fallen generations ago, and was covered with rot and brush, was hauled out and cut into lumber, the inside being sound as a dollar.

From the Tillamook burn, where disaster fires scourged the virgin forests of the coastal area, more timber was salvaged from dead trees of the "silver forest" than original cruises had shown to be in the green timber. Not too many years ago all this would have been left as a total loss.

At Corvallis, the forest research center is doing remarkable work in finding new uses for what was once termed "waste wood."

The ultimate, though, comes in a recent news release from the U. S. Forest Service News. "The U. S. Forest Service today said it will offer for sale a large quantity of pine stumpswood, purchase of which would require installation of a multimillion dollar chemical distillate plant in Oregon. The stumps are a primary source of chemical extracts such as turpentine and resin."

"Pine stumps and topwood on 1,272,000 acres of the Deschutes, Winema, and Fremont National forests will be offered for sale by oral auction bid following formal advertising about July 1."

"It is estimated that more than 2,700,000 tons of satisfactory distillate wood is available on the three National Forests, an additional 2,000,000 tons will become available in that area in the next 15 years, according to J. Herbert Stone, regional forester."

"An initial 15-year sale of 2,000,000 tons is planned. Such a sale would require installation of a large plant in the Bend-Klamath Falls area. Such an enterprise would employ about 200 men."

Well! What has been considered more worthless than a stump in the forest? About its best use in the past has been as a resting place for a weary hunter, and then he had to be careful about the pitch. Now comes this word that these same "useless" stumps may be the raw material for a new industry!

The release doesn't mention the Umatilla National Forest. The varieties of wood are not right for this use. But if the stumps are going to be utilized to advantage elsewhere, it is almost a certainty that some day a good use will be found for our stumps, too.

Morrow county is known as wheat and cattle country, and the lumber and timber industry is often overlooked. But it is a foremost industry that brings top income to the county and is of prime economic importance. Thus, these new developments should be of keen interest to all residents of the county.

The ever-unfolding story of salvage of waste wood products for new uses, together with increasingly better forest management and reduction of loss by fire, is one of the happiest chronicles in the Northwest. It is a great tribute to those who work as foresters, those who engage in research and those dedicated to timber management.

## TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:

It was most encouraging to read in the Gazette-Times your views on the county measure to be voted upon now May 18: "Should the county establish a \$115,000 Road Tax Base?" Tax problems are always a delicate subject and are now perhaps more so than ever. To say that they are down in one category or another is small comfort, when in the final analysis they are there to be paid and seemingly in no small figure. However, compared to the 14 years we had a special levy for roads, this \$115,000 is down. Based on valuation over this 14 year period and the ratios used, the lowest figure we have had is \$129,108.00. From there it has gone as high as \$144,000.00, not counting the controversial year 1961-1962 when the going to the 25% ratio raised the returns to \$165,000. Anyway average well above \$135,000. There is one difference with this being on the tax base, however. It will be there unless again voted out by the people. The figure itself, is very conservative. It is down practically \$20,000 over what was brought in under the special 10% levy over the past 14 years.

The question is, is it worth it, even if we have over the years spent \$135,000 of thereabout from a special tax for road purposes. There are 1200 miles or more of county roads in the county. Some of these are quite well improved, certainly, but the need for maintenance is ever present. Also, there are many areas where little has been done even yet to bring the roads into comparable status with other areas. Also match moneys must be provided at best every two years, to take advantage of State and Federal

F.A.S. road funds. This amounts to, on our part, approximately \$20,000.

It might be of interest to mention what equipment that is on hand and how the road department is handled, also personnel involved. There are 18 men working in our road department, including the roadmaster.

In equipment there is on hand: 10 dump trucks, 1 flat bed, 1 low boy, 1 water truck, 1 service truck, 1 travel all, 1 F.W.D., 7 pickups, 1 Dodge Power wagon, 1 rock crusher, 1 shovel, 2 tractor loaders, 1 oil distributor, 3 rollers, 1 compressor (rock drill), 1 cement mixer, 1 12 yard carry-all, 4 tractors with dozers, and 6 patrols. Also there is the shop with tools, quite complete. It is possible that much of this is not operated to the greatest advantage, but certainly the court is conscious of it and wants to get the most out of each tax dollar spent. We would highly recommend that the \$115,000.00 tax base be established.

