

# THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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## The Challenge of the School Crisis

At the annual banquet of the Heppner-Morrow County Chamber of Commerce Monday night, Victor P. Morris, dean emeritus of the School of Business, University of Oregon, in a talk on "Problems of Development" made the point that "the biggest problem in development is getting people to cooperate and work together."

At almost that precise moment, four members of the Morrow County District R-1 school board were tendering their resignations at a meeting in the courthouse in the wake of the Fredrick Martin recall and climaxed a long period of strife and controversy in school matters here. The following morning Superintendent Robert Van Houte turned in his resignation to Beverly Gunderson, district clerk.

The dean, who last visited in Heppner many years ago, couldn't have made a more appropriate point if he had been fully abreast of the school strife in the county and had been talking directly to those involved.

"Most important in an area is the people, not the natural resources," he had said. "If you have even meager resources but the right kind of people pushing, you'll get a pretty good living out of it." Previously he surveyed the resources that are available here and declared, "You are not shy on important resources."

Inability of our people to reach agreement on the operation of the school system is the most distressing problem in the county and has brought about a split that is detrimental to our development and continuously disturbing to our residents—adults and students alike.

Regardless of the criticism that had been aimed at them, and the differences of opinion, the retiring directors served well. They gave unstintingly of their time and effort in an attempt to provide an excellent educational system here in the face of problems that seemed insurmountable. They took personal abuse beyond that which anyone could be called upon to bear, and they took it with equanimity.

Progress has been made in facilities and educational program here despite the adversity and controversy, and this is a credit to the retiring administration, including the board and administrator Van Houte.

We ask a great deal of those who volunteer their services for the school board for our benefit and for our children. We expect them to devote many hours of time without any compensation; we expect them to find answers to problems that no one else can solve; we expect them to smile in the face of criticism.

After his resignation Monday night Dick Wilkinson said, "There was a time that I could walk down the street of any town in Morrow county and laugh and joke with almost anyone I met, but not any more. People turn away from me."

This mass resignation leaves the school system in a critical situation. After the special election that will be held May 24 an entirely new board will be called upon to take over where the other one left off. Only the lone remaining member, Harvey Warner of Irrigon, will be oriented to the problems and workings of the system and probably few will be versed on school laws, state standards and other matters necessary in conducting an educational system of this magnitude.

Because of the resignation of the administrator, Robert Van Houte, the new board will not have the experience of a trained person to lean on, but rather will have the job of getting a competent person to head the system. This will be no easy task in itself.

The matter of getting the budget passed will be a first and primary task facing the new board, without which there would be insufficient operational funds with which to conduct the school program.

There will be many administrative problems. There will be the job of finding teachers and perhaps some other school administrators to replace those who may leave the system.

Thus, the lot of the new board will not be an enviable one.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THE OTHER day we chanced to drop into an eatery in Portland that had 26 different varieties of hamburger on the menu. There was a kind of hamburger prepared in a manner befitting almost every major country in the world and, of course, a number of them particularly peculiar to the good old U.S.A.

What a great institution the hamburger is! Verily, I believe half our children would starve to death without it.

Take the family out to eat on a special occasion and give the kids the rare opportunity to choose anything on the menu. They will pass by the most tasty delicacies and come up with a hamburger—and fries!

You can buy excellent hamburgers here in Heppner and that, certainly, is as it should be—in an area that excels in the production of top quality beef.

On a busy Thursday we often send out for a hamburger while getting the final press run ready to go, rather than take time to sit down to a meal.

They have come from several different places, and it is always hard to try to figure out which restaurant produces the most delicious hamburger. We have quit trying.

The thought does strike us, though, that in this area we could do considerably more right here at home to promote beef, which is one of Morrow county's principal sources of income. It would be good to see one of our restaurants come out with some extra special top quality beef features and do some promoting on their menus about the excellence of the beef we raise here.

There is a little restaurant in a small town on the North Santiam river that features prime rib. Although located far from true cattle country, this operator imports the very best, and his customers come from many miles, passing by a good many other restaurants, to enjoy this prime rib.

We're writing this just after supper—after eating a portion of a very fine beef roast—so pardon us, if we seem to get carried away.

ONE OF the many things in this world that is perpetually perplexing to us is this matter of water witching. Is it or is it ain't reliable?

Some months ago when Vic Groshens somberly reported to the council that water would be found on a certain unlikely looking spot on the Norman Florence property because the place had been witched and a strong impulse came through there, I confess that the thought

crossed my mind that Vic would look a little foolish if they came up with a dry run for the city well.

This witching business, after all, is one of those things that just don't make good sense. How can water a hundred feet or so below ground make a willow stick dip and dance?

Well, you could go up now to that spot that Vic said would produce water and declare to him that he is all wet, but you would be all wet because you would be standing in the new little creek that was born from the well that has just come in on that selfsame spot. It is a good husky flow.

The odd part of the whole thing to us that Vic isn't a bit surprised. He knew there was water there all the time. After all, it was witched, wasn't it?

