

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
PHONE 676-9228

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WESLEY A. SHERMAN
Editor and Publisher

HELEN E. SHERMAN
Associate Publisher



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Review of Ballot Measures

Confronting voters on ballot measures for the general election, Tuesday, November 6, are nine state measures. A tenth—the one which would restrict commercial fishing—was removed from consideration by Supreme Court ruling.

There has been considerable publicity on several of the more important measures but some persons may not understand some of the ones that have not stimulated so much attention.

Voters should take the time to read their Voter's Pamphlets before going to the polls. Arguments for and against most of the measures are included, although some apparently do not have opposition.

The first five measures on the ballot have been referred to as "housekeeping" measures. Each would amend the state constitution via the referendum, having been referred to the people by the legislature.

Measure 1

Measure No. 1, entitled, "Reorganize State Militia," would, if passed, authorize the legislature and governor to shape and direct the Militia as is necessary for the changed times, in cooperation with Federal authorities. It would make possible removal of archaic regulations dating back to Civil War times, one of which is that conscientious objectors can purchase exemption. The proposal apparently has no opposition.

Measures 2, 3, 4

These three measures would amend the constitution by changing the formula for fixing debt limits on forest rehabilitation (No. 2), roads (No. 3), and power development (No. 4). As now provided, the limits are fixed on the basis of assessed valuation. Under the terms of the measures, the formulas would be changed to a percentage of true cash value of the state's taxable property. The change appears to be in the interests of all taxpayers for under the present laws, the debts limits could be changed by merely changing the assessment ratios. Although county ratios have been fixed by the legislature at 25% of true cash value (except in Multnomah), it still would be possible for the legislature to alter the debt limits by changing definitions of assessed values or by changing ratios. By amending the formulas to true cash values (and this does not increase the authorized debt limit), a safeguard is therefore written into the constitution.

Measure 5

Measure 5 would amend the constitution to permit the legislature to pass special laws as well as general laws creating lower state courts and defining and regulating their jurisdiction. This measure was proposed because a general law, passed to provide one county with what it needed in the judiciary, also applied to another county (Clackamas) and gave it more judges than needed. This measure also apparently has no opposition.

Measure 6

Uniform daylight time throughout Oregon from the last Sunday in April until the last Saturday in September is provided in this measure. When the legislature gave Multnomah and adjoining counties the right to have daylight time, even though the state voted against daylight generally, confusion resulted. For the past two summers time turmoil has been apparent.

Many have opposed daylight time for reasons that they felt to be good and sufficient, and there has been some bitterness because of the fact that the legislature made the special provision for Multnomah and adjoining counties in the face of the statewide vote.

In this measure, an opponent for daylight time has an unenviable choice—he can either vote "yes" for uniform daylight, or vote "no" for continued confusion. Proponents cite the alleged necessity of being in conformity with neighboring states and this point has some merit. However, there are some types of businesses (such as drive-in theaters) who will be hurt by daylight time. Regardless of the strength of their views, those who favor remaining on standard or "God's time" seem to be fighting a losing battle.

Measure 7

This measure prevents loss of tax base by a taxing body even though a tax is not levied for the three immediately preceding years. It is called the "constitutional six percent limitation amendment." Measure 7 is the "sequel" to a measure that was on the primary ballot that had three provisions, two of which were questionable and one of which would work to the best interest of the taxpayer. It was offered with the provision that, should it be defeated in the primary, it would automatically be submitted to voters in the general election on the third point only. The primary measure was defeated, and so it comes up with the first two points deleted and the worthy one remaining.

Under present laws, a taxing unit which does not levy a tax within its base limitation at least once in each period of three consecutive years loses its base and cannot thereafter levy a tax, except for bonded debt service, without voter approval of a specific levy or a new base.

Ballot measure 7 would permit an existing taxing body to preserve its base without making at least one levy in every three consecutive years. The base would be computed on the highest levy made in the last three years in which a levy was actually made.

Present law encourages a taxing unit to levy a tax whether it is needed or not in order to hold its base. Measure 7 would change this, and it should get the approval of voters in the interests of true tax economy.

Measure 8

Because the measure to restrict commercial fishing has been ruled off the ballot, it is of no immediate concern, pro or con. However, it probably will come up at an ensuing election, perhaps two years hence. This was a measure proposed by initiative petition. The title is printed on the ballot in Morrow county but should be marked out before the voter receives his ballot. Any votes marked on this measure will not be counted.

Measure 9

This proposed constitutional amendment is on the ballot as an initiative petition. More than 56,000 registered voters signed the petitions seeking to change the apportionment of state legislators. In previous issues of this paper its pros and cons have been discussed at some length. It incorporates some changes on the basis of area in the state's House of Representatives but maintains the Senate on a strict population formula.

It is our feeling that this "all-Oregon plan" is a measure of utmost importance to Morrow county, for under the apportionment formula that goes into effect in 1963, we share our lone representative with four other counties—Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler and Umatilla. Umatilla can outvote the total of the

other four by three to one. Under the proposed reapportionment, incorporated in measure 9, Morrow would share its representative with just two counties—Gilliam and Sherman.

