

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 676-9228

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Unfair Law to Public Servants

In the Oregon statutes is a law that may have served a needed purpose at one time, but now should be scrutinized for the injustice that it does to those who volunteer their services for duty on city councils, school boards and other small governmental agencies.

It is the provision that declares that anyone who serves in such a capacity may not have any business interest in any transaction of the board or body.

In our reporting in Heppner, we have noted that at various times several on the city council have had to disqualify their businesses from bidding on goods needed by the city because of their positions as councilmen. For instance, Councilman Earl Ayres has refrained from bidding on cars and pickups needed by the city because of his official connection with the city.

In another instance, Standard Oil Company received the contract for supplying gasoline to the school district, but the company took the precaution of sending a letter to the district pointing out that Ed Dick, who has served as a director on the board for a number of years, would not receive a cent of commission nor compensation because of the state law. He is local distributor for Standard.

There is considerable irony in this statute. It is ironic that the fellow is willing to devote his time to public service without compensation should be subject to the penalty of disqualification on competitive bidding. Adding more irony is the fact that this same businessman, because of his personal interest in the agency he is serving—the thing that is shunned by so many, may try to get goods or services at lower figures in order to put the governmental body in a better position.

Further irony in a small community comes with the fact that it is almost impossible to get a full group of officials without including some who have some mercenary interest in the body's business transactions.

As a matter of fact, it is often virtually necessary in practice to violate the law because the agency has no other place to go to get some of its essential goods and services except from the men sitting on the board.

Some have erroneously set standards that find no basis in the law. They say, for instance, that a councilman may not supply anything over \$500. However, we are quite sure that one who furnishes 10¢ worth of goods, under the terms of the statute, is just as much in violation as the one who furnishes \$1000 worth.

It isn't our premise to encourage any type of graft or corruption or even the hint of it. Perhaps 25 years ago there were not the safeguards in public office that there are today. Officials in many positions of trust now must be bonded, and annual audits scrutinize all the transactions of these public groups.

At school board meetings here, all bills are compiled for full scrutiny by every member of the board, and at city council, all the councilmen not only examine the bills but they are read aloud both before and after payment.

It is a difficult enough job to get willing and capable men to serve in these capacities without exacting penalties on them for doing so. This law should be studied carefully for this reason and also for the reason that it is ridiculous to have statutes that cannot be enforced.

Modifications may be worked out to provide additional safeguards but would permit a man to do business with the public body on which he serves.

Last there be any misunderstanding, this editorial is written absolutely on the editor's own volition and not because of any complaint nor of any conversation with any local public official. It is based purely on observations that we have noted, both here and elsewhere, that point up the fact that the law is unfair, unjust and works out to be both arbitrary and discriminatory.

Check Your Home for Fire Safety

The Governor's Committee on Home Safety and the Oregon State Board of Health suggest that this may be a good time for everyone to check homes for fire hazards. Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13, is a good week to make this inspection. This is an important phase of safety, especially when we consider that every hour 66 homes in the U. S. are destroyed or damaged by fire and every hour and a quarter one person—most frequently a child or an elderly person—dies in a dwelling fire.

Last year over one million fire occurred, claiming over 11,600 lives and an untold number of persons seriously injured, burned or disabled for life.

The causes of most home fires are no mystery. A carelessly discarded cigarette is left to smolder in an overstuffed chair; a portable oil heater is refilled while still lighted; electrical circuits are overloaded and overfused; uncleaned rubbish becomes a breeding place for fire.

There is nothing mysterious either about the causes of most fire deaths in homes. They occur when the simple rules of safety from fire are violated—from smoking in bed, leaving children unsupervised in the house, allowing youngsters to play with matches.

A critical failure is being unprepared for fire emergencies in the home—no family planning or escape routes, no periodic family fire drill to make sure that both adults and children can act quickly and without panic.

Fire Prevention Week is a time to recognize this fact and to act—to correct hazards, to exercise care, to be prepared. The Governor's Committee states that your actions and attitudes now may make you and your family safe from tragic consequences of fire in the months ahead.

TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:

We want you to know how much we enjoy the Heppner paper each week and it arrives promptly on Saturday. Scott has been hunting. He got a nice deer and the limit fishing so he is quite busy now.

Thank you,
Scott and Ida Brown
4515 S. E. 39th Ave.
Portland 2, Oregon

To the Editor:

I certainly want to express to you our appreciation for your fine editorial, "Two Strikes Against the Hunter," which appeared in the Heppner Gazette-Times on September 27, in the interest of Keep Oregon Green. Sincerely,
Albert Wiesendanger
Executive Secretary

To the Editor:

If the big wigs in our U.S. would throw more mud at

Russia and Cuba instead of at each other, we may open our eyes.

If the Democrats could correct all the Republican mistakes and the Republicans could correct all of the Democratic mistakes, we would bury Russia and Cuba in a gopher hole and have dirt left over for anyone else who wants to start something.

Yours sincerely,
Andy Hayes
Heppner, Oregon

P.S. This isn't only my opinion.

Notice!

WE WILL BE CLOSED

Next Week

OCT. 14 THRU OCT. 20

For Repairs

4 R's CAFE

CELESTINE RANDALL

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

IT WOULDN'T BE quite proper to say that wheat ranchers of the county rolled out the red carpet for visiting newspapermen from Portland and Oregon City this week. It would be more appropriate to say that they laid out the gold and brown carpet—the gold for the wheat and the brown for the cultivated soil that the visitors viewed.