ONE OF THE young lone men who files through the air with the greatest of ease from the trampoline has an excellent chance to set a state B pole vault record in the track meet at Bend Saturday. He is Tom Heimbigner of the now well-known Heimbigner-Halvorsen trampoline act.

State B record in the vault is 12 feet, but in practice this week Tom went 12' 3 1/2" and was going to try for 12' 6" before the meet.

We're hoping that he not only wins the state championship but comes through with that record. He should be cautioned, though, not to make his vault until after Astronaut Cooper has passed over. Going as high as he does there is liable to be a collision.

### TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor:  
We the undersigned Farm Bureau members of Morrow County urge a "Yes" vote on the 1964 Wheat Program, Tuesday, May 21.

Our State Farm Bureau has for the past two years favored a similar type Wheat Program and in each of these years it was taken to the National Convention where it did not get out of committee.

We feel that a "Yes" vote will provide a long-range wheat program designed to bring production into balance with need, and giving the farmer, both large and small, the flexibility that is necessary. At the same time this program is designed to reduce the surplus built up in the '50's. This will reduce government costs to you, the taxpayer.

Herman Blettell  
Norman Nelson  
Robert H. Jepsen  
Gene Cutsforth  
Irwin Rauch

As Winston Churchill once said, nothing can be promised but "blood, sweat, toil and tears."

But with the system in a near-chaotic state, perhaps our people will tend to unite and cooperate. Certainly everyone must now recognize the gravity of the situation and the stakes involved.

If harmony can be achieved on the school front as a result of the recent recall and resignations, those who formerly served would undoubtedly be first to applaud. But this harmony will not come easy. Those who have found it easy to criticize will come to know that it is considerably more difficult when the personal pronoun is changed from "they" to "we."

Nevertheless, this is the time for each person earnestly to do his part in achieving accord. The public should first do its best in obtaining the best group of directors to serve, then do everything it can to help the board in an effort to provide the type of educational system that children in the county deserve. This may be an excellent time to resolve to minimize criticism. The best motive should be to boost and help.

While matters are now at a low ebb, the situation is not hopeless.

It is possible to get a new board that will serve with energy and that will work zealously for the education of our youngsters. It is possible to get the people's approval of a budget prior to the legal deadline. It is possible to find an administrator who can serve the county well. And with the spirit of the people willing, it is possible to achieve harmony on this difficult school problem.

It is the responsibility of each individual now to do his part towards this end. As Dean Morris said, the biggest problem is that of cooperating and working together. If we can do that, we can take much of the "blood and tears" out of Churchill's famous statement as it applies here, but we know that the "sweat" and "toil" will remain.

This is the real challenge of the present school crisis.

## Soil Stewardship Week Emphasizes Future Challenge

By DONALD A. WILLIAMS  
Administrator  
U. S. Soil Conservation Service

"We Turn Our Eyes To The Future" is a fitting theme for the observance of Soil Stewardship Week, May 19 through 26, for we face major decisions as to the management of our soil and water in a swiftly changing pattern of land use. What we decide today will have far-reaching effects tomorrow.

Soil Stewardship Week is a time to reflect on the pleasures and benefits we derive from God's life-giving gifts of soil and water. It is a time to remember that these gifts were given to us for continuing use—not just for today. That they were bestowed on all of us—not just a few. That we all are utterly dependent on them for our very existence, to say nothing of our standard of living.

These are the material things. We should never cease to be grateful also for the richness that land and water add to our lives. What greater source of inner pleasure and serenity has our Creator given us than a beautiful landscape or a rippling stream? We have been blessed with much, and much is expected of us as stewards of these blessings.

Today we are placing more demands on our land and water resources than ever before. New housing spreads out from cities into once-agricultural lands. New industries look for locations where water is plentiful. Non-farm folks look for open, green places for recreation and relaxation. Air conditioning systems and other modern improvements call for increasing amounts of opportunities.

It is up to us, as good stewards, to develop the potential richness of our soil and water resources. Conserve them we must, but conserving them means using them to fulfill our needs. Future generations will thus be grateful for the blessings that have been ours and are theirs.

Land owners and operators in the more than 2,900 soil and water conservation districts across the Nation are looking to the future. They have broadened their concepts to include resource conservation planning for community-wide benefits. Urban people, too, are coming to recognize their direct role in resource development and are joining the team.

We have been endowed with a great trust. All of us—not just a few of us—have the responsibility for stewardship and to plan for our needs for today and the future.

Jim Cason, Portland, visited his mother, Mrs. Mary Bryant, over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Ade Petersen, White Swan, Wn., were week-end visitors at the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. David Eckman, and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ruggles motored to Portland over the week-end to visit Mrs. Ruggles' mother, Mrs. Lena Searcy, Mrs. Ola Ruggles met them in Portland for the trip home Sunday.

## SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

With the fitting theme, "We Turn Our Eyes To The Future," the Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts will, during the period, May 19 through 26, coordinate in Oregon the national observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

I would urge all citizens to join with the OASCD and clergy in highlighting this particular period as a time for reflection on the pleasures and benefits which we derive from God's life-giving gifts of soil and water. We have been endowed with a great trust. All of us have the responsibility for stewardship of great natural wealth of resources as we plan to meet our needs for today and the future.