Some persons cling doggedly to the "one person, one vote" theory, but ignore the fact that the Federal system, which we have enjoyed since our government was first formally organized, allows two senators per state regardless of size and sets up the House of Representatives on the basis of population.

One representative to five sprawling counties means that an individual, perhaps living 100 miles from his representative, may actually have little representation at all.

Morrow county voters should strongly favor this measure.

Measure 10

Oregon school district reorganization law of 1957 would be repealed by this measure which is also on the ballot by virtue of initiative petition. In a previous issue, this measure was discussed fully, and this paper is opposed to its passage. While acknowledging the sincerity of its proponents, it appears to us that the repeal of the act would undo a great deal of good work done around the state and would be a backward step in education with our children suffering as a result. Strongly opposed by many organizations, it has primary backing in the "Serve Our State" organization, dedicated to repealing the 1957 law.

In this modern time when academic competition is so keen and advances are coming at an almost incomprehensible rate in the world, a student needs the very best education that he can obtain. Small local districts just cannot meet the need, and it would be a sad error to regress to them.

In another part of this paper are a number of letters that tell of the stand those in favor of repeal of reorganization and some rebuttal to the recent editorial. These were brought to us Tuesday (a late date in the publication of our paper) and we have had our staff work overtime in order that they may be included and their sides fully presented.

As to the Morrow county situation we believe that there is only one way for our good people to go—forget past troubles and animosities, however justified they may seem, and work together on present and future problems in a united spirit for the benefit of all our children.

This can be achieved if our citizens will resolve themselves to do it.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

WITH ELECTION just around the corner, a quotation taken from the Industrial News Review of Portland is in order: "A politician thinks only of the next election—a statesman of the next generation."

FROM OUR daily newspaper neighbor, the East Oregonian, we can't help but repeat a bit from the column of "Cabbages and Kings" as referred to us by Beverly Gunderson.

"A reporter from a big city newspaper stopped to visit a friend who ran a little country weekly.

"He asked his friend, 'How can you keep up your circulation in a town where everyone already knows what everyone else is doing?'"

"The editor grinned: 'They know what everyone's doing all right, but they read the paper to see who's been caught at it.' 'Aw, now! How about the ones who get away with it?'"

WELL! Hearty congratulations are in order for Martha Doherty, winner of the Heppner Soil Conservation district speech contest, who this week zoomed clear to the state finals to be held in Eugene November 8.

She won in the area runoff here Monday night and then took first in the semi-finals at Arlington Wednesday afternoon. The local district has been doing very well in getting speakers to the finals. Last year Bev Davidson went all the way to state and took third there.

Morrow county folks will be rooting for Martha to take the championship on November 8.

Martha wore one of those raggedy straw hats in her first speech here, thinking that costume might give a folksy touch to the talk apparently, but judges thought it a bit distracting. So, in ensuing speeches she eliminated the hat and still won. Perhaps they were right.

DON'T KNOW when we ever enjoyed a football game so much as we did the Heppner-Burns game. The only thing that would have made it better would have been for the Mustangs to win, but whether they got the victory or not, it was inspiring to see the Heppner gang at work.

They came into the game fired up and intent on winning, and they just about turned the trick. It is not one whit to their discredit that they failed by one touchdown of upsetting the Hillanders for the visitors came with a far better record, and they fielded a team that looks like a humdinger.

When a team comes along like Heppner's has this year, it reflects the very best on the coaching staff as well as the players. They display a renewed spirit, and quite a number of the boys have developed remarkably. Contrast the opening 23-0 loss to Enterprise (which wasn't a bad game for Heppner) to the Burns game at 20-13, the Hillanders having beaten Enterprise, 14-6.

One thing that tickled us was how well Burns had been scouted. Their "weirdo" spread offense is designed, no doubt, to panic an opponent as it snaps up to the line in its unbalanced spread, either right or left, and then swings into play before the opponents have a chance to get set.

Heppner met this, in a system devised by the coaches, with a single file line from center position. When they saw which way Burns was going to line up, they quickly broke out of the single file formation and met it. The Mustangs were never caught napping and they never faltered.

It was one of those games where the home team deserved victory on the basis of their super-charged play, but the victory somehow doesn't seem so important when they displayed the spirit they did.

We think Burns has a fine team with speed, the unconventional offense, good passing, size, and good running. They have some fine individual players, and we'd like to see them nab a

Two Green Guards Squelch Fire Here

Two Portland boys, members of the Green Guards of the Keep Oregon Green association, may have prevented a forest fire by suppressing a camper's forgotten fire in the Heppner district on September 29, according to Albert Wiesendanger, executive secretary of KOG, in a report to the Gazette-Times.

The boys, Gerald Wibies, 16, and Randall Swibles, 15, filed a Green Guard report to Keep Oregon Green saying that they were hunting with their dad near Ditch Creek Guard Station when they came upon a fire at the side of the road.

