

# 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.

## Unicameral Legislature Needs Study

Now that the 1963 Oregon legislature is just about a thing of the past, the time comes to assess its accomplishments. Without being in a position to analyze thoroughly, the impression is that it did not do nearly the good that it might have done, even though it was the longest in history and undoubtedly the most expensive.

Robert Elsner in his "Salem Scene" column elsewhere in this paper gives a cursory analysis of accomplishments of the legislature. It did not really solve the financial and tax problems; it did not pass a cigarette tax even though every other state has one of some kind; it did not work out Governor Hatfield's proposal on reorganization of state government; it did not complete the Workmen's Compensation reform since it was tabled in the House committee after being passed in the Senate; it did not work out Unemployment Compensation reforms.

Of course, it did pass a lot of bills—and some good ones. Some of the Governor's highway legislation was approved, and some of the laws on sex offenders were passed. There were many others of significance that have been approved.

But the legislature has not accomplished what it should have accomplished, and this is not being critical of the legislators. Undoubtedly most of them worked real hard. It is our opinion that Rep. Jack Smith did an excellent job for his district for instance.

The question arises, "Why didn't the legislature accomplish more?" Why didn't it get the financial situation straightened out? Why didn't some of these reform bills get through?

One apparent answer is the disagreement between the two houses of the legislature. Frequently legislation is passed by one house by a substantial majority, only to have it tabled or dissected beyond recognition in the other house. Political complications between the houses enter the picture.

This brings up the question, "Why have two houses in the

legislature?" Nebraska doesn't. It has what is known as a unicameral (one house) system. In our school days years ago teachers in American Government extolled this system.

One can't point to the Federal government for the necessity of having two houses—the U. S. House of Representatives and the U. S. Senate—because one of them, the Senate, is based on area, and the other, the House, is based on population.

Oregon voters turned down, at the last general election, a measure that would provide for area to enter the apportionment picture, and so both our houses are based on population.

There are many who will say that the houses are a check on each other—thus preventing bad legislation. But is that a valid reason? What if all the members of both houses were in one body, having been elected by the people? Is there any reason to think that one functions in better conscience than the other, or that one house is not capable of making vital decisions. If that be true, they should not be there in the first place.

There is protection in the Oregon system, too, that lies in the hands of the people through the referendum and the initiative. If the people do not like a law passed by the legislature, they can refer it and nullify the legislature's action. This has often been done, as a matter of fact, with the two-house system. The public would have this same protection if the state had a unicameral legislature.

It seems that one reason that our legislative sessions keep getting longer, more cumbersome, and more costly, is the disagreement and dissention between the two houses. It would seem that elimination of one house would help cure this difficulty and save considerable money for the taxpayer.

If one house were based on population and one on area there would be more reason to retain the present system. As it is now, it seems to be a duplication of expense, effort and trouble.

Learned scholars may have logical reasons why a unicameral legislature wouldn't be the thing for Oregon, but it is worthy of serious study and exploration.



## Salem Scene

by Robert H. Elsner

### Legislature Grinds to an End With Many Issues Undecided

In these last few days of the 1963 Legislature, it becomes almost impossible to evaluate the outcome of some of the major pieces of legislation. As is generally the case, the most important problems are never resolved until the last couple of weeks of each session. This is especially the case with regard to the major budgets before ways and means such as education, welfare, and highways. The joint taxation committee conference cannot complete its work until it knows what the total general fund requirements are going to be.

However, it seems fairly clear that the total general fund budget will closely approximate Governor Hatfield's recommended budget of \$405 million. The important difference is that Governor Hatfield recommended a \$405 million general fund budget with an added bonded program for buildings, principally higher education. The ways and means committee has turned thumbs down on this "mortgaging the future" proposal and is incorporating a more limited building program into the general fund appropriation.

It also is perfectly clear that about \$60 million of new tax revenue will be raised to balance this budget. There is, however, considerable controversy remaining, principally between the House and Senate, as to how this money should be raised. Senate majority members want to raise it from income taxes and a "one-shot" device of speeding up payment of withholding taxes by employers. The House generally feels that the income tax burden should be less severe and 12 to 15 million dollars should be raised from imposing a cigarette tax. Oregon is the only state in the Union that does not tax cigarettes, either through a sales tax or a direct tax on cigarettes.

