

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THIS IS the time of year when many folks head out on vacation, and this particular week in Heppner, with the Kinzua mill down, seems especially quiet around. Apparently quite a few are gone to take advantage of dad's annual vacation layoff. But others, besides the millmen and their families, are going and coming, too.

THE FRED GIMBELS apparently got out of town all right. It was raining off and on last week when they were planning for their vacation, and Fred's idea for a camping trip to the mountains drew the cold shoulder from the rest of the family.

As departure time neared, and the cloudy weather continued, Fred rather glumly declared that they were "going south." We'd wager that if a person should happen to be at the right place at the right time, he'd find them at the beach, maybe digging clams.

WHEN IT comes to vacation, Gil Lujan has the right idea. He is not only a school teacher (at Lone High), and a businessman (partner in Case Furniture), but he spends his summers at Yellowstone park as a ranger. Any Morrow county folks who go there might bump into him around Old Faithful. It is his assignment to be in that area.

This is his 13th year as a ranger in the park during the summer, and the whole family goes along to spend the time living from their house trailer. Gil finds plenty of time to fish in off hours, thus getting his vacation in a picturesque spot while he works. How about that?

IT WOULD be our advice to anyone planning to take a vacation to check the Arnold Board on NOT going the week that Arnold leaves. No matter what date he chooses, the rain clouds gather in abundance at that particular time. This year, he thought he had it really figured, taking his vacation late in June when the weather should be nice.

(Normally Oregon provides some lovely rain for the Portland Rose Festival in early June and then clears later in the month).

But sadly, on the Raymonds' camping trip to the coast last week, it rained on them every day but one. Happily, however, that didn't bother them. Being true Oregonians, they enjoyed it anyway.

When he chose early June on previous occasions, he hit rain. Had he picked the same time this year, he would have had it made, since Rose Festival week was warm and bright for a change.

CANADA IS a popular choice for some local folks. We understand the Glenn Smiths headed that direction, and Chief of Police Dean Gilman and wife Mary Ellen figure on going that way next week, although Dean isn't making plans too far in advance. Too many things can happen to upset things in his line of work, says he.

—And the Bill Collins are figuring on shutting down their cleaning plant for July 14 to 29 for vacation.

MEANWHILE, with harvest coming on back on the ranches, vacations are farthest from the minds of our rancher friends. There's a crop to harvest.

To those who are getting their well-earned respite after a year's toil, on behalf of those left behind, we suggest that the former leave a few sunburns to medicate, a few mosquitoes to swat, a little eye-watering smoke from camp fires, a few rocks under sleeping bags, and a few nails for tire punctures—for the rest of us.

IT IS good to see Cornett Green out and around again after his stay in the hospital from painful neck fractures suffered in a fall from his truck. He doesn't look a bit comfortable with that brace around his neck, and he has to go into traction periodically, but he is on the mend.

IT SEEMED to kind of stun folks

when they heard that Dr. L. D. Tibbles was in the hospital. Somehow we seem to figure that a doctor is supposed to always take care of our ailments and it is hard to understand when he is laid up himself. Our people have good reason to appreciate the work of our local doctors and are fortunate in having them. They are as competent and helpful as you will find anywhere.

At last reports, Dr. Tibbles was making good progress in licking his case of infectious neuritis, and it will be good when he is able to be back treating other folks' maladies again.

WE'RE GLAD that Mrs. Jack Bedford is back safe and sound from the rather disappointing vacation trip that she and Jack took to the south. She became ill with what probably was a heart attack in San Jose and had to spend some time in the hospital there. Rumors sifted back home, but no one knew anything for sure. After a couple of days in the hospital, they went on but she wasn't feeling a bit well. The Bedfords spent some time in Portland later on before coming back to Heppner. Ruth is feeling better now but is still taking it easy.

Social Security Man Coming on July 11

On Thursday, July 11, the social security representative will be the Heppner city hall. He will continue coming to Heppner on the second Thursday of each month. The hours will remain 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

King Leach, social security field representative, invites anyone having questions regarding social security to visit him when he is in Heppner.

"Too often," said Leach, "a person hesitates coming in with a question, feeling it is not important enough to bother the representative. When a person is making a financial investment toward his future security, all questions are important."

olicies formed by the school board then they were also dissatisfied with Mr. Warner because he voted right along with the other members in forming board policies. It does not seem fair to the previous board members to criticize them and then to defend one person who has voted the same way they have, except on the matter of the Riverside High school site. It would seem that out of loyalty to the other board members, Mr. Warner would have clarified this point himself.

