

THE 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.

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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.

'Bob-Tailed' Budgets Won't Do

The Legislative Interim Committee on Local Government last Friday held a meeting in Salem to consider the report of the Local Budget Law Advisory committee. In the report was recommendation for a new bill that would substantially alter the present law on publication of budgets.

As provided under the recommendation, budgets could be published in summary, doing away with the itemized form that has been used. Publication of the summary budgets would be a minimum requirement for municipal corporations, such as cities, county governments, and some types of taxing districts.

Result of this would be, in essence, that the public would get even less information on how its money is being spent for public purposes. It is getting more difficult all the time for a person to keep abreast of what is going on in government, as was pointed out in a lengthy editorial in this column several months ago. To curtail the information available on public funds is a step that should be indignantly opposed by all taxpayers.

It may be that many persons do not read the budgets when they are published, but on the other hand, many others do, and they in turn, spread the word to those less informed. The right for all to read them is fundamental and should be retained.

News media have an extremely difficult time trying to reach the public on information of importance to citizens. It would be too much to ask of a newspaper that it explain in detail in its news columns about all proposed budgetary items, but the public has a right to know. Papers customarily run stories coincident with publication of budgets to help explain them, but this is not a legal obligation. It is a courtesy consistent with the avowed responsibility of the press.

Earle Richardson of the Polk County Itemizer-Observer testified at the hearing Friday that legal publication rates for weekly newspapers, fixed by state law, have climbed only slightly in the past 30 years, from 10c a line to 13c a line for first insertion and from 5c a line to 8c a line for subsequent insertions. This is moderate payment for this type of composition and certainly does not reflect the general inflation of the past 30 years and certainly hasn't kept pace with rise in printers' wages during that period.

Citizens who are really concerned about losing a grip on government should become concerned about this bill. They may express themselves by contacting the legislators on the Committee on Local Government: Rep. Edward J. Whelan, chairman; Rep. Beulah Hand, vice-chairman; Sen. Eddie Ahrens, Sen. Richard Chapman, Sen. Ward Cook, Sen. Robert Straub, Rep. Bob Chappel, Rep. Edward Fadeley, Rep. William Gwinn.

It has been our criticism in the past that budgets have already become too concealing and too abbreviated for the general public interest. To "bob-tail" them further would be a step just exactly in the wrong direction.

Community College Funds in Jeopardy?

With a recent statement made by State Senator Ben Musa of The Dalles (whose district includes Morrow county), there is some concern about future of state funds for community colleges.

He was reported as being in favor of withdrawing state funds for community colleges, but a television program Tuesday night quoted him as saying that he did not make such a statement but only that the matter be "reviewed."

This possibility of withdrawal of state funds was something that some may have considered when the Blue Mountain Community was "sold" here, but little was said about it. The consensus seemed to be that the state support was established and would not be rescinded.

The preliminary brochures distributed here showed these figures for the proposed Blue Mountain College: Total annual operating budget, \$430,400, of which \$286,754 was to come from state aid, \$121,051 from student fees and \$22,598 from local area support.

The \$22,598 from "area support" was to be assessed on property in the Umatilla-Morrow district and was to be about 2/10th of a mill.

As it turned out, the budget was considerably higher because other things were not taken into account. Actual millage in Morrow county is not great for the 1962-63 tax year at 1.1 mills, but it is more than five times as high as it was originally expected to be.

The public seemed to approve, nevertheless, and passed the budget by a large margin.

But the threat of losing state support—if it turns out to be a real threat—would change the picture considerably. It would throw the biggest share of the community college budget on the property tax roll in the district and would be a much greater load in future years than is now being paid.

Pressure on the state for funds—particularly for higher education—is great, and there may be some effort to sidetrack community colleges with the thinking that other institutions are more important. Apparently the AFL-CIO is getting concerned about the matter, too, for it was reported Tuesday that they are opposed to elimination of state support for technical-vocational training as being of lesser importance than other education.

It is to be hoped that Senator Musa is not in favor of withdrawing state support for community colleges and that he is cognizant of the feeling in this part of the district. It is a matter that the public here should keep an eye on.

Suggestion to the OSAA

Now that the facts of the 19-19 lone-Crane game have been reviewed in the disappointed calm that followed the contest at lone, it is apparent that the Cardinals lost the right to go into the state semi-finals, not by some 70 yards that the officials had announced, but by the whisker-thin margin of two yards. A story elsewhere gives details.

There is no "beef" about it from lone, but the incident may well be called to the attention of the Oregon School Activities Association to prevent embarrassing situations in the future. The football games are not at all a rarity in playoffs, and are decided on the basis of yardage gained.