Some of the more important pieces of legislation which apparently will not be acted on this session appear to be: Governor Hatfield's reorganization of state government. The Department of Commerce and Department of Natural Resources both appear to be dead in com-

mittee. Workmen's Compensation reform: This major bill was passed by the Senate and was tabled in the House Committee. However, labor and management interests are still working on a compromise that may still be acted upon. Income tax reform is doubtful.

Unemployment Compensation: The reforms advocated by employers through Associated Oregon Industries were stymied in the House labor and industries committee. One bill has passed both houses which increases maximum benefits from \$40 to \$44 a week and reduces benefit amounts for those persons who earn between \$1600 to \$3100 a year. AOI opposed this bill while the AFL-CIO favored the bill and their views prevailed.

A new financing program for unemployment compensation has been passed which will stabilize the fund and provide continuation of merit rating for employers once it has been restored. The Department of Employment has predicted merit rating will be restored to eligible employers commencing January 1, 1964.

Some highway safety programs advocated by the Governor or have been acted upon favorably, as well as better controls dealing with sex deviates.

Some important changes have been made in laws governing elevator licensing and use, electrical licensing, and milk controls which fix prices at the producer and wholesale level.

The 1963 legislative session will go down in history as the longest and perhaps one of the hardest working in terms of time and effort. However, the results of the session still remain to be evaluated.

**4-H Knitters Meet**  
The last meeting of the Knifty Knitters 4-H club was held at the home of May Campbell on May 20 at 4 p.m. We will have a finished product meeting in July. Refreshments were served. May Campbell was a visitor. Jeanette Ledbetter, reporter

Metsker Maps of Morrow, Gilliam, Wheeler, Umatilla, and Grant counties on sale at the Gazette-Times, \$1.25 each.

## Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

**EVEN EARLY** in the week old-timers started to drift in for visits prior to the annual Morrow County Memorial Day picnic here Thursday. Among the first to drop in at the Gazette-Times office was Arthur R. Crawford of San Jose, Calif., of the well-known Crawford family whose lives are interwoven with the history of the Gazette-Times and the city of Heppner.

Arthur brought a story he has written, "The Day of the Flood," telling the story of the 1903 disaster as seen through the eyes of a child. He was 10 years old at the time. It will appear in the June 13 issue of the Gazette-Times, the day before the 60th anniversary of the flood.

On his short visit, the former editor reminisced of the early days of the paper. He was here when the Babcock Optimus press, replaced in March of this year by the Miehle No. 3, made its first run in the G-T shop in 1919. O. G. Crawford, now of Delake and uncle of Arthur, wrote of this occasion in an article published at the time of the change this year.

Typesetting in the earlier days was virtually all done by hand, even the smallest type. Arthur recalls an incident that occurred when his father, Vawter Crawford, the editor at this particular time, bought some 6-point (very small) Cheltenham type that he (Arthur) distributed in one of the type drawers. Arthur, a young "printer's devil" had just finished distributing the type in one of the drawers when his father asked him if he had "blown out" the drawer first. (They used a bellows to clean dust and dirt out of the type cases). The would-be printer replied that he had not, and so he was told to proceed to do so.

So Arthur took out the type drawer, and with bellows under one arm, headed for the outside door on the windy day. As he crossed the threshold, his foot slipped on some ice, the type case flew up in the air, and the tiny 6-point type—hundreds of individual letters—came down on the wooden sidewalk, most of it going down through the cracks to be lost.

It would take a printer to realize just what a tragedy this was, but Arthur said that his father understood and kept his composure, despite the loss of the valued new type.

They had a gadget in those days that was known as a Simplex Typesetting Machine. (We couldn't describe it for this pre-date the present editor's experience in the business!)

This machine proved to be some better than setting by hand apparently, but it was always causing grief and trouble, never quite functioning properly.

One day while the Campbell newspaper press (forerunner of the Babcock) was in operation, a cotter pin came loose and a big wheel bounced off the press. The staff watched transfixed as the wheel, with good momentum, headed towards the Simplex machine. Arthur said that in the minds of everyone was the thought that it would crash into the machine and thereby give them an excuse to dispose of it.

The wheel headed straight for the machine, but at the last moment veered off, and placidly came to rest leaning against the wall!

Ah, those were the days!