Oscar E. Peterson, Count Judge

Dear Sir: I would appreciate having this letter to the voters of Morrow county printed in your paper.

The responsibility of getting petitions to the voters of Morrow county for re-apportionment of the Oregon legislators is mine. I took this duty freely and with the expectation it would be an "easy" task as I felt every voter in the county would be anxious to sign or circulate a petition.

The sparsely populated portion of this state is not adequately represented in Oregon under the new apportionment law. We have lost a great deal of our representation in Salem. The constitution must be changed to reestablish our former representation.

Much to my amazement and disappointment I have had considerable difficulty in getting voters to circulate petitions.

Residents of Morrow county continually "complain" about

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ONE WAY to tell that the end of the school year is fast approaching is by the number of requests from pupils from all over the state to the Chamber of Commerce requesting information on the county for term papers and scrapbooks. Their frantic need, borne of procrastination, is indicated by the appeals, "please send without delay," "rush by return mail," and so on. One came the other day with URGENT! hand-painted in bold letters on the envelope. We didn't know so many teachers had their eye on Morrow county, but the Chamber, through its secretary, will do its best with pamphlets and information to help the kids obtain a passing grade in social studies or history.

REMEMBER the time we complained about the slow mail service from Los Angeles? (It took nine days to get a package from there that we needed badly). Next time we will just

not having adequate representation and voice in Salem. This is their opportunity to work toward acquiring it.

Any one wishing to circulate a petition for the legislative apportionment constitutional amendment may get one by calling my home, 422-7145.

Margaret B. Troedson

Dear Mr. Sherman:

Just a short note of thanks for the very fine job you did in promoting our seat belt clinic. Both the article and the editorial were well written, and I am sure were instrumental in the turnout we had.

Our organization is always anxious to do community service and we are particularly pleased when the community reciprocates as yours has.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,  
Hal Parker  
Pendleton Jaycees

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sherman:

I think it was nice of you to show us the Heppner Gazette-Times.

Our class thanks you for helping us to understand about the machines.

Diana Cutsforth

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sherman:

Thank you for making our names on the linotype machine. Thank you for showing us how you print the paper and how you fold the papers.

Mary Kay Hughes

have Doug Gribble walk by from his Texas army post and hike back with it. He hitched his way from Texas in 81 hours, a little over three days, and that is about as fast as a fellow would want to drive it. Someone figured that he averaged about 29 miles per hour. His longest wait, oddly enough, was right at the back door of his home town, in Arlington. Anyway, Doug, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Gribble, was three times as fast as the mail in the instance we cited.

BOYS IN the Nels Anderson family almost doubled last week, if you believe everything you read in the Gazette-Times. Charles, Eric and Steven Anderson became junior members of the American Hereford association, according to a release from the association, and in the story we printed, we listed them as sons of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Anderson. Of course, they are sons of the Frank Andersons.

In talking to Nels about the boo-boo we made, he said, "I wouldn't mind having them in the family until it comes time to send them to college or buy groceries for them. They're three good boys." Don't quite know who to apologize to on this error, since both are families, and a young man ought to be proud to belong to either one, but we're sorry for the faux pas.

THEY DIDN'T exactly have what you'd call a big turnout from Cecil at the annual school election. In fact, something of a new record must have been set for a light vote. Only one vote was cast for the advisory committee member from Cecil. John Krebs won by a landslide, and his candidacy was by written for a position that he didn't want. Jack Hynd's name was on the ballot, but he apparently didn't do any electioneering. It is obvious that he didn't even vote for himself, not to mention members of his family.

STOPPED in a restaurant at The Dalles Saturday night on a trip west, and felt real sympathetic for those poor folks on the time confusion. A clock on one wall said 7 o'clock, and another on a side wall said 8 o'clock. They apparently believe

in a fellow taking his choice. The waitress explained that much of the town is on daylight, but the school is on standard time. Result is an unholy mess. (She looked as if she might break down and cry).

