

THE HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

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A School Board Innovation

An innovation was made at the regular board of directors meeting of Morrow County District R-1 Monday night that should help interpret work of the instructional staff and administrators to the board, and perhaps to the public.

A time was set aside for Leonard Herrick, lone elementary principal, to explain the remedial reading program in his school. The information he brought gave the board and the audience at the meeting a much better understanding of the purposes of the program. Hillard Brown, Heppner elementary principal, also contributed to the presentation with impromptu comments which gave all present a better idea of the significance of remedial reading in the instructional program and consequently to the future welfare of the pupils involved.

One conception brought out by Brown that many may not understand is that a pupil is placed in remedial reading when it is found that he is not reading up to his physical or mental capacity. This means, then, that he is not a retarded child nor lacks in mental ability, but for some reason, probably environmental, is falling behind on his reading progress. There can be many reasons contributing to the condition. When a child is two levels behind that which he is capable, he should be in the remedial reading program.

Ione this year has remedial reading instruction for the first time—a half-time teacher for a half-year. As a result of Herrick's presentation it may well be that the board will consider extending this instruction in a further year. Reading difficulties are among the most basic in hindering a child's education.

Superintendent Wayne Brubacher suggested to the board that it set aside a time at each meeting to hear of a particular part of the school program from a member of the staff or of some administrative aspect from one of the principals.

Consensus was that this would be a worthwhile presentation because directors would be among the first to admit that they cannot keep abreast of the many developments in a school as broad as that in Morrow county without such interpretation.

School board meetings have characteristically run into long sessions in the past, but this matter of interpretation is a matter so vital that the directors should consider other means of shortening meetings to include the item on the agenda.

One thing that might be done would be to cut the time allotted to consideration of monthly bills at the meetings. This could be done, not by eliminating the mimeographed list submitted to the board, to advisory boards and others, but by appointing a financial committee of directors to consider the bills in advance of the regular meeting. Out of their checking they could pose any questions that might come up for general discussion.

This certainly would be a more efficient system without reducing the "watchdog" role of the board in any degree. A shorter time could be allotted for questions that might be posed by others.

School board meetings in Morrow county are a little unusual in that they draw unusual attendance, compared with those of most districts around the state. Boardman, Irrigon and Ione are always represented with advisory board members and interested spectators in the audience. Heppner has the poorest attendance record of all.

This attendance is good, for it means that our people are genuinely interested in their schools. However, particularly those who make the long trip from the northern part of the county to come would enjoy it if it were possible to reduce the time spent on detail work at the meetings. It should be pointed out that the past two or three regular meetings have been far shorter than the midnight or 1 a.m. sessions of the past.

Supt. Brubacher pointed out the need for interpreting the work of the schools to the public when he said, "We have too many programs which are so, but yet are not so." He added that many school patrons develop their conclusions on hearsay which may not be what is going on in the classroom at all.

This is very true. It is quite possible, for instance, for parents not to even know that their child is taking remedial reading.

The schools have some means to interpret their programs—interviews with parents, classroom visitation, PTA discussions, items in the newspapers, talks at civic clubs, the information that sifts through board meetings—but these are all too few and too little.

If a first rate school system is to be conducted, it must have the wholehearted support of the public at large. This cannot be attained without adequate understanding. Such understanding can only come through communication and interpretation. Schools should never overlook an opportunity to point out to their patrons the good work that they are doing.

Chaff and Chatter

Wes Sherman

PART of the retrogression in state services that is coming as a result of the defeat of the tax bill struck home here this week with the announcement that services of Joe Hay, 4-H club agent in the extension service, will be terminated as of January 15. He is one of 18 across the state who is losing his job as a result of the State Board of Higher Education's order to reduce the state extension budget more.

This is a bitter blow to all those in the county who worked so hard to raise \$3400 to assure that Morrow would retain its three agents in the wake of a belated and rather surreptitious cut of the local extension budget by the county budget committee at its final hearing in early summer.

Total effect of losing 18 agents, most of them in 4-H work around the state, cannot help but mean a serious impairment of 4-H club work in Oregon, and that's just too bad for an organization which is so important to our youth.

Most pathetic query heard locally from one who had declared he voted against the tax bill because of the "threats" of loss of services is this one: "Why didn't you tell us this would happen?"