Before Mr. Warner questions legal actions of the previous board members perhaps one should question the legality of his action in asking the Army Corps of Engineers to delay action on the Riverside High school contract. One might ask where a lone board member, without authorization, has the power to stop an action taken by the entire board in a legal meeting and in a legal manner.

Perhaps Mr. Warner has been in favor of more local control, but I see nothing in his past board action to indicate that he has worked toward this end. According to the Heppner Gazette, Mr. Warner opened the board meeting last Tuesday night with a fine speech on starting over and burying all past differences. Then he closed the regular meeting by reviving the location of Riverside High school and attempting to include all the new board members in a controversy that has already been settled if it was left alone. He further accused the past board of illegal action in the purchase and negotiation for the actual school site. Forget all past differences??

In my opinion Mr. Warner is working solely for the benefit of Irriçon and his concern for education in other parts of the county is of secondary importance.

A closer look at Mr. Warner would indicate that not only should he not be treated as a martyr, but perhaps the wrong director was recalled.

The views expressed in this letter represents the thinking of several people from various parts of Morrow county, not just the Boardman area.

I do not mean this to be any criticism of the new board as I know they have a tough job ahead of them and I wish them luck in their jobs.

If I have made a mistake in listing any phase of Mr. Warner's voting record, I would appreciate his straightening me out on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Arthur A. Allen

TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The State Board of Equalization, which is none other than the State Tax Commissioners, has reviewed the assessment ratio as adopted by the Boards of Equalization of several Eastern Oregon counties and has come up with the conclusion that the ratio in Morrow county here is more than 10% below the 25% ratio as approved by our board a little over a year ago. Now the 25% ratio is actually nothing more or less than 25% of the true cash value as it appears on the assessment rolls. Just last week a few of us, representing the local equalization board and the assessor, were requested to appear at a hearing, scheduled before the entire State Board of Equalization and show cause why the Morrow county ratio, as set up should be approved. This we did. Rod Thomson, Raymond French and myself attended.

The State Board is particularly concerned with, as they put it, the apparent failure of the county here, to appraise farm lands at 1963 market values. This in spite of a re-appraisal program that is under way and a signed agreement with the State Tax Commission that, with their assistance, our re-appraisal program will be completed within the next year or two. The appraisal of urban properties and public utilities is now complete. It is a coincidence that each of these represents approximately 16% of the tax roll and is close to the 25% ratio. Leaving practically two-thirds of the Morrow county tax base in a somewhat delinquent state of appraisal.

It is required by law that a re-appraisal be made every six years. We are behind here, as many of the neighboring counties are also. It is represented that farm lands are more nearly in the category of a 15% to 18% ratio category. With utilities and urban more nearly in the 25% ratio there is a demand for an explanation.

As said, Morrow county has a contract with the State Tax Commission that they go with us and complete this re-appraisal program as soon as possible. But this cannot be completed for 1963 market values.

True cash values of farm lands, as on the assessment rolls, range from a low of \$44.00 per acre to a high of \$92.00. Practically all of this is low compared to present market values. Also, there are some woeful discrepancies in these values. We are in the process of getting a thorough re-appraisal done. But it will not happen overnight. We who were in Salem in regards to our problem asked that Morrow county be given one year of grace. The members of the State Board of Equalization were most

Two on OSU Roll

Allen D. Ferguson and Ronnie Belmsa of Heppner are listed on the spring term honor roll from Oregon State University. To qualify for honor roll listing, students must make at least a B plus average for the term. Miss Belmsa will be a sophomore this fall in humanities and social sciences; Ferguson will be a junior in engineering.

courteous and promised that, if at all possible, they would. However, the pressure on them is great and they may have to fall back on one of two plans, which are: 1. Lower existing 25% ratio, or 2. Blanket increase value of farm and range lands.

Oscar E. Peterson
Morrow County Judge



COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

LEGION MOVIES

Friday, July 5, 8 p.m.
"Steel Helmet," Korean war picture, starring Robert Hutton and Steve Brodie.