It is up to us as good stewards to develop the potential richness of our soil and water resources, for we are placing greater demands upon these resources than at any previous time in history.

May we, during Soil Stewardship Week, make obvious our gratitude for the richness of our land and renew our pledge to conserve our soil, woods, water, wildlife and mineral resources.

MARK O. HATFIELD,  
GOVERNOR OF OREGON

Mrs. Annie Smouse, Mrs. Edna Turner, Mrs. Ola Ruggles and Mrs. Mattie Green journeyed to Albany and Corvallis last week. Mrs. Smouse visited her daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. R. K. Baker, and family in Corvallis while the other ladies attended a Methodist women's meeting in Albany. Sunday they viewed the Ice Follies in Portland before returning home.

Mrs. Jim Hunt and children, Marta and Richie of Dufur are visiting this week with Mrs. Hunt's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Beckett.

Gertrude Van Horn, Harvey C. Warner, Linda Warner, Zepha Warner.

From Boardman: Bettie Ball, Delbert Ball, Harriett Bedord, Ronald Black, Mrs. Eva Briggs, Julie Crews, Margaret Donovan, Sharon Donovan, Guy Ferguson, Wilma Ferguson, Ruth Flock, Herrin, Cora Hescocock, Barbara Hug, Neils Kristensen, Anna Mae McQuaw, Mildred McQuaw, Rod Miland, Edna Munker, Shirley Munger, LaVern Partlow, Wanda Ferguson, Bessie Scales, Wanda Scales, Pansy Seehafer, Carolyn Summers, Mary Sledge, Dorene Richard, Summers, Charlotte Thornhill, Margaret Thorpe, Sandi Thorpe, Teresa Thorpe, Mrs. Fortune Wagner, Franell Walker, Dewena West, Jeanne West, Mrs. Lyle Williams, Mrs. Jessie Jorden.

## Medical Course Completed by 72

The Greenfield Grange of Boardman and the Irrigon Extension unit last month sponsored two separate classes in Medical Self-Help, according to County Civilian Defense chairman, C. J. D. Bauman, Heppner. Certificates of completion are now in the mail for the 72 men, women, and high school students that took part.

The program consisted of six lessons, in film strip form, on radioactive fallout, first aid, shock, bleeding, fractures and burns, water and food, nursing care of the sick and injured, and emergency childbirth. These lessons are used in the county to acquaint the citizenry with emergency action in case of flood, atomic attack or other catastrophe, explained the director.

William Crooke and Charles McLean, first aid instructors; Mrs. Velma Glass, county health nurse; and Esther Kirmis and Joe Hay, Morrow county extension agents were instructors for various parts of the course.

It is hoped that by fall other granges or local organizations in the southern part of the county will sponsor these classes for their members, says Bauman. Inquiry can be made through him or the county agent's office. Medical Self-Help certificates were issued to the following:

From Irrigon: Lynn Abercrombie, Marjorie Acocok, Mary Adams, Lucille Coleman, Lloyd Cooley, Vern Cooley, Virginia Fegert, Alda Graybeal, Verdine Isom, Ellen M. Caudle, Frances McCoy, H. J. McGinnes, Margaret McGinnes, Sylvia Morgan, Dalores Pummel, Perry Pummel, Irma Renor, Juanita Ryan, Marjorie Shade, Charles Schriever, Minnie Skiles, Andrew Skiles, Ida Slaughter, Joyce Smith, Stephen Smith, Helen Stitzel.



### Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES  
Saturday, May 18, 8 p.m.  
"King of the Wild Stallions"  
In color.  
Plus cartoons.

SPRING CONCERT  
High School Band and Chorus  
Friday, May 17, 8 p.m.  
Admission, adults, 75c; high school, 50c, and grade school, 25c.

LITTLE LEAGUE OPENER  
Saturday afternoon, May 18  
Parade downtown Heppner,  
1:00 p.m.  
Doubleheader, Rodeo  
Grounds, 1:30 p.m.

CIVIC LEAGUE RUMMAGE SALE  
Friday, Saturday, May 24-25  
Next door to Central Market  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
All proceeds to help support  
the Heppner kindergarten.

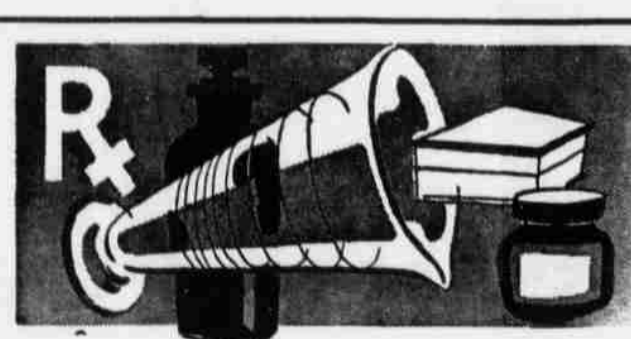
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