

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Signs Need to Serve Local Areas, Too

Oregon has reason to be proud of its system of highway signs. Unlike some states, the highway department in general does an adequate job in pointing directions for the traveler who is not familiar with the way.

There are some instances, though, that seem in conflict with the department's good work.

One such matter came up at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Monday. There is little to indicate where to turn off Interstate 80 on to the bomb range road to Lexington and Heppner now that the new interchange has been installed. Going east the other day, we missed the turnoff completely. A large sign emblazoned the route to Washington points to the north, but it did not mention Heppner nor Lexington. We figured we would be on our way to Washington if we took off there. Actually, another road branches off to the south from this marked exit.

This is not the first time that Chamber of Commerce had to swing into action to give adequate directions, and we cannot understand why the department overlooks this local need.

Stayton and Mill City, lying east of Salem, had the same problem. The 99-E freeway bypass had a big sign that marked "North Santiam Junction," but it never mentioned Mill City or Stayton. Those unfamiliar with the area who were headed to these towns breezed right by because they were looking for a sign pointing out Stayton or Mill City. "North Santiam" meant nothing to them. It isn't even the name of a town, but indicates a general area. Chambers of Commerce and other groups worked diligently without much luck on the highway department to get the sign changed. At long last, Stayton finally made the grade, and its name is now on the big sign, but Mill City, we note, is still striving for recognition.

It would seem that the department has some rather rigid policy about how such signs should be marked without taking into due regard local conditions that would best serve the needs of the public.

The Chamber here, now, is going to urge the department to mark the interchange better, and we hope that the result bears fruit. If it doesn't, many people will go right by the interchange before realizing their mistake.

While on the subject, this big caution sign with flashing amber light near Cascade Locks on Interstate 80 is perplexing. It declares "Abrupt Rise," but there is no abrupt rise and hasn't been for at least a couple of years. The amber flashes night and day. Traffic rolls over the "abrupt rise" at a 70-mile-per-hour pace. Yet, at the end of the freeway from Portland, near where construction is underway, we hit an unmarked spot the other night that sounded as if it would break an axle. This was not in a marked construction zone. No sign, no warning light.

The department basically does a fine job in helping the public find its way and keeping it informed of hazards, but some of these little matters are indeed puzzling.

Morrow County on Tax Honor Roll

One might well say that Morrow county has made the honor roll on its 1961-62 property taxes. As a story from Oregon Tax Research reports elsewhere in this paper, it is one of three counties in the state to show a decrease in total property taxes for the fiscal year.

Our decrease, it may well be noted, is not just a token decline, but a substantial one, at 10 per cent.

Just prior to election, a letter to the editor of a valley paper from a Eugene woman on school matters cited Morrow county as a bad example of property taxes. She said that county taxes here had climbed 25% in two years. How wrong can a person be—and how irresponsible in his statements!

It can't be said that Morrow can forever continue showing a decrease on property taxes, but it is nice while it lasts. It is pretty well recognized that there is too much burden on property and help must come from other sources.

The legislature will be mulling over the problem at the coming session, and it is to be hoped that if it presents some sound and logical bills to tap other sources that there is a guarantee that property taxes will be reduced rather than being just "another tax."

Proof of the Pudding

There is an old saying, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," and those from our part of the state who did not vote for the reapportionment bill on November 5 will soon have the "proof of the pudding" in our representation in the legislature.

The November 24 issue of the Oregon Voter points out that Eastern Oregon, which had 13 seats in the 1961 legislative assembly, will have nine in the 1963 assembly—a drop of four members.

"Several representatives were simply reapportioned out, and the others were, in several instances forced to spread-eagle their campaigning over vastly increased areas, one covering five large counties and another three," it reports.

(In case the reader doesn't realize it, the one covering five counties is our district and includes Morrow county.)

Our voice in the legislature is getting a bad case of laryngitis and is being reduced to a whisper. Yet 366 in Morrow county voted against reapportionment to 1036 in favor.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

ON A Thanksgiving visit to the Willamette Valley, our first trip there since the October 12 storm, we had the impression that the "hurrywind" hadn't done as much damage as had been reported. We had expected to see something approaching utter devastation. But on the visit the thought struck us that a person from another part of the country might travel through the valley without realizing that there had been a storm at all.