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Saturday, July 13
Fair Pavilion building
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Dancing from 10 to 2:00.
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Aviation Editor Speaks on Boardman

Some thoughts on the future of the Boardman project and the Boeing Company were expressed by Robert L. Twiss, Aviation Editor, The Seattle Times, in an address at the recent conference of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers in Coos Bay.

His words are particularly pertinent for he is said to be close to the Boeing company. His ideas seem to carry more authenticity than confusing reports that are heard continuously on the future of the project.

Here's what he said:

"Some day, to cite a development that could take place in this state, I look for space age testing to take place in the Boardman tract in Northeastern Oregon. I think you will hear the rumble of rocket engines in test stands and perhaps the sound of explosives as space age engineers test explosive-forming techniques.

"This type of area should prove invaluable for testing that requires the wide open spaces for reasons of noise, safety and national security. I don't look for major payrolls for this type of program but millions of dollars will be spent on rocket test stands, well protected blockhouses and other facilities. And there will be highly-trained employees, too, although relatively few in number."

Twiss, whose topic was "Covering News of Aviation and Space," admonished his fellow newspapermen for careless and inaccurate handling of space-age news.

One of the examples he cited was this one, in his words: "A completely ridiculous story regarding possible Boeing activities at Boardman was carried by a Pacific Northwest daily, which reported sometime ago that Boeing planned to conduct death-ray tests with laser beams at Boardman. No check was made with the company before this erroneous story was run."

There has been too much loose talk and too much conjecture about the Boardman project. But probably most residents have long since decided that the only boom that will come from the Boeing development will be the "boom" of rocket tests. This is not to discount the possibilities, for as Twiss points out, there is good reason to believe that there will be healthy development by Boeing. In the long run, it will be better for Morrow county if the development isn't of the mushrooming variety.

Zip Coding Looks to the Future

There will be a wave of new gags and cartoons now, no doubt, on the heels of the post office department's announcement of the new Zip Code system. Already one television program capitalized on it in a comedy routine of confusion between telephone's all-number dialing and the code.

Indeed, it does seem that we are turning into a civilization of numbers, and the personal touch is being eliminated. Gone are the days of the party line, for instance, when a resident would ring for the operator and say to her, "Mabel, will you ring Emma for me she's down at the Brown place."

Zip Coding now shows the same tendency in the post office. We were struck with the novelty, when we first came to Heppner, of seeing the address on an envelope that was a classic in brevity: "Phil's, City." But to old-timers here, and to our good postal staff, there was nothing unusual about it. "Phil's" could, of course, be nothing but Phil's Pharmacy, and the letter went promptly into the postal box of that store.

To many, the Zip Code numbers, then, will seem ludicrous. What's the sense, after all, of putting 97836 on addresses that everyone knows?

But this isn't the purpose of Zip Coding. It is aimed at speeding up handling of mail in the postal system that finds volume increasing at a terrific rate. The congestion is going to get continuously worse, if for no other reason than that our population is increasing so rapidly. An item in the last Reader's Digest pointed out that if we sent our excess population to another planet, to maintain the current population at the same figure, a space ship would have to leave with 100 passengers every minute!

The post office system should not be criticized for trying to figure out a way to expedite mailing. It has received considerable criticism in the past for using antiquated methods when privately-operated utilities have converted to electronic systems and ingenious machinery to keep up with expanding needs.

Zip Coding isn't primarily aimed for areas of small population, such as Morrow county, but is designed for big mailers. Some concerns send out many thousands of letters daily. Eventually, the Zip Coding, printed in their address in some uniform manner, will permit sorting and handling by electronic equipment.

This will be important for us all in that it will relieve the congestion and help mail to get through more expeditiously.

Some newspapers have already published editorials scoffing at the Zip Coding stating that it will be abandoned within a short time. Maybe so, but it deserves a fair trial first.

It took nine days for a parcel post package to arrive here from Los Angeles once last winter. That's almost longer than it would have required in the days of Pony Express! If Zip Coding will help cure that situation, we're all for it.

TO THE EDITOR...

Dear Editor:

During the past month the East Oregonian has carried two articles regarding the Morrow county school situation. Both articles contained the following statement: "Harvey Warner, Irriçon, will be the only member of the original board to serve after July 1. He has stood alone on the board in many controversial matters, mainly involving local control of school affairs as against county-wide control in this recently reorganized district."

