

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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Pointing Towards a Better Fair and Rodeo

It was apparent at a meeting Monday night that there is substantial interest in working together to promote even better fairs and rodeos in Morrow county.

Decision was made to draw up new by-laws for the rodeo committee and for the fair committee, each of which is subsidiary to the county fair board.

This was done with the feeling on the part of some that procedures should be more definite and that the method of selecting new members of the committees should be better-defined.

Both the rodeo and fair are well-established here and have earned rightful places as outstanding public events in the county. Men and women who have worked on them have served well and diligently. To them and their dedicated leadership goes the credit for the events being what they are today.

However, around the county has developed a feeling that "new blood" and new ideas need to be added, especially to the rodeo, to keep moving ahead. The point is a good one that perhaps virtually all rodeo board members will concede.

On the current board are some who have served for a number of years and a few new members. The old-timers have experience which has been invaluable in putting on the rodeo, and the new members are learning as they associate more with it.

Concern has been expressed by a group of local residents, not now on the board but keenly interested in the rodeo, to keep more "new blood" coming on, to keep the show on the upswing, and to keep it from getting entrenched in a "rut."

At the meeting Monday there probably were some differences of opinion, but there was no quarrel with this point of "new blood." After all, everyone interested in the show at all is interested in staging a good one.

Every indication points to the fact that the fair and rodeo will go back together to the extent that they will be held within the same week. Biggest problem confronting the consolidation, as contrasted with the split fair and rodeo for the past two years, is conflict on dates elsewhere. Such things as the Shrine game, rodeos elsewhere, and the State Fair have to be considered.

There are some definite advantages to having the fair and rodeo in the same week. A combined show is considerably easier to publicize, it is less confusing to the public, and it won't take so much time for those interested in both. This time, coming just before school starts, is at a premium for many families who would like to get in last-minute vacations, for instance.

As the fair board, fair committee, rodeo committee and others join to work towards even better events, one thing that should be done is to define objectives, particularly for the rodeo. Are we interested in making it a big affair, bringing in outside people and attracting a crowd from considerable distance, or are we interested in keeping it essentially a local affair? Are we going to aim at making a profit or are we concerned only with breaking even? If we aim for a profit, should there be some project or improvement for which it should be used?

Answers to these questions make all the difference in the world on the conducting of the rodeo. It has never seemed quite clear just where we are aiming.

One thing that must be done if the aim is for large crowds is to develop more crowd-consciousness. The rodeo spectators sat for 4½ hours at the show this year on hard board seats in a stand where there is little room for their legs. There was only token concessions service in the stands on the warm days and many were pretty well parched before they left for home.

People today have it pretty easy. They can sit at home and watch top performances on TV and get up to get a sandwich or refreshment at will. They almost demand this type of treatment, too, when they go out. If they don't get it, they will stay home or go somewhere else. It is up to the committee to provide a fast-moving show and to provide the best in entertainment, comfort and convenience for spectators.

This year's rodeo shows were very good and a credit to the committeemen who worked so hard on them. They were too long, but that came about because there was an unexpected boom in entries. Some means will have to be employed in the future to keep the length of the program down if it is expected to draw crowds sufficient to provide profit.

By the same token, the very fact that there were so many entries indicates a gain of interest in the rodeo.

One of the best features of the Morrow county rodeo, as has been said many times, is the local flavor. Participation by local people is a big drawing point. Whatever the direction the rodeo takes, it should not lose this home flavor.

At the same time, there are new vistas possible for both the fair and rodeo if there are enough people willing to get behind them and work and if all cooperate towards that end. The meeting Monday was a good start.

Dog Complaints Arise Again

Complaints of dogs running at large are usually a sign of spring. A number of grievances directed towards dogs here during the past week therefore may be somewhat unseasonal, but the points nevertheless seem to be well taken.

In one instance a resident hung a deer inside his garage for the night and closed the door. However, the door was swollen and didn't go clear shut. In the morning he found that dogs had pushed the door open and had badly chewed up the hind quarters of the deer.

Other canines have been having a field day with garbage cans, tipping them over and scattering the contents for half a block. Another familiar complaint is that of messing lawns and digging in flower beds.

In this year's county budget a sum was provided for construction of a dog pound. It has not been built as yet, but County Judge Oscar Peterson said Wednesday that the county court has hired a contractor to do the work. It will be done soon.

The city council at a meeting several months ago agreed to purchase a gun that shoots a tranquilizer, harmless to the canine but making it much easier (and safer) to capture a dog running at large. This purchase was contingent on the construction of the pound by the county.

Residents who are bearing the brunt of the dog nuisance have a right to expect some relief soon.