The men came to Morrow under the sponsorship of the Oregon Wheat League to get a little better insight into matters of interest to wheat growers and to be able to tell the world about it.

It was our privilege to be a guest at the luncheon held for them at Stefan's Monday but we couldn't make it back to the concluding luncheon Wednesday after the newsmen had spent the three days with their host families. Seems we have a little chore to do here each week that prevents us from doing anything else on Wednesdays.

WITH THE group was the personable Marlowe Branagan, now with Goodrich and Snyder, public relations firm that works in this capacity for the Wheat League.

Many will remember Marlowe as a colorful sports writer for the Oregon Journal. We always regretted when he left sports reporting because he was a master of picturesque "language" and he turned out an interesting column, too. He dramatized the big sports events with his writing. Sports reporting allows more liberties with the King's English and Branagan knew how to use them to fascinate the reader.

Also on the tour was Jalmar Johnson, still with the Oregonian, who was Sunday editor in the days when it carried the Sunday magazine. He did a fine job of editing this publication, and we think it was one of the city paper's darkest hours when it dropped the Sunday magazine and took on the "canned" supplements it now carries.

This Sunday magazine, which went rotogravure for a while, was always filled with top stories of feature interest, and a good many free lance writers contributed to it as well as string correspondents and staffers. It was kind of a hard job to get one's stories printed in it because it was scheduled so far in advance, but we made it a few times.

Bob Holley, now with the Portland Reporter, might be called the "lively one" on the tour, effervescent and always coming up with something. He's another byline that has long been around in the Portland papers.

Don Sterling, here representing the Oregon Journal, has a heritage in the newspaper business, for his father was prominent on the paper before him. Only man from out of the metropolis on the tour was Jack Fenton with the Oregon City Enterprise-Courier.

Ex-Governor Charles Sprague, publisher of the Oregon Statesman of Salem, was planning to make the trip to visit Morrow ranches but he fell and hurt his leg, we understand, and couldn't come.

It was good to see these men in Morrow county and we hope they carry back a good knowledge of our ranches to impart to city folks through their columns.

THE VISITORS had one advantage over a similar group that visited Sherman county last

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES
Saturday Night, 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week "Return of Rusty."
Plus cartoon.

FOOTBALL GAME
Heppner High versus Grant Union High.
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.
John Day Football Field

FULL LENGTH FILM
"Shadow of the Boomerang"
Filmed in Australia
Grade School Multipurpose room

Monday, October 15
8:00 p.m.
Free Will Offering

LEXINGTON GRANGE
Saturday, October 13
Potluck Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
Program—Pictures of Africa
by Al Lamb

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

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TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The voters of Oregon will uphold the sound American principles of Senator Charles L. McNary—principles that brought honor and prosperity to our state—if they cast their ballots next month for Sig Unander.

As Senator McNary was an American and an Oregonian first, and a Republican second, so is Sig Unander. Democrats as well as Republicans will rally to his cause if they believe in the cherished principles of our Constitution, our free enterprise system, and the preservation of our individual liberties.

Sig Unander is a fine and dedicated public servant. He will be an excellent Senator and a representative who will truly work for Oregon. If we want action for our state instead of words and more words, we

should look to Sig Unander. As concerned citizens and custodians of the future of Oregon, I believe we can do no better.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Charles L. McNary
901 S. W. King Ave.
Portland, Oregon

4 R's Cafe Closed

Mrs. Celestine Randall announced Wednesday that the 4 R's Cafe which she and her daughters operate will be closed to business through next week, October 15-20.

They will be closed while repairs are being made to the building and while they take care of some business matters in Portland.

There are always two chances to win an argument with an umpire—slim and none.

Drawing, Awards Set For Buckburger Feed

At the last meeting of the Wrangler's club, plans were made for the annual Buckburger feed. The date of Saturday, October 20, was set, with the feed beginning at 6:30 at the Fair pavilion. Many trophies, prizes and cash awards will be given members for points earned during the year in horse show and Play Day events.

A highlight of the evening will be the drawing for the registered quarter horse colt, according to the club president, Rod Murray. Memes are urged to come and bring guests.

Horse show pictures will be on display and orders can be taken that night.

\$12 million have been spent for oil exploration in Oregon by all the companies, after all. He smiled, and said, "No. There's always the hope that the next one may bring results, and it may come sometime."

Reminds one of the mountain climber. He climbs the mountain, he says, because it's there.

RUHL REPORT: Morrow county's Oregon Stater, Dick Ruhl, had a good part in OSU's surprising victory over Stanford Saturday, and the interesting part is that he is playing considerably more on offense, showing that he is really making good with the Beavers.

The later telecast of the game showed that Ruhl gained about four yards on each of two successive carries, and on another occasion broke through to give the team a crucial first down.

One couldn't tell by looking at the telecast how much our boy played on defense, but it was sure that he was in there his share of the time. The Beavers' defense looks much better, by the way.

Probably a lot of folks will be going to Portland this weekend to see the Bevs meet the Huskies of Washington. Shed a tear for any old newspapermen that get left behind!

THE WAY the government spends money these days, we can't think in such small terms as millions any more. The East Oregonian the other day showed a picture of a bridge in the State of Washington, and the caption declared that the cost was "\$5 billion." Whew! Diamond-studded, no doubt.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK · OCTOBER 7-13
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