There were many big billboards down, some old farm buildings in ruins, and occasionally one could see the wreckage of a grove of trees as if some huge giant had stepped on them. But it wasn't at all the shambles we had expected.

Closer scrutiny, though, revealed the truth. It wasn't that the damage wasn't done. There was devastation, all right. The valley people have just done an amazingly good job on the cleanup and restoration. Pacific University's campus at Forest Grove looks almost the same as it has for years, but we learned that this took some real work. Many big oaks were down, and others were leaning perilously in the wake of the storm. Since then, the downed trees were removed and all signs are gone. The leaners were straightened and restored.

In 25 days of fine weather after the big blow everyone pitched in to clear debris. Many homes have new roofs that the passer-by does not notice. A few still have temporary plastic covers. In some towns the storm rendered every street impassable with downed trees, a tangle of power and telephone lines, but it is virtually all cleaned up now. Power and phone crews did a remarkable job.

There is one notable change. The valley is now very "wind conscious." At a sign of bad weather or the coming of a strong breeze, radio and television stations start broadcasting wind forecasts. If they don't they get a barrage of telephone calls.

Folks there didn't seem to realize how severe the storm was while they were going through it, but they understand now, and they are more frightened in the aftermath than they were in the blow.

The 12-year-old son of some friends of ours brings out the point. He was battling his way through the height of the storm on his bike delivering papers. His bicycle kept blowing over and he had an awful time. Trees were falling and debris was flying through the air. Adults tried to get him out of the "hurricane."

His stout reply to them was, "My mother says we don't have hurricanes or tornadoes here." And he made it around his route.

UPON SEEING the endless line of elk hunters intermingled with Thanksgiving travelers en route back to Portland Sunday night, we wonder where the hunters find shooting room for their vast numbers. Traveling against this endless line of lights, it was reminiscent of early World War II days when one would meet an army convoy that would stretch for miles

and miles, en route to war games somewhere. Instead of army trucks, the hunter convoy is composed of pickups with campers, station wagons with house trailers, rigs of all kinds pulling jeeps.

We were glad to get off highway 30 (Interstate 80) after bucking that traffic.

Although the hunters were in abundance, apparently the elk which they sought were not so plentiful.

Maybe Myron Huston has it right. "Do you know why hunters saw so few elk this year?" we overheard him jokingly ask someone on the street. "It was because they were roosting in trees."

DR. AND MRS. Wagner and family had some rough going in getting home from their weekend trip to Nevada. They found one road blocked by snow and had to back track to go via a longer route. They drove 900 miles from 11:30 a.m. Sunday to 6:30 a.m. Monday! There was little rest during that time. The doctor and Betty took turns at the wheel, and they made it home.

I'll bet the doctor spent a good part of the time on that long drive wishing he had flown on the trip. But after hearing of the mishap to the Madras pair that crashed on Pepper Mountain in bad weather, we're glad the Wagners went by car even if it did take them a long time to get home.

PROBABLY the most appropriate talk of the week-end was that by Vawter Parker Jr. of Hood River, who talked on Turkey at the Christian church Sunday night. But he was talking on the country and not on the big bird that graced many a Thanksgiving table. Young Vawter, an upperclassman at Hood River high, went to Turkey as an exchange student and came back with all kinds of interesting experiences to recount.

His grandad, Frank Parker, calls the young man "Butch." "No one knows him as 'Vawter Jr.," he says. "Everyone calls him Butch."

These famous Turkish cigarettes are all made by hand. Thousand of women do the work, unlike our country where the fags are made by the jillions in factories.

RUHL REPORT: While Terry Baker got much of the credit for OSU's victory over Oregon Saturday (as he should), our boy Dick Ruhl is entitled to a big chunk of the successful Duck hunt for the Beavers. He was the fellow who pounced on the free ball after a punt bounced off Mel Renfro's leg. This gave the Beavers possession deep in Oregon territory and resulted in the winning touchdown. Dick has done a wonderful job for OSU this year, and we are proud of him as the state is of Terry Baker.

Cantonwine Chosen For Heart Teaching

Robert Cantonwine, Heppner high school teacher, has been selected by the Oregon Heart Association to participate in the evaluation of a new curriculum guide for teaching about the heart and circulatory system in Oregon schools.