Officials at the lone-Crane game were in too much of a hurry. They wouldn't even measure lone's last gain, the play having been in progress when the final gun sounded, to see if it were a first down. Many spectators thought it was. The referee declared it didn't make any difference, since yardage was the determining factor. But it did make a difference to lone supporters, who would like to have the consolation of knowing, in the face of defeat, that the Cards scored one more first down than the visitors in the tie game.

Rules of the OSAA seem pretty vague on these tie games, especially in quarter-finals. The officials in this case tallied the yards on an adding machine immediately after the game and before the excitement and pressures of the contest had died away. It is only human that in the confusion they made an error, but in the interests of fairness it should be guarded against in the future.

The OSAA could devise a form that would list all yardage gained, as compiled from the statistician's book, and this could have places for coaches', officials' and principals' signatures—who would have the right and the obligation to review the figures. These certification signatures would be necessary before the game was official.

Sure, it's only a game, but when the kids work as they do to win, in the interests of fair play they are entitled to a completely objective decision.

Elks Say, 'Know Your America'

November 18 to 24 is 'Know Your America Week' and Elks lodges around the nation are calling attention to the need for all citizens to talk, act, and live American patriotism.

Heppner's lodge is joining in this emphasis and point out that L. A. Donaldson, grand exalted ruler, declares, "America is an idea that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." "I am sick of hearing whines about what's wrong with America," says the Grand Exalted Ruler. "Let's get up and shout about what's good about America. Let us show our youngsters—yes, and their elders, too—that America is not just a piece of real estate.

"Go forth to serve America!" In this venture, all citizens can heartily join with the Elks and should pause sometime in the next few days to give some thought to it.

150-Year Trip to Pluto

Dr. Walter Hiltner came up with some rather staggering figures on space exploration in his talk at the Columbia Basin Electric Co-op annual meeting Friday. Among them was the information that it will take 150 years to make the long trip to the planet Pluto, traveling at some 35,000 to 40,000 miles per hour. Well, if humans ever make the jaunt it will be after we have perfected longevity considerably more than at present, or produce a couple of succeeding generations en route.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THE DAY was overcast and gloomy, everyone seemed tired and worn for no apparent reason, and occasional raindrops fell outside. In short, everything contributed to a condition of being low in spirits.

From across the street stepped our jaunty jeweler, Randall Peterson. He burst into the office whistling as gaily as one of the Seven Dwarfs of Snow White fame.

Suddenly the whole atmosphere changed with his cheerful mood. The dingy walls brightened, the rain drops looked like silvery pearls splattering on the street.

"What makes you so happy?" we inquired of Randall in some wonderment.

"No particular reason," he replied. "Just makes a person feel good to whistle. Try it." He concluded his business and left, and the indescribable tune that came forth faded in the distance while we gazed at his departing figure with reflection.

We puckered our lips to give it a try. But the raucous notes that came forth sounded as if we have been eating crackers. However, the mood lingered on and it was a brighter day from there on out.

WE'VE BEEN hearing all kinds of nice things about Pioneer Memorial hospital that should be passed on. The other day, someone told us of a relative who had been transferred from a large city hospital to Pioneer. We asked how the patient was progressing, and the reply was that he is doing fine. Then the person went on to point out how wonderful the treatment is at the local hospital as compared with the impersonal reception in the larger hospitals. It made one almost yearn to get sick here.

Then Mrs. Chapin came in yesterday to report on Ambrose's condition. He is much better after a recent heart attack. She was profuse in her praise of Pioneer Memorial and said that everyone there was "just wonderful" to her husband—from Administrator Will O'Harra, to the nurses, to even Bob Lowe, custodian, who normally would not be required to have much contact with the patients.

The hospital sits on the hill in a fine location as a beautiful building. It is good to know that the treatment inside is as good as the structure appears outside.

A SUBSCRIBER in Alaska really must enjoy getting the Gazette-Times. He renewed the other day and sent as payment of the \$4.50 annual subscription the following: A \$2.39 Morrow county property tax refund check, duly endorsed; two small refund checks from Sears and Roebuck totalling \$1.18; and the balance in nickles and dimes stuck in a cardboard mounting that he apparently had fashioned without benefit of knife.

HEPPNER football fans who were so disappointed when Burns beat the Mustangs, 20-13, and thereby prevented the home 11 from getting into the state playoffs may take keen consolation in one of the football scores reported as of Friday in the A2 quarter-finals: Vale 41, Burns 6. Ouch! The Hillanders must be saying, "That smarts!"

SOME FIRMS who do their selling by direct mail must employ psychologists to think up new gimmicks. Among the junk mail reaching our office the other day was a letter from an insurance company, seeking business, stamped outside: "Please Do Not Open Until After 8 P.M." Apparently the psychology is that a busy businessman might be more receptive to a few minutes of persuading the company's plea in the comfort of an easy chair than he would in the hustle and bustle of a business day. (Note to the psychologist: You'll have to think up a new idea. It went into file 13!)