"It was smoldering with little flicks of flame," Gerald wrote. "It was next to an open grass pasture that was very dry. We put it out by covering it with dirt."

The report was confirmed by the boys' father, and each boy has been presented a "Service Under Fire" award, Wiesendanger said.

Maybe this little fire never would have turned into a major holocaust like the Ditch Creek fire last year, but who knows? Maybe the thoughtful action of the Portland boys prevented another bad one.

one game yet to go for each squad in regular season.

THE TOWN of Hardman is featured in the November issue of "Northwest Ruralite," magazine published by consumer-owned electric utilities. Front cover of the magazine has a full-page picture, and two pages inside are devoted to a story and pictures by Web Allison. There are photos of Hoot and Marie Leslie, John Stevens and Guy Chapin. There is also a picture taken by Chapin of the town 50 years ago. The author tells of his interviews with them and some history of the town—and it has quite a history.

Extra copies may be obtained through Harley Young of Columbia Basin Co-op for those interested.

Incidentally, Frank Weatherford of Olex who will retire at the end of this year as representative for this legislative district, was in Wednesday talking about Hardman's history. He had been chatting with Dave Duniway, state archivist, and said that Duniway was quite interested in the town of Hardman because of its colorful history.

X-Ray Date is Set

Monthly free chest x-rays will be given at Pioneer Memorial hospital Wednesday, November 7, under the sponsorship of the Morrow County TB and Health Assoc., according to Mrs. W. W. Weatherford, president. All county residents are eligible for the x-rays. Hours will be from 7:00 to 8:30 p. m.

Ski Club Plans Booster Night

Arbuckle Mountain Ski club has set a Booster Night for November 13, and all interested in the sport are asked to reserve the date.

Feature of the meeting will be a motion picture film taken at the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, Cal., by Miles Lodmel of Walla Walla, Wn. He will be on hand to narrate the film personally.

Defense Bulletins Issued As Response To Emergency Move

Over 1000 Civilian Defense bulletins were mailed out of the county agent's office to Morrow county residents last week as a result of President John F. Kennedy's message to the nation on October 22.

"We don't want to alarm the people," says N. C. Anderson, county extension agent. "But we feel, like the President, our people should be ready for any crisis."

Bulletins on "Family Food Stockpile for survival" were delivered to all the grocery stores in the county. Fallout and first aid bulletins went out in the mail to the general mailing list of the County Agent's office.

"If anyone is missed," continues Anderson, "We have a few bulletins available in the office."

Cooperative Extension has the responsibility for the Rural Defense information program.

It pays to advertise in the Gazette-Times.

In addition, another good movie on skiing will be shown, according to Ken Peck of the club.

The meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner, and it will be held at the fair pavilion annex.

The club is trying to create more interest in skiing in this area to spur further development of the skiing facilities on Arbuckle Mountain.

Drawing will be held for a Polaroid camera at the meeting.



Coming Events
LEGION MOVIES
Friday Night, 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week "Fighting Trouble" featuring the "Bowery Boys." Plus one-half hour cartoons.

FINAL FOOTBALL GAME
Heppner High versus Sherman County High school.
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.
Moro High School Field
Support the Mustangs!

FALL RUMMAGE SALE
By Heppner Civic League Friday, Saturday, Nov. 2, 3.
Old Central Market Bldg.
Come in early for Good Buys!

PUBLIC CARD PARTY
Sponsored by Legion Auxiliary Bridge and Pinochle Prizes for men and women
Legion Hall, 8:00 p.m.
Monday, November 5

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

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LESTER RUUD
Hearing Service
Pendleton, Ore.
Will Be at
GONTY'S
Electrical Appliances
Monday Morning
November 5th
Gonty Has Hearing Aid Batteries.

Democrats and Republicans Agree :

VOTE - YES ON 9

LET'S RESTORE FAIR REPRESENTATION TO ALL OF OREGON

MEASURE NO. 9 MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL OREGON

- FAIR AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL
- GUARANTEED MINIMUM REPRESENTATION TO ALL
- ASSURE MAJORITY RULE IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE
- RESTORE THE INTENT OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION AND THE 1952 AMENDMENT OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED BY OREGON VOTERS.
- ELIMINATE ANY POSSIBILITY OF THE GROSS POLITICAL GERRY-MANDERING POSSIBLE UNDER THE PRESENT SET-UP.

ENDORSED BY:

Morrow County Farmers Union
Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce
Portland Chamber of Commerce
Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce
Democratic & Republican Central Committees
Oregon Coast Association
Oregon State Grange

Oregon Farm Bureau Federation
Associated Oregon Industries
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Many other Chambers of Commerce, County Court, Pomona Granges, County Farm Bureaus, and other Civic and Business Organizations.

VOTE - YES - 9

Pd. Ad. By Morrow County Citizens Committee For Representative Government, Mrs. Verner Troedson, Ione, and Fred Gimbel, Heppner, Co-chairmen