

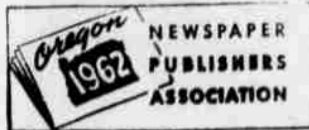
Heppner Gazette-Times

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 676-9228

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Good News on Property Taxes

Certainly one of the happiest news stories of the year for property taxpayers is the one this week that points out that taxes in the county will be down on an average of some 10% around the county.

The picture is good from several angles besides the fact that Mr. Taxpayer will have to pungle up less. It proves out the statement made prior to the school bond election that taxpayers would notice a decline on their forthcoming statements due to the fact that the bond issue and interest, spread over a 20-year period, would require less annual millage than the previously approved 3-year serial levy, although, of course, spread over a much longer period.

It also proves the contention of the county court that the \$115,000 road serial levy, put before the people and passed in July, would require three mills less than the former road serial levy.

Part of the county's reappraisal program goes into effect with this roll, and an increase in valuation in lone, Lexington and Irrigon will be apparent. Reappraisal in Heppner is not completed but will go on the roll next year.

It seems hard for many to understand but reappraisal is not designed to hurt nor penalize anyone but is undertaken merely to equalize the tax burden so that every taxpayer contributes his fair share.

The economy-minded taxpayer should find satisfaction in the fact that the total amount of taxes to be collected for all purposes in Morrow for 1962-63 will be down by approximately \$100,000. This is due to several reasons. School bond issues have been paid off in Boardman and Irrigon, the county road serial levy—as pointed out above—is down, and the R-1 school bond and interest payments require less than the serial levy did. Other factors also enter the picture.

The roll shows that Morrow has a new No. 1 taxpayer, displacing Kinzua Corporation, in Pacific Gas Transmission. Their pipeline, completed through the county last year, has been given a utility assessment of \$1,375,118, jumping from the \$55,840 of last year. This one thing, more than any other, is responsible for the total county valuation topping that of last year by almost \$1,000,000.

The gas line assessment more than compensates for the loss from the rolls of property bought in the Boardman area by the Corps of Engineers and by the loss of timberlands, which are no longer assessed by the counties under a new state law. A timber severance tax replaces the property tax on timber.

Incidentally, with the government work in Boardman, the impending Boeing development, highway construction in the north end, the change in timber severance tax, land transfers to the state, and other developments, this is an interesting and stimulating time for the county assessor's office. It keeps those concerned with taxes on their toes to keep pace. For instance, the large amount of equipment used in construction of the new highway to Irrigon was in the county on January 1, and that meant addition of a rather tremendous block of personal property to the roll. Regardless of where the equipment was after January 1, it still accrues to the county if it were here on that date, and the assessor didn't miss it. The contractor who built the highway will pay a goodly tax payment to the county.

Yes, indeed, there are a great many factors entering the Morrow county tax picture this year, but the bright and happy part to Mr. John Q. Public is the way it is winding up with a total reduction in the tax load of \$100,000 and a millage levy decrease ranging from 7.0 mills in the code area benefitting the least to 19.6 mill reduction in the code area benefitting the most.

Need for Housing Apparent

With opening of school just about a month away, the pinch for housing is apparent again.

Beverly Gunderson, clerk of School District R-1, said this week that five or six houses are needed to accommodate incoming school teachers and their families. One teacher arrived from the midwest, became discouraged after doing some house hunting and left, later sending his resignation. His resignation was not due entirely to his failure to find a suitable home here, since other personal matters entered the picture, but it was one of the causes.

But school teachers aren't the only ones who have been vainly looking for places. Several incoming families have come into this office asking for information on places available.

It does not appear that there is a particular dearth of places for sale for there are a number of good homes listed. However, there are some newcomers who are not in a position to buy because of their circumstances or the nature of their work. For instance, a state policeman to be transferred here and his family were seeking a residence. He would be subject to transfer again when his superiors felt he would be needed elsewhere and would hardly be in a position to buy.

It is quite obvious that the rental situation for homes to accommodate a family with several children is tough. This not only applies to Heppner but to lone, and perhaps other parts of the county. In Heppner there are quite a number of apartments available, but these do not always meet the need.

The whole community, and not only the school board, has some responsibility in trying to help incoming teachers with adequate housing. If we want good teachers, we might do what we can to make them comfortable here. There are too many other places open to them to suffer housing hardship in coming here.

Anyone who could offer suggestions on housing might convey them to the school board or to Elmer Schmidt, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce development committee.

In the meantime it appears that the housing situation is due for some serious study. Someone with capital to invest might well consider the possibility of building some good and comfortable places in a medium price range.

Class of '52 Holds Reunion July 21-22

Twelve members of the Heppner High school class of 1952 celebrated their 10th year class reunion July 21 and 22.

