

# 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.

WESLEY A. SHERMAN  
Editor and Publisher

HELEN E. SHERMAN  
Associate Publisher



Subscription Rates: Morrow and Grant Counties, \$1.00 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.

## Budget Defeat—What Now?

Defeat of the Morrow county school budget for the coming fiscal year was decisive with only one area—Boardman—approving by a narrow margin. So long as it met defeat, it is probably just as well that it went down by a large margin rather than just by a few votes. For every voter who approved, nearly three voters disapproved. This would indicate a general dissatisfaction of substantial proportion, and the school board, having been shown this feeling of the district's patrons, might well turn to the public to learn what it wants and feels is necessary.

Since the public has said, "No," the board has a logical right and duty, in view of this mandate, to turn to the people and ask what is acceptable to them. This, undoubtedly, is what the directors will seek to do through advisory committees and representatives of each community.

The strong negative vote might give the impression that there was one or two main points of contention that brought the resounding disapproval. If this were true, the answer would be considerably easier. The board would then only have to eliminate the one or two things that brought the dissatisfaction and put the budget up again.

Unfortunately, however, there is every indication that the no votes comprised a whole gamut of reasons covering a wide range. Some were not in favor of using the surplus funds from last year for completing the Heppner-Lexington high school; some were overwhelmed by the fact that the budget topped \$1 million and the increasing burden of property taxes; some ranchers have stated they would not vote for the budget until they see what happened to the wheat referendum on May 21; some were against raising teacher salaries; some were votes of pure protest in general caused by dissatisfaction on other matters and having nothing really to do with the budget itself; some voted against it on the basis of some particular small item, "pet peeves," as it were.

Now the problem is—how to tie these objections into one package and eliminate enough of them to get a budget that is acceptable to the majority of the people. This is a terrific job.

Morrow county's school board is used to having the budget turned down, but it is nonetheless disconcerting. It is charged with the responsibility of providing sound education for the children of the county, and the large majority of those who voted against the budget would insist that their children have this opportunity.

Therefore, responsible citizens now have the duty of telling the board what they thought was wrong with the budget, so that amends may be made. It is not enough merely to say, "It is too high," but they will have to point out the areas where they believe cuts should be made.

Everyone assumes that cuts will be made, but in view of the emphatic defeat it now rests with the people to tell what these should be.

Probably most disconcerting of all the negative votes are those which are of protest on any grievance—not particularly with the budget or any phase of it—but against anything about the school district, the directors, the administrator, or any phase of the system's operation. This is understandable, because the budget ballot is the opportunity that a school patron has of putting his objections on the record. However, it is not logical and it is a dangerous and expensive course, because the continued reaction imperils the education of our children. Each budget election costs money, and delay in getting underway on fiscal matters is also costly.

Remonstrances against the budget should be pointed out to the board and budget committee so that they make adjustments the public wants. Any other grievance should be corrected in some other appropriate manner.

In the ultimate, continued rejection of the budget would mean that the schools would have to be operated within the 6% limitation, which is a virtual impossibility. Such a step would mean that the district would only have half the needed amount to conduct the program for the coming fiscal year. It might, for instance, call for the complete elimination of the transportation system with parents being responsible for getting their own children to school; it would certainly mean the elimination or drastic curtailment of some school activities—perhaps the athletic programs, the band and music departments, shop and vocational programs, and others; it would mean the abandonment of the hot lunch program; it would mean a serious curtailment of the instructional program. Our schools would be operated on a sub-standard level.

Is this what Morrow county people want?  
If not, now is the time to tell the directors—specifically—what they do want and what they are willing to vote for.

## TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

May I take this means to thank the many, many people who have called and written to express their appreciation for my letter of April 11. As to your critique of my letter, Wes, may I emphasize that I feel no "bitterness" regarding past election results. After all, I guess one can't win fast races with slow horses. The obvious way to victory is to enter faster horses.

I was excited to learn from a more recent letter appearing on these pages, signed by Robert Van Houte and Al Lamb, that the bridge at the North end of Main street in Heppner will soon be improved. Congratulations to the Mayor and Mr. Van Houte for providing the leadership in securing this much needed change.

My reason for writing these letters is simply to remind the good citizens of this county where the responsibility lies for the welfare of Heppner and Morrow county regarding the proposed Willow Creek dam, or any other project requiring state or federal assistance, particularly those citizens who have supported Morse, Ullman, Smith, and Mayor Lamb.

For example, let's review what has really happened to the proposed "space age industrial park" at Boardman. Senators Magnuson and Jackson of Washington don't want any part of the Boeing payroll moving into Oregon, and I can't condemn them for this protectiveness. But, our Senator Morse doesn't want Governor Hatfield becoming a hero by getting something started in Boardman. He's dangerous enough as a political opponent already. Al Ullman, seldom one to advance an original or independent idea, will, as usual, continue to take orders from Morse. Nothing is going to happen in Boardman until Magnuson and Jackson allow it, and Morse isn't inclined to do more than quibble. Isn't this just another instance where Morse proves his intense "loyalty" to Oregon. And I suppose it's too much to expect Ullman to act independently in the interests of this congressional district. After all, in a few short years he might be opposing Hatfield for the senatorial seat now held by Mrs. Neuberger.

As to Willow Creek dam, without question it would be a big aid to Heppner business, but I doubt that it will ever be constructed. Democrats move from expediency, first, last and always, and six million dollars is a little too much to pay for less than a thousand votes. I believe Mayor Lamb is fully aware of this political fact of life. I have high regard for the

## Inequities on Fire Patrol Tax

Testimony at a hearing in the legislature on House Bill 1477, which would substantially reduce the state fire patrol tax imposed on landowners, including ranchers and timber operators, brings out apparent inequities in the present high tax.

This bill for relief on the tax has as one of its sponsors Rep. Jack Smith of our district and has drawn strong support from this area. The Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution backing it.

Several from this area were at the hearing to testify. Among them was Allen Nistad of Kinzua Corporation, who brought out some pertinent information on present inequities.

"It is the belief of every land owner in our part of the state that, by paying the entire budget of the State Forestry operations in our area, we are furnishing the public with services we cannot afford," he said. "The present protection assessment system on private forest and range lands is not equitable in view of present and predicted trends in land use pressure. Owners of these lands feel the present assessments are confiscatory and expect them to go higher under present laws. Livestock people have testified that their ability to graze at a profit is being threatened by this ever increasing fire patrol assessment."

Nistad pointed out that many fires occur which cannot be the responsibility of the land owner, yet he is paying the entire cost of prevention and control.

As an example of inability to control the fire patrol costs in the company's area of operations and an illustration of the use of these funds for the public good, Nistad cited this case:

Kinzua Corporation has furnished the State Forestry Department free land for a State Guard station at Kinzua on an oiled county road. The station was built by the State of Oregon and consisted of a home, which contained an adequate office, shop, gasoline pumps, and additional crew housing over the shop. In 1960, the State acquired lands on the John Day highway, seven miles from the present guard station, and constructed a new station at a cost of \$30,000. The entire cost was assessed to the land owners as fire patrol tax.

The State then moved an assistant fire warden into the district and stationed him at the Kinzua station. This year, the warden moved to Fossil and the entire station at Kinzua was abandoned. The station was moved for one reason, Nistad said, to give the public better service by locating on the main highway.

This new facility and the additional year around employee were added by the State—not because of any request of the landowners paying the bill. Headquarters of the Central Oregon Fire District are next to the Ochoco Reservoir on Highway 26 where the public can obtain service the year around.

Typical of these services are the furnishing of maps, travel information and assistance to campers, fishermen and hunters; patrolling lands where heavy influxes of the public occur and furnishing assistance to people requiring harvesting and burning permits. Present laws do not permit the State Department to contribute to the work these men perform for the State, the public and governmental agencies. The district fire warden was carried on the State Forestry Department payroll until this year, in recognition of the work he carried on with timber operators. This year, the state auditor advised this could not be done and his entire annual salary is being charged to fire patrol tax.

In addition to the fire patrol tax of 15c per acre, timber operators pay a special 2c per thousand assessment for "fire fund tax" designed to ease the impact of higher assessments during costly fire seasons. This law has been challenged and is currently before the Supreme Court.

Fire patrol tax in most cases now exceeds property tax on the land. Landowners have expressed themselves strongly in support of the level of protection that would be furnished by HB 1477, the 21% additional funds provided by Clarke-McNary funds, and whatever assistance is provided by state funds. In addition, every landowner who has been contacted is willing to assist in fire suppression, as they have in the past.

Nistad adds that Kinzua Corporation expends more for its private fire control measures than it pays in fire patrol tax with its own fire warden, fire patrol plane, radio dispatcher, fleet of radio-equipped pumps, heavy fire fighting equipment, fire crews and fire caches. The State calls on the company whenever their crews need assistance—the same as with every landowner.

In view of these facts, is there any question about the inequity of the present law? When the general public is benefitting more and more from the increased use of forest, range, grass and wild lands in the state, it is nothing more than fair and reasonable that some appropriations come from the general fund for fire patrol purposes and that relief be given landowners.

## Her Memory Lives On in Her Students

Few professions have more opportunity for rich inner reward than teaching, since it has a vital part in shaping young people for their lives to come. A teacher who has had some small part in the education of a youngster who later becomes a credit to society through his worthwhile achievements may say secretly to himself, "I had a part in making him what he is."

This is a reward far richer than the money a teacher is paid, and although dedicated instructors seldom boast about it, this joy of sharing the achievement of his students furnishes a high motivation for teachers. It is coupled with a sincere appreciation of the youngster's worth, regardless of his home background and his various abilities.

Lucile Weatherford must have felt this joy, for her students have achieved—and will keep on achieving. Her untimely death cut short a fine career, but she will live on in the memory of her students and associates as a truly great teacher.

A dedicated teacher is a priceless asset in modern day society, and this loss is great here, but Mrs. Weatherford will remain alive in the continuing achievements of those who have the solid foundations that were laid in her mathematics classes.

There will be many who will be ever grateful to her devoted work, and as they pursue their various careers they will have many occasions to recall the days spent under her guidance.

men selected to appear before the Congress on Rivers and Harbors, but at the same time I would expect certain Democrats to stay in the background and exert their "leadership" with their calls for a unified front and a non-partisan effort.

In this newspaper, on December 27, 1962, Mayor Lamb stated "Our congressman sits on the Ways and Means committee and his deep interest brought about the study that is the basis of this hearing. We are now in the political position where getting this appropriation can be reasonably expected so I hope we all fall behind this worthy project and not leave its hope to chance."

Mayor Lamb, why don't you go to Al Ullman and get the six million?  
Don Turner

To the Editor:

Enclosed is my check for \$4.50 for the year's subscription to the Gazette.

This is also to let you know how much I enjoyed Mr. Orville Cutsforth's story about Mr. Roscoe Cox and the bear. I read it to my boy who is 14 and he thought it was wonderful. I enjoy reading the weekly paper even though I am no longer acquainted with as many people as when I was a girl growing up in Heppner. My mother, Nellie G. Anderson, lives there now and I get to see her once or twice a year. Last year I was privileged to attend the Heppner

High school class re-union for the class of 1933. We all had a wonderful time and I am afraid my California friends got a little tired of hearing about all the fun we had.

The only thing I miss in your paper is that you no longer publish the little column called "Thirty Years Ago." When that used to be printed it was fun for those of us who have been away for some time to see some familiar names in print and they usually brought back fond memories.

Recently I read in a book "Oregon, End of the Trail" about an old timer in Southwestern Oregon who shot a grizzly that measured 3 feet between the ears and 4 feet from the tip of his nose. So you can see I was in the mood for your "bear" story.

I never had the good fortune to know Mr. Roscoe Cox but I grew up with Claude Cox's children. I think I will write to Mr. Cutsforth and see if he can't recall some more entertaining stories.

Very truly yours,  
Mrs. Willis A. Roller  
Los Altos Hills, Calif.

RUBBER STAMPS made to order, also STAMPING PADS in black, red or green. For business or personal use. Orders filled promptly at the Gazette-Times office.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THE WILLOW CREEK woods was a beautiful sight when we took a little jaunt up there Sunday—a photographer's paradise. Must have been a foot or two of snow on the ground a mile or so above the artesian well, and rustling Willow Creek cut a dark path through the white banks that glistened under occasional sun.

The conflict between stubborn and reluctant winter and the ir-repressible emergence of spring was apparent. Bushes and plants which have been feeling the urge to burst forth in their seasonal green finery appeared startled and depressed under a load of snow, but the tall stately evergreens, used to the rigors of all seasons, took the April storms undaunted.

There will still be snow this week-end in abundance there, no doubt, and those who have been seeking some good color pictures of scenic parts of Morrow county might take the hint to run up there, if Old Sol cooperates just a little bit.

LETTERS to the Editor in the G-T two weeks ago brought up some lively topics for conversation around the county, and it was amusing to note the number who mentioned that they were eagerly looking forward to the ensuing week to read retailatory letters. However, there must have been considerable disappointment because the strong rebuttal failed to materialize. Thus, the paper didn't measure up in this department.

It reminds us of the story of the farmer who had an unchallenged reputation as the outstanding cussier in the county. In the vituperation department he was without equal and could easily slay any opponent with his invective. The smallest irritation would set him off.

One day the farmer was driving through the village with a load of apples piled in his wagon. As he drove his team up a steep hill, the gate came loose from the back of his wagon, and the apples rolled out of the rig to go tumbling down the street and scatter for blocks.

Townpeople hastily assembled at the bottom of the hill with hushed expectancy to hear the masterpiece of expletive that must surely follow from such great provocation.

When the farmer fumed down the hill and came before them, they watched his every move with eager anticipation.

But the explosion never came. "Folks," explained the man, "I know what you all expect,

but I just ain't equal to the occasion."

ANNOUNCEMENT is made this week of the Memorial Day picnic coming May 30. This is a long-awaited occasion, particularly by former residents of the county, and through the winter we have received notes and letters from different ones from various parts of the country who plan to attend.

It is said that the most irritating man at reunions of these classes of years ago is the one with both money and hair.

It will be interesting for the natives to see who still has both at the forthcoming event.

Speaking of hair—or lack of it—Marie McQuarrie one day recently saw the back of a balding pate glistening through the Hotel Grill window as she proceeded down the sidewalk across the street.

Figuring it was Clint out for coffee again, she declared to the gal she was with, "I'd know that head any place!"

So she bustled into the grill to rib her hubby. But—the bald head was that of Orville Cutsforth!

ONE FELLOW has a sage comment on this controversy over religion in schools that might apply to quite a few of us.

"Praying shouldn't be taken out of public schools," he declares. "That's the only way many of us got through."

(That brings back memories of torturing through three years of French.)

Maybe we'll need a little more prayerful religion to get a budget passed!

LADY CALLS, still disconcerted over the lack of attendance at the lone-Heppner band concert here. She has been fretting about it all this time and wants to say that she thinks it a downright shame that the youngsters don't get better support at their high school events. We agree.

One thing different about this lady—who prefers to remain unknown—who doesn't have children in school and this isn't just a case of a doting parent. She declares the work the two bands did was wonderful and is right in saying that more should have been out to hear them.

ONE OF the things that a person has been able to see any day in the country for time immemorial almost is the rural

mailbox. Through the years, it has stood unchanged and astute with its same rounded galvanized top, flap door on front and flag to stop the carrier. A person would figure that this mailbox would be a time-honored institution that would never change. But, behold! Now they have a flashy modern new mailbox—streamlined and in colors to bring modernity to the farm. Saw them at M and R company the other day, and it was almost startling to see them. This proves that everything changes—even the rural mailbox.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

#### LEGION MOVIES

Friday, April 26, 8 p.m.  
"Escape to Burma" in color, starring Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Ryan, plus cartoon.

#### JUNIOR HIGH ELKS PARTY

Dance and party for all junior high school students in the county.  
Friday, April 26, 7:30—11 p.m.  
Elks Temple, Heppner

#### DRAMATIC RELIGIOUS PLAY

"Rehearsal in Kerioth," by the Heritage Players of Eugene.  
Heppner Christian Church  
Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Free-will offering

#### THREE ONE ACT PLAYS

Students of Heppner High school.  
Friday, May 3, 8 p.m.  
High School Gymnasium

#### BAND CARNIVAL

Fair Pavilion Bldg., Sat., Apr. 27. Full evening of fun, starting at 5:30 p.m.

#### SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

### C. A. RUGGLES

#### Insurance Agency

P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625

Heppner

LOADS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE AT THE

# BAND CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

AT THE

## FAIR PAVILION

● SUPPER AT 5:30

● GAY WAY OPENS 6:30

Fish Pond

Dunk Tank

Bingo

Fish Bowl

Game

Guessing Games

Country Store

Dart Throw

Cork Guns

You May Win A Door Prize!

.22 Lever-Matic Rifle  
Chaise - Lounge  
—And Others

BAND MUSIC

DURING DINNER HOUR  
BY HONOR BAND

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

# BANK OF Eastern Oregon

HEPPNER—ARLINGTON—IONE  
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