The local teacher will be among the 105 especially chosen teachers in the state whose classes this year will use the new curriculum guide developed during an intensive two week workshop sponsored last summer by Oregon Heart Association's School Health Committee, the State Department of Education, Oregon State University and the Portland Extension Center.

The teachers will pioneer in teaching the course this year, then report their evaluations of it to a committee of teachers who will revise the preliminary guide before it is finally issued in printed form.

The guide is the first of such to be prepared for use by Oregon schools and is one of the most complete guides ever developed in the nation.

The course, designed for junior and senior high school students, emphasizes basic principles in the physiology and maintenance of a healthy heart and circulatory system.



TO THE EDITOR.

To the Editor:

What has happened to our Christmas?

In the good old days when we used to hitch up a team to a sleigh or wagon and go into town to do our shopping for kith and kin and just had a few days to do it in, we really had the spirit. But something along through the years and along the way, has changed.

Our Thanksgiving turkey isn't cleared away and the main street tree is decorated and the streets are lit with Christmas greetings. In a few more years, on the fourth of July, will we be raising the American flag or hanging Christmas decorations?

The Christmas spirits are gone long before the day arrives. The youngsters are so used to seeing Santa that they really don't pay any attention to him by Christmas day.

Why not go back to the good old days?

Jessie Griffin

To the Editor:

A lot of people have asked me why I have not sent in any more notes to the editor of the Gazette. I told them they quit printing them. So here goes for one I hope you print.

We have a nice Christmas tree furnished by Jeff Walker. Thanks to him there will be some excitement and such, so why not the churches on Sunday come out by the tree and give us all some Christmas music and songs?

The trouble with most of us, we look too much for the al-

Jean Collins Walks After Long Seige

Jean Collins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Collins, was able to sit up on the day before Thanksgiving for the first time since her back was broken in an early August auto accident. Since then she has been able to walk a few steps each day. However, she still wears a full cast, and it is not expected that this will be removed until early February.

Here over the Thanksgiving holiday period to visit was her sister, Mrs. Judy Tottleben of Collinsville, Ill. She arrived about three weeks ago and left again Tuesday. Mrs. Tottleben's husband, who was discharged from armed service about a year ago, works in construction with his father.

Jean was seriously injured in an auto accident after leaving a rodeo dance on August 5 and was hospitalized for a long time in Portland before returning home to Heppner where she has been confined to bed until last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal Penland, Klamath Falls, were week-end houseguests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Houte.

Mrs. Lester Doolittle enjoyed a "delayed" Thanksgiving when her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Parrott, and two daughters, Leslie and Susan, of Portland came Saturday for the week-end. Mr. Parrott, who works on airplane instruments at Portland International airport, had to work Friday, causing the delayed holiday. They enjoyed their Thanksgiving dinner here Saturday and the Parrott family returned to Portland Sunday.

mightily dollar instead of Almighty God.
Andy Hayes

Sewing Club Selects New Name, Officers

We had a get-acquainted meeting in November. We elected our officers, which include all our members. They are Ruby Fulleton, president; Kay Daggett, vice president; Mary Pierce, secretary; Teresa Harshman, song leader, and Linda Heath, news reporter.

The name of our club is the "Golden Stitches."

We got our new books and our books for our jobs. We discussed the date for the next meeting, which was November 23, in the 4-H conference room.

Linda Heath, news reporter



Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES
Friday night, 8:00 p.m.
Legion Hall
This week "Elmer the Great," starring Joe E. Brown. Plus one-half hour cartoons.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH BAZAAR
Saturday, December 1
Luncheon served from 12 noon on Silver Tea, Bazaar Gift Items All Saints' Episcopal Church

OES SOCIAL CLUB
Saturday, December 1, 1:30 p.m.
Heppner Masonic Hall

SQUARED-UP ROUNDERS CLUB
Dance Saturday evening, Dec. 1, 8 p.m.
Fair Pavilion Building
Everyone Welcome

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS COOKBOOK
On sale for Christmas, \$3.95
From members or Mrs. Elmer Schmidt

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- Fruit Cakes
- Homemade Candy

SURPRISE TABLE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

ALL-SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Saturday, December 1

Business Luncheon and Tea
Served From 12:00 Noon On

EPISCOPAL PARISH HALL

HEPPNER

THIS MESSAGE SPONSORED BY YOUR HOME-OWNED BANK AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE

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