**IF IT WERE** possible to tape record all the stories that will be told of the old days at the picnic Thursday, it would make a wonderfully colorful account and a history to be cherished!

It is good to welcome the old-timers back again. They shared in the development of the county and had a part in its history to make it what it is today. The latch string is out for them as they return to greet old friends and get acquainted with new comers to the county.

**A PLEASANT** pursuit on a Sunday afternoon is to get in the family car and tour some of the roads in the county. There are plenty of them in this broad land of ours! Even those who have lived here for quite a few years probably have not been over all of them.

On a recent Sunday afternoon we headed out to crisscross the southwestern portion of the county and explore some of the roads there.

It is always impressive to see the beauties of the land and farms—the forces of nature and man combining. The strip-cropped rolling hills are particularly striking with their combinations of the green of growing grain mingling with the brown of the well-worked fallow fields.

Along any route that one chooses to take are fine ranch homes, and it is an interesting pastime for newcomers to learn the identity of their owners. This means slowing down to read the names on the mail boxes.

Regrettably, though, many of the places do not have names on their boxes, or no sign to inform the wanderer. After this recent trip we returned wondering just who resides in some of these attractive homes.

Maybe there is some reason that owners are reluctant—or maybe they think everyone knows—but a native-born Heppnerite made the comment the other day that he wished more would put their names up so he could find out where they live. Oddly enough, we were thinking the same thing at about the same time, and decided to write this recommendation to that effect.

**IT WAS** at the school budget meeting Monday night when the question came up on administrator's travel. An amount budgeted for this item was cut in the revised estimates, but one member of the committee inquired whether this allowed anything for trips out of state.

Hillard Brown, who happened to be on his feet at the time, answered, "No, you can't legally pay any money for travel outside the state."

But Robert Van Houte, who has tendered his resignation as county school administrator, declared, "You bet you can. Administrators may be paid for out of state travel. In fact some in the county have suggested that I go to ...."

Fortunately the place that

## PINE CITY

**PINE CITY**—Mr. and Mrs. Hap Dooly of Estacada visited at the Jasper Myers home from Wednesday until Sunday. On Saturday they visited in Pasco at the home of a niece.

Mr. and Mrs. Burl Wattenburger, Mrs. Mary Resing and David spent Sunday fishing at Bull Prairie reservoir.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Herndon of Milton-Freewater and Mrs. Freda Johnson of Hermiston spent Saturday visiting with Mrs. Phoebe Bartholomew.

Allan Witherrite was among the eighth graders that graduated Saturday night from Heppner schools.

The 12th birthday of the Ashbeck triplets, Calvin, Alvin and Melvin, was celebrated last Wednesday. Their guests were Jerry Healy, Monte Evans and Mike Smith and Mr. and Mrs. George Luciani and family. A picnic supper and cake and ice cream was enjoyed.

Many friends and relatives from Buttercreek, Pendleton and Heppner gathered at the Ron Curran home Saturday night to wish them well in their new home.

Bob was about to mention was drowned out by the laughs of the crowd who appreciated the administrator's joke on himself.

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### Coming Events

**HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT**

Wednesday evening, May 29, 8 p.m. old high school gym. Dr. Henry Tetz, OCE, speaker. Public is invited.

**PIONEER MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC**

Thursday, May 30, Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. Potluck dinner, noon, at Fair Pavilion.

**PUBLIC FLOWER SHOW**

Saturday, June 1, 2 to 5 p.m. Heppner Auto Sales Showroom. Entries taken from 8 to 10 a.m., judging at 11:00.

**SWIMMING POOL OPENS**

Saturday, June 8. Season tickets now on sale—Family, \$18; high school, \$6; grade school, \$4.

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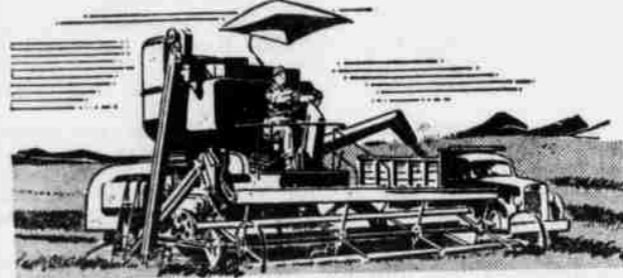
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