Most human beings look upon "man's best friend" with a great deal of warmth, sympathy and understanding. We wouldn't want to do without these pets. But just as it is with a citizen, the animals cannot be allowed to run with abandon and jeopardize property.

Dog owners have a responsibility to take care of their pets and keep them under control so that they do not damage property of neighbors. Tighter control is coming here, and those who do not wish to lose their pets to the pound should take steps to take care of them.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

THERE ARE two members of the Heppner High school faculty who are fanatics about hiking. In fact, if someone had happened to come along between Kimberly and Spray at 3:30 a.m. last Thursday morning they would have found Principal Gordon Pratt and Bob Cantonwine hoofing it towards Spray.

They are now so fanatical about hiking, in fact, that it is best not to mention the incident. The two had been to a meeting of the Greater Oregon League in John Day and were headed home in Cantonwine's brand new 1964 model 4-door hardtop. About six miles towards Kimberly on the Spray-Heppner junction the transmission went out on the car, and there they sat, miles from home.

It was a pitch black night and some nine miles from Spray, but they figured that was the best place to summon aid. A white line went down the middle of the highway for part of the route, and that helped them see where they were going, but it ran out and they had a hard time blundering along. Ironically, the next day a highway crew came along and painted a new white line.

At Spray, they aroused someone at the hotel and got a room, tumbling in about 4 a.m.

First, however, they figured they had better call home. Bob tried to call his wife, but the line was busy. Then Gordon tried to call his wife but that line was also busy. The two wives in fact, were busily chatting about what could have happened to the men. Cantonwine declares it was 15 minutes before they could get through to tell them about it. Said he, "Can you imagine them talking on the phone for 15 minutes at 3:30 in the morning?"

Mrs. Alice Vance came to their rescue and drove over from Heppner Thursday morning, arriving

about 11:30 a.m. They were back at their high school work by 1:30. (Surely seems like a hard way to play hookey for one morning).

But the best is yet to come. Cantonwine called the garage in Milton-Proewater where he had bought the new car from a long time friend. The fellow sent a mechanic over in another new car to tow the disabled car home. In doing so he came upon a herd of cattle on the highway. The car he was driving got by, all right, but one of the heifers walked into the side of the Cantonwine car and smashed in the side.

Figuring that the new car was heaved, the high school athletic director convinced his friend that he should have another car out of the deal, and he is going to get it (after some lengthy negotiations). But it won't come for 30 days. Meanwhile, the Cantonwines are driving their Jeep.

They don't feel too distressed about it because they weren't too crazy about the color of the new car anyway.

These two faculty members may be devoted supporters of President Kennedy's physical fitness program, but it would seem that hiking over the countryside at 3:30 a.m. is carrying things a bit far.

MEANWHILE, back at the home front, a lot of women are becoming eligible for the purple heart medal with little bowling balls emblazoned on them. The beginners' class is finding new muscles, all right. The co-publisher came limping home today, for instance, with a catch in her gut-along.

Another lady, who has had a touch of arthritis or bursitis, threw one ball and had to quit. She was mighty disappointed after looking forward to it for some time.

Who knows what this bowling

fever is going to do?

Just conversing with a fellow after 9 p.m. on the telephone when he abruptly said, "Well, I gotta hang up. I gotta get down to the bowling alley."

Around this newspaper the talk is running rife. No. 2 son comes home and reports he had a 175. No. 3 son comes home talking of splits, spares, railroads, and so on. Just last night—and this is the truth—we went in the dining room to find two of them feverishly pasting Green Stamps in the books and the stamp book open to the page for bowling balls and shoes. There goes those end tables we were figuring on!

Well, the old man, who hasn't pitched a bowling ball in his life, is out in the cold, but we startled them all when we casually announced, "I remember when I had a 300 game."

That brought things to an abrupt halt and their eyes popped out.

After due pause for emphasis, we followed with, "Yep, when I was a kid, I played sandlot football and one time the other team beat us 300 to nothing."

With the new lanes, stores in town better stock up on soup because there will be a run on it. Housewives will be going to bowl in the middle of the day, leaving cans of soup for their husbands.

BUT 13-year-old son Jim's comment is worth repeating. Sitting in the front room the other night, he declared suddenly, "It sure seems weird!"

"What seems weird?"

"It seems weird when you walk into that bowling alley—that a thing as nice as this could be in Heppner, without driving 40 miles to get there."

SAY, that Mustang football team played a whale of a game the other night against Pilot Rock. We commented to one of the coaches early in the season that the boys didn't show enough fire at the start of their games. They didn't seem to get rolling until about the third quarter.