Wouldn't be a bit surprised to see civil warfare break out there with riots and sandbags in the streets. One barber shop had a scrawled sign on the door, "We are on day-light."

WHY WOULDN'T a political candidate be proud enough of his home town to tell the world where he lives? When you look in your Voter's Pamphlet, notice how many of the candidates don't even state where they live. It's the first thing I'd like to know about them in getting acquainted, and the impulse is not to vote for one who doesn't come out and say where he resides.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

STUDENT BODY PLAY "The Little Dog Laughed" Friday, Saturday, 8:00 p. m. High School Gymnasium Adults 75c, high school students 50c, Grade school, 25c

FOOD SALE Episcopal Church Women Saturday, from 1:00 p. m. Central Market

HOMEMAKERS FESTIVAL Tuesday, May 15, Catholic Parish Hall Luncheon, \$1.25, at noon

FOOD SALE Past Noble Grands Club This Saturday, from 10 a. m. Red and White Grocery

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

## Our Store is Filled With Gifts For



WIDE SELECTION OF  
PERFUMES  
COSMETICS  
TOILETRIES  
MANICURE SETS



CAMERAS  
BOOKS  
Costume Jewelry  
Craftaint Paint Sets  
Hand Tooled  
Leather Bags  
Electric Clocks



SHE'LL LOVE  
Candlewick Crystal Ware

DAINTY WESTMORELAND  
Milk Glass Gifts

Bone China Teacups

Vases—Glass Sets

Handcut Lead Crystal

FRANCISCAN WARE



INCLUDE A  
HALLMARK CARD  
WITH YOUR GIFT  
—WHEN YOU CARE ENOUGH  
TO SEND THE VERY BEST



Jewel Boxes  
Timex Wrist Watches  
Vanity Sets  
Musical Powder Boxes  
Pen and Pencil Sets

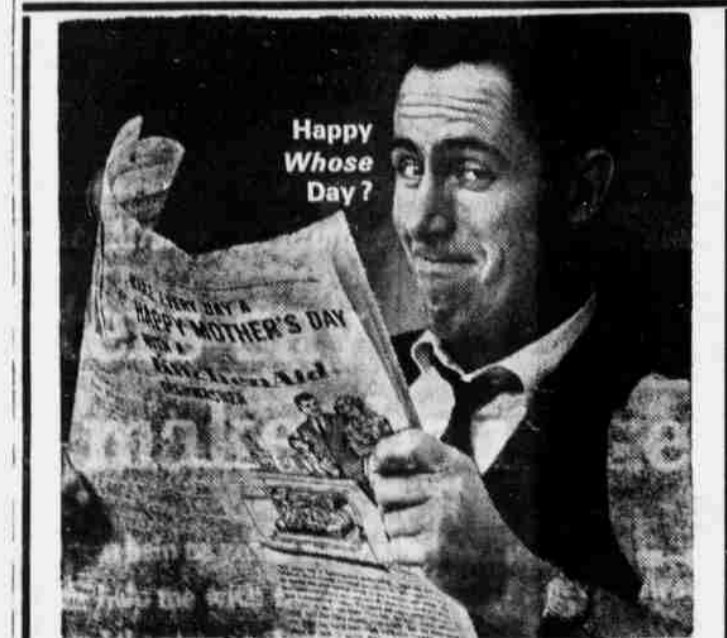


WHITMAN'S  
and  
BROWN  
and  
HALEY  
Chocolates  
AND  
Gift Candies

## Humphreys Rexall Drug

217 N. MAIN

PH. 676-9610



Give your wife a KitchenAid dishwasher for Mother's Day, and you won't have to do dishes ever again (Neither will she.) The KitchenAid scrubs dishes clean with its big blue wash arm—the scrubbingest wash arm made. Another KitchenAid exclusive: gentle Flo-Thru circulation for perfect drying. Sure, KitchenAid dishwashers may cost just a little more to buy but they always cost less to own. The best always does.

KitchenAid DISHWASHERS

## Lott's Electric

369 N. Main

PH. 676-5811