IT IS ornery of us to pass this on, but we just can't contain ourselves. Mel Dixon, pastor of the Methodist church here, said that Rev. Bill Briggs of the Arlington Methodist church, an ardent fisherman, went salmon fishing one day. He tried all day but had no luck. Ashamed to come home and report his failure to his wife, he stopped at a stand or store and bought a couple of nice salmon.

He brought them home and left them in the kitchen without



KNOW YOUR AMERICA WEEK NOVEMBER 18-24

a whole herd of elk heading towards him and he excitedly started preparations for a kill. A big cow, however, came running out of the herd and jumped over the end of the evergreen, causing it to bob all the more. A calf ran underneath. As Shank desperately continued to balance himself, his Winchester .348 fired harmlessly straight up in the air and the herd went thundering by.

AT THE last meeting of the city council, the boys had a little problem on their hands. Myron Huston, who works at the city dump, lost another pitchfork in the fire and burned a handle off. This has happened several times, and Myron himself said that he has lost at least two that he paid for himself at about \$5 each.

What to do about it? Someone must have told the city dads to go to the devil and check to see what he does in perogatory. Anyway, they came up with the answer. They are going to get a steel pipe and weld it on the pitchfork for the handle.

TO THOSE who do not receive Inklings from Mail-Well-Envelope Co. via the Gazette-Times, we will repeat this one from the last issue:

A truck driver was stopped by a policeman for holding up traffic. Seems he kept stopping his truck, getting out, and pounding on the sides of the van.

"What do you think you're doing?" inquired the belligerent cop.

"It's like this," explained the driver. "I'm driving a half-ton truck loaded with a ton of canaries. I have to keep half of them flying."

WELL, good for Martha! (Doherty, of course). She breezed right through the Soil Conservation Districts speech contest and won the state championship last Thursday, bringing more honor and recognition to Heppner and Morrow county. Martha won three contests to make the state finals, and her championship comes on the heels of Bev Davidson's third place finisher there last year. We'll soon have a reputation for producing the best women talkers in the state. Martha added more by getting high individual honors in the 4-H state soil judging contest also last week.

And our Soil Conservation Man of the Year, Elmer Palmer, and his wife, Muriel, also deserve congratulations for winning third places in their respective soil judging contests. How about that? All these honors make Ralph Richards of the local SCD office as happy as a kid.

PARTING THOUGHT: Don't worry about your station in life. Someone will tell you where to get off.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week "Elephant's Stampede."
Plus one-half hour cartoons.

FALL BAZAAR and TEA
First Methodist Church
Saturday, November 17
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Finest in Handmade Gift Ideas!

HARVEST SMORGASBORD
St. Patrick's Parish Hall
Sunday, November 18
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Delicious Food—Free Nursery

PUBLIC THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Methodist Church
Thursday, November 22
10:30 a.m.
Rev. Bill Alsop speaker

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

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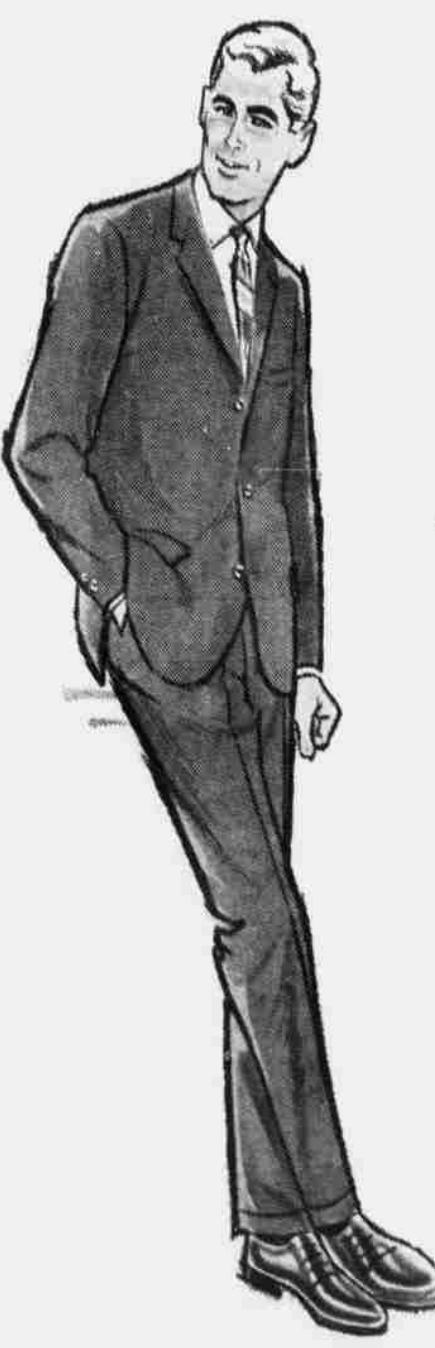
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