We would have had to eat those words Friday night! They whipped right into gear and away they went. Lee Padberg turned in one of the best high school performances we've seen for a long, long time, but he didn't do the job alone, of course. When you give him five yards to get moving, he's gone like a streak.

Another thing that is a joy to watch is the way Larry Muesig returns a punt. We can't recall another high school player we've ever seen that does so well. He moves in on the ball on a dead run so that by the time he catches the pigskin, he is really travelling, and this brings bonus yardage.

All the team performed wonderfully well in the Pilot Rock game, and it was a real thrill for the home fans to watch them in action.

Byus Couple Has Girl

Word has been received by relatives here of the birth of a new daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Byus of Seattle, Wn., on Tuesday, October 15. The young miss weighed 6 lbs., 12 oz., has been named Rebecca Ann, and joins one sister, Kathy. Mrs. Byus will be remembered here as the former Shirley Kononen, and a niece of Mrs. Herman Blettell.

School Bus Stop Law is Explained

Yellow school buses, filled with students, books and noise, are a familiar sight to Oregon drivers. But as familiar as drivers may be with the sight of the school bus, many drivers are not familiar with the laws relating to the stopped and loading bus.

Just what is the procedure when meeting or passing a stopped school bus?

The Traffic Safety Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles breaks the "School Bus Stop Law" into two situations. One section of the law applies when traveling on a two or three lane street. If the school bus is stopped and has its red warning lights flashing, all drivers traveling in both directions must stop. The "stop lines" for cars meeting and passing the bus are imaginary lines drawn across the road from the back and front bumper of the bus.

A different situation applies when traveling on a street with two or more lanes in each direction. In this situation only the cars going in the same direction as the bus must stop. Vehicles traveling in the opposite direction of the bus may proceed.

In both situations, drivers must stop only when, and as long as, the bus's red warning lights are flashing. If they are not flashing, the driver may pass the bus with caution.

Dinner Scheduled

Family Night will be observed at the Heppner Methodist church Sunday evening, with a potluck dinner served at 6:30 p.m., according to Rev. Mel Dixon, pastor. A short business meeting will take care of official quarterly conference business, and will be followed by a program. All church constituents are urged to be present.



Coming Events

BAKED FOOD SALE
St. Monica's Guild
Central Market
Friday, November 1

RUMMAGE SALE
Big variety of clothing, household appliances, toys, furniture, knick-knacks.
Civic League Rummage Sale
Friday, Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Old Bakery Building.

TRAVELING FOOD SALE
Heppner High Senior Class
Saturday, October 26, starting at 1 p.m.

ANNUAL TURKEY DINNER
Lexington IOOF Hall
Saturday, October 26, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Tickets \$1.50, 75c.

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Remember to Stop for School Buses

Apparently there are still many motorists who do not fully understand the law about stopping for school buses. Local authorities have called attention to the fact again this week, and a new release from the Oregon Traffic Safety Department coincidentally has arrived to emphasize the same thing.

Motorists, either approaching a stopped bus or following behind the bus, must stop while signal lights are flashing and wait while loading or unloading is completed. This is true on all two—or three-lane roads or highways. On highways where there are two or more lanes in each direction, approaching vehicles are not required to stop but those going in the same direction as the bus must come to a halt.

Maybe some of these laws are a little more difficult to respect in areas such as ours where traffic is pretty light on the open road, but the law is aimed primarily at safeguarding children who may dart into the highway from a spot invisible to a motorist, either in front or behind.

A recent case was reported where three cars were in a line, nearing a stopped school bus. Neither of the first two drivers stopped, but the third driver did. The first two were adults, but the third was a 17-year-old driver and it is a credit to this youthful driver.

There is another angle to this that should be brought out. It is our feeling that sometimes school bus drivers, protected by law, are a little careless and inconsiderate about motorists, too, by failing to give enough warning and indulging in other practices that may live up to the letter of the law but still jeopardize safety.

For instance, coming back from a basketball game last winter late one night, the highway was a glaze of ice. Cars in front of a school bus were travelling not more than 20 miles per hour with due regard for all existing conditions. They were well spaced, knowing that if one went into a spin, the following car would be powerless to stop. But the bus driver, favored with the traction of a heavy load and more tire surface, found the going easier and not so hazardous for his vehicle. In view of the condition of the road he followed much too closely, in this editor's opinion, to the car immediately ahead of him. It kept the motorist under pressure of going faster than he deemed prudent, knowing that if he went out of control the bus would crash into him.

The safety of the child is the paramount thing in this matter of bus and car. All involved should know the law and respect it, and in so doing, should also go the next step in being as considerate, careful and thoughtful as possible to make it easier for the other driver.

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