In view of the recall of one director and the subsequent resignation of four other directors it would, at first glance appear that Mr. Warner was the only member of the board who had voted as the people desired. If this was not true then Mr. Warner should have resigned with the other board members because he would be equally as guilty as any other member. Of course, if he had stood against the board in the controversial matters, then there was no need for his resignation because he had opposed controversial school board policies.

I was quite surprised to find that Mr. Warner had opposed all these controversial board decisions, so I decided to review the board minutes for the past few years to see what his voting record really was. After all if the people had a hero on the board then certainly he should receive his just dues. However, if the other board members felt that the charges against Director Martin could be equally true against them because they had helped form board policies, then they would be equally true against Mr. Warner if he had voted with the other members on controversial matters. In checking Mr. Warner's voting record on what seems to be the controversial issues I find the following:

1. In April 1962, all directors, including Mr. Warner, voted unanimously to hire Darrel Reichel to act as transportation and special services director.

2. In preparation of this year's budget, Mr. Warner voted with the other board members to include in the capital outlay portion sufficient money to complete most portions of the new Heppner High school.

3. In November 1961, Mr. Warner seconded the motion to have Fred Martin appointed as executive representative to the Executive Committee of the Oregon School Board Association. He later backed the recall of Fred Martin after Mr. Martin had voted to place Riverside High school in the Boardman area.

4. In February 1963, Mr. Warner voted to adopt a salary increase for teachers allowing them an increment and a half for the school year 1963-64. The only dissenting votes came from Mr. Martin and Mr. Nelson.

5. Mr. Warner did not vote against the formation of the Riverside High School Site Selection Committee. He did, however, later vote against the decision reached by this committee as it was not in his favor. He has continued to oppose this decision even though he had previously stated that the Irriçon community would accept the decision made by the board. Evi-

dently he meant that Irriçon would accept the decision as long as the board voted to place the school in Irriçon.

6. Mr. Warner voted with the other board members to submit the bond issue to the people in May 1962. This bond issue as submitted to the people by the School Board called for \$606,922 for the new Heppner High school, \$130,000 for Irriçon, \$130,000 for Boardman, and \$3,078 for grounds. A total of \$870,000. The Irriçon community has received and spent their \$130,000, plus some additional money and now they feel they should have the \$130,000 that is morally obligated to Boardman.

7. In April 1963, the board voted unanimously to purchase 31 acres of land for a school site in the Boardman area. In spite of the fact that Mr. Warner voted for the purchase of this land, he later saw fit to question the method used in selecting this site and the manner of negotiation.

8. In April 1963, Mr. Warner cast the lone dissenting vote against allowing the chairman and the clerk to negotiate the contract for the Riverside High school with the Army Corps of Engineers.

This then is Mr. Warner's voting record on what I would consider the so called controversial issues. In review we find that Mr. Warner voted exactly the same as all other board members on every issue except the issue involving the location of Riverside High school. Since the decision was not in Irriçon's favor this vote was only natural.

I am not criticizing Mr. Warner's voting record, but I am wondering what controversial issue he was opposing. Either his thinking was the same as the other board members or he did not vote his convictions, which is worse. In reviewing his voting record it would seem that if there was reason for the resignation of four board members then there was sufficient reason for five resignations. If the people were dissatisfied with the pol-

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Toiletries	<input type="checkbox"/> Cold Remedies	<input type="checkbox"/> Cough Drops
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tooth Brush	<input type="checkbox"/> Razor Blades
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tooth Paste	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream
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Services in Portland For Howard James, 86

Howard M. James, 86, city superintendent of the Heppner schools in the 1920's died June 24 at a Portland convalescent home. Memorial services were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 26, at Mt. Scott Funeral Home, Portland, with interment in Lincoln Memorial cemetery.

Mr. James was born November 6, 1876, at Pierpont, Mich. He was a graduate of Teachers College, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and the University of Oregon. He taught 25 years in Oregon schools, part of this time in Heppner, and after 1933, was a Portland businessman until 1947.

He is survived by the widow, Carrie L.; three daughters, Mrs. Leo Ward of Renton, Wn.; Mrs. W. E. Burton of Lafayette, Calif.; Mrs. D. L. Denson of Portland; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

His home address is 7511 S. E. Henry Street, Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hartle had as overnight guests June 25, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Montague, Nyssa.