Saturday evening, July 21 the group gathered at Stefani's Fine Foods, lone, for a banquet and program with Sally Cohn and Jimmy Prock as hosts. They read the class will and gave notes of former students, who were unable to attend, on their whereabouts and what they are doing at the present time. Twenty-six graduated with the class.

The class and their families met at the John Graves ranch

for a picnic and more visiting on Sunday.

They have planned to meet again in five years for a banquet with no picnic scheduled. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hughes, Elwayne Bergstrom, Marilyn Bergstrom, Nancy Ferguson Zinter, Sally Cohn, Mr. and Mrs. Walt (Rieta Graves) Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Dick (Gayle Albert) Fellows, Mr. and Mrs. Don (Bernice Huston) Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Prock, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor, and Joanne Bothwell Warren.

Mrs. Rod Murray left last Thursday for Portland to attend the gift show and visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Gwinn.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WE START to write this column after sitting through a meeting of county officials and the State Tax Commission in regard to farm reappraisal. This puts the old mind in a whirl of posted ratios, assessment analyses, ratios of assessed values to true cash values, alternative methods for computing 25% fixed ratios et cetera. So at this point, we're not sure what will come out in the ensuing paragraphs. In the 1½-hour meeting, though, we gained a new respect for the work of Oliver Creswick, Rod Thomson and Bill Johnson of the assessor's office. Anyone who thinks they don't have a real complicated job in this day and age should have sat in on the meeting.

As for us, it is too late now to start regretting that we didn't take those college economics courses more seriously 25 years ago.

THE NATIONAL Geographic magazine, we note, reports that a satellite-tracking antenna in New Jersey is so sensitive it can hear a signal as weak as a billionth of a millionth of a watt. This reminds us of the tiny gnats one encounters picknicking on upper Willow creek. They are so infinitesimal it almost takes a microscope to see them. In fact, we often hear them referred to as "noseeums." But when they get on your arm and bite, like the sensitive antenna, they make themselves hurt, too.

THEY SAY that keeping a secret in a small town is like trying to smuggle daylight past a rooster, and that furnishes a challenge to a small weekly paper which tries to get something in the Thursday edition that everyone doesn't already know about. But it is fun to keep trying. Probably the most embarrassing thing, though, is to have someone tell us about an incident that is news to us, then have him say, "Well, I read it in your paper." It happens.

IT ISN'T HARD to tell that it is vacation time. You notice it by the number of maimed and injured who come back after spending some time off. One fellow who tries his hand at water skiing may be hobbling around for days with a back that won't straighten up. Another cripples down the street with a sprained ankle. Mike Whitesmith got his ankle injury not on vacation but on a picnic in Pendleton, frolicking on the roundup grounds. Stepped in one of the little holes around the sprinkler head of an underground watering system and it has been painful to watch him proceed down the street ever since.

A LOCAL doctor and dentist were playing hide and seek around town at 3 a.m. the other morning. Dr. H. S. Huber, the dentist, has trouble with a shoulder that goes out of joint when he exerts too much activity. He had such trouble one day last week and along about 3 a.m. it got to paining so much Mrs. Huber called Dr. Tibbles. The latter went to the office, got his gear and headed for the Huber home. In the meantime, the Hubers headed for the doctor's office. When Dr. Tibbles got to the residence, he couldn't raise anyone at this nocturnal hour and the daughter who was left at home thought a noisy burglar was trying to break in. Finally the doctor caught up

with dentist at the office, and got the shoulder back in place again.

PRIZE MONEY for winners in the rodeo parade this year will total the most it has for a good many years, and this should furnish inducement for a bumper crop of entries in each category. Announcement of the various divisions is elsewhere in this paper. The parade is just a little over a month away, and this is a good time to start working out ideas for your entry. Randall Peterson of the Chamber of Commerce has been spending considerable time working out all the details of prizes and judging, and there is a place for everyone. If a goodly portion of our population makes an effort to get up floats, get in costume, ride a horse, or dust off the 1916 Maxwell, the parade should be one of the best in recent years.

All fair and rodeo committees are really getting into gear and working hard for the coming event. All is volunteer work and apparently none expect any acclaim for the job that they do. As the old jingle goes, "Search all your parks in all your cities . . . You'll find no statues To committees."

Grange Plans Picnic

Members and their families of the Rhea Creek Grange are reminded of the picnic planned for Sunday, August 5, at Chapin Creek park. Activities are scheduled to get underway at 2 p. m. Members are asked to bring own table service in addition to picnic food.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Abrams and family visited with his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Haskell, at Everett, Wn., last week. Mr. and Mrs. Abrams attended a high school class reunion of Bellingham, Wn., class of 1943.