Now that is logic! Say what is going to happen, and it is a "threat," don't say what is going to happen, and you're negligent!

WHEN FATHER Spencer came in last week and said he was taking the Acolytes on a cook-out to the mountains Saturday, we asked him if he were sure that he didn't mean, rather, that they were going on a "freeze-out."

Sequel is that Father Spencer is ill and confined to bed this week. Maybe it didn't come from the cold outing but from some other source. In any event, we admire his courage. The kids had a good time skating despite the very chilly weather.

REPORT via Orville Cutsforth, who got it from Homer Beall of the Beall Pipe and Tank Co. of Portland, is that Garnet Barratt, former Morrow county judge and long time Heppnerite, is going to be on a Bonanza TV program or programs.

The unconfirmed report is that the judge has become a pretty good friend of Lorne Green (Ben Cartwright on the show) and will play a cattle buyer in some of the scripts. Maybe if the judge reads this, he can write and tell us.

Sitting in front of Barratt's house is a replica of the Ponderosa which is used for shooting some of the clouspins in the series. An odd thing, though, is that the house has only one story, the top floor being left off out of respect to a city ordinance there which prohibits anything but one-story residences, so we hear. We understand the main set for the Ponderosa is somewhere else in a more mountainous country (maybe around Lake Tahoe, judge?). If Judge Barratt is going to be in Bonanza, there is no doubt that he will be a real addition to the cast. He surely has the background for it.

MRS. TERREL BENGGE put a little ad in the G-T last week asking for summer clothes for Viet Nam children, the request coming from her son, Michael, who is serving with International Volunteer Services at Ban Me Thuot as a teacher.

She didn't get any response to the ad, whether it was because our people are too busy at Christmastime, whether they didn't see the ad, or whether they didn't understand just what is needed and why.

While it is winter (could there be any doubt?) here, it is sum-

mer there, and the youngsters direly need new clothes. Any one who might want to have a little extra warm glow this Christmastime might find it by calling Mrs. Bengge on this appeal and offering no longer used children's clothing for the purpose.

ONE OF THE very interesting things about going to the elementary school Christmas programs each year is to note how the youngsters improve from year to year. The sixth grade band which played in the program Tuesday night under the direction of Arnold Melby did very well. But while the youngsters labor, from the recesses of the band come some sour squawks out of a few instruments. The same was true last year, and this, of course, is to be expected. But when the sixth graders become seventh graders, there will be considerably fewer discordant sounds. Indeed, the eighth grade honor band this year had them almost eliminated completely, and they played some difficult music. The same is true with the singing of the youngsters. It is delightful to watch them. In the group there are some youngsters, no doubt, who are mischievous, some who are extroverts, some who are introverts, some who play and sing because they love it, some who participate because someone makes them. But under their leader, Mrs. Ola Mae Groshens, they work earnestly as one and this cooperation and harmonizing of interests brings forth fine music.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor:

My attention has been called to an article written by Robert L. Derrnedde appearing in your November 28 issue in which he criticizes my suggestion that the legislature submit the Boeing proposition to a vote of the people.

Permit me to answer Mr. Derrnedde's criticism. I suggested that the Boeing proposition be referred to the people not only because it represented a radical new departure from previous Oregon policy, namely, the expenditure of the people's money to subsidize private industry, but because I doubt public funds can be used to subsidize a private corporation without amending the Oregon Constitution. This, of course, requires a vote of the people.

Very sincerely yours,
Robert Y. Thornton
Attorney General

80N Bids Called Near Boardman

Two large projects on Interstate 80N in the northern part of Morrow county are among projects for which bids have been called by the State Highway Commission for opening at the December 17 meeting in Salem.

One of the projects calls for grading, paving, two structures and signing of the Willow Creek-Airport Road section, located approximately 11 miles east of Arlington. This project is 8.72 miles in length. Plans call for grading and paving new eastbound lanes and widening and paving the existing highway for use as westbound lanes. An interchange will be constructed at Threemile Canyon to provide access to the Columbia River. This will bring this section up to fill Interstate standards. The project is scheduled for completion in the late spring of 1965.

