

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, \$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.

The Fredrick Martin Recall

When the recall is invoked against a person in public office, there is an inference that the person is guilty of some type of dishonesty or incompetency. Provision in Oregon school law applying to the recall of a district director, however, is not so specific. It merely states that the petitions must "set forth concisely the reasons" for the recall without specifying what constitutes a sufficient cause for the action.

It is apparent that in the case of Director Fredrick Martin the circulators and signers of the recall petition feel that they have sufficient reason or they would not have gone to all the time, trouble and expense to do what they are doing.

This is a serious action that should not be taken lightly by voters. Every eligible voter should weigh the matter in his mind carefully and make it a point to express himself at the polls Monday.

The recall involves the reputation of Director Martin, for if it is successful, it would indicate that in the eyes of the voters he has not discharged his duties to the best of his capabilities or that he has not acted in the best interests of the educational system in the district. This is in the face of the fact that he has served for many years in various capacities on school boards in Morrow county and holds a respected place among school directors throughout the state.

Using the recall places another responsibility on the voter as it applies to the person who donates his time and abilities to volunteer public service. If, for some reason, it is invoked against one who serves with competence and in good conscience, how can the citizenry ask anyone to serve in such a capacity?

Thus, it is important that the voter's decision be carefully considered so that he is sure that the cause is sufficient for removal of the official.

There can be no quarrel with one who votes for recall who in his own good conscience is sure that the official has failed to discharge his duties properly. However, it is a serious breach of this democratic process to vote for recall—and a threat in the ultimate to democracy itself—when the voter cannot conscientiously say that the official is guilty of conduct sufficient for removal.

Both those for and against recall will agree that it is important for all voters to come out for the election so that a true expression may be received.

To the Editor:

According to a letter in the April 11 issue of the Gazette-Times a group of six men from the lone area read my letter of the week before and decided to try to deviate attention from their unfair charges against Fred Martin by stating they would like to enlighten me. First of all, let me make it clear that my reference to the lone swimming pool and budget vote in my first letter was made to invite an answer so that the voters of Morrow county might learn the identity of the "Boot Fred Martin" committee. I was well aware of the facts concerning the lone school plant. At a regular meeting of the rural school board of which I was a member held on Tuesday, April 8, 1958 a discussion led by Gar Swanson of lone in regard to the use and rental of the pool made it necessary for the board to form a policy which I believe to be in effect at the present time. The motion was made by Dewey West and seconded by Joe Nys that the board give their approval for carrying such funds in the general fund. It was my feeling at the time and still is that the lone people are to be commended for their generosity in providing and sharing this benefit at such a small cost to the taxpayers with their neighbors.

The number of people who signed the petitions has no value to determine what the right way to vote on the recall would be. They all know it was not a vote, and would have plenty of time to consider and investigate the charges before voting.

These charges are little more than clever insinuations that there is something wrong with the conduct of Fred Martin as a county school board director. They were written by a lawyer to avoid the legal hazards of such action. The law requires that a record be kept of all regular and special meetings, which is available to all citizens where the actual record could be observed of the performance of the school board. This recall group has carefully avoided any reference to this record. Could it be that it does not contain anything useful to their cause? Any action taken on any problem, or policy formed by the board must be by majority vote of that board so therefore any criticism of one member is extremely unfair.

Last Monday the voters in all areas of Morrow county turned down the budget to operate the schools another year except Boardman. The voters of Boardman failed to represent the will of the majority of voters of the county. I hope no action will be taken against our friends in Boardman because they failed to look in their crystal ball before voting.

The question of whether or not there is adequate fire escapes at the lone grade school is not the responsibility of one member of the county school board, but is the duty of citizens and the entire board alike

to make certain that the lives of our children will be safeguarded in case of fire. The state fire marshal's report of January 10, 1963 states, quote "Previous order complied with. No further orders at this time." End quote. He lists four recommendations for future action, but no mention is made of fire escapes.

The letter to enlighten me in the Gazette states the only qualification needed to observe the validity of the charge of sanctioning school bus transportation routes is good enough vision to recognize large passenger vehicles painted highway yellow, labeled Morrow County Schools, meeting, passing, going opposite directions on our county roads. I will challenge all six signers of this letter to produce a plan whereby the students of our county can be transported to school without opposite directions, passing or going in opposite directions. No mention is made of any place where duplication could be observed, for obvious reasons. Here again there is no evidence to support the charge that Fred Martin should be recalled because he sanctioned duplication of school bus routes. That also is a responsibility of the entire board, not one member.

What we will decide next May 6 is whether we will give Fred Martin a dishonorable discharge from his duties as a county school board director on unfair charges or whether we show by the vote that we appreciate the years of work that he has given for the betterment of education for our children in Morrow county.

Respectfully yours,
Alonzo Henderson
Lexington, Oregon

Dear Editor:

In the March 18 issue of this paper the Morrow County School Board voted to let each school have one trailer on the school property at \$10.00 per month charge.

This is just one more item that proves very poor management by our school board and leads to higher taxes.

There is now and has always been housing available for teachers. Lone has a very nice trailer park with flowers, laundry, dry cleaning available at \$15.00 per month.

If the school board installs trailer space on the school property it will cost the taxpayers several thousand dollars. Because trailer space must meet state specifications such as 750 gallon septic tank, minimum 150 foot drain field per bedroom, double this if a garbage disposal is used.

I think it is time for we the taxpayers to stand by our convictions and on our own two feet and do something about the wasteful spending of the taxpayer's money.

E. J. Akers
lone, Oregon

TO THE EDITOR...

To the Editor:

I am sick at heart at the ill will between the communities in Morrow county. Like many other people, my loyalties are divided. Though I taught in lone only one year, my parents lived there several years. Some former lone students now live in Heppner, and some former Heppner students now live in lone. I feel sure that these people too must be distressed at our failure to solve our problems without bitterness.

I have been proceeding on the strength of the prayer, "Oh Lord, let there be peace, and may it begin with me." But in recent days many people have remarked that the lack of letters supporting Fred Martin has led them to wonder if his recall is not justified. So I want to explain my stand as an individual, on the recall and school situation.

RECALL means REMOVE. The vote next Monday is to decide whether Fred Martin shall be REMOVED from the county school board.

Mr. Martin was elected to two terms on the rural school board, and two terms on the county school board which succeeded it. He is a councilman in lone. He is an honest, Christian man who is one of the best-informed persons in the entire state on school law. He is highly regarded throughout the state. He has represented lone fairly and he has had the best interests of the entire county at heart all his years on the board.

If a board member like this is to be removed from the school board, what kind of a replacement would the voters want? Someone who puts his own school area first in all considerations?

Morrow county's school board has seven members, one each from lone, Lexington, Irigton, and Boardman; three from Heppner. By trading votes the four representatives from the smaller communities can out-vote Heppner. Yet Heppner has about 1/3 the entire population of the county within its city limits, and its school board members represent an even larger percentage of the people of the county.

According to the 1962-63 Directory of Morrow county school officers and teachers, 637 of the total school population of 1163 attend school in Heppner. This is over 54% of the students. And with over half the students and over a third of the population of the county, Heppner has only 3/7 of the representation on the school board. If the members of the board from lone, Lexington, Irigton, and Boardman choose to put their communities first they have the power to do so.

Fred Martin rightly feels that he owes representation to the entire county. So, I think, all are on the same side. So, I think, all the other members of the present board. Do people really want it otherwise?

We Heppner area people are probably getting better representation than we deserve, considering our poor turnout at meetings concerning the schools and at school elections.

Heppner has 54% of the students; 4 school buildings, 41 teachers, 2 cooks, 6 custodians, and 10 bus drivers. Compare these figures with those for the other 4 communities: 46% of the students, 6 school buildings, 42 teachers, 7 cooks, 7 custodians and 15 bus drivers.

I am willing to pay extra taxes so that each community can have its school, so I can't understand why, after they have asked for these facilities, lone, Lexington, and Irigton voted against raising the money to pay for them.

Surely the cause for much of our large NO vote on budgets is worry about the increasing property tax burden. If every person who fears this creeping tax burden would write to at

least one legislator demanding transfer of most of the financial cost of schools from property tax to income tax or sales tax, much more good would be accomplished.

Income tax is based on ability to pay. A sales tax should exclude groceries, seed, and drugs because these things are necessities; a sales tax covering necessities could be as burdensome as our present property taxes.

I hope Heppner voters particularly do some hard thinking on these school problems, asking questions as necessary and discussing them with their friends and neighbors. Then, please vote—regardless of whether you agree or disagree with me.

Rachel Forsythe Dick
(Mrs. L. E. Dick, Jr.)

To the Editor:

Many citizens of Morrow county are concerned about recent charges made by a group of lone citizens attacking the integrity of the Morrow County School Board, one specific school board member and the school superintendent. These accusations are against the entire school board. All the members are charged with irresponsibility. What are the facts in the matter?

1. Fire escapes at lone. Fire escapes which served the balconies of the old lone gym were removed in the summer of 1960 when the old balconies were torn down. The state fire marshal has not requested or suggested that these be replaced. In fact, the words "fire escape" do not appear in a single fire marshal's report on lone since July 1, 1959. All orders to the school district by the fire marshal have been completed as directed in all the schools of the district. Recommendations by the fire marshal, which differ from orders, in that the orders must be carried out and the recommendations are suggestions to be carried out whenever feasible, so as not to interrupt classes or whenever funds are available, are planned to be carried out this summer. This includes installing swinging fire doors on the landings between the upper and first floors in both lone and Heppner schools, and also sealing all vertical openings in the school at lone.

2. Shop program at lone. At present, juniors and seniors and seventh and eighth graders have a shop program. The lathe, drills, welding equipment and other tools are being used in this program. The instructor is Mr. Strait.

3. Duplicate bus routes. There are not duplicate bus routes in Morrow county. The transportation department of the State Department laid out all the school bus routes after a careful survey in 1959. However, in order to get to lone or Heppner, loaded buses must in some cases travel on the same highway, after picking up students on their regular routes.

Full credit should be given to the lone community for their building program prior to July, 1959. It should be pointed out, however, that Heppner residents are still making bond payments on the elementary building they constructed in 1954. Heppner bond payments will be completed in 1970. Boardman taxpayers made a final bond payment this year. Irigton and lone completed their payments in 1962.

The current building program is intended to complete additionally needed facilities. The board has not practiced deception in this or any other program which is under our control.

The school board does not ask for a blank check, but for funds within a budget for the operation of our schools. All expenditures are approved by the board as a whole and all our

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

SATURDAY NIGHT'S Band Carnival was a tremendous success from every standpoint but one—Harley Young never did pound three nails into the 4x4 with three blows each, try as he might. He had a confident southpaw swing and wielded a mighty blow, but he never quite made the grade. I don't know how many tickets he used up trying, but the number was considerable.

The Columbia Basin manager turned the board sidewise and pointed out nails that had been driven from the other side, with the inference that his were bumping into them on the way down. Nevertheless there were some good clean imprints, deep in the wood, of the hammerhead beside some of his nails.

THESE JUST couldn't be any nicer affair for the family than this homemade entertainment. Everyone has a good time, and all the kids, regardless of size, carry home so highly-valued prize—Japanese lantern or kewpie doll—and the proceeds go for a fine cause.

We marvel at the wonderful job of organization done on this carnival. Bud Peck is the guiding light, and he deserves high praise from the community for his work. It is obvious, too, that a great amount of work is done by many hands to get the job done.

DON'T EVER say that Randall Peterson doesn't have some

financial accounts are audited annually. All our audits have been commented upon favorably by the auditors, Witherell, Witherell, Lavoie and Morrison, of Pendleton.

It should be obvious that in our present system where the school board is assisted by the county superintendent and the principals and advisory boards from each community, no one man can be held responsible for the charges made against Fred Martin—charges over which Mr. Martin did not have sole control.

It is my fervent hope that the voters of Morrow county will examine their consciences and vote in a fair and honest manner, as I believe Fred Martin has performed his duties as a member of the Morrow County School Board.

Dick T. Wilkinson

To the Editor:

I wonder who could stoop so low as to swipe flowers that took me three years to start on my folks lot in the cemetery. They dug up the pink peony bulbs but did leave the red ones. It was done since last year. Yours sincerely,
Andy Hayes

sort of influence with Old Jupe Pluvius! Through two or three weeks of bad weather he calmly went about preparations for the Spring Festival here through all sorts of jibes and taunts. But when the great day came, the sun blossomed forth, just as he predicted, early in the morning and stayed out all day. He had old Jupe cowed somehow, even though it had rained Friday.

The Festival turned out to be a fine event with a lot of fun and interest. Randall just about does a one-man job for the merchants committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and his fellow businessmen should give him highest commendation for his work, not to mention the ones who come to town and enjoy it.

ACCORDING to a half-hour nationwide special documentary television presentation recently, entitled "Vanishing Breed," country newspaper editors are on their way to oblivion. The telecast was the case history of an editor in one of the states of the Deep South, and he had the only paper in the county—just like the G-T in Morrow county.

The editor was subject of controversy in the county, particularly because of political issues, and much of the TV time was devoted to pro and con comments about him.

Country editors may be a "Vanishing Breed," but we think "Diminishing Breed" would be more apt. Population trend is towards urban centers, all right, but there always will be some small towns, and always a place for the warmth of the weekly paper.

We've known of cases in the past when some irate reader would have liked to place us immediately in the category of the "Vanished Breed," but not too often. The country editor can be a tenacious character.

ONE EDITOR that we hate to see "Vanish" from the Eastern Oregon scene is Giles French, for some 30 years editor of the Sherman County Journal at Moro. He has sold the paper to Dan Bartlett, former editor of the Hermiston Herald. The Journal attained its place in the sun as the medium of Giles' pithy, pertinent and often caustic comments. He has an apparently endless source of clever nutshell comments, such as in one of his recent papers, relative to the rainy opening day of trout season, "A trout caught Saturday would hardly know the difference." Every week he had a full column of them on the front page, and his sage observations were widely quoted.

Giles said that the reason he is quitting is that he finds himself writing the same thing over that he wrote last year. Most of us wouldn't mind

reading it again—Besides that's the only way many of us editors get by, and hope that no one remembers that we're repeating ourselves.

"SHOW YOUR COLORS," declares Jim Farley of Farley Motor Co. who has become a part of a campaign to get American people into flying their flags more often. He declares that 66% of the homes in the country do not even own a flag, and Americans display their colors less than any other nation in the world.

Come to think of it, we are rather negligent on this point—even right here in Heppner.

Goodyear Rubber Company has a nationwide emphasis on this "Show Your Colors" program and Farley, as local dealer for Goodyear tires, is handling it here. He has a brand new stock of American flag kits that are being offered at cost as a part of the promotion. Take our word for it, he doesn't make anything on them. Stop by his service station and take a look, then show your colors on every appropriate occasion.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES

Saturday, May 4, 8 p.m.
"Glory," starring Margaret O'Brien and Walter Brennan.
Plus cartoons.

FOUR ONE ACT PLAYS

Full evening of entertainment by Heppner High School students.
Friday, May 3, 8:00 p.m.
Adults, 75c Students, 25c

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

School Election—Monday, May 6.
Polls open from 2 to 8 p.m.

HOMEMAKER'S FESTIVAL

"The Wonderful World Ahead," Miss Esther Taskerud, OSU, guest speaker.
Wednesday, May 15—11 a.m.
St. Patrick's Parish hall

SPONSORED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE BY

C. A. RUGGLES
Insurance Agency
P. O. Box 247 PH. 676-9625
Heppner

Spring Checkup Time

If winter driving has gotten your car down—get a lift here!

- Change oil
- Lubricate chassis
- Check brakes

We sell all ATLAS tires—batteries—accessories

New working hours:

7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays

7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays

Closed Sundays

Wayne's Chevron Station

WAYNE BALL

AT HEPPNER FORD

GOOD YEAR

SHOW YOUR COLORS

GET YOUR FLAG NOW FOR HOLIDAY DISPLAY!

NEW 50-STAR FLAG SET

\$ 2 57

Yours at Our Cost

COMPLETE 6-PIECE ENSEMBLE READY TO FLY

- * Big 3 x 5 ft. Double Hemmed Cotton Flag in brilliant fade-resistant colors
- * Has 5-inch American Eagle on top of 6-ft. collapsible Aluminum Staff
- * Includes Cord Halyard and metal mounting wall bracket with screws
- * Complete with Illustrated Manual on Official Flag Etiquette

Get Them At
FARLEY MOTOR CO.

126 E. MAY HEPPNER PH. 676-9116