Newspaper Suit Challenges Board On Advertising

A suit challenging the right of the Oregon State Board of Pharmacy to ban the advertising of prescription drugs has been started by the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association and several newspapers.

The plaintiffs contend that the Pharmacy Board exceeded its authority in its August 11, 1961, order which deprives drug stores of their right to advertise any drug, medicine or appliance "whose sale is restricted to a prescription." The plaintiffs also believe that the Board's order prevents consumers from knowing the price of such drugs before entering the store.

Filing of the complaint follows a request made on September 14, 1961, by the Newspaper Publishers Association that the Pharmacy Board rescind its order and a later informal conference with Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton during which the representatives of newspapers gave reasons why they thought the Board's action exceeded its powers granted by law.

"The Oregon Pharmacy Board cannot stop prescription drug firms in other states from advertising and selling prescription drugs by mail to Oregon residents," said Carl C. Webb, manager of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, in commenting upon the suit. "The Board's ruling prohibits any Oregon licensed pharmacy from advertising prescription items and thus attempting to meet the competition from national mail-order prescription firms."

"Persons whose health is such that they need certain drugs week after week are denied the information of knowing through advertising what specific drug stores charge for these drugs because the stores cannot advertise these items. Individuals lose their freedom of choice and we soon have an economy that is neither free nor competitive and in many cases

TO THE EDITOR. . .

Dear Mr. Editor: In recent weeks I have noted the tremendous amount of publicity given the Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine Clinics being held in Umatilla county. From all reports the population responded whole heartedly and the turnout was amazing.

Our school children did not receive their polio shots this year as part of the school inoculation program. In years past Morrow county has not been immune to polio, and if such a clinic would encourage the greater part of our residents to participate, then the effort and planning to sponsor such a program would certainly be worthwhile.

Sincerely,
Betty Brown

To the Editor: Dear Mr. Sherman: At the last meeting of the Blue Mountain Community College board a review of the election results was made and a discussion of the fine support we have received throughout the area was held.

I was asked to write to you in behalf of the board expressing our appreciation of your complete and timely coverage, not only for the budget election, but throughout months of organization of the district. Without the support of people like yourself and your paper, this project certainly could not have been completed in time to start school this fall.

Your support is much appreciated. Sincerely yours,
Wallace W. McCrae
Blue Mountain Community College

It is the start of price-fixing," Webb said.

The complaint, filed in the circuit court of Lane county July 26, questions the constitutionality of the Pharmacy Board's order and asks that it be rescinded.

Hughes Takes Tour At Space Workshop

Tom Hughes of Heppner was one of 53 members of the 7th annual Oregon State Aerospace Education workshop who arrived at China Lake, Calif., Sunday from Portland to being a 3-day familiarization study of naval ordnance research and development. Capt. Charles Blenman, Jr., commander of the U.S. naval ordnance test station, was host to the group which also toured the Pasadena underwater research facility.

Also included in the Southern California tour of key aerospace centers will be a visit to Edwards Air Force base. Sponsored by the Oregon State System of Higher Education, teachers participating in the workshop, that began July 9, represent 30 cities in Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska. Hughes is due back in Heppner next week.

Two of Heppner Ford Win Company Awards

Eltwyn Hale, parts sales manager, and Larry Cochenour, service sales manager, for Heppner Auto Sales, Inc., have been presented the first annual Golden Circle Award by Ford Division of Ford Motor Company. Ron Lund, Ford division zone manager of Seattle, recently made the presentation here, Earl Ayers, owner, said.

The award is based on outstanding accomplishments in carrying out managerial responsibilities such as parts or labor sales; parts purchase control or shop productivity; sales promotion and advertising, and customer satisfaction.

Each Golden Circle Award winner receives a certificate of qualification for the honor and a coat lapel gold pin. For each year a winner repeats the honor, a diamond is added to his pin.

Oliver Creswick and sons, Don and Ronnie, and son-in-law, Duane Gentry, Milton-Freewater, enjoyed a week-end of salmon fishing at Ilwaco, Wn. Mrs. Gentry and daughters, Debbie and Denise, visited here with her mother, Mrs. Creswick, during the week-end.

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Coming Events

HEPPNER SWIMMING POOL
Open daily, except Mondays
Classes for all ages, starting
Tuesday, Aug. 7
9 a.m., Tuesdays thru Fridays
\$1 instruction fee

LEGION MOVIES
Friday, 8 p.m., Legion Hall
Always a Good Show!
This week "Five Little Peppers in Trouble."
Plus one-half hour cartoons.

Morrow County Fair and Rodeo Dance
For Princess, Jacque Brindle
Saturday, August 4
Fair Pavilion, Heppner
Sponsored by Lena Community.

RHEA CREEK GRANGE PICNIC
Sunday, August 5, 2 p.m.
Chapin Creek Park

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