Second Interstate project calls for grading, paving and a structure on the Airport Road-Irrigon junction section, which is an extension of the project above. This section is 9.4 miles in length. Plans call for grading and paving on new alignment. An interchange will be provided to serve the relocated city of Boardman and access will be provided to the proposed Boeing installation. The present site of Boardman will be inundated by the lake that will form behind the John Day dam when it is completed.

Both these sections are to have asphaltic concrete paving. All work is to be completed by July 1, 1965.

Scout Record Hop Due Saturday Eve

Record hop of Boy Scout Explorer post No. 600 will be Saturday night, starting at 8 p.m. in the American Legion hall with music to be furnished by Radio Station KUBE of Pendleton. Ken Hickson, disc jockey from the station, will be master of ceremonies.

The hop will feature latest dance music, and the event is open to the public. Its purpose is to create interest in the rejuvenated Scout program here. No admission will be charged but each person attending will be invited to make a contribution to the scout fund.

Those attending the Saturday night basketball game between Heppner and Gervais are invited to come to the hop after the game.

Money receipt books in duplicate and triplicate are on sale at the Gazette-Times.

One-Shot Roscoe

As Told By
ORVILLE W. CUTSFORTH

(Editor's Note: When L. Roscoe Cox, 78, died in early April of this year, Morrow county lost one of its legendary characters. From his years of sheep herding and working with cattle, dating back to 1903, grew many experiences which never before have been written. However, before his death Roscoe spent considerable time spinning yarns out of his past to Orville Cutsforth, who in order to preserve them, has written a series for the Gazette-Times. The first appears below and others will follow in ensuing issues of the paper. The author vouches for their veracity; the paper can only accept his word for them.)

Old Roscoe Cox came to Herron Creek around 1903. Now that is quite a while ago, this being 1963. That is about 60 years.

Roscoe herded his first sheep there on Herron Creek. He said that the timber was open and he could walk through under those big trees in that virgin forest and there wasn't any brush.

Today we call it the "Devil's Halfacre" and it is sure nothing but the "Devil's Halfacre." You can't see any distance at all going through that brush.

I first met old Roscoe in about 1950. I met his old dogs coming down over the hill, and here came an old man. I was up in the "Devil's Halfacre" and I wondered about the old fellow. I wanted to know what he was doing there when I met him.

He said, "Well, I came here in 1903, right here. I have herded my last sheep and I am going to just camp here from now on."

I said, "Well, this place being mine, you are welcome and you can just stay."

He stayed for 12 years. He spent the rest of his life right there.

Going home that day I met one of my neighbors, Frank Wilkinson, one of the biggest sheep men in the country. I told him about this old man that I had met.

"Why," Frank said, "that is 'One-Shot Roscoe.' He has killed more game with one shot than any man in this country. He is the best hunter I ever knew." He killed everything with one shot. His guns were old and they looked worn out, but the bores were new so very few shells had been fired through them.

Old Roscoe became a legend

Six Are Initiated At Legion Meeting

District Commander Frank Reyberg of Pendleton, was speaker at meeting of American Legion post No. 87, here Saturday night in the Legion hall.

The meeting was primarily devoted to the initiation of six candidates who included Don Munkers, William Kenny, Elmer Heath, Hubert Wilson, Marshall Lovgren and Anie Hedman.

Initiatory duties were conducted by the Forty-eight initiatory team from Walla Walla which is made up of past and present district officers from the state of Washington.

from then on. The stories he told I am trying to remember.

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

Coming Events

Heppner High Basketball Heppner vs. McEwen of Athena.

Friday, Dec. 13, Old High school gym.

Heppner vs. Gervais Saturday, Dec. 14, Old High school gym.

Jayvee game, 6:30 p.m. Varsity game, 8:15 p.m.

SCOUT RECORD HOP Legion Hall, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. KUBE Disc Jockey as MC Admission by donation Help the Explorer Scout Troop.

School Christmas Programs High School Program, "Christmas Fantasies" Tuesday, Dec. 17, 8 p.m. Multipurpose room

Elementary grades 1 through 4 Wednesday, Dec. 18—7:30 p.m. Old High School Gym. Lexington Elementary Grades Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. Lexington Auditorium.

SKIING AT ARBUCKLE 20' packed snow on hill. Tow operating Saturday, Sunday